# **Environmental Standard Setting and Children's Health**

## **Detailed Table of Contents**

Acknowledgements Table of Contents **Detailed Table of Contents Executive Summary** Consolidated List of Recommendations

## Chapter 1: Introduction

- 1.1 Overview and Study Boundaries
- 1.2 Toxic Substances and Children's Health: A Growing Concern
- 1.3 Toxic Substances: Underestimated Volumes and Information Gaps
- 1.4 Are Regulations Keeping Up?
- 1.5 Research Methods
- 1.6 References Cited

### Chapter 2: Relationship Between Children's Health and Environmental Contaminants

- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 Factors Influencing Children's Exposure, Uptake and Susceptibility to Environmental Contaminants
  - 2.2.1 Greater Exposure
  - 2.2.2 Greater Uptake
  - 2.2.3 Specific System/Organ Susceptibility
- 2.3 Developmental Stages of Children
  - 2.3.1 Pre-Conception
  - 2.3.2 *In Utero*
  - 2.3.4 Childhood
  - 2.3.5 Adolescence
  - 2.3.6 Summary
- 2.4 Environmental Media and Exposure Routes
  - 2.4.1 Environmental Pathways
  - 2.4.2 Children's Exposure Pathways
  - 2.4.3 Placental Transfer
  - 2.4.4 Breast Milk
  - 2.4.5 Air
  - 2.4.6 Water
  - 2.4.7 Soil and Dust
  - 2.4.8 Food
  - 2.4.9 Products
  - 2.4.10 Additional Factors Influencing Exposure and Susceptibility
  - 2.4.11 Summary
- 2.5 Contaminants and Their Known Effects
  - 2.5.1 Introduction
  - 2.5.2 Persistent Organic Pollutants
  - 2.5.3 Pesticides

- 2.5.4 Metals
- 2.5.5 Air-Borne Pollutants
- 2.5.6 Summary
- 2.6 Health Problems Related to Environmental Exposures
  - 2.6.1 Introduction
  - 2.6.2 Spontaneous Abortion, Stillbirth Rates
  - 2.6.3 Congenital Malformations
  - 2.6.4 Neurodevelopmental, Behavioural Effects
  - 2.6.5 Growth
  - 2.6.6 Immunological Effects
  - 2.6.7 Asthma and Respiratory Diseases
  - 2.6.8 Reproductive and Endocrine Effects
  - 2.6.9 Cancer
  - 2.6.10 Environmental Chemical Sensitivity
  - 2.6.11 Summary
- 2.7 Trends in Children's Environmental Health Problems
- 2.8 The Future of Children's Environmental Health
  - 2.8.1 Introduction
  - 2.8.2 Specific Exposures/Priority Contaminants
  - 2.8.3 Gaps In Knowledge
  - 2.8.4 General Concerns
- 2.9 Chapter Summary
  - 2.9.1 Number of Children Affected
  - 2.9.2 Severity of Outcome
- 2.10 Recommendations
- 2.11 References Cited

#### Chapter 3: The Standard-Setting Framework

- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 The Constitutional Context
- 3.3 The Federal Government
  - 3.3.1 Introduction
  - 3.3.2 Health Canada
  - 3.3.3 Pest Management Regulatory Agency
  - 3.3.4 Environment Canada
- 3.4 The Provincial Level
  - 3.4.1 Ministry of the Environment
- 3.5 Federal Provincial Territorial Co-Operation and Partnerships
  - 3.5.1 Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
- 3.6 References Cited

## Chapter 4: Risk Assessment And The Precautionary Principle

- 4.1 Introduction
  - 4.1.1 Standards and Standard Setting
  - 4.1.2 "Safe" Levels, Safety Factors, Threshold and Non-Threshold Effects
- 4.2 Risk Assessment and Risk Management
  - 4.2.1 Definitions
  - 4.2.2 Towards a Consistent Approach

- 4.2.3 The "Delaney Paradox"
- 4.2.4 Science Or Pseudo-Science?
- 4.2.5 Politics, Ethics and Equity
- 4.2.6 Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis
- 4.2.7 Summary
- 4.3 The Science Behind the Assessment Epidemiology and Causation
  - 4.3.1 Introduction
  - 4.3.2 Sources of Data
  - 4.3.3 Study Design in Epidemiology
  - 4.3.4 Inferences of Causality in Environmental Health Studies
  - 4.3.5 Limitations of Epidemiological Studies for Risk Assessment
  - 4.3.6 Weight of Evidence
  - 4.3.7 Implications for Decision Making and Policy Setting
  - 4.3.8 Summary
- 4.4 Assessment of Children at Risk
  - 4.4.1 Introduction
  - 4.4.2 The NRC Benchmark
  - 4.4.3 The Food Quality Protection Act
    - 4.4.3.1 The 10-Fold Safety Factor
    - 4.4.3.2 Human Testing of Pesticides
    - 4.4.3.3 Aggregate Exposure and Common Mechanisms of Toxicity
    - 4.4.3.4 Implications for Canada
- 4.5 The Precautionary Principle
  - 4.5.1 Introduction
  - 4.5.2 Evolution of Principle
    - 4.5.2.1 Precautionary Principle and International Law
    - 4.5.2.2 Approaches in Other Countries
  - 4.5.3 What Is the Precautionary Principle?
    - 4.5.3.1 Definitions
    - 4.5.3.2 Components of the Precautionary Approach and their Relevance to Children's Health
  - 4.5.4 Precautionary Approach In Canada
  - 4.5.5 Summary
- 4.6 Conclusions
- 4.7 Recommendations
  - 4.7.1 Risk Assessment
  - 4.7.2 Precautionary Principle
- 4.8 References Cited

#### Chapter 5: Air

- 5.1 Introduction
- 5.2 Provincial Regulation
  - 5.2.1 Ambient Air Quality Criteria
  - 5.2.2 Point of Impingement Standards
  - 5.2.3 Point of Impingement Guidelines
  - 5.2.4 Ministry of the Environment Three Year Plan for Standard Setting
  - 5.2.5 The Standard Setting Process
    - 5.2.5.1 Styrene: An Example
  - 5.2.6 Ozone-Depleting Substances General Regulation

- 5.2.7 Acid Rain Regulations
- 5.2.8 The Environmental Protection Act Part III: Motors and Motor Vehicles
- 5.2.9 Smog Plan
- 5.3 Adequacy of Provincial Air Quality Standards: Initial Information
- 5.4 Federal Regulation
  - 5.4.1 National Ambient Air Quality Objectives
    - 5.4.1.1 Derivation of NAAQOs
    - 5.4.1.2 The Relationship Between National Ambient Air Quality Objectives And Canada-Wide Standards
  - 5.4.2 Canada-Wide Standards
  - 5.4.3 The Canadian Environmental Protection Act
    - 5.4.3.1 National Emission Standards and Guidelines
    - 5.4.3.2 Gasoline
  - 5.4.4 Automobile Emissions: The Motor Vehicle Safety Act
  - 5.4.5 The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
    - 5.4.5.1 Comprehensive Air Quality Management Framework Agreement
    - 5.4.5.2 National Action Plan for the Environmental Control of Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODs) and their Halocarbon Alternatives
- 5.5 Conclusions
- 5.6 Recommendations
  - 5.6.1 Remmendations for Ontario
  - 5.6.2 Recommendations for Canada
- 5.7References Cited

#### Chapter 6: Toxic Substances

- 6.1 Introduction
- 6.2 The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement
- 6.3 Canadian Environmental Protection Act
  - 6.3.1 *CEPA*, 1988
  - 6.3.2 CEPA, 1999
- 6.4 Toxic Substances Management Policy
- 6.5 Pesticides
- 6.6 Accelerated Reduction/Elimination of Toxics
- 6.7 The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
- 6.8 Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- 6.9 Ontario
- 6.10 Conclusions
- 6.11 Recommendations
- 6.12 References Cited

### Chapter 7: Consumer Products

- 7.1 Introduction
- 7.2 The Regulatory Framework
  - 7.2.1 Product Inspection
- 7.3 Prohibited Products
- 7.4 Restricted Products
  - 7.4.1 Children's Products Containing Plastics
  - 7.4.2 The Toys Regulations

- 7.4.3 The Pacifiers Regulations
- 7.4.4 The Infant Bottle Nipples Regulations
- 7.4.5 The Glazed Ceramics and Glassware Regulations
- 7.4.6 The Children's Sleepwear Regulations
- 7.4.7 The Cribs and Cradles Regulations
- 7.4.8 The Carriages and Strollers Regulations
- 7.4.9 The Playpens Regulations
- 7.4.10 The Liquid Coating Materials (Paint) Regulations
- 7.5 Conclusions
- 7.6 Recommendations
- 7.7 References Cited

### Case Study #1: Standard-Setting for Lead - The Cautionary Tale

- 8.1 Introduction
- 8.2 Exposure
- 8.2.1 Uses, Sources, Media and Routes of Exposure
- 8.2.2 Blood-Lead Surveys in Canadian Children
- 8.2.3 Risk Factors for Children
- 8.3 Health Concerns
  - 8.3.1 Introduction
  - 8.3.2 Lowering the "Intervention" Level
  - 8.3.3 A Systemic Poison
  - 8.3.4 Approaches to Studying the Neurotoxicology of Lead
    - 8.3.4.1 Cross-Sectional Studies and Meta-Analysis
    - 8.3.4.2 Prospective and Longitudinal Studies
  - 8.3.5 Lead and Behaviour
  - 8.3.6 Summary
- 8.4 The Regulatory Response
  - 8.4.1 Lead in Gasoline
    - 8.4.1.1 Regulation of Lead In Gasoline in the United States
    - 8.4.1.2 Regulation of Lead in Gasoline in Canada
  - 8.4.2 Smelters and Soil
  - 8.4.3 Ontario's Multi-Media Approach
  - 8.4.4 Lead in Drinking Water
  - 8.4.5 Lead in Food
  - 8.4.6 Lead in Consumer Products
    - 8.4.6.1 Introduction
    - 8.4.6.2 Lead in Ceramics, Glassware And Kettles
    - 8.4.6.3 Lead in Paint
    - 8.4.6.4 New and Unexpected Sources
    - 8.4.6.5 Health Canada's Lead Reduction Strategy
  - 8.4.7 The OECD Declaration of Risk Reduction For Lead
  - 8.4.8 Blood-Lead Testing and Follow-Up
    - 8.4.8.1 Approaches in The United States
    - 8.4.8.2 Canadian Comparisons
    - 8.4.8.3 Pediatric Management of Lead Toxicity in Canada
- 8.5 Conclusions and Lessons Learned
- 8.6 Recommendations
- 8.7 References Cited

## Case Study #2: Regulating Pesticides To Protect Children's Health

- 9.1 Introduction
  - 9.1.2 Children: Greater Exposure and Potential for Serious Health Effects
  - 9.1.3 The Public Policy Response
  - 9.1.4 Unfulfilled Commitments in Canada
    - 9.1.4.1 The Environmental Commissioner's Report
- 9.2 Exposure
- 9.2.1 Contaminant Uses and Information
  - 9.2.1.1 Insecticides
  - 9.2.1.2 Herbicides
  - 9.2.1.3 Fungicides
  - 9.2.1.4 Other Types of Pesticides
  - 9.2.1.5 Formulants
- 9.2.2 Exposure Sources, Routes, Media and Pathways
  - 9.2.2.1 Residential Household and Garden
  - 9.2.2.2 Agricultural and Industrial
- 9.2.3 Exposure Data for Ontario and Canada
  - 9.2.3.1 Environmental Levels
  - 9.2.3.2 Estimates of Intake
  - 9.2.3.3 Body Burdens
  - 9.2.3.4 Communities at Risk
- 9.2.4 Summary of Information on Pesticide Exposure
- 9.3 Health Concerns
  - 9.3.1 Evidence
  - 9.3.2 Animal and Experimental Studies
    - 9.3.2.1 Reproductive/Endocrine Disruption
    - 9.3.2.2 Congenital Defects
    - 9.3.2.3 Growth
    - 9.3.2.4 Neurodevelopmental Toxicity
    - 9.3.2.5 Carcinogenicity
    - 9.3.2.6 Immune System Suppression
    - 9.3.2.7 Summary
  - 9.3.3 Human Studies
    - 9.3.3.1 Accidental Exposure
    - 9.3.3.2 Occupational Exposure
    - 9.3.3.3 Reproduction, Fertility
    - 9.3.3.4 Developmental Malformations
    - 9.3.3.5 Neurotoxicity
  - 9.3.4 Human Studies Chronic Effects
    - 9.3.4.1 Cancer
    - 9.3.4.2 Neurotoxicity
    - 9.3.4.3 Immune System
    - 9.3.4.4 Endocrine Disruption
  - 9.3.5 Summary of Human Health Effects from Pesticides
- 9.4 Pesticide Regulation
- 9.5 The Pest Management Regulatory Agency
- 9.6 The Pest Control Products Act
- 9.7 PMRA and The Toxic Substances Management Policy
- 9.8 The Registration Process: New Products
  - 9.8.1 Introduction

- 9.8.2 Registration
  - 9.8.2.1 The Risk Assessment Process: Hazards
  - 9.8.2.2 The Risk Assessment Process: Exposure
  - 9.8.2.3 Value Assessment
- 9.8.3 Maximum Residue Limits
- 9.8.4 Use Restrictions
- 9.9 Existing (Currently Registered) Pest Control Products
- 9.10 Formulants
  - 9.10.1 EPA Regulation
  - 9.10.2 PMRA Regulation
- 9.11 Sustainable Pest Management
- 9.12 Information
  - 9.12.1 Public Access to Information
  - 9.12.2 Research And Monitoring: The Fate and Effects of Pesticide Use
  - 9.12.3 Adverse Effects Reporting
  - 9.12.4 Pesticide Use Database
  - 9.12.5 WHMIS
- 9.13 Political Will and Funding
- 9.14 Conclusions
- 9.15 Consolidated List of Recommendations
- 9.16 References Cited

Appendix 1: Document "Key"

Appendix 2: Table 9.1 Summary of Information on Selected Common Pesticides

#### Appendix A:Consolidated List of References

Appendix B: List of Acronyms