

Working with Cooperative Extension Services to Teach Lead-Safe Work Practices



Project Basics

National Center
for Healthy
Housing
(NCHH) and
cooperative
extension
services from:

- Alabama
- Georgia
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- Montana



Why Extension Services?

- Know the communities they cover.
- Have effective outreach strategies.
- Understand adult education.
- Can integrate new topics into their related work.



Environmental Health and Extension Services

- Family and Consumer Sciences division
- Address housing, the environment and health issues



Typical Extension Services Structure

- Specialist at the university level
- Agents cover the state
- Specialists train agents
- Agents conduct “Don’t Spread Lead” trainings and implement outreach to do-it-yourselfers.



Outreach Strategies

- Place articles in county newspapers and newsletters;
- Talk to local community leaders;
- Contact local organizations;
- Appear on local radio and TV shows;
- Put information on state and county websites; and
- Go to health and civic fairs.



Extension Service Partners

Typical partners:

- Local credit bureau
- Local banks
- Schools
- 4H programs
- Civic programs



Samples of Successful Outreach

Louisiana: Incorporated Don't Spread Lead materials into their work by:

- distributing materials at their sustainability and health showcase house
- incorporating materials into their home buyer's program
- adding articles on LSWP on their website
- holding presentations

Georgia: Has had about 300 face-to-face consumer contacts through two health fairs

Mississippi: Has trained child care centers and home daycare providers on Don't Spread Lead



A Model for Success

- Tradition of research-based informal education to all citizens in a state
- Established infrastructure (staff, funding)
- Extensive grassroots relationships
- Frequent partnering with local groups
- Commitment to evaluation



Anticipated Project Results

- Project goes to February 2009
- 3,000 do-it-yourselfers
- 280 contractors
- 50 extension staff trained
- Continued results after grant ends



For more information:

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What is a Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit?

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Co-Director, Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health & the Environment
George Washington University
Medical Director for National & Global Affairs
Child Health Advocacy Institute



Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health & the Environment
MACCHE



2006
Children's Environmental Health
Recognition Award

Why is there a need for PEHSUs?

- Methyl Parathion Event - Southeast United States, 1994-96
 - Neurotoxic pesticide
 - Illegal for home use
 - Sick children were not diagnosed correctly
 - No one thought to ask
- Kids are different
- Most health care providers don't know enough

PEHSUs

- Pediatricians with expertise in environmental health
- Occupational and environmental health specialty physicians
- Medical toxicologists, pulmonologists, etc
- National and international network of collaborators

The Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) Program is funded by:

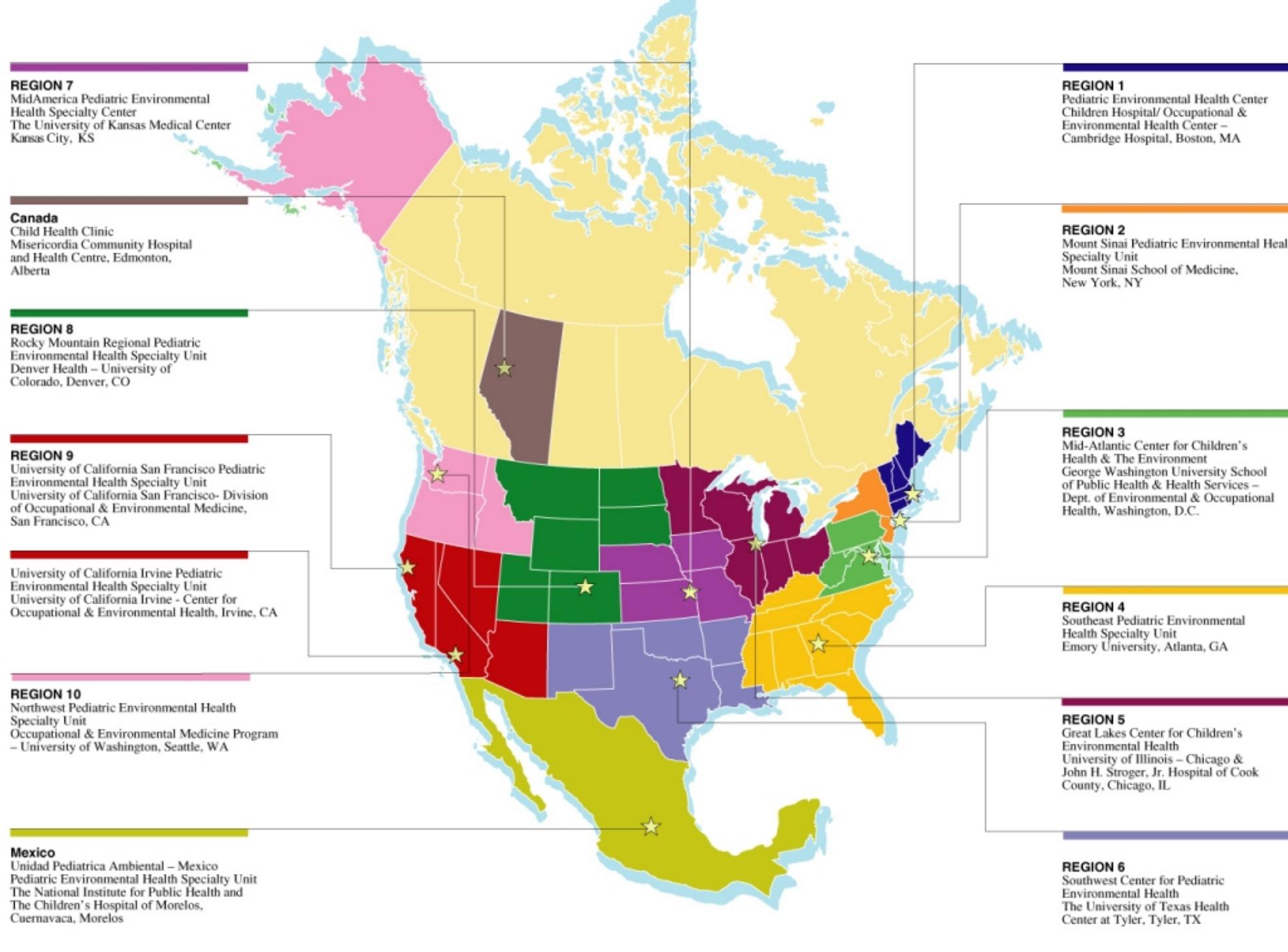


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The Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinic is responsible for programmatic and financial management.

A O E C



REGION 7
 MidAmerica Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Center
 The University of Kansas Medical Center
 Kansas City, KS

Canada
 Child Health Clinic
 Misericordia Community Hospital and Health Centre, Edmonton, Alberta

REGION 8
 Rocky Mountain Regional Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit
 Denver Health – University of Colorado, Denver, CO

REGION 9
 University of California San Francisco Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit
 University of California San Francisco- Division of Occupational & Environmental Medicine, San Francisco, CA

University of California Irvine Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit
 University of California Irvine - Center for Occupational & Environmental Health, Irvine, CA

REGION 10
 Northwest Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit
 Occupational & Environmental Medicine Program – University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Mexico
 Unidad Pediátrica Ambiental – Mexico Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit
 The National Institute for Public Health and The Children’s Hospital of Morelos, Cuernavaca, Morelos

REGION 1
 Pediatric Environmental Health Center
 Children Hospital/ Occupational & Environmental Health Center – Cambridge Hospital, Boston, MA

REGION 2
 Mount Sinai Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit
 Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY

REGION 3
 Mid-Atlantic Center for Children’s Health & The Environment
 George Washington University School of Public Health & Health Services – Dept. of Environmental & Occupational Health, Washington, D.C.

REGION 4
 Southeast Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit
 Emory University, Atlanta, GA

REGION 5
 Great Lakes Center for Children’s Environmental Health
 University of Illinois – Chicago & John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Chicago, IL

REGION 6
 Southwest Center for Pediatric Environmental Health
 The University of Texas Health Center at Tyler, Tyler, TX

PEHSUs - Resource for Education

- For primary care providers
- For occupational health providers
- For public health officials
- For community organization concerned about children and the environment

PEHSUs - Resource for Services

- Consultation with community providers
- Consultation with departments of public health
- Consultation with parents
- Consultation with community organizations, schools and others
- Multidisciplinary evaluation of children with known or suspected exposure to environmental toxicants

PEHSUs

Evaluation and Management of

- Lead toxicity
- Pesticide exposures
- Sick building problems
- Water pollution
- Air pollution
- Job related exposures in adolescents
- Volatile Organic Compounds
- Exposure to hazardous waste sites
- Environmentally related asthma
- Agricultural pollutants
- Solvents
- Carbon monoxide
- Arsenic
- Mercury

How PEHSUs Function?

- Are patients seen?
 - Yes, although most contact via phone
- Are home visits conducted?
 - Most units do not have resources for home visits
- Are environmental samples taken?
 - Most units do not have the resources to collect or analyze environmental samples.
- With what other organizations do PEHSUs work?
 - Poison control centers (PEHSUs are not PCCs)
 - Local, state and federal government agencies
 - NGOs

What are the Resources Required for a PEHSU?

- Limited
 - Computer with Internet connectivity and e-mail capability
 - Telephone, with toll-free access if possible
 - Reference books and papers
 - Limited staff to respond to queries
 - Access to laboratory
 - Funds to pay for staff, Internet and phone connections

Staff for a PEHSU

- PEHSU Coordinator
- Clinicians/Physicians
- Local/regional/international collaborators via internet or phone

PEHSU Coordinator

- May be part-time
- Background
 - Public health, environmental health or nursing background helpful
- Skills
 - Answer phone
 - Keep records
 - Use Internet
 - Community outreach/Community education

Clinicians/Physicians

- All part-time
- Pediatric clinician (MD/PNP) (necessary)
 - Needs interest/expertise in environmental health
- Occupational/environmental medicine clinician (MD/OMNP) (necessary)
- Toxicologist (optional)
- Other (optional)
 - Industrial hygienist
 - Community out-reach worker

Space

- Desk
- Bookshelves
- Exam room

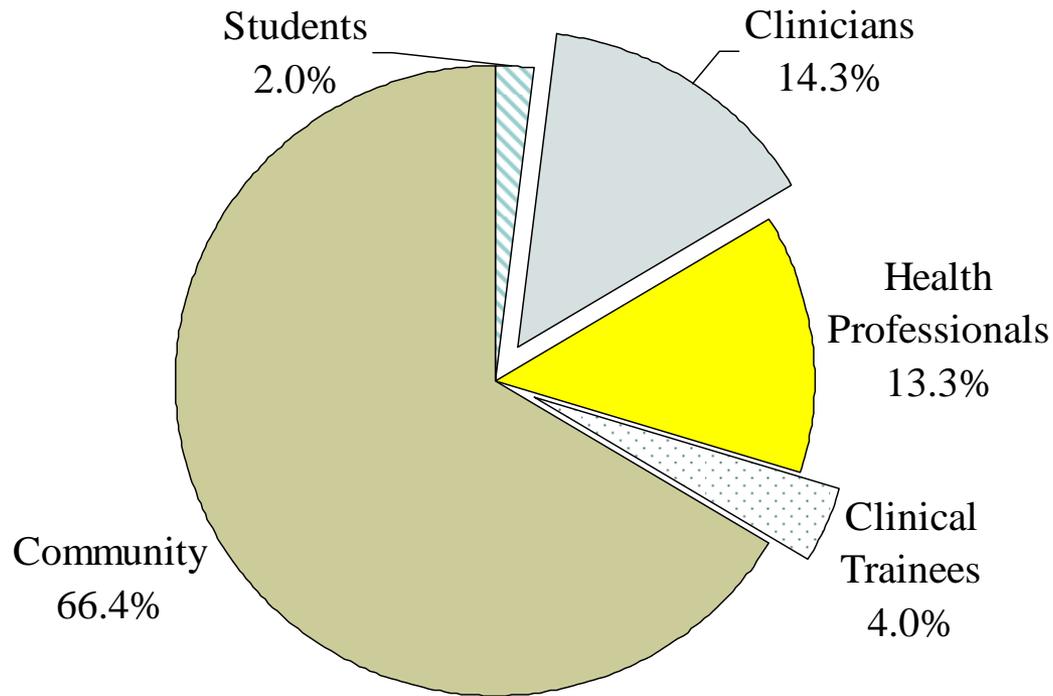
View of a PEHUS - Due to the cramped space it was hard for the photographer to get a full shot of the office.



Access to Laboratory

- Need not be on-site
- May be national or regional reference laboratory

Outreach and Education Activities, All US PEHSUs, by Target Audience 10-04 to 09-05



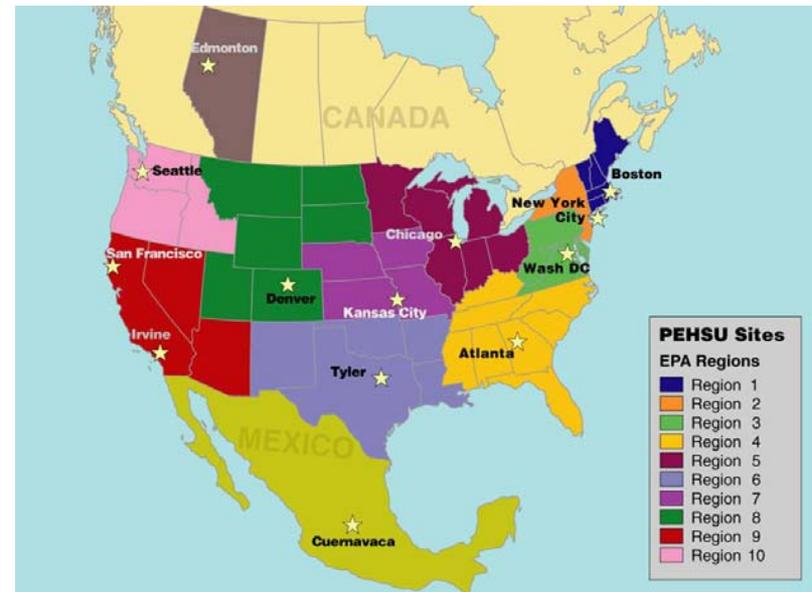
Students Clinicians Health Professionals Clinical Trainees Community

Results of Collaboration in North America

- Region 1 develops CD-ROM to teach taking a pediatric environmental health history – used by all
- Collection of lectures & PowerPoint presentations from all North American PEHSUs – make available to all
- Pediatric Clinics of North America 2007
 - 21 articles
 - 1 or more from each North American PEHSU
 - Tens of thousands of readers in North America + foreign language translation

Results of Collaboration in North America

- Region 3 contacts Region 5 about mercury issues
- Canadian PEHSU contacts others about air pollution from highways
- Multiple e-mails between all North American PEHSUs



Results of Collaboration in North America

- Collaborative meeting with the EPA/NIEHS Pediatric Environmental Health Research Centers in 2005 & 2007
- Pediatric-specific response to public health emergencies
 - Katrina
 - California Wildfires
 - BPA

Summary & Conclusions

- PEHSUs can answer many types of questions
- PEHSUs can educate a large number of health care providers and others
- Potential for collaboration very large
- **CALL YOUR REGIONAL PEHSU**
- Find us at **www.pehsu.net**

QUESTIONS?