



Environmental Health: Nurses Making A Difference

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20th Annual U.S. Public Health Service Nursing Recognition Day Conference

Objectives

1. Describe at least two resources that provide a framework for environmental health principles and standards for nursing practice.
2. Discuss how nurses are engaging on issues related to the environmental health of their patients and communities.

Environmental health comprises those aspects of human health, including quality of life, that are determined by physical, chemical biological, social and psychosocial processes in the environment. It also refers to the theory and practice of assessing, correcting, controlling, and preventing those factors in the environment that can potentially affect adversely the health of the present and future generations.

-World Health Organization, 1993

ENVISION











Unsafe Chinese-made toys cause alarm

By Eric Lipton and David Barboza

Monday, June 18, 2007

Senator seeks probe of unsafe toys
Products from China are a key concern

By Maurice Possley | Tribune staff reporter June 26, 2007

CBS News

***Annual Alert: Beware Unsafe Toys
Recalled Toys May Still Be On Store Shelves
or In Your Home***

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25, 2003







Photo by Earl Dotter





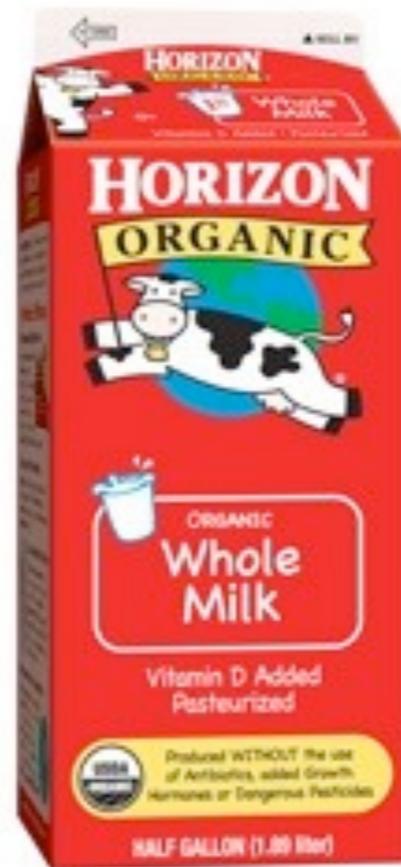


Photo by Jeff Manning and courtesy of USDA



A confined feeding operation of cattle in Yuma, Az.







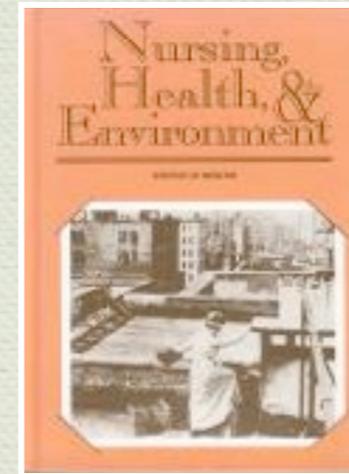
Environmental Health is Fundamental to our Roots

In 1860, Florence Nightingale provided the foundation for nursing attention to environmental exposures and health effects when she wrote about the need for fresh air and clean water in *Notes on Nursing*.



Why Nursing?

- IOM Report
- Gallup Polls
- **Nurses**, as primary health providers in the community, must be able to field questions and guide vulnerable populations to informed decisions.

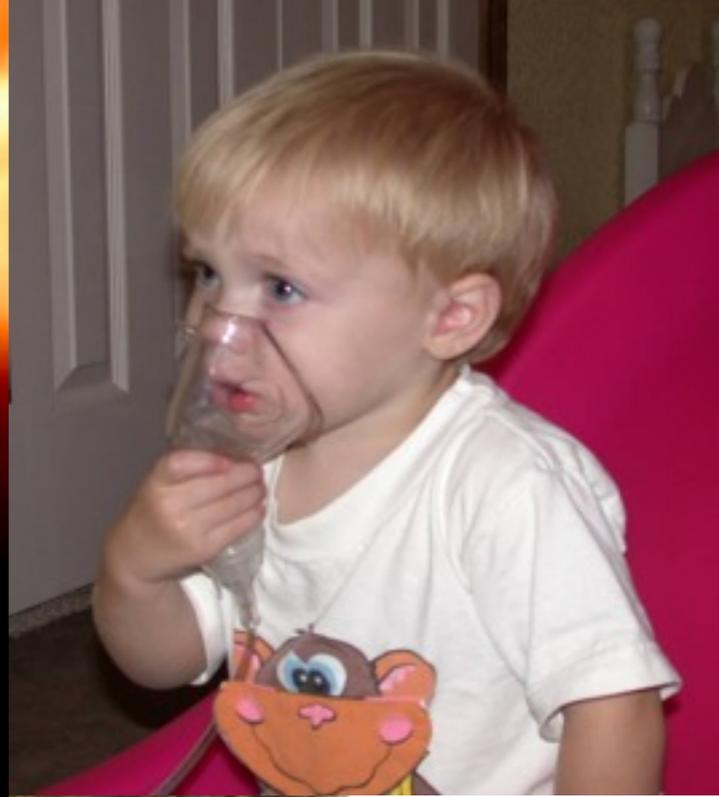


Why Nurses?



- We recognize the wisdom of heeding early warnings.
- We are “fix it” people.
- We care passionately about our patients and our communities.
- We are trusted conveyors of health information to our patients, community members, AND policy makers.
- There are a lot of us!
- And because we get it!

Our bodies are becoming
alarming reflections of the toxic
chemicals in our AIR...



OUR FOOD....

WHAT'S IN YOUR MILK?

rBGH

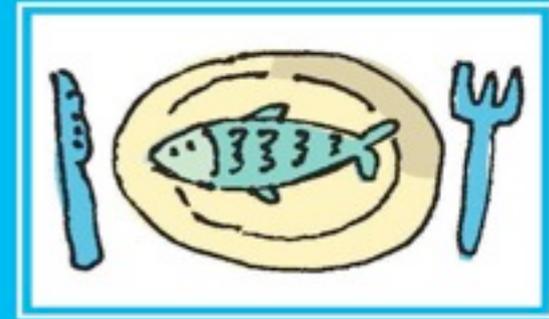
An Exposé of Industry and
Government Cover-Up
on the **DANGERS** of the
Genetically Engineered
(rBGH) Milk You're Drinking

SAMUEL S. EPSTEIN

INTRODUCTION BY **BEN COHEN** Co-Founder, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream
FOREWORD BY **JEFFREY SMITH** International bestselling author, See



A Family Guide to Eating Fish from Wisconsin



Safe eating guidelines for fish
from Wisconsin lakes, ponds,
and rivers and for fish bought in
restaurants and stores.

Wisconsin Department of Health and Family
Services and Wisconsin Department of
Natural Resources

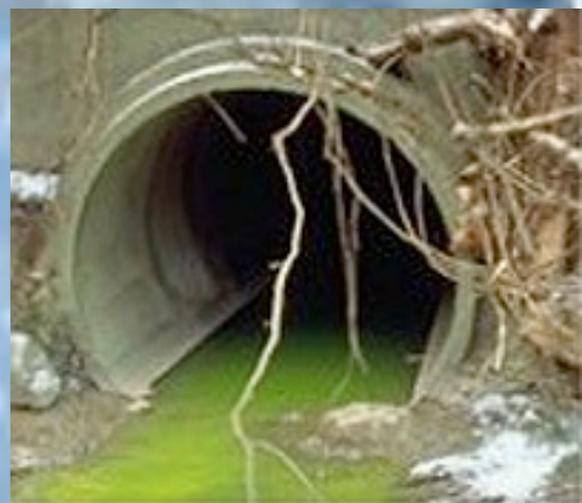


Raising a Stink

The factory farm debate



OUR WATER....



AND OUR WORKPLACES



NURSES' HEALTH

A Survey on Health &
Chemical Exposures

As you help others, is your own health at risk? Please join in an important new research effort exploring relationships between nurses' health and on-the-job exposures to chemicals, drugs, and other harmful agents.

A joint project of [Environmental Working Group](#) and [Health Care Without Harm](#)

[next >>>](#)

Timeline: Organizational Actions

- 1986 ICN: Nurses role in Safe Guarding the Environment
- 1991 NASN: Environmental Impacts in Schools
- 1994 AORN: Definition of Regulated medical Waste
- 1997 ANA: Reduction of Health Care Production of Toxic Pollution
- 1999 ICN: Reduce Environmental and Lifestyle Created Hazards
- 2001 NASN: Position Paper on Indoor Air Quality
AWOHNN: Protecting the Health of Women and Children from Environmental Toxins
- 2002 ICN: Universal Access to Water
- 2003 ACNM: Environmental Pollutants in Breast Milk
ANA: Adopts the Precautionary Principle
- 2004 ANA: Resolution on Inappropriate Use of Antimicrobials in Agriculture
- 2005 APHA: Environmental Health Principles & Recommendations for Public Health Nursing
AORN: Guidance Statement: Environmental Responsibility
- 2006 ANA Resolution, Nursing Practice, Chemical Exposure and Right to Know
ANA: Board of Directors passes position statement on use of Thimerosal in Vaccines
ICN: Occupational Health and Safety for Nurses
NSNA: Increased Awareness Regarding Minimizing Exposure to Medically Generated Toxins
- 2007 ANA: Environmental Health Principles to be Published

Environmental Health Principles for Public Health Nurses



1. Safe and sustainable environments are essential conditions for the public's health
2. Environmental health is integral to the role and responsibilities of all public health nurses.
3. All public health nurses should possess environmental health knowledge and skills.
4. Environmental health decisions should be grounded in sound science.
5. The Precautionary Principle is a fundamental tenet for all environmental health endeavors.
6. Environmental justice is a right of all populations.
7. Public awareness and community involvement are essential in environmental health decision-making.
8. Communities have a right to relevant and timely information for decisions on environmental health.
9. Environmental health approaches should respect diverse values, beliefs, cultures, and circumstances.
10. Collaboration is essential to effectively protecting the health of all people from environmental harm.
11. Environmental health advocacy must be rooted in scientific integrity, honesty, respect for all persons, and social justice.
12. Environmental health research addressing the effectiveness and public health impact of nursing interventions should be conducted and disseminated.

Environmental Health Standard in the ANA's Scope and Standards of Practice for Nurses (2010)

STANDARD 16. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The registered nurse practices in an environmentally safe and healthy manner.

Attain knowledge of environmental health concepts, such as implantation of environmental health strategies.

Promotes a practice environment that reduces environmental health risks of workers and healthcare consumers.

Assesses the practice environment for factors such as sound, odor, noise and light that negatively affect health.

Advocates for the judicious and appropriate use of products used in health care.

Communicates environmental health risks and exposure reduction strategies to healthcare consumers, families, colleagues and communities.

Utilizes scientific evidence to determine if a product or treatment is a potential environmental threat.

Participates in strategies to promote healthy communities.

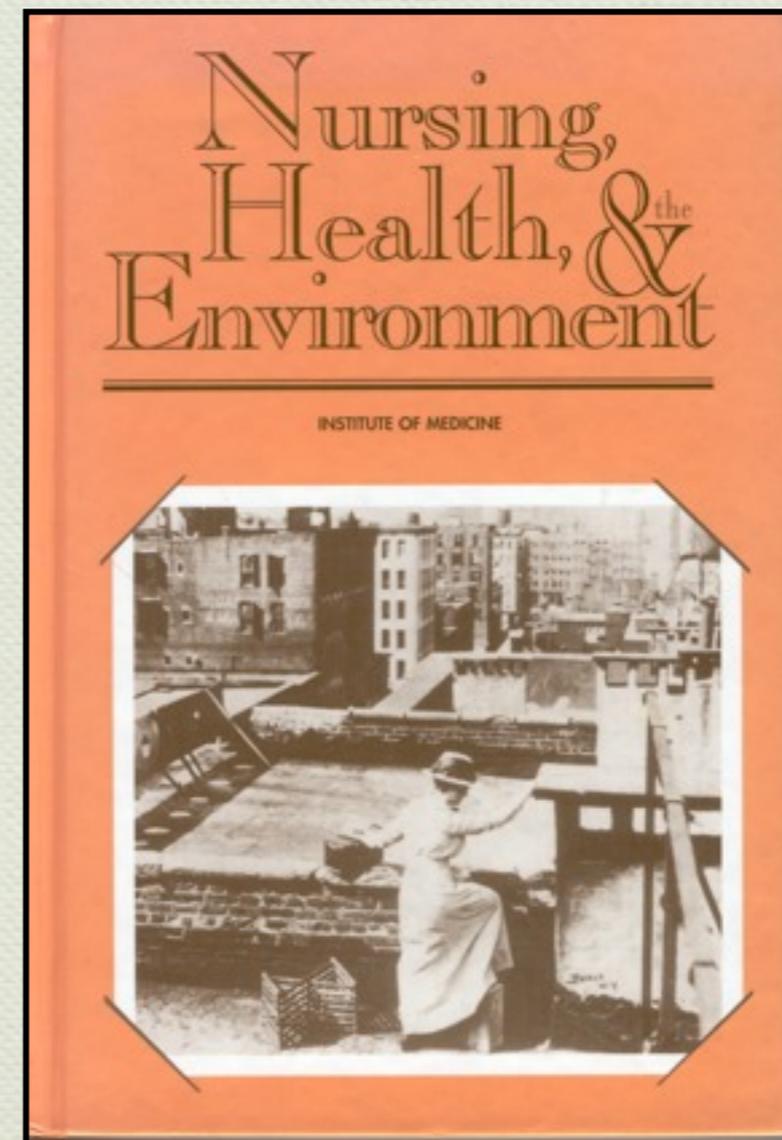
How are Nurses Engaging?

➤ Advocacy

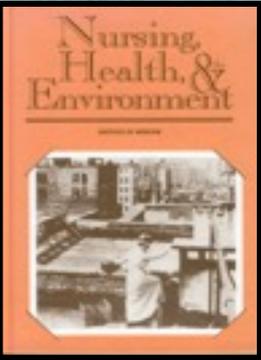
➤ Practice

➤ Education

➤ Research



What is “policy” and “advocacy” and how are they relevant to nursing practice?



“To prepare the profession for a broader range of advocacy activities, nursing curriculum and continuing education programs may come to include content on **lobbying**, use of **media, mediation, expert testimony, community organizing**, and the like. In the meantime, whether with institutional support or on their own, nurses who are stretching the definitional boundaries of advocacy practice will need to build skills that were likely not part of their basic nursing education.” (IOM, 1995)

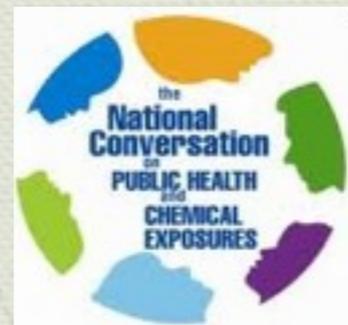
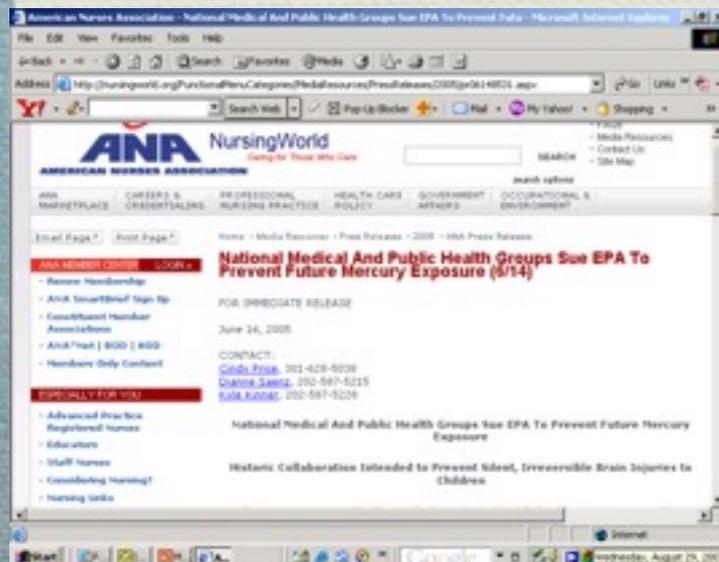
Policy / Advocacy



Kudos to the Maryland Nurses Association for their Work Related to Healthy Air Legislation



ANA/National Caucus of Environmental Legislators



Practice



Neonatal Netw. 2006 Nov-Dec; 25(6):447-9.
How to reduce DEHP in your NICU: a plan of simple steps to promote change.
[Pak VM](#), [Briscoe V](#), [McCauley LA](#).



Another Major Yogurt Maker Ends Use of Bovine Growth Hormone



[Got rBST? The Nurses rBGH-free Dairy Toolkit](#)

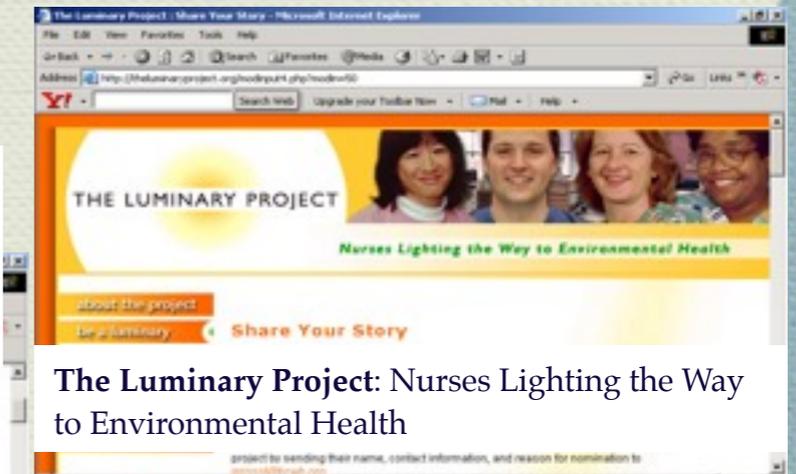
Dannon Latest to Yield to Health Industry Demands
 Arlington, VA — Dannon has announced to Health Care Without Harm that it will stop using milk from cattle injected with the growth hormone rBGH (recombinant bovine growth hormone) to make its yogurt products by the end of 2009.



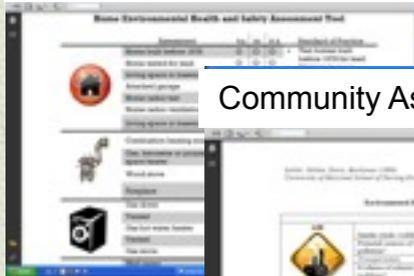
Home Assessment Tool



Going Green — RHis Tackle Hospital Waste
 Melissa Gaskill
 Published Date: April 24, 2008



The Luminary Project: Nurses Lighting the Way to Environmental Health



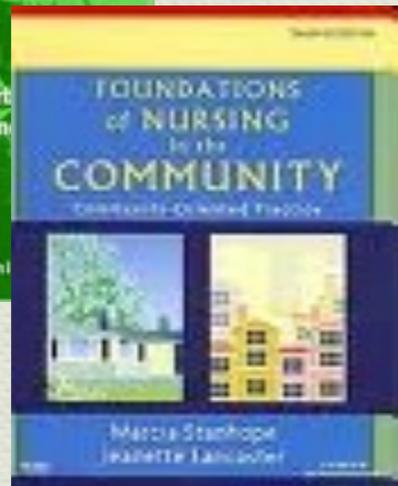
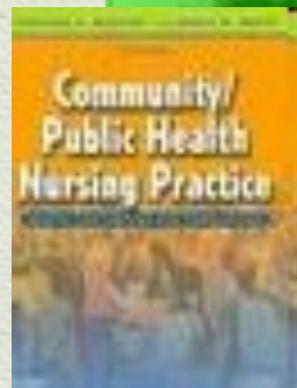
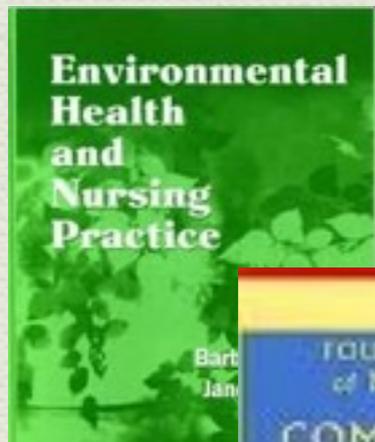
Community Assessment Tool



Prenatal Assessment Tool



Education



<http://envirn.org/pg/groups/421/our-environment-our-health/>



Knowledge Network

Fish Facts: <http://www.fish-facts.org/>



Research



ANHE-Research Work Group

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments



Barriers and Facilitators to the Incorporation of Environmental Health into Public Health Nursing Practice

1. Wade G. Hill¹,
2. Patricia Butterfield²,
3. Sandra Kuntz³

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YALE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING
Research at YSN

Measuring People's Engagement
in Environmental Health
Funded by NIH/NIEHS
R15ES12396

One of the strengths of Public Health Nurses is our inclusiveness — a refusal to be insulated, the desire to be connected and to make partners of all who share our mission, our passion for championing the public's health — the health of people and the connection between health and the conditions in which we live.

Connection is a key word. One of the first basic principles I was taught by my colleagues in environmental health was “Everything is connected to everything else.”

*–Lillian Mood, RN, MPH, FAAN
APHA, 2009*