

Pediatric Environmental History Initiative

The Initiative:

The Pediatric Environmental History Initiative is a multi-year campaign to facilitate the integration of environmental history-taking into the practice of pediatric health care providers. This will enable health care providers to address environmental conditions that may prevent a child from reaching optimum health, increase public awareness of environmental exposures, and improve communication between health professionals and the public on environmental exposure-related disease.

The Need:

Pediatric medical and nursing education currently lacks the environmental health content necessary to appropriately prepare pediatric health care professionals to prevent, recognize, manage, and treat environmental-exposure-related disease. Taking a good environmental history is a critical first step for addressing health conditions associated with environmental exposures. However, few health care providers are trained in environmental history taking. Several medical, nursing, and public health organizations, including American Academy of Pediatrics, Academic Pediatric Association, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, and National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, have endorsed the "Health Professionals and Environmental Health Education Position Statement", which calls for incorporating the ability to elicit an environmental exposure history into health care provider education and practice.

Tools and Resources available on-line at
<http://www.neefusa.org>



Initiative Tools:

- **The Screening Environmental History**
This one-page form is designed to be administered by the primary health care provider in less than five minutes in order to capture most of the common environmental exposures.
- **Additional Categories and Questions to Supplement the Screening Environmental History**
Provides further questions for the health care provider to ask if a positive response is given to one or more of the screening questions.
- **Pediatric Environmental History Primer**
The primer contains background information on issues included in the environmental history forms and recommendations health care providers can make to families to control or eliminate the hazards in their environment.
- **Resources**
Provides a list of sources for information on environmental issues.

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