



chemicals ► health ► monitor



Promoting environmental policy
that contributes to good health

Information release

HEAL re-launches the Chemicals Health Monitor

Brussels, 26 March 2014 – The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) has today re-launched its Chemicals Health Monitor (CHM), a revived online service consisting of a revamped website and newsletter as well as new social media tools, all available in English and German. (1)

HEAL provides this monitoring service with the aim of improving public health by promoting support for more protective regulation of hazardous chemicals in Europe and beyond. The project encourages public health and health professional groups to use and share educational resources to inform patients and the public.

Many of the chemicals to which people are exposed daily have never been tested for their effects on human health and the environment. When studies have been done, the test results may not be publicly available. Meanwhile, more and more studies link chemical exposure to a range of specific chronic conditions. The research suggests that due to their exposure, families and individuals may be more prone to obesity and diabetes, more likely to suffer from cancer, and more likely to face infertility. Healthcare systems are struggling to cope with rising rates of these conditions.

Although EU laws set high and innovative standards, significant gaps nonetheless remain, particularly regarding the effects of multiple concurrent exposures and of long-term, cumulative exposures. The Chemicals Health Monitor provides the latest authoritative, independent information linking chemical exposure to chronic health problems, which is developed with the help of public interest expertise.

HEAL's ultimate goal in providing such a service is to inform the public and to mobilise partnerships in support of EU policies that protect health. In particular, HEAL seeks precautionary action to prevent exposure to toxic chemicals and effective implementation of the EU chemicals law, REACH (2).

What you can do

- Find out about how different health problems may be linked to chemical exposure by exploring the re-vamped website - in **English** <http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/> or **German** <http://www.chemikaliengesundheit.org/>
- Sign up to the CHM newsletter and encourage others to join:
English newsletter - sign up via the subscriber box at the bottom of the home page <http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/>
German - sign up via the subscriber box at the bottom of the home page <http://www.chemikaliengesundheit.org/>
- Follow us on Twitter in **English** [@CHM_HEAL](https://twitter.com/CHM_HEAL) or **German** [@CHEM_HEAL](https://twitter.com/CHEM_HEAL)

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Notes

1. Chemicals Health Monitor <http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/> and <http://www.chemikaliengesundheit.org/>

2. Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/chemicals/reach/index_en.htm

HEAL's action on REACH at <http://www.env-health.org/policies/other-issues/nanotechnology/heal-s-action-on-reach-173/>

HEAL is a leading European not-for-profit organization addressing how the environment affects health in the European Union. With the support of its more than 65 member organizations, which represent health professionals, not-for-profit health insurers, patients, citizens, women, youth, and environmental experts, HEAL brings independent expertise and evidence from the health community to different decision-making processes. Members include international and Europe-wide organisations as well as national and local groups. Website: www.env-health.org

Launched by the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) in 2007, the Chemicals Health Monitor (CHM) aims to improve public health by encouraging more protective regulations of hazardous chemicals in Europe and beyond. This is done through the mobilisation of various constituencies and deploying key environmental health science at critical points of public discourse and policy discussions. Website: www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org and www.chemikaliengesundheit.org