

Article - Health - General

SUBTITLE 10. CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH.

13-1001.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) "ADVISORY COUNCIL" MEANS THE CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(C) "ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD" MEANS ~~EXPOSURE TO HARMFUL CHEMICALS AND ONE OR A GROUP OF TOXIC CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, OR PHYSICAL AGENTS IN THE ENVIRONMENT, RESULTING FROM HUMAN ACTIVITIES OR NATURAL PROCESSES, THAT MAY IMPACT THE HEALTH OF EXPOSED CHILDREN, INCLUDING SUCH POLLUTANTS SUCH AS LEAD, PESTICIDES, AIR POLLUTANTS, CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER, POLLUTED WATERS, TOXIC WASTE DUMPS, POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS, SECONDHAND TOBACCO SMOKE, AND INDUSTRIAL AND HOME CHEMICALS, AND OTHER CHEMICALS AND POLLUTANTS THAT MAY IMPACT CHILDREN'S HEALTH.~~

13-1002.

(A) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

(1) CHILDREN IN THE STATE FACE AN ARRAY OF PREVENTABLE EXPOSURES TO ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS IN THEIR SCHOOLS, HOMES, AND COMMUNITIES;

(2) IN CERTAIN CASES CHILDREN ARE AT GREATER RISK THAN ADULTS FOR EXPOSURE TO AND POSSIBLE ILLNESS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS BECAUSE CHILDREN:

(I) HAVE A DECREASED ABILITY TO DETOXYFY CERTAIN SUBSTANCES;

(II) HAVE A GREATER SENSITIVITY TO ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS DURING THE STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH AS A RESULT OF THEIR IMMATURE BODY ORGANS AND TISSUES AND ~~WEAKER~~ IMMATURE IMMUNE SYSTEMS;

(III) HAVE DIFFERENT EXPOSURE BEHAVIOR PATTERNS, SUCH AS HAND-TO-MOUTH BEHAVIOR, SPENDING A GREATER AMOUNT OF TIME OUTDOORS NEAR HAZARDS, AND SPENDING MORE TIME ON THE FLOOR AND ON THE GROUND WHERE CONTAMINANTS CAN CONCENTRATE; AND

(IV) ~~INGEST~~ TAKE IN A GREATER AMOUNT OF CONTAMINANTS DUE TO THEIR EATING PROPORTIONATELY MORE FOOD, BREATHING PROPORTIONATELY MORE AIR, AND DRINKING PROPORTIONATELY MORE FLUIDS THAN ADULTS;

(3) HIGHER RATES OF POVERTY ARE ONE OF THE FACTORS THAT PLACE CHILDREN OF ETHNIC AND MINORITY COMMUNITIES AT DISPROPORTIONATE RISK