



Update on the Implementation of the *Cooperative Agenda on Children's Health and the Environment in North America*

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Linkages with the Sound Management of Chemicals (SMOC)

SMOC Task Force Updates:

- Lindane
- Dioxins, furans and hexachlorobenzene
- Mercury
- PCBs
- Chlordane
- DDT
- Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Linkages with the Sound Management of Chemicals (SMOC)

Biomonitoring on POPs and metals:

- Aim is to establish a baseline profile of population exposure to POPs and metals, and environmental hotspots
- Birth mothers, 20-25 years of age
- Year 1: Planning and capacity building
- Year 2: Collection and analysis of blood samples
- CEC seeking US\$100,000 from World Bank

Linkages with the Sound Management of Chemicals (SMOC)

Other SMOC activities:

- Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS) regional report (CEC-UNEP)
- Exploration of new directions and ways of working

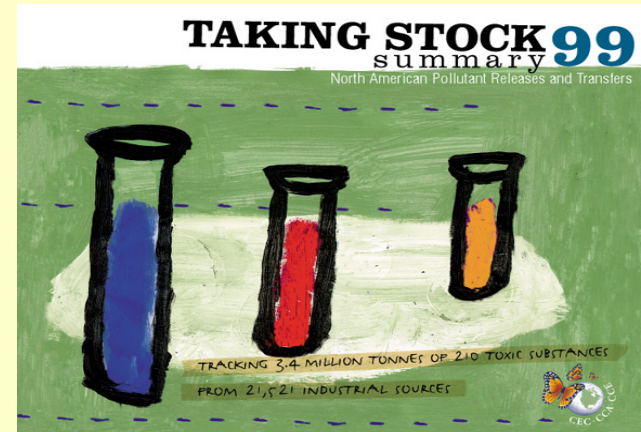
Linkages with the Sound Management of Chemicals (SMOC)

Potential roles for Expert Advisory Board:

- Involvement in SMOC meetings
- Comments/advice on SMOC draft NARAPs, proposals
- Advice to Council

Taking Stock Special Feature Report on Toxics and Children's Health

- Supplement to annual *Taking Stock* series
- Analysis of Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) data on chemicals of particular concern to children:
 - Carcinogens
 - Developmental toxicants
 - Neurotoxicants
- Utilizes "matched" data from US TRI and Canadian NPRI



Taking Stock Special Feature Report on Toxics and Children's Health

- Also includes chemical-specific analyses:
 - Lead
 - Mercury
 - PCBs
 - Dioxins/Furans
- Provides general information on children's vulnerabilities, exposures, impacts, current state of knowledge

Taking Stock Special Feature Report on Toxics and Children's Health

- Prepared by trilateral consulting team
- Reviewed by Board members (Jan. 2003)
- Undergoing final editing
- Targeted for release - May 2003

Taking Stock Special Feature Report on Toxics and Children's Health

Potential roles for Expert Advisory Board:

- Board statement/advice to Council
- Involvement in release as spokespersons, commentators

Development of Indicators of Children's Health and the Environment

- Council priority (June 2002)
- Undertaken in the context of a global movement to develop indicators of children's health and the environment:
 - WHO initiative
 - WSSD commitments
- CEC well positioned to play leadership role in the Americas and globally

Development of Indicators of Children's Health and the Environment

Project Implementation:

- Phase 1 (2002): Feasibility study
- Phase 2 (2003-2004): Development and publication of first report
- Conducted in partnership with PAHO, IJC Health Professionals Task Force, WHO; linkages with OECD

Development of Indicators of Children's Health and the Environment

NORTH AMERICAN APPROACH:

- Adoption of WHO's Multiple Effects Multiple Exposures Model (MEME)
- Flexible framework that recognizes national differences
- Begin with available data
- Targeted focus (definition of "environment")
- Focus on priority issues (air, water, toxics)
- Transparent and easy to understand
- Foster efforts to improve quality, availability and comparability of data and information

Development of Indicators of Children's Health and the Environment

- Steering Group
 - Comprised of government officials, the partner organizations and the Expert Advisory Board
 - Ongoing involvement since Summer 2002
 - Meeting held in Montreal, 9-10 December 2002, to review results of feasibility study

Steering Group Recommendations: Proposed Indicators

Asthma, Respiratory Disease, and Air Pollution

- Percent of children exposed to air pollution exceeding national standards
- Number of asthma cases

Steering Group Recommendations: Proposed Indicators

Toxic Substances

- Blood lead levels
- Children living in high lead houses
- Trends in sales of pesticides
- Trends in Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) data
- Fish consumption advisories

Steering Group Recommendations: Proposed Indicators

Water Quality and Waterborne Disease

- Percent of children (households) served with treated water
- Percent of children (households) served with sanitary sewers
- Number of outbreaks of diarrheal disease
- Morbidity (number of childhood illnesses attributed to water borne disease)
- Mortality (number of child deaths attributed to water borne disease)

Development of Indicators of Children's Health and the Environment

Potential roles for Expert Advisory Board:

- Review of feasibility study and steering group recommendations
- Advice to Council

North American Workshop on Risk Assessment and Children's Environmental Health

- 19-21 February 2003, Oaxaca, Mexico
- Organized by CEC (CEH and SMOC) in collaboration with NAFTA Technical Working Group on Pesticides
- Broad participation

North American Workshop on Risk Assessment and Children's Environmental Health

- Focus on current and emerging approaches to children's environmental health risk assessment, exchange of information among countries
- Discussion of how risk assessment fits within decision-making framework: issues of transparency, precaution, communication
- Opportunities for capacity building, trilateral cooperation

North American Workshop on Risk Assessment and Children's Environmental Health

(Potential) roles for Expert Advisory Board:

- Participation in workshop
- Carrying forward recommendations/advice to Council
- Ideas on possible CEC follow-up

Economic Valuation of Children's Environment-Related Illnesses

- First report in the series will focus on asthma and respiratory disease
- Cost of illness approach (medical costs, lost parental work time, etc.)
- Numerous challenges with respect to data availability, comparability
- Estimates, extrapolation to be used
- Target date: April/May 2003

Economic Valuation of Children's Environment-Related Illnesses

Potential roles for Expert Advisory Board:

- Review of draft report
- Advice to Council
- Suggestions on topic for next report in the series (to be initiated this year)

Longitudinal Cohort Studies/U.S. National Children's Study

- December 16, 2002 meeting of the National Children's Study, Baltimore
- International Consultation meeting:
 - A number of countries undertaking longitudinal studies
 - Interest in exchanging information, experiences
- Resulted in establishment of "International Interest Group"

Longitudinal Cohort Studies/U.S. National Children's Study

Potential roles for Expert Advisory Board:

- Advice to Council to promote national studies; tri-national coordination
- Other?

Assessing Impacts of Diesel Exhaust at Congested Border Crossings

- Meeting held in Montreal, 14 January, on exposure assessment techniques
- Progress report submitted on border crossing project
 - Aim is to determine effect of diesel exposure on health of asthmatic children in Ciudad Juarez
 - Children ages 6-12 (asthmatics and control group) to be followed for 8 months
 - Health effects and exposure assessment

Assessing Impacts of Diesel Exhaust at Congested Border Crossings

Potential roles for Expert Advisory Board:

- Advice to Council on potential follow-up, once results available?
- Other?

Lead (Pb) Activities

- Market study of leaded and lead-free pottery in Mexico
- Planning for trilateral workshop on lead in consumer products

Market Study: Opportunities and Constraints to the Adoption of Lead Free Glazes in Mexico

Study Elements:

- Review of relevant literature and efforts of CEC and Mexican counterparts
- Interviews with potters in principal production areas in Mexico
- Mail survey of wholesalers and retailers in the United States
- Follow up telephone interviews of retailers, wholesalers and other potential markets

Market Study: Opportunities and Constraints to the Adoption of Lead Free Glazes in Mexico

Exposure to leaded glazes:

- Most shops are part of the homes of the potters with families carrying out daily activities in close proximity to pottery operations (54 shops in survey)
- A total of 97 children (persons under 12 years of age) were found living in close proximity to the shops based on responses to survey questions but, based on observations, it is likely that many more are exposed

Market Study: Opportunities and Constraints to the Adoption of Lead Free Glazes in Mexico

Knowledge and experience with esmalte:

- 88% know about the existence of esmalte
- Out of this group, 67% (n=32) have used esmalte at least once
- Only 35% (n=19) said they could get the esmalte. The rest said it was too difficult to get.
- On average, people said that esmalte is more expensive \$11.7(E) to \$10.05(G)

Market Study: Opportunities and Constraints to the Adoption of Lead Free Glazes in Mexico

Knowledge Constraints - Perceptions of dangers of leaded glazes:

- Only 31% (n=17) believe that lead is bad for one's health
- Only 33% of respondents had customers who specifically asked for products made with esmalte

Market Study: Opportunities and Constraints to the Adoption of Lead Free Glazes in Mexico

Motivation:

- 43% expressed that more training or capacity would motivate them to adopt the new esmalte
- 24% expressed that a market for esmalte products would motivate them to change
- 15% said that a new oven is all they need to make the change
- 11% stated that getting the same results as the greta (Pb glaze) would be enough to make the change
- 7.4% stated that credit or promotion of lead free stuff would motivate them

Market Study: Opportunities and Constraints to the Adoption of Lead Free Glazes in Mexico

Preliminary conclusions:

- Improved market would provide the most important incentive for change but local markets have declined making change more difficult.
- After markets, the major constraints are related to:
 - Pricing and availability of lead-free glazes
 - Performance of new glazes relative to older glazes which may be a simple issue of demonstration
 - Training to make technological change
 - Providing credit and incentives to make the necessary changes to current technology/equipment

Market Study: Opportunities and Constraints to the Adoption of Lead Free Glazes in Mexico

Potential roles for Expert Advisory Board:

- Advice to Council on outcomes, potential follow-up, once results available
- Other?

Trilateral Workshop on Lead in Consumer Products

- Tentatively scheduled for Fall 2003
- Proposed objectives:
 - To gain a better understanding of the situation in each country and trinationally, including the range of institutions/mechanisms that have existing or potential roles to play
 - To identify opportunities for trilateral action to reduce risks to children posed by consumer products containing lead

Trilateral Workshop on Lead in Consumer Products

Potential roles for Expert Advisory Board:

- Involvement in the planning process
- Facilitating linkages with and involvement of relevant groups
- Participation in the workshop
- Other?