

Children's Environmental Health (CEH) Indicators for New Brunswick

**Healthy Lives Begin Prenatally: A Conference of the New Brunswick
Children's Environmental Health Collaborative**

January 26, 2017

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Overview

- What are CEH Indicators?
- Why use CEH Indicators?
- Who has already developed and used CEH Indicators?
- What would “we” like to see done in NB?
- OCMOH’s path forward (so far...)

What are CEH Indicators?

- Measurements that can be tracked / potential factors that may impact children's health
 - Both positive and negative impacts
- These could include indicators of:
 - State of the environment
 - Contaminants in the environment
 - Exposure routes (food, water, air, etc.)
 - Biomonitoring (contaminants in the body)
 - Health status / outcomes
 - Health equity

Part of Larger Context – Determinants of Health

Public Health Agency of Canada

www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ph-sp/determinants/index-eng.php

- income and social status
- social support networks
- education and literacy
- employment/working conditions
- social environments
- physical environments
- personal health practices and coping skills
- healthy child development
- biology and genetic endowment
- health services
- gender
- culture

US Centers for Disease Control

www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/socialdeterminants/faq.html

- genes and biology
- health behaviours
- social environment or social characteristics
- physical environment or total ecology
- health services or medical care

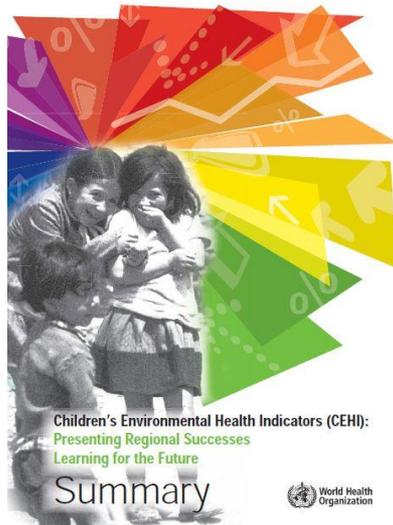
Why use CEH Indicators?

“Indicators provide a basis for assessing environmental risks to children’s health, prioritizing policy, and ultimately reducing environmental risks for children”

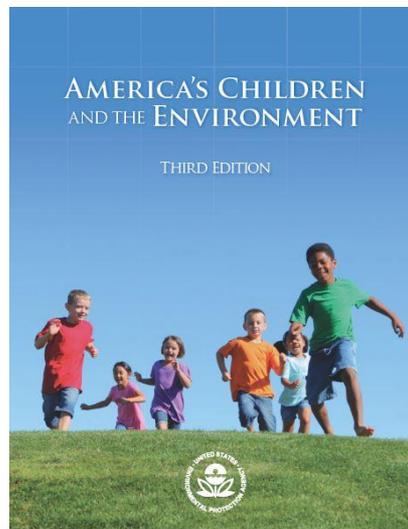
“... monitoring the effects of interventions to improve children’s health in relation to the environment and reporting on the state of children’s environmental health”

World Health Organization, 2009

Who has used CEH Indicators?



“Children's Environmental Health Indicators: Presenting Regional Successes - Learning for the Future”, World Health Organization, 2009
http://www.who.int/ceh/publications/cehi_brochure/en/



“America's Children and the Environment – Third Edition”, US Environmental Protection Agency, 2013
<https://www.epa.gov/ace/americas-children-and-environment-third-edition>

+ others...

Example CEH Indicators (US EPA)

- Air pollution (proportion of children / of children's days affected by poor air quality)
- Indoor environments (tobacco smoke, lead dust)
- Drinking water (proportion of children affected by poor water quality, non-compliant water systems)
- Chemicals in food (pesticide residue levels)
- Biomonitoring (chemical levels in blood & urine)
- Respiratory diseases prevalence
- Cancer incidences, mortality
- Neurodevelopmental disorders, etc.

What do “We” want to do in NB?

- “We” has many potential players
 - Effort will be needed to identify the players and to find out how to work together
- Choose which indicators based on:
 - Purpose – what do we want to measure and WHY
 - Data availability – but should not be the only driver
 - Partners – what each can bring / are already doing
 - Determinants of Health & Equity can’t be ignored
 - Use precedents elsewhere and in the literature
 - Focus on Achievability for now
 - Build the case for future Indicators

OCMOH's path forward (so far...)

- OCMOH is interested in exploring all of these avenues, but early days for us
- Work planning cycle upcoming
 - Indicator development work will be considered
- Healthy Environments Branch
 - Lisa Lussier, Todd Arsenault, Karen White Masry
- Public Health Practice and Population Health Branch
- Communicable Disease and Control Branch
 - Roles TBD

Discussion