EPA Tools and Resources Webinar: America's Children and the Environment (ACE)

Mark Baldwin
US EPA Office of Applied Science and Environmental Solutions
Children’s Health Protection Division

February 18, 2026

Problem

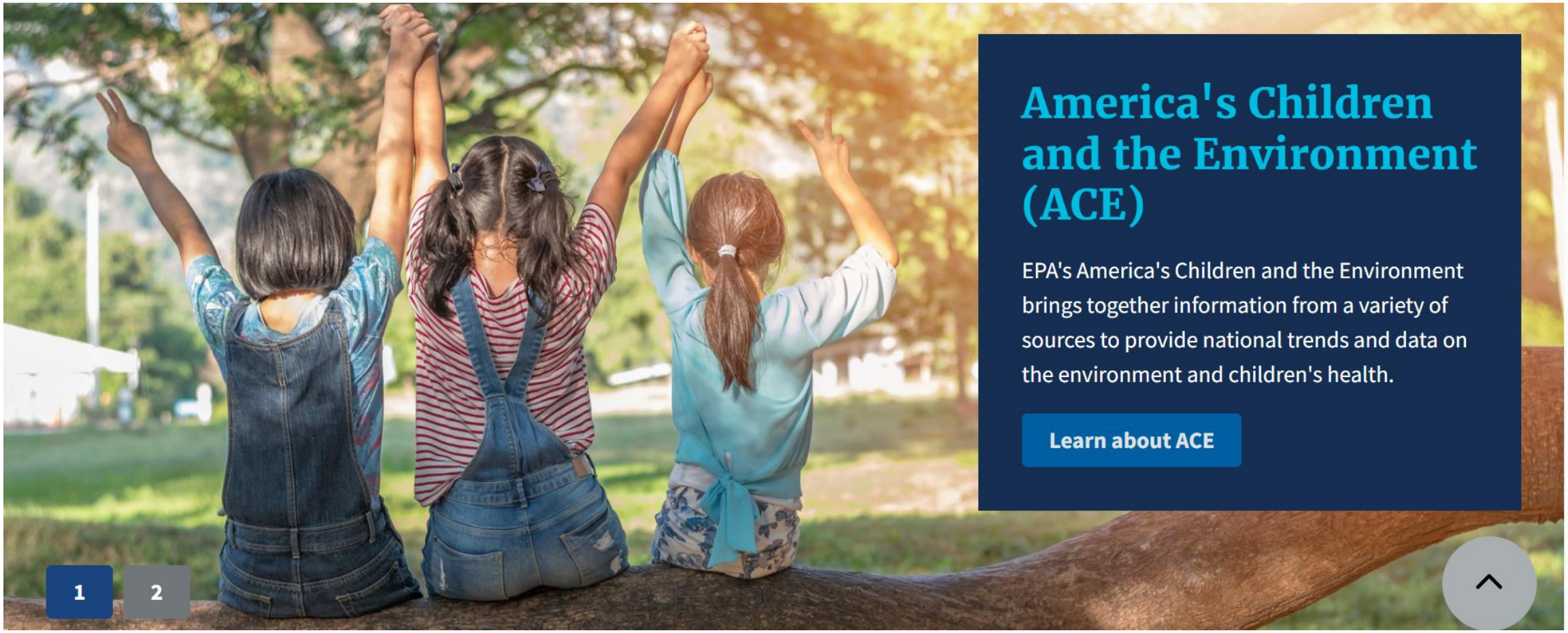
- Children often more likely at risk from environmental hazards
  - Unique activity patterns and behaviors
  - Physiological differences
  - Windows of susceptibility
    - Fetal development
    - Childhood
    - Puberty

Purpose

- Identifying, tracking, and validating sources of environmental contaminants, exposures, and associated health consequences is essential to **EPA's core mission**.
- **America's Children and the Environment (ACE)** is a set of environmental and health indicators singularly focused on children and women of childbearing age designed to help policymakers and children's health experts track progress and challenges for this essential mission.
- Under the **Make America Health Again initiative**, ACE aims to expand its tools and communication products to:
  - better track the environmental threats to the nation's children,
  - inform and educate parents, caregivers, and the public, and
  - quantify results of EPA actions to provide clean air, water, and land for America's children.

Approach

- ACE has three main suites of children environmental health indicators:
  - **Environments and Contaminants**: trends related to air pollutants, drinking water contamination, and chemicals in food.
  - **Biomonitoring**: tracks exposure levels of key pollutants such as lead, mercury, and organics to children and women of childbearing age
  - **Health**: tracks trends in childhood cancer, adverse birth outcomes, respiratory diseases, and other health related topics.
- ACE uses regularly updated, national-level data from EPA, HHS/CDC, USDA, HUD and others to produce data insights that are statistically significant and relevant to EPA's mission.


America's Children and the Environment (ACE)
EPA's America's Children and the Environment brings together information from a variety of sources to provide national trends and data on the environment and children's health.
Learn about ACE
1
2

Impact

- Understanding the nature and trend of an environmental threat is essential to developing and prioritizing environmental actions and policy.
- Focused, high-quality, and contextual data is critical for:
  - improving availability of children's environmental health information and
  - communicating that information
- Parents and caretakers are inundated with conflicting and often confusing information on environmental threats.
  - Simple, validated, and intuitive data and guidance is critical.
- ACE continues to pursue better data, presentations, and products that help families and professionals further EPA's goal to make America's children healthy.

Contact

Mark Baldwin
America's Children and the Environment—epa.gov/ace
US EPA Office of Applied Science and Environmental Solutions
Children's Health Protection Division
baldwin.mark@epa.gov

Danelle Lobdell PhD, MS
America's Children and the Environment—epa.gov/ace
US EPA Office of Applied Science and Environmental Solutions
Children's Health Protection Division
Lobdell.danelle@epa.gov

The views expressed in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the US EPA. Any mention of trade names, products, or services does not imply an endorsement by the US Government or EPA. EPA does not endorse any commercial products, services, or enterprises.