Publications and Resources

Noise
In August, a review paper on transport noise interventions was published in the framework of a WHO project towards setting WHO Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region. In this review (covering literature from 1980-2014), the authors summarize the evidence on effects of transport noise (road traffic, railways, and air traffic) interventions on human health. Health effects were sleep disturbance, annoyance, cognitive impairment of children and cardiovascular diseases. Further papers will appear in this special issue “WHO Noise and Health Evidence Reviews”, summarizing the evidence reviews carried out in the context of the project.

Further information:
- WHO environmental noise guidelines for the European region: A systematic review of transport noise interventions and their impacts on health
  Brown AL, van Kamp I

Smoking
There is a new form of water pipe, where steam stones are dampened with aroma fluids (Shiazo) and heated electronically. Schober et al. (2017) investigated the influence of produced vapor to health. In conclusion, they found, that electronic Shiazo water pipes lead to a release of various harmful substances, which can impact indoor air quality and human health (smoker and passive smoker).

Further information:
- Electronic Shiazo waterpipes: a new source of indoor air pollutants
  Elektrische Shiazo-Wasserpfifen: eine neue Quelle für Innenraumluftschadstoffe
  Schober W, Matzen W, Szendrei K, Heitmann D, Schettgen T, Fromme H
  Bundesgesundheitsbl 2017; 60:1092-1101

Mould and Dampness
The German Society of Hygiene, Environmental Medicine and Preventative Medicine (Gesellschaft für Hygiene, Umweltmedizin und Präventivmedizin [GHUP]), other scientific medical societies, German and Austrian medical societies, physician unions and experts published an AWMF (Association of the
Scientific Medical Societies) guideline 'Medical diagnostics for indoor mold exposure'. The guideline provides information regarding sources of mold, mold-associated health effects and diseases, diagnostic tools, therapy, remediation of buildings with moisture problems and mold growth. This publication is intended to assist physicians in advising and treating patients exposed to indoor mold.

Further information:
- **Medical diagnostics for indoor mold exposure**
  Int J Hyg Environ Health. 2017; 220:305-328

- **AWMF-Schimmelpilz-Leitlinie “Medizinisch klinische Diagnostik bei Schimmelpilzexposition in Innenräumen” AWMF-Register-Nr. 161/001 - Endfassung**
  in: Wohnmedizin - Zeitschrift für Wohnmedizin und Bauhygiene, 2016, issue no. 3

**Literature**

In this section we will provide a collection of recent housing and health publications from a variety of backgrounds. Literature published in German is indicated with the German flag 🇩🇪.

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Allergies and Respiratory Diseases

**Lung inflammation caused by inhaled toxicants: a review**
Wong J, Magun BE, Wood LJ

**Difficult family relationships, residential greenspace, and childhood asthma**
Chen E, Miller GE, Shalowitz MU, Story RE, Levine CS, Hayen R, Sbihi H, Brauer M

**Effectiveness of air purifier on health outcomes and indoor particles in homes of children with allergic diseases in Fresno, California: A pilot study**
Park HK, Cheng KC, Tetteh AO, Hildemann LM, Nadeau KC
J Asthma. 2017; 54:341-346

**Ambient fine and coarse particulate matter pollution and respiratory morbidity in Dongguan, China**
Environ Pollut. 2017; 222:126-131

**The dangerous liaison between pollens and pollution in respiratory allergy**
Schiavoni G, D'Amato G, Afferni C

**Ambrosia-Pflanze plagt die Lausitz**
Deutsches Ärzteblatt, 21st of July, 2017

Indoor Air

**Indoor air quality after installation of building products in energy-efficient buildings**
Umweltbundesamt, 2017

**Changes in flame retardant and legacy contaminant concentrations in indoor air during building construction, furnishing and use**
Vojta S, Melymuk L, Klánová J

**Urban pollutant transport and infiltration into buildings using perfluorocarbon tracers**
Matthews JC, Bacak A, Khan MA, Wright MD, Priestley M, Martin D6 Percival CJ, Shallcross DE

**Pressemitteilung des Umweltbundesamtes: Gute Luft in Innenräumen in Gefahr**
Umweltbundesamt, 24th of July, 2017
Monitoring indoor air quality for enhanced occupational health
Pitarma R, Marques G, Ferreira BR

Cooking fuel and risk of under-five mortality in 23 Sub-Saharan African countries: a population-based study
Owili PO, Muga MA, Pan WC, Kuo HW

Indoor air quality in an antarctic research station: Fungi, particles and aldehyde concentrations associated with building materials and architectural design
Indoor and Built Environment, 2017; doi: 10.1177/1420326X17719953

Innenraumbelastung durch Ethanol-Feuerstellen telegramm: umwelt+gesundheit, 4/2016

Exposure to indoor particulate matter worsens the symptoms and acute exacerbations in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients of Southwestern Taiwan: A pilot study
Chi MC, Guo SE, Hwang SL, Chou CT, Lin CM, Lin YC

First characterization of the endocrine-disrupting potential of indoor gaseous and particulate contamination: comparison with urban outdoor air (France)
Environ Sci Pollut Res Int. 2017; 24:3142-3152

Fine particles in homes of predominantly low-income families with children and smokers: Key physical and behavioral determinants to inform indoor-air-quality interventions

Characterization of short- and medium-chain chlorinated paraffins in outdoor/indoor PM10/PM2.5/PM1.0 in Beijing, China
Environ Pollut. 2017; 225:674-680

Arterial blood pressure responses to short-term exposure to fine and ultrafine particles from indoor sources - A randomized sham-controlled exposure study of healthy volunteers
Environ Res. 2017; 158:225-232
Sri Lanka pilot study to examine respiratory health effects and personal PM2.5 exposures from cooking indoors

Dioxine und dioxinähnliche PCB in Umwelt und Nahrungsketten
Umweltbundesamt, 2017

A review of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) pollution in indoor air environment
Dai Q, Min X, Weng M

Quantification of all 209 PCB congeners in blood - Can indicators be used to calculate the total PCB blood load?
Kraft M, Rauchfuss K, Sievering S, Wöckner M, Neugebauer F, Fromme H
Int J Hyg Environ Health. 2017;220(2 Pt A):201-208

Evaluierung von Monitoringdaten zu POPs, POP-Kandidaten und Ersatzstoffen zur Aufklärung von Ursachen, Pfaden und Trends der Umweltbelastung
Umweltbundesamt, 2017

Bulgaria: lessons learnt from implementing actions for prevention of asbestos related diseases
Vangelova K, Dimitrova I
Public Health Panorama 2017, 3:288-293

Lung cancer from asbestos textured ceilings: a case study
Dahlgren JG, Talbott PJ

Current and future risks of asbestos exposure in the Australian community
Gray C, Carey RN, Reid A

Aerotoxic syndrome: A new occupational disease?
Michaelis S, Burdon J, C. Vyvyan Howard V
Public Health Panorama 2017; 3:198-211

Assessing indoor air quality of school environments: transplanted lichen Pseudovernia furfuracea as a new tool for biomonitoring and bioaccumulation
Protano C, Owczarek M, Antonucci A, Guidotti M, Vitali M
Environ Monit Assess. 2017; 189:358
The correlation of *Acanthamoeba* from the ventilation system with other environmental parameters in commercial buildings as possible indicator for indoor air quality
Ooi SS, Mak JW, Chen DK, Ambu S
Ind Health. 2017; 55:35-45

Indoor air guide values for glycol ethers and glycol esters - A category approach
Mangelsdorf I, Kleppe SN, Heinzow B, Sagunski H

*Richtwert für Propan-1,2-diol (Propylenglykol) in der Innenraumluft*
Bundesgesundheitsbl 2017, https://doi.org/10.1007/s00103-017-2631-9

Degradation of indoor limonene by outdoor ozone: A cascade of secondary organic aerosols
Rösch C, Wissenbach DK, Franck U, Wendisch M, Schlink U
Environ Pollut. 2017; 226:463-472

Passive sampling for indoor and outdoor exposures to chlorpyrifos, azinphos-methyl, and oxygen analogs in a rural agricultural community
Gibbs JL, Yost MG, Negrete M, Fenske RA
Environ Health Perspect. 2017; 125:333-341

Mould and Dampness

Respiratory diseases in university students associated with exposure to residential dampness or mold
Lanthier-Veilleux M, Baron G, Généreux M

Association between outdoor fungal concentrations during winter and pulmonary function in children with and without asthma
Watanabe M, Noma H, Kurai J, Hantan D, Burioka N, Nakamoto S, Sano H, Taniguchi J, Shimizu E

Indoor hygrothermal loads for the deterministic and stochastic design of the building envelope for dwellings in cold climates
Ilomets S, Kalamees T, Vinha J
Journal of Building Physics, 2017

Residential risk factors for atopic dermatitis in 3- to 6-year old children: A cross-sectional study in Shanghai, China
Light and Radiation

**Radon and thoron in-air occupational exposure study within selected wine cellars of the western cape (South Africa) and associated annual effective doses**

Botha R, Newman RT, Lindsay R, Maleka PP

Health Phys. 2017; 112:98-107

**Association of school district policies for radon testing and radon-resistant new construction practices with indoor radon zones**

Foster S, Everett Jones S


**Radon versus other lung cancer risk factors: How accurate are the attribution estimates?**

Krstić G

J Air Waste Manag Assoc. 2017; 67:261-266

**Residential exposure to natural background radiation and risk of childhood acute leukemia in France, 1990-2009**


Environ Health Perspect. 2017; 125:714-720

**Geographical correlations between indoor radon concentration and risks of lung cancer, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, and leukemia during 1999-2008 in Korea**

Ha M, Hwang SS, Kang S, Park NW, Chang BU, Kim Y


**Influence of architectural style on indoor radon concentration in a radon prone area: A case study.**

Baeza A, García-Paniagua J, Guillén J, Montalbañ B

Sci Total Environ. 2017; 610-611:258-266

**Residential radon and COPD. An ecological study in Galicia, Spain**


**Comparative study of radon concentration with two techniques and elemental analysis in drinking water samples of the Jammu District, Jammu and Kashmir, India**


Health Phys. 2017; 113:271-281
Radiation dose due to radon and thoron progeny inhalation in high-level natural radiation areas of Kerala, India
J Radiol Prot. 2017; 37:111-126

In-field evaluation of the impact of ageing and fading effects on annual radon concentration measurements for two different techniques
Venoso G, Ampollini M, Antignani S, Carpentieri C, Bochicchio F
J Radiol Prot. 2016; 36:922-933

Smoking / Environmental Tobacco Smoke

Use of electronic cigarettes among secondary and high school students from a socially disadvantaged rural area in Poland.
Kaleta D, Wojtysiak P, Polańska K

Particulate matter in second-hand smoke emitted from different cigarette sizes and types of the brand vogue mainly smoked by women
Kant N, Müller R, Braun M, Gerber A, Groneberg D

Impact of partial and comprehensive smoke-free regulations on indoor air quality in bars
Kim J, Ban H, Hwang Y, Ha K, Lee K

Indoor tobacco legislation is associated with fewer emergency department visits for asthma exacerbation in children
Ciaccio CE, Gurley-Calvez T, Shireman TI

Estimating lung cancer mortality attributable to second hand smoke exposure in Germany
Becher H, Belau M, Winkler V, Aigner A

Vorläufige Risikobewertung von Tobacco Heating-Systemen als Tabakprodukte
Mitteilung Nr. 015/2017 des BfR vom 27. Juli 2017

Social disparities in parental smoking and young children's exposure to secondhand smoke at home: a time-trend analysis of repeated cross-sectional data from the German KiGGS study between 2003-2006 and 2009-2012
Kuntz B, Lampert T
Fast eine Million Kinder sitzen regelmäßig in Raucher-Autos
Deutsches Ärzteblatt, 2017

Continuous weeklong measurements of indoor particle levels in a Minnesota tribal casino resort
Zhou Z, Bohac D, Boyle RG

Housing and Ageing Society
Physical activity in older adults in relation to place of residence and coexistent chronic diseases
Kostka J, Kostka T, Borowiak E

Environmental and psychosocial correlates of objectively measured physical activity among older adults
Health Psychol. 2016; 35:1364-1372

Perceived neighborhood and home environmental factors associated with television viewing among Taiwanese older adults
Hsueh MC, Liao Y, Chang SH

A public health perspective to environmental barriers and accessibility problems for senior citizens living in ordinary housing
Granbom M, Iwarsson S, Kylberg M, Pettersson C, Slaug B

The association of the neighbourhood built environment with objectively measured physical activity in older adults with and without lower limb osteoarthritis
Timmermans EJ, Schaap LA, Visser M, van der Ploeg HP, Wagtendonk AJ, van der Pas S, Deeg DJ

Built environment and walking behavior among Brazilian older adults: A population-based study
Weber Corseuil Giehl M, Hallal PC, Weber Corseuil C, Schneider IJ, d'Orsi E

Housing and subjective well-being of older adults in Europe
Herbers DJ, Mulder CH
J Hous and the Built Environ 2017; 32:533-558

Older adults’ outdoor walking: Inequalities in neighbourhood safety, pedestrian infrastructure and aesthetics
Zandieh R, Martinez J, Flacke J, Jones P, van Maarseveen M
**Effect of indoor temperature on physical performance in older adults during days with normal temperature and heat waves**

**Home Safety**

**Perceived fall risk and functional decline: Gender differences in patient's willingness to discuss fall risk, fall history, or to have a home safety evaluation**

**Keimschleuder Küchenschwamm: Bakterienkonzentration erreicht Level von Fäkalproben**
Deutsches Ärzteblatt 20th of July 2017

**Association of psychotropic drug use with falls among older adults in Germany. Results of the German health interview and examination survey for adults 2008-2011 (DEGS1)**
Du Y, Wolf IK, Knopf H

**Protocol for the home hazards removal program (HARP) study: a pragmatic, randomized clinical trial and implementation study**
Stark S, Somerville E, Keglovits M, Conte J, Li M, Hu YL, Yan Y
BMC Geriatr. 2017; 17:90

**Housing Conditions**

**The impact of heat waves on occurrence and severity of construction accidents**
Rameezdeen R, Elmualim A

**German environmental survey for children and adolescents 2014-2017 (GerES V) - the environmental module of KiGGS Wave 2**
Die Deutsche Umweltstudie zur Gesundheit von Kindern und Jugendlichen 2014 – 2017 (GerES V) - das Umweltmodul in KiGGS Welle 2

**Perceived indoor environment and occupants' comfort in European "modern" office buildings: The OFFICAIR Study**
**Health and wellbeing of occupants in highly energy efficient buildings: A field study**

**Housing and Mental Health**

**Neighborhood design, physical activity, and wellbeing: Applying the walkability model**
Zuniga-Teran AA, Orr BJ, Gimblett RH, Chalfoun NV, Guertin DP, Marsh SE

**Exploring pathways linking greenspace to health: Theoretical and methodological guidance**
Environ Res. 2017; 158:301-317

**Understanding relationships between health, ethnicity, place and the role of urban green space in deprived urban communities**
Roe J, Aspinall PA, Ward Thompson C

**Inequalities in socio-economic characteristics and health and wellbeing of men with and without disabilities: a cross-sectional analysis of the baseline wave of the Australian Longitudinal Study on Male Health**
Kavanagh AM, Aitken Z, Emerson E, Sahabandu S, Milner A, Bentley R, LaMontagne AD, Pirkis J, Studdert D

**Household environment, lifestyle behaviors, and dietary habits in relation to childhood atopic eczema in Shanghai, China**
Int Arch Occup Environ Health. 2017; 90:141-159

**Thermal Comfort / Energy**

**Gesamtstaatlicher Hitzeschutzplan Österreich**
Bundesministerium für Gesundheit und Frauen, 2017

**Using environmental monitoring to complement in-depth qualitative interviews in cold homes research**
Indoor and Built Environment 2017; 26:937-950

**Wärmedämmung: Fragen und Antworten**
Umweltbundesamt, 2016
Verbesserung der Umwelteigenschaften von Wärmedämmverbundsystemen (WDVS) - Evaluierung der Einsatzmöglichkeiten biozidfreier Komponenten und Beschichtungen
Umweltbundesamt, 2016

Dämmmaßnahmen an Gebäudefassaden
Bundesinstitut für Bau-, Stadt- und Raumforschung (BBSR), 2017

The effect of solar reflectance, infrared emissivity, and thermal insulation of roofs on the annual energy consumption of single-family households in México
Lucero-Álvarez J, Martín-Domínguez IR
Indoor and Built Environment 2017; doi: 10.1177/1420326X17729194

Urban Planning / Built Environment

Grüne Infrastruktur - für Klimaanpassung und Gesundheit
Bundesamt für Naturschutz (BfN), 2017

Environmental risks of cities in the European region: analyses of the Sustainable Healthy Urban Environments (SHUE) database
Milner J, Taylor J, Barreto ML, Davies M, Haines A, Harpham C, Sehgal M, Wilkinson P, on behalf of the SHUE project partners
Public Health Panorama 2017; 3:300-309

Status report - The Public Health and Planning 101 project: strengthening collaborations between the public health and planning professions
Health Promot Chronic Dis Prev Can. 2017; 37:24-29

The roles of the outdoors and occupants in contributing to a potential pan-microbiome of the built environment: a review
Leung MH, Lee PK

Environment and health in Europe: status and perspectives
WHO, 2017

Environment and health for the European cities in the 21st century: making a difference
WHO, 2017

WHO, 2017

Gebäudebegrünung und Klimawandel - Anpassung an die Folgen des Klimawandels durch klimawandeltaugliche Begrünung
Climate Service Center Germany (GERICS), 2017
The contribution of travel-related urban zones, cycling and pedestrian networks and green space to commuting physical activity among adults - a cross-sectional population-based study using geographical information systems

Optimizing scoring and sampling methods for assessing built neighborhood environment quality in residential areas

The Physical Activity and Redesigned Community Spaces (PARCS) Study: Protocol of a natural experiment to investigate the impact of citywide park redesign and renovation

Greenhouse gas emissions profiles of neighbourhoods in Durban, South Africa - an initial investigation
Meryl Jagarnath M, Tirusha Thambiran T
Environment and Urbanization 2017; doi: 10.1177/0956247817713471

Die New Urban Agenda - Konsequenzen für die Stadtentwicklung
Bundesinstitut für Bau-, Stadt- und Raumforschung (BBSR), 2017

Aktive Stadt- und Ortsteilzentren - Bausteine aus der Praxis der Zentrenentwicklung
Bundesinstitut für Bau-, Stadt- und Raumforschung (BBSR), 2017

Can healthy cities be made really healthy?
The Lancet Public Health 2017; 2:e394–e395

Haus 2019 - Ein Null-Energie-Gebäude im Betrieb
Umweltbundesamt, 2017

Social Inequality
Mapping environmental inequalities relevant for health for informing urban planning interventions - A case study in the city of Dortmund, Germany
Flacke J, Schüle SA, Köckler H, Bolte G
Determinants of quality of life in ageing populations: results from a cross-sectional study in Finland, Poland and Spain

Patterns and determinants of physical inactivity in rural and urban areas in Peru: A population-based study
Miranda JJ, Carrillo-Larco RM, Gilman RH, Avilez JL, Smeeth L, Checkley W, Bernabe-Ortiz A

Neighborhood walkability and walking for transport among South Asians in the MASALA Study
Kelley EA, Kandula NR, Kanaya AM, Yen IH

Rev Esp Cardiol 2017; 70:145-154

Health and participation problems in older adults with long-term disability
Hilberink SR, van der Slot WM, Klem M
Disabil Health J. 2017; 10:361-366

Noise

Noise-induced hearing loss: a modern epidemic?
Imam L1, Hannan SA2.

A pilot study to assess residential noise exposure near natural gas compressor stations
Boyle MD, Soneja S, Quirós-Alcalá L, Dalemarre L, Sapkota AR, Sangaramoorthy T, Wilson S, Milton D, Sapkota A

Burden of disease from road traffic and railway noise - a quantification of healthy life years lost in Sweden
Eriksson C, Bodin T, Selander J

Health impacts related to urban and transport planning: A burden of disease assessment.
Environ Int. 2017; 107:243-257
Race/Ethnicity, socioeconomic status, residential segregation, and spatial variation in noise exposure in the contiguous United States
Casey JA, Morello-Frosch R, Mennitt DJ, Fristrup K, Ogburn EL, James P
Environ Health Perspect. 2017; 125:077017

Residential and GPS-defined activity space neighborhood noise complaints, body mass index and blood pressure among low-income housing residents in New York City
Tamura K, Elbel B, Chaix B, Regan SD, Al-Ajlouni YA, Athens JK, Meline J, Duncan DT

Quantifying spatial misclassification in exposure to noise complaints among low-income housing residents across New York City neighborhoods: a Global Positioning System (GPS) study
Duncan DT, Tamura K, Regan SD, Athens J, Elbel B, Meline J, Al-Ajlouni YA, Chaix B
Ann Epidemiol. 2017; 27:67-75

Epidemiology and risk factors for leisure noise-induced hearing damage in Flemish young adults
Degeest S, Clays E, Corthals P, Keppler H
Noise Health. 2017; 19:10-19

Headphone listening habits and hearing thresholds in Swedish adolescents
Widen SE, Bäsjö S, Möller C, Kähäri K

Exposure of adolescents to leisure-time noise: Results of the first follow-up of the Ohrkan cohort study
Gerstner D, Twardella D, Reiter C, Weihammer V, Kolb S, Herr CEW

Cycling exercise classes may be bad for your (hearing) health
Sinha S, Kozin ED, Naunheim MR, Barber SR, Wong K, Katz LW, Otero TMN, Stefanov-Wagner IJM, Remenschneider AK
Laryngoscope. 2017; 127:1873-1877

Urban and transport planning related exposures and mortality: A health impact assessment for cities
Environ Health Perspect. 2017; 125:89-96

Influence of urban vegetation on air pollution and noise exposure - A case study in Gothenburg, Sweden
Klingberg J, Broberg M, Strandberg B, Thorsson P, Pleijel H
Sci Total Environ. 2017; 599-600:1728-1739

The influence of subway station design on noise levels
Shah RR, Suen JJ, Cellum IP, Spitzer JB, Lalwani AK
Laryngoscope. 2017; 127:1169-1174
Particulates and noise exposure during bicycle, bus and car commuting: A study in three European cities
Environ Res. 2017; 154:181-189

Impact of road traffic noise on sleep disturbances and attention disorders amongst school children living in Upper Silesian Industrial Zone, Poland
Skrzypek M, Kowalska M, Czech EM, Niewiadomska E, Zejda JE

Nocturnal road traffic noise exposure and children's sleep duration and sleep problems
Weyde KV, Krog NH, Oftedal B, Evandt J, Magnus P, Øverland S, Clark C, Stansfeld S, Aasvang GM

Children's blood pressure and its association with road traffic noise exposure - A systematic review with meta-analysis
Dzhambov AM, Dimitrova DD
Environ Res. 2017; 152:244-255

Is aircraft noise exposure associated with cardiovascular disease and hypertension? Results from a cohort study in Athens, Greece
Occup Environ Med. 2017; pii: oemed-2016-104180

Association between aircraft, road and railway traffic noise and depression in a large case-control study based on secondary data
Environ Res. 2017; 152:263-271

Traffic noise and hypertension - results from a large case-control study
Zeeb H, Hegewald J, Schubert M, Wagner M, Dröge P, Swart E, Seidler A
Environ Res. 2017; 157:110-117

Effects of aircraft noise exposure on saliva cortisol near airports in France
Lefèvre M, Carlier MC, Champelovier P, Lambert J, Laumon B, Evrard AS
Occup Environ Med. 2017; 74:612-618

Does aircraft noise exposure increase the risk of hypertension in the population living near airports in France?
Evrard AS, Lefèvre M, Champelovier P, Lambert J, Laumon B
Occup Environ Med. 2017; 74:123-129
Miscellaneous

Pesticides: an update of human exposure and toxicity
Mostafalou S, Abdollahi M
Arch Toxicol. 2017; 91:549-599

Titanium dioxide nanoparticles exacerbate DSS-induced colitis: role of the NLRP3 inflammasome
Gut. 2017 Jul;66:1216-1224

Titaniumdioxid-Nanopartikel: Wie gefährlich ist E 171 für Darmpatienten
Deutsches Ärzteblatt, 2017

Bund lässt mögliche Gesundheitsrisiken von Stromleitungen erforschen
Deutsches Ärzteblatt, 2017

Approaches to children’s exposure assessment: Case study with Diethylhexylphthalate (DEHP)
Ginsberg G, Ginsberg J, Foos B

Blau- und Weißasbest halten sich über Jahre im Lungengewebe
Deutsches Ärzteblatt, 2017

The asbestos fibre burden in human lungs: new insights into the chrysotile debate
Feder IS, Tischoff I, Theile A, Schmitz I, Merget R, Tannapfel A

Rhizoremediation half-lives of PCBs: Role of congener composition, organic carbon forms, bioavailability, microbial activity, plant species and soil conditions, on the prediction of fate and persistence in soil
Terzaghi E, Zanardini E, Morosini C, Raspa G, Borin S, Mapelli F, Vergani L, Di Guardo A
Sci Total Environ. 2017; 612:544-560

Extensive study on physicochemical properties of polychlorinated biphenyls in a commercial ion trap mass spectrometer, relevance in analytical and environmental chemistry

Serum perfluoroalkyl substances and cardiometabolic consequences in adolescents exposed to the World Trade Center disaster and a matched comparison group
Koshy TT, Attina TM, Ghassabian A, Gilbert J, Burdine LK, Marmor M, Honda M, Chu DB, Han X, Shao Y, Kannan K, Urbina EM, Trasande L
Environ Int. 2017. pii: S0160-4120(17)30985-6
Analytical method for urinary metabolites as biomarkers for monitoring exposure to phthalates by gas chromatography/mass spectrometry
Yoshida T

Event Announcements

2017
European Smart Homes 2017
25th & 26th of October 2017, London, United Kingdom
Further information: European Smart Homes 2017 - ACI

10th European Public Health Conference: Sustaining resilient and healthy communities
1st - 4th of November 2017, Stockholm, Sweden
Further information: EPH Conference

Zukunftsraum Schule
14th - 15th of November 2017, Stuttgart, Germany
Further information: Zukunftsraum Schule: Kongress 2017

2018
HiAP 2018 - A Strategy for Improving Population Health
6th of February 2018, London, United Kingdom
Further information: HiAP 2018 - Health in All Policies

First WHO Global Conference on Air Quality and Health
30th of October – 1st of November 2018, Geneva, Switzerland
For more information, please contact: ambientair@who.int
Message Board

In this section we will inform you about activities and projects related to housing and health that are being carried out by WHO or the WHO CC. This may relate to ongoing activities and projects, as well as invitations to participate in data collections or case study projects.

WHO work on indoor, built and urban environments

Preventing noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) by reducing environmental risk factors

This new publication highlights the impact environmental risk factors have on NCDs. It not only presents the burden of NCDs caused by environmental risks but also emphasizes on the key areas where action is needed to reduce this burden. It provides evidence on why environmental risk reduction is essential in NCD prevention and control strategies.

To access the publication, click here.

International lead poisoning prevention week of action

The fifth international lead poisoning prevention week of action will focus on efforts needed to eliminate lead paint. The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint set a target that by 2020 all countries should have legally binding controls on lead paint. However, to date only 66 countries have confirmed that they have these controls in place. A lot remains to be done to meet the set target. The lead poisoning prevention week of action will take place from 22 to 28 October 2017. During the course of the week, activities around the world will be organized to raise awareness about the health hazards of lead and the need for action to stop lead exposure, including regulating lead paint. WHO, with partners, is providing materials and a resource pack for campaign organizers.

For further information, click here. To register your own lead poisoning prevention event, click here.

AirQ+: a tool to quantify health impacts

Air pollution is the largest single environmental health risk and a leading cause of disease and death globally through its impacts on the cardiovascular and respiratory systems. Worldwide, exposure to ambient air pollution accounts for 3.7 million deaths per year in addition to 4.3 million deaths attributable to household air pollution.

To support experts, policy-makers and stakeholders from health and other sectors in tackling air pollution, WHO Regional office for Europe has released AirQ+, updated software to quantify the health impacts of air pollution in a given population. Based on recent scientific evidence, AirQ+ is relevant worldwide and can be used for any city, country or region. The estimates generated by AirQ+ are the starting point to develop or adjust policies and measures that protect people’s health. AirQ+ is part of the WHO response to the requests made in a landmark World Health Assembly Resolution on air pollution (2015). The Resolution asked WHO, inter alia, to provide tools that assist decision-makers at all levels of government in addressing the health impact of air pollution. For further information, click here and to download AirQ+, click here.

Translations of the WHO action brief on urban green spaces and related publications

Over the last years, the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health has carried out intense work on the health relevance of urban green spaces, and how they can help to make cities more healthy and equitable. The project resulted in two main reports on the health impacts of urban green spaces, and the effectiveness of urban green space interventions.
To support practitioners and decision-makers at the local level involved with the design, planning, development and maintenance of urban green spaces, the main conclusion of the green space work have been summarized in an action brief which has been launched in June 2017 (also available in Russian). Currently, translations of the action brief into Finnish, French, German and Portuguese are ongoing, and translations into Italian and Chinese have been requested. The translated versions will be available through the WHO green space brief website once available.

A summary of the evidence review on urban green spaces and their health impacts has been published in an open access book “Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Change Adaptation in Urban Areas” published by Springer. The full book and the WHO chapter can be accessed here free of charge.

**WHO work on urban environments and health at ICUH and EPH**

The work of WHO on urban environments and health equity has been presented in late September at the International Conference on Urban Health in Coimbra, Portugal, and will be presented at the forthcoming European Public Health Conference (Stockholm, Sweden, 4th November) in a session coordinated with the WHO Regions for Health Network. For details, please click here.