

Targeting Environmental Neuro- Development Risks



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Mission of Project TENDR

To reduce the exposure levels of environmental chemicals or pollutants that contribute to risks for neurodevelopmental disorders...

as a means to achieve the public health goal of lowering incidence of these conditions.



Neuro-Developmental Disorders

- Intellectual Disability
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Attention Deficits
- Hyperactivity
- Learning Disabilities
- Other Neuro-developmental conditions



Project TENDR

How can we achieve the goal of exposure reduction?



How can we protect our most vulnerable?

Project TENDR:

Getting organized – fall 2014

- 1 Bring together scientists, health professionals, and child advocacy organizations (aimed for ~40 total)
- 2 Set targeted goals to reach consensus:
 - Short list of chemicals that highlight the larger problem of toxicants in the environment
 - Address the systemic problem in chemical regulatory policies and implementation
 - Produce and publish a consensus statement

Project TENDR:

The consensus-building process

- 1 Assembled list of about a dozen chemicals
- 2 Created a 'Science Team' to conduct reviews of each, using a standardized protocol
- 3 Presented summaries to full group
- 4 Conducted "Expert elicitation":
to air the full range of views from a diverse group, in advance of a meeting

Project TENDR: Expert elicitation



- 1 Initial survey of entire group
- 2 Discussed pros and cons for the different chemical classes and opportunities for regulatory action
- 3 Incorporated suggestions to expand the list of chemicals
- 4 Held second survey of entire group

Results showed strong consensus!!

Project TENDR:

First workshop - June 2015

Confirmed consensus on the short list:

- Lead
- Organophosphate pesticides
- Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (flame retardants)
- Air pollution

Initiated discussion of broader consensus statement

Began drafting recommendations on exposure reduction

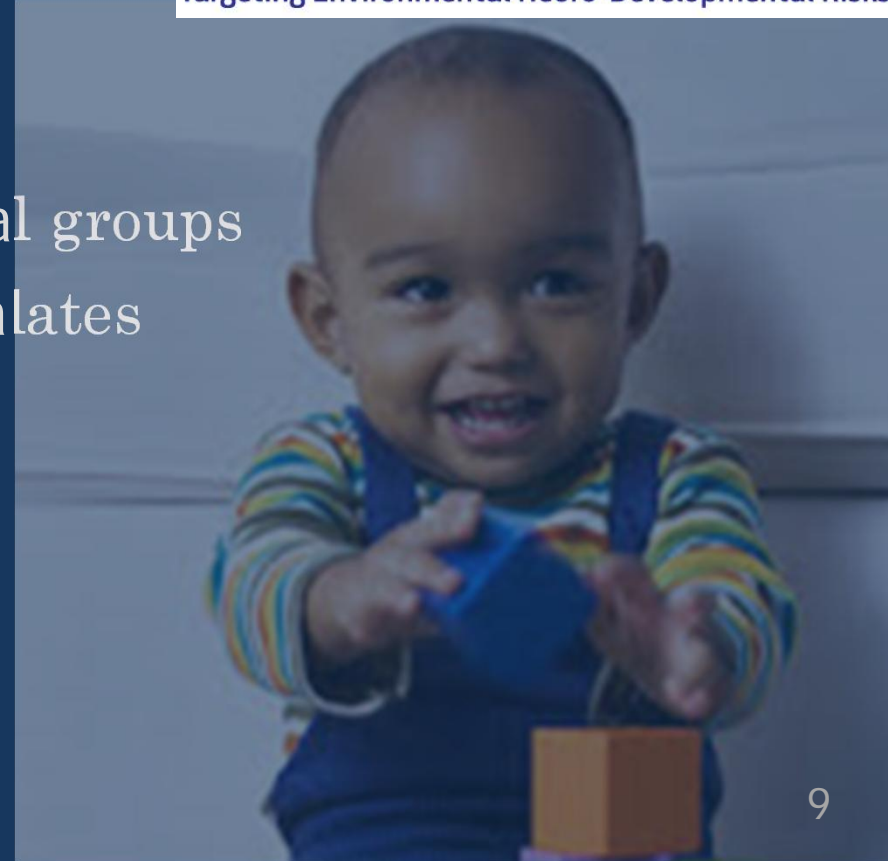
Project TENDR:

First workshop - June 2015



Formation of workgroups:

- Each of four consensus-chemical groups
- Additional workgroup on phthalates
- Consensus statement writing
- Endorsements
- Media & Dissemination
- Scientific Publications



Project TENDR:

Second workshop - February 2016

Reviewed full drafts of recommendations

Discussed major themes of consensus statement:

- Magnitude of problem of neurotoxic chemicals
- Need for action to achieve exposure reduction
- Targeted chemicals: examples of regulatory failures
- Overhaul systems for chemical regulation: how scientific evidence is evaluated, need to act before children are harmed, ending the cycle of replacing one toxic chemical with another.
- Immediate recommendations for action on lead

Project TENDR:

Second workshop - February 2016

Brainstormed the dissemination messages for publicizing the consensus statement

Identified target audiences for recommendations:

- Policy makers
- Regulatory agencies
- Manufacturers, distributors, retailers
- Health professionals
- Consumers, the broad public

Project TENDR: Going public!



Launched our website: projectTENDR.com

Published our Consensus Statement: July 1, 2016
in Environmental Health Perspectives

Major media presence:

- New York Times feature story
- CNN online story
- Over 20 radio interviews with TENDR spokespeople
- 266 outlets reported on press release all across the U.S. (& beyond)
- 3 local NPR stations have hosted us, more are scheduled.

Project TENDR: Coming up...

Unveiling our chemical-specific
recommendations (beyond lead ones)

Publication of our chemical reviews

Seeking further endorsements from
professional organizations

Strengthening partnerships

Facilitating implementation



Project TENDR: Funding



- John Merck Fund
- Passport Foundation
- Ceres Trust
- NIEHS