Making the Connections: EJ, RJ, RH & EH

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Overview

• Framing environmental health & justice
• Intersectionality – EJ, RJ, RH & EH
• Translating research to action
  – WE ACT for Environmental Justice
  – Women’s Voices for the Earth
• Questions
Environmental health

• Our environment affects our health
• Environment = where we live, work, learn, play, & pray

- Family
- Home
- Building
- Neighborhood
- Community
- School

-- Air
-- Water
-- Land
-- Food
-- Products used
What are our environments?

Me

Home

Building

Neighborhood/Community

City

Country

Earth
Exposure-disease-stress model for environmental health disparities

Figure 1. Exposure–disease–stress model for environmental health disparities.

HEALTH DISPARITIES ALONG THE 4/5 SUBWAY:
Residents of the poorest NYC neighborhoods die earlier than other New Yorkers

New Yorkers in poor neighborhoods, such as the South Bronx (East 180th Street), Harlem (125th Street) and Central Brooklyn (Crown Heights), are twice as likely to die early than those who live in richer areas, such as the Upper East Side (86th St.) A trip on the number 4 train shows the disparities in the percent of people dying prematurely* across New York City.

Premature Death
- 32% - 35%
- 36% - 43%
- 44% - 56%
- 57% - 60%
- 61% - 70%

Atlantic Avenue 48%
Franklin Avenue 56%
Crown Heights-Utica Avenue 60%
149th Street-Grand Concourse 68%
125th Street 57%
86th Street 32%

*Premature death is defined as dying before 75 years of age.
The Facts on Health Disparities

- 3 of 5 black and Hispanic Americans live in communities with one or more uncontrolled waste sites
- 90% of new lead poisoning cases are children of color
- If nonwhites breathed the lower NO2 levels experienced by whites, 7,000 deaths from heart disease alone among nonwhites would be prevented annually
- Women with higher than median levels of the chemical mono-(3-carboxypropyl) phthalate had approximately a 60% increased risk of diabetes
The Environmental Justice Movement

- The Environment as People: Environment is where we live, work, play, and learn
- Convergence of civil rights, environmentalism, and public health
- MULTICULTURAL & MULTIETHNIC
- Grassroots
- Increasing links to global struggles
- Focused on social justice and pollution prevention
Intersectionality

According to the CDC, the majority of pregnant women have toxic chemicals in their blood. This is unacceptable.

Pass the Safe Chemicals Act.
Intersectionality

Environmental Influences on Reproductive Health

We All Can Do It! Feminism is worthless without intersectionality and inclusion.
WE ACT for Environmental Justice

WE ACT for Environmental Justice is a Northern Manhattan community-based organization whose mission is to build healthy communities by assuring that people of color and/or low-income participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies.
Toxic Free Products

- **Goal(s)**
  - Advocate for chemical policy reform
  - Educate diverse audiences on the impact of chemicals in the products that we use

- **Activities**
  - Just Green Partnership
    - New York State
  - Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families Coalition
    - Federal
  - Community Academic Partnerships
    - Translation of science
  - The Beauty Project
• Where are individuals purchasing ethnic personal care products?

• Over 600 Points of Interest
  – Beauty Supply Stores
  – Discount Stores
  – Deli/Grocery Stores
  – Hair Braiding Shops
  – Beauty Shops
  – Pharmacy/Drug Stores
Women’s Voices for the Earth

• Women’s Voices for the Earth amplify women’s voices to eliminate toxic chemicals that harm our health and our community.
Secret Toxic Chemicals in Tampons & Pads

EXPOSURE CONCERNS: CANCER, REPRODUCTIVE HARM, HORMONE DISRUPTION, ALLERGIC RASH

Unknown fragrance chemicals
Dioxins & furans (chlorine bleaching process)

Pesticide residues
Adhesive chemicals

Look for unbleached, chlorine-free, fragrance-free pads & tampons

Tell Tampax & Always to Detox the Box!

www.bit.ly/detoxthebox

Toxic chemicals don’t belong in feminine products. Period.
• SisterSong
• Black Women for Wellness
• National Healthy Nail and Hair Salon Alliance
• Silent Spring Institute
• Forward Together
• National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
• New Voices Pittsburgh
• California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative
• National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum
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