Children have unusual patterns of exposure to environmental chemicals, and they have vulnerabilities that are quite distinct from those of adults. Increasingly, children's exposures to chemicals in the environment are understood to contribute to the causation and exacerbation of certain chronic, disabling diseases in children including asthma, cancer, birth defects, and neurobehavioral dysfunction. The protection of children against environmental toxins is a major challenge to modern society.

Keywords Environmental pediatrics, Health policy, Epidemiology, Legislation