

BREAK THE CYCLE

OF CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DISPARITIES

Promoting Health Equity for ALL Children



Break the Cycle of Children's Environmental Health Disparities in Latin America

Break the Cycle of Health Disparities, Inc.
International Society for Children's Health and the Environment
in Partnership with
International Society for Urban Health
22nd ICUH Conference in Mexico City, Mexico
October 13-17, 2026

Call for University Students to Present Projects on Children's Environmental Health Disparities

BREAK THE CYCLE

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Visit us at:

www.breakthecycleprogram.org

We invite students from universities in Mexico and other countries in Latin America who have done research projects on children's environmental health and children's environmental health disparities to submit an application to participate in ***Break the Cycle of Children's Environmental Health Disparities in Latin America*** symposium and present their work at the **22nd International Conference on Urban Health on October 13, 2026**

Interested students should submit a proposal by Friday, **August 14, 2026**, the application forms and program details can be found on our website:

<https://www.breakthecycleprogram.org/>

Proposals are competitive and are reviewed and scored by the *Break the Cycle* faculty, and decisions on selection of students for participation will be communicated by Monday, **August 17, 2026**. Questions on project ideas or program details can be directed to our *Break the Cycle* Coordinator, Ximena Guillen at contact@breakthecycleprogram.org Also, see below for more details on the projects and program.

Leslie Rubin

Leslie Rubin, MD

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Children's Health and Health Disparities

Children are uniquely sensitive to their environment because their organ systems and physiology are in the process of development, and their minds and emotions are in the process of maturation, as a result, their bodies and minds are readily and continuously influenced by their experiences and encounters, with potential lifelong consequences on their health, growth and development.

Children who grow up in a supportive and nurturing environment, in a safe setting with clean air, clean water, green space and nutritious food, and with opportunities for a good education and good health care, are more likely to grow up healthy with the promise of a positive future for themselves, their children and for society at large.

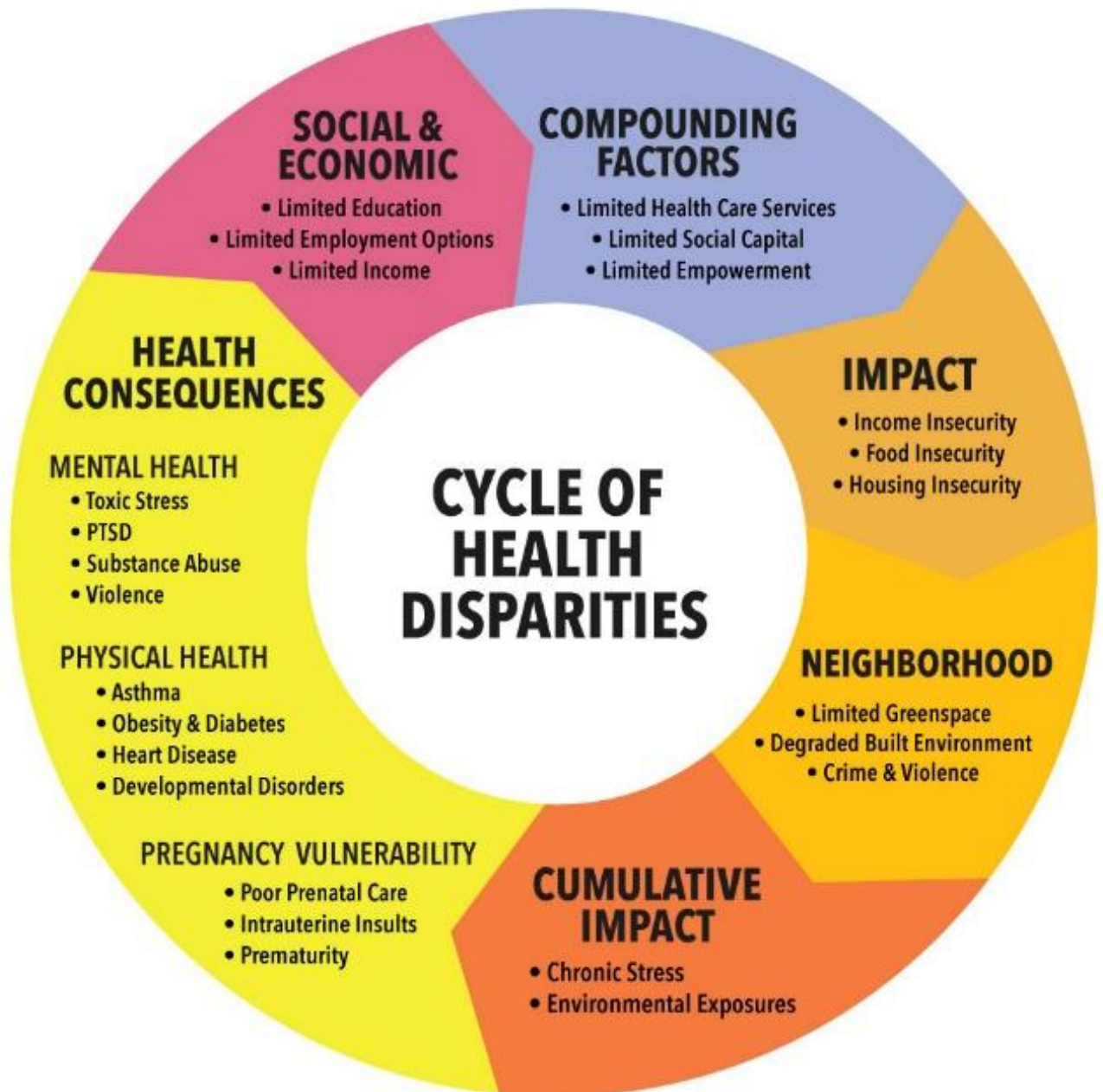
In contrast, children who grow up in an environment where their parents are stressed by poverty, job insecurity, income insecurity, housing insecurity, and food insecurity. They live in areas where the air they breathe is polluted, the food they eat is not nutritious, the houses and neighborhoods in which they live are likely to be neglected and crowded with limited access to greenspace. Their schools are old and their teachers are tired, so their education is less than optima. Furthermore, they have limited access to quality healthcare, and are more likely to suffer from the cumulative impacts of their environment, which adversely affect their physical and mental health and well-being, and dims their aspirations for a promising future for themselves and for their children. This latter scenario can be conceptualized in an intergenerational *Cycle of Health Disparities* (see diagram below).

Break the Cycle of Children's Environmental Health Disparities program supports an interdisciplinary set of student-driven research projects that explore the social, economic, and environmental factors that adversely affect children's health and well-being. University students are encouraged to develop creative strategies to reverse or mitigate those adverse factors and thereby improve the health and well-being of vulnerable children to Break the Cycle of Children's Environmental Health Disparities and promote health equity for all children. Since its inception in 2004, Break the Cycle has partnered with over 50 university departments across 25 States in the US, from 6 countries in Latin America and 2 countries in Africa, and has supported research with publications for over 200 trainees. In addition, we have held 3 international Break the Cycle of Children's Environmental Health Disparities in Africa with more than 30 students from 8 countries in Africa. This will be our 1st program focusing on Latin America. Please see our website for examples of previous presentations.
<https://www.breakthecycleprogram.org/>

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Project Guidelines

- University students from all disciplines are invited to present research projects that creatively address **social, economic, and environmental factors that adversely affect the health of vulnerable children.**
- Students must identify a mentor within their University as a supervisor to guide and monitor their research project throughout the process.
- Team projects are permitted.
- All applications are evaluated for relevance to the *Cycle of Health Disparities*, the quality of the proposal, feasibility, and potential for sustainability.
- There are a limited number of projects selected for the full program, so applications will be competitive.
- During the project period, trainees will participate in regular zoom meetings with *Break the Cycle* faculty to monitor and support their progress, share ideas, and enhance their learning in the spirit of *Breaking the Cycle of Children's Environmental Health Disparities*.
- Students will present their projects for the Break the Cycle of Children's Environmental Health Disparities in Latin America symposium at the 22nd International Conference on Urban Health on October 13, 2026.
- Applications and more details are available on our website: <https://www.breakthecycleprogram.org/>
- Please note, there is no funding for travel, however, attendance for the duration of the conference is free <https://www.icuh2026.org/>

Desired Outcomes

- To inspire students from a variety of academic disciplines to explore the impact of adverse social, economic, and environmental factors on the health and wellbeing of vulnerable children and to generate creative strategies to *Break the Cycle of Children's Environmental Health Disparities*.
- To collaborate with an interdisciplinary team of academic leaders examining the broader landscape of children's environmental health disparities.
- To promote leadership among University students in addressing *Children's Environmental Health Disparities*.
- To encourage faculty at university partners to promote awareness and academic interest in *Children's Environmental Health Disparities*.

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Break the Cycle of Children's Environmental Health Disparities in Latin America Meeting Schedule

Thursday, August 20, 2026 – 11:00-12.00 AM EDT

Friday, September 4, 2026 – 11:00-12.00 AM EDT

Friday, September 18, 2026 – 11:00-12.00 AM EDT

Friday, October 2, 2026 – 11:00-12.00 AM EDT

Friday, October 9, 2026 – 11:00-12.00 AM EDT

All meetings are by Zoom

Please note, 11 AM EDT is equivalent to 9 AM Central Mexico Time