



Brief Overview of Children's Environmental Health:

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN CHILDREN LIVE IN UNHEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS?

Over five million children per year die from illnesses and other conditions caused by the environments in which they live, learn and play.

Around two million children under five years of age die every year from acute respiratory infections, the largest killer of young children. These infections are caused by environmental hazards such as indoor air pollution.

The second most common cause of child deaths is diarrhoea. Diarrhoea may result from a variety of different causes. It is frequently a result of the child consuming pathogens or toxins from dirty hands or through contaminated water or food.

Many children from the ages of 0-14 years old die every year as a result of unintentional poisoning.

Children under the age of 15 also suffer from unintentional injuries including those resulting from road traffic accidents, falls, burns and cases of drownings.

Contaminated water, unsafe food, chemicals, pesticides, lead, indoor air pollution and unsafe environments put our children at risk of injury and death.

Many of these deaths and injuries can be prevented. One of the best forms of prevention is education. This toolkit on children's environmental health will help you to teach your students about the dangers in their environment and how they can protect their bodies from harm.

The following games and activities have been developed to help teachers educate young school children about the main environmental hazards, and how to protect children against them.

1) Accidents and Injuries

2) Chemicals and Poisons

3) Food Safety

4) Indoor Air Pollution

5) Lead Poisoning

6) Water Safety

