How much do environmental hazards cost California in terms of children's health?

The California Environmental Health Tracking Program (CEHTP) announces the release of a report entitled Costs of Environmental Health Conditions in California Children, which describes the economic costs due to the environment for four childhood health conditions: asthma, childhood cancers, lead exposures, and neurobehavioral disorders.

Participating in a multi-state effort coordinated by the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program, we found that preventable environmental hazards are responsible for a significant health and economic burden on children and families in California. In examining the environmentally-related costs of four childhood health conditions, we found that:

- Preventable environmental hazards cost California $254 million every year and $10 -13 billion over the lifetime of all children born every year.

- Lead exposures had the greatest overall financial impact of the four health conditions, resulting in lost earnings of $8 -11 billion over the lifetime of children born each year.

- Asthma had the greatest financial impact on an annual basis, costing families and the state over $208 million every year.
For California specifically, the environment contributes to 30% of the childhood asthma burden and 15% of the childhood cancer burden.

View the full report and other materials at www.phi.org/CEHTPKidsHealthCosts.

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To learn more about the National EPHT Program, visit ephtracking.cdc.gov.

The California Environmental Health Tracking Program is a program of the Public Health Institute. Learn more about...
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