



ESM Partners

Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE)

THE COLLABORATIVE ON HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT IS ONE OF THE FEW ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO CREATE A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE HEALTH OF HUMANS AS WELL AS OTHER INHABITANTS OF THIS PLANET. THEIR MONTHLY ENEWS LETTER AND DISCUSSION GROUPS PROVIDE LEADING EDGE RESEARCH ON THE EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICITY ON HUMAN HEALTH.

What is CHE?

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) is a network of concerned people and organizations working together toward the shared goal of improving public and individual health. The basic statements that identify the principles upon which CHE partners agree include:

The State of the Science:

The public and scientists alike agree that environmental factors are important contributors to disease and developmental disabilities. The developing human fetus appears to be uniquely at risk of harm from environmental toxicants. Although some linkages are well established and knowledge about others is emerging, more research is needed.

The Need for a Heightened Public Health Response:

Although some strategies for prevention are well known, more resources need to be devoted to prevention research and practice than is currently the case. Good, uncompromised science must be the underpinning of all such efforts.

The Importance of a Precautionary Approach:

The precautionary principle should become a guiding factor in public health and environmental policy. The precautionary principle indicates that, when there is plausible scientific evidence of significant harm from a proposed or ongoing activity, preventative or corrective action should be taken to reduce or eliminate that risk or harm.

The Need for New Models of Collaboration in Environmental Health:

A new emphasis on a diverse and inclusive collaboration is essential to successfully reducing public exposure to environmental toxicants and helping to implement preventive strategies. Everyone concerned—health-affected groups, scientists, health professionals, and environmental organizations—can serve as resources for each other in collaboration.

For information on CHE, see www.cheforhealth.org or call (415) 868-0970.