



European Public Health Alliance

H.E.C.T.O.R.

1ere Colloque interdisciplinaire Santé - Environnement

“Transport et Santé - Informatique et Télématique médicale”

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Impact sur la santé?

Observations épidémiologiques et
actions au niveau européen

Genon Jensen, European Public Health Alliance



European Public Health Alliance

- An umbrella network of 85 non governmental and not-for-profit organisations across Europe working on health and health-related issues
- Our mission is to improve the health of European citizens and to increase their participation in EU policy-making
- Created environment and health platform, EPHA Environment Network (EEN) in 2003



How does EPHA/EEN work?

- Advocacy
- Information exchange - www.ephah.org
- Membership services
- Lobbying
- Networking
- Tracking policy issues
- Representation of NGO and citizen interests



The costs of transport on our health ?

- Accidents -- 120,000 die a year and 2.5 million are injured from road traffic
- Air pollution -- about 100,000 premature deaths a year
- Road traffic noise -- <50 million exposed to levels above 55 Ldn dB (A)
- 5-10% of total morbidity attributed to lack of physical inactivity
- Contributor to climate change -- heat waves



Differences between eastern/western European Region

- Eastern region bears higher disease burden due to increasing motorization
- Recent WHO survey: air pollution in NIS countries, 100-400 mg/m³ in cities where transport is responsible for 75% of emissions (benzo(a)pyrene and soot)
- Average mortality rates from road traffic accidents twice as high in NIS as in Nordic



Higher vulnerability of children to transport impact

- Road traffic accidents leading cause of death among children 5-14 years
- Exposure to lead from air pollution can have neuro-developmental effects
- High levels of noise in school environment affects attention span
- Lack of physical exercise, main risk factor for increasing obesity



European actions to address transport and health issues

- EU research project HEARTS (Health Effects and Risks of Transport Systems)
- Annual EU Mobility Week
- 1999 Charter on Transport, Environment and Health
- Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (PEP)
- EU Urban strategy (forthcoming)



Charter on Transport, Environment and Health

- Brought together ministers from three policy areas
- Aims to put health considerations on agenda of transport policy-makers
- Contains health targets for reducing injuries, air and noise pollution and increasing physical exercise through walking, biking and public transport



Charter's Achievements

- Greater integration of health arguments in the international transport/env agenda (EP Resolution on Transport and Health)
- Developing methods for HIA and economic costs of transport-related health impacts
- Exchange platform to bring existing and emerging knowledge of links together and widely disseminate



Charter's Challenges

- Strengthening active participation of health sector
- Involving countries in transition in implementation
- Extending reach to other partners (business, local authorities, health insurance companies, etc) who could provide financial support and activities



PEP -- new structure

- Clearing house administered by WHO and UN/ECE (relevant science, policy options, pilot projects)
 - <http://www.unece.org/the-pep/docuements/ECE-AC.21-2003.pdf>
- Urban plans for sustainable transport
- Transport-related health impacts and costs
- Indicators - bringing health into existing environment and transport



Budapest Environment and Health Ministerial Conference,

June 22-25, 2004

How will transport issues be addressed?

- Establishment of health and environment info system -- focus on indicators
- HIA guidelines/tools
- Special focus on children and action points (accidents, air pollution, noise and reduced opportunities for physical exercise)



Way forward -- using transport policy to improve health status

- Partnerships between stakeholders
- Expand sectoral involvement (ie finance)
- Changes in urban infrastructure
- Awareness raising on health benefits/costs of transport choices
- Promoting sustainable transport
 - TWO SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVES
 - Healthy travel: UK publication
 - Bavarian “Bicycle to work” - NGOs/health insurance companies



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