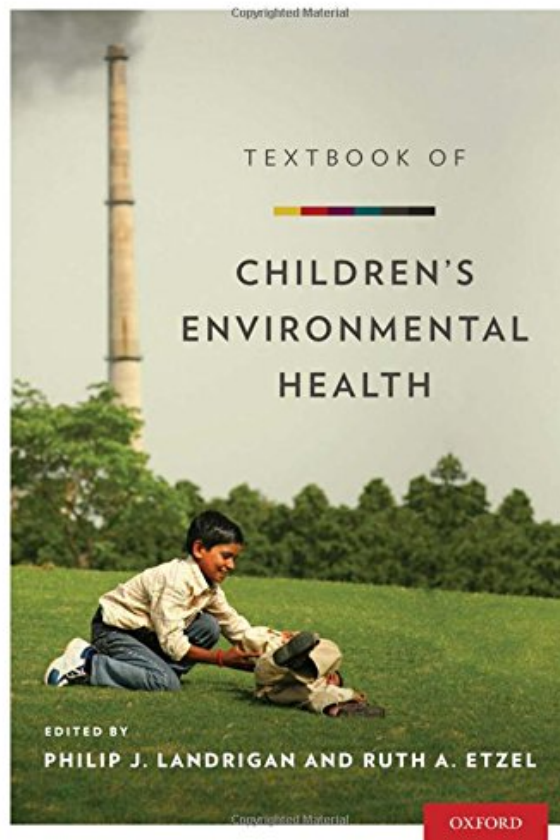
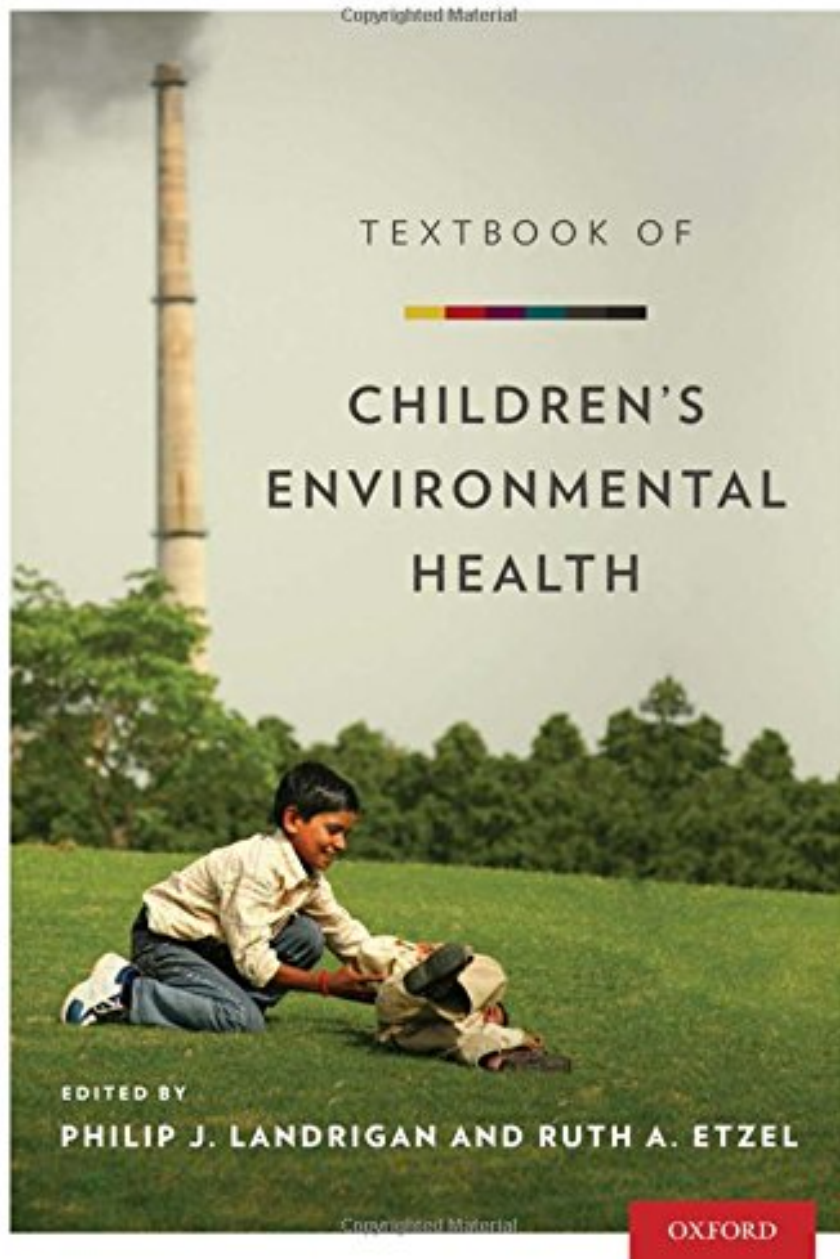


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Over the past four decades, the prevalence of autism, asthma, ADHD, obesity, diabetes, and birth defects have grown substantially among children around the world. Not coincidentally, more than 80,000 new chemicals have been developed and released into the global environment during this same period. Today the World Health Organization attributes 36% of all childhood deaths to environmental causes.

Children's environmental health is a new and expanding discipline that studies the profound impact of chemical and environmental hazards on child health. Amid mounting evidence that children are exquisitely sensitive to their environment-and that exposure during their developmental "windows of susceptibility" can trigger cellular changes that lead to disease and disability in infancy, childhood, and across the life span-there is a compelling need for continued scientific study of the relationship between children's health and environment.

The Textbook of Children's Environmental Health codifies the knowledge base and offers an authoritative and comprehensive guide to this important new field. Edited by two internationally recognized pioneers in the area, this volume presents up-to-date information on the chemical, biological, physical, and societal hazards that confront children in today's world: pesticides, indoor and outdoor air pollution, lead, arsenic, phthalates, bisphenol A, brominated flame retardants, ionizing radiation, electromagnetic fields, and the built environment. It presents carefully documented data on rising rates of disease in children, offers a critical summary of new research linking pediatric disease with environmental exposures, and explores the cellular, molecular, and epigenetic mechanisms underlying diseases of environmental origin.

With this volume's emphasis upon integrating theory and practice, readers will find practical approaches to channeling scientific findings into evidence-based strategies for preventing and identifying the environmental hazards that cause disease in children. It is a landmark work that will serve as the field's benchmark for years to come.

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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

All Medical Students and Public Health Students Must Study this Book!

By Nancy F Holt

One of the truths today is that we are the environment and our healthcare system has no training in detecting

or treating any environmental toxin exposures. Children's health is declining as well as intelligence from many of the toxic low dose exposures to chemicals before birth and after. This book truly is a textbook with sources and references necessary for further interdisciplinary research and study to provide adequate medical care for children and for parents to become aware of the environmental risks of the tens of thousands of chemicals the human body is exposed to and the adverse health impacts from low doses--not toxic levels. We must insist that all medical and health care institutions educate all physicians, nurses and other health professionals on basic concepts of children's environmental health.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Valuable information, with crucial oversights and gaps

By taymarv

To a student, academic, or scholar that hopes to apply their studies to real-world practice and research, it is important to know the work that has already been done towards their goal. This book eloquently informs of the discovery of many environmental hazards to children, and the forces that have been mobilized to protect against those hazards. Great strides have been made to the effect of protecting and improving the quality of our air, water, and building materials. The Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Lead-Hazard Prevention and Elimination Act are all examples of this drive. This textbook serves as an important educational tool, compiling research and providing ample background for scholars, researchers, and informed citizens.

However, what is also important to know is the work that still needs to be done; the spaces where there is dramatic need for improvement. There is a gap in legislation, a crucial factor in environmental protections and lead poisoning awareness that has been overlooked by congress and many environmentalists, and that has unfortunately been under-represented in this textbook as well. The missing component is a focus on the striking research that has been done related to the hazards of high lead levels in soil. In the effort to control lead exposure to young people, an increased focus on remediation of soil contaminants is critical. However, reference to the research that has been done to this effect was absent in the chapters in which lead and lead poisoning were discussed. This absence was specifically notable in chapter 28 (Lead)—which contains sections regarding both Lead-Contaminated Soil and Control of Lead Exposure, and the introductory chapter 3 (The Chemical Environment and Children's Health)—which pays special attention to Tetraethyl Lead in gasoline, but doesn't follow through with the investigation of how that pollutant then accumulates in soil, which currently has no legislation protecting and regulating it. To quote Edward D. Levin in his section on Developmental Toxicology in this volume:

“Much progress has been made in developmental toxicology and in understanding the delayed consequences of toxic exposures early in life, but many challenges still remain. Lead illustrates both our past gains and our future challenges. Much progress has been made in reducing exposure to lead. [sic] However, despite this success, further progress is needed to prevent and manage the neurotoxicity still caused today by lead, as well as persisting impairment from past exposures. We must not fall victim to the fallacy of small numbers.” One of the areas in which further progress is needed, is in controlling lead exposure from soil, especially in the urban environment. Howard Mielke's research on soil lead and blood lead correlations, or the Cochrane Collaboration's review discussing household interventions to prevent lead poisoning provide ample evidence of soil lead being one of the significant factors in elevated blood lead levels in children.

Scientists, environmentalists, and politicians in Norway have recognized the need for increased regulation of soil lead levels, and the 2008 paper regarding the plan for mapping and remediation by Ottesen et al. provides a clear outline for how to navigate this regulation. Research on blood lead levels in Norway after this criteria has been implemented could further develop the case for soil remediation as a primary concern in prevention of lead poisoning.

Removing lead from paint was an important early step, and removing lead from gasoline resulted in a clear decline in blood lead. The Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act in the U.S. stand as examples of wide-spread legislation that can protect our environment, and the Dutch Soil Protection Act or Norway's Clean Soil

Program are examples of what our next step could be. There needs to be more attention drawn to this absence. If this textbook is to serve as a tool to educate and motivate those who care about children's health and safety as it relates to the environment, adding a chapter about Soil is critical. It could fit among chapters 22-25, which discuss pollution in the air and water. I have discussed this idea with Dr. Howard Mielke, and believe that he would be an ideal and willing candidate for writing a chapter on soil for this text.

Through illuminating the way children are contaminated through soil at childcare centers, public parks, city parks, school parks, and their own back yards, perhaps a new generation will become motivated to drive soil cleanups at their local parks, or put pressure on local and national government to address this issue. An ever-expanding body of research conducted in Minnesota, New Orleans, Syracuse, and Los Angeles all corroborate a strong correlation between soil lead levels and blood lead levels in children. Just like the dramatic decline in blood lead levels seen after removal of lead from gasoline, regulating soil lead levels could show a sharp decrease in lead exposure in children.

At the end of the Textbook of Children's Environmental Health's chapter on Lead, there is a "proposed sequence of actions to achieve the goal of primary prevention of lead poisoning in children worldwide", the first of which being to "[i]dentify the major sources of lead exposure each country and community," the fifth being to identify exposure "hotspots", and the sixth being to "promulgate and enforce strict legal standards based on empirical data that regulate allowable levels of lead in air, water, soil, house dust, and consumer products" Keeping the importance of this call to action in mind, it seems odd to omit a more holistic interrogation of lead levels in soil. There exists a breadth of research identifying soil as a major source of lead exposure, citing urban environments as lead hotspots, and calling attention to a lack of U.S. action satisfactorily regulating lead levels in soil. There is focus on the rural environment in other chapters, on air pollutants, water contamination, and on lead specifically, but neither soil nor the urban environment are allotted their own chapters. Some of my personal research as a student has been investigating the exclusion of poor and low-income urban citizens from accessing resources, and the specific environmental hazards they become endangered by. The pollution of the urban environment, specifically poor and low income areas, is often neglected and overlooked by policy and politician alike in the interest of appealing to more financially beneficial sectors of the population. Unfortunately, this textbook is propagating that same oversight.

Clair C. Patterson, of the Committee on Lead in the Human environment, opens *An Alternative Perspective—Lead Pollution in the Human Environment: Origin, Extent, and Significance* with these powerful words: "Sometime in the near future it probably will be shown that the older urban areas of the United States have been rendered more or less uninhabitable by the millions of tons of poisonous industrial lead residues that have accumulated in cities during the past century."^{8A} A bold claim, to be sure, but one backed by a sizable body of research. Urban environments, with much heavier traffic flow, more industrial buildings, and denser housing layouts, are at much higher risk for pollution and contamination. After Chapter 19, discussing The Farm Environment as it relates to developmental health, perhaps a chapter on the urban environment could be added, as the air, water, and soil of the urban environment pose their own distinct threats to children's health.

This textbook exists as a useful, unique, and important resource. While it may be impossible to address every particular issue in one book, I hope to see this book expand and grow, both as new information and research becomes available, and as existing information is incorporated. As a student and a scholar, I hope to see research that I believe to be incredibly important included in future editions, to be made more accessible to other people. I am driven, in my work, to always push for more—to be inquisitive, to see not just what exists in a text or a field, but what is absent.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

A Ground-breaking Summary of Presently Accepted and Legal Harms to Children

By *laura westra*

It is a ground-breaking volume, that should indeed be a textbook, used not only by medical specialists but by

public officials and especially by lawyers and legal scholars. It demonstrates beyond a doubt how the flaws in present legal regimes, for which the child is simply a small adult, but remains "invisible" as she is (UNICEF 2006).

There will be no fairness in treaties, no justice in law in general, both international and domestic, until these flaws are revealed and corrected. Landrigan and Etzel lead the way toward this necessary revolution,

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