

The World Health Organisation Child Health and the Environment training modules: an educational resource in an emerging area

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Children's environmental health is an emerging discipline that addresses the impacts of environmental exposures on children's health. Recognising the special vulnerabilities of children in a pedagogic approach, the focus is on chemical pollutants as risk factors for many common and uncommon childhood morbidities. Experts working within a network of World Health Organisation (WHO) children's environmental health collaborating centres as well as international Paediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSU)s, have recognized that very little training in Child Health and the Environment (CHE) is available for health professionals. Furthermore, training opportunities and teaching tools are scarce. To this end the Children's Environmental Health Clinic (ChEHC) participated in a meeting in Geneva Switzerland in 2003 where discussions led to the conception of the WHO CHE training modules. Since then, ChEHC has participated with other organisations from around the world to develop PowerPoint presentations with referenced speaker notes on a number of CHE topics. These modules were reviewed by a team of experts and finalized by WHO staff.

Today there are over 40 modules available on the WHO website which can be downloaded upon request. "Train the trainer" sessions have been held in numerous countries, mainly targeting health professionals. Modules have been translated and delivered in many languages. Flip classroom techniques have been employed. Modules are being added and updated as resources allow.

There are plans to adapt the modules to various electronic formats including interactive case studies as well as Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCS). These

and additional applications of the modules will be discussed at a special WHO meeting in Italy in Oct 2016.