

## Executive Summary

This report represents an important milestone in Toronto Public Health's long-term commitment to better understanding how the city's biophysical and built environment affects the health of its children. It is based on the technical report, "*Environmental Threats to Children: Understanding the Risks, Enabling Prevention*" which reviews the large and growing field of research on children's health and the environment.

Both reports expand on the results and recommendations of Toronto Public Health's earlier work on children's environmental health. They discuss the wider topic and context of environment and child health and focus on key issues for children in Toronto, completing a baseline assessment of the state of our knowledge.

Three major topic areas are covered in this report: the vulnerability of children; health outcomes of concern; and exposure sources and settings. Where possible, data specific to Toronto are provided. In addition, the report outlines the findings of a 2002 survey of Toronto parents as well as the policy context relevant for children in Toronto, including national, provincial and local initiatives.

Lastly, the report identifies priority actions to be undertaken in the areas of policy, research and education to enable the reduction and prevention of children's exposure to harmful substances in the environment.