

“A Breath of Air...” New Video Available on Children and Air Pollution

A new documentary video entitled “A Breath of Air: What Pollution is Doing to Our Children” is now available for purchase from the University of Southern California (USC).

The video describes the results of the Children's Health Study, a 10-year, 12-community study of the impacts of air pollution on the health of children in southern California. Featured in the video are several families whose children have asthma and are impacted by air pollution; Dr. John Peters, study director, as well as Dr. Jim Gauderman of USC; Dr. Barry Wallerstein and Dr. Alan Lloyd (government regulators of air pollution); and a representative of a community group advocating for cleaner air.

Among other findings, the Children's Health Study shows that children in more polluted communities have slower lung function growth rates and more school absences than children in less polluted communities. And it shows that children who play three or more sports and who live in the more polluted communities have an increased risk of developing asthma compared to children playing sports in the less polluted communities.

The Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center and the Children's Environmental Health Center, both based at Keck School of Medicine, USC, produced the video. It was funded by the California Air Resources Board, with additional support from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Examples of groups that have already purchased the video and are using it in their educational programs include: school nurses, asthma coalitions, teachers, environmental groups, community-based organizations, environmental justice groups, schools of public health, nursing schools, health departments, and many more.



Video Credits:

Producer/Director/Write: Keren Markuze

Executive Producers: Andrea Hricko (Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center, USC) and Joe Saltzman (USC's Annenberg School of Communication)

Editor: Lee T. Warner (Annenberg School)

SCEHSC Director and Children's Health Study Director: Dr. John Peters

TO ORDER: Make checks payable to USC [\$8/VHS tape; \$13/DVD]. The cost helps USC recover its expenses in duplicating the video, boxing it, labeling it, buying the envelope and mailing it off to you. A Spanish language version is expected by October 2003.

Send your check to:

BREATH OF AIR VIDEO
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