

Erratum to “Health and the Environment in North Carolina” 79(5):302-305

In the issue brief by H. Kim Lyerly, MD, and David B. Peden, MD, MS titled “Health and the Environment in North Carolina” (79[5]:302-305), which appeared in the September/October 2018 issue of the North Carolina Medical Journal, the following paragraphs under the heading Homes and Communities:

The homes and communities that are affected by environmental hazards create an opportunity to address environmental justice issues. Clinicians who understand that environmental factors influence health—with some communities more polluted than others—are better poised to recognize symptoms and conditions associated with known sources of pollution and identify new environmental health concerns. Although many environmental injustices exist, hog production is presented here because it is one with some of the greatest disparate impacts on vulnerable populations in the communities surrounding them.

Low-income communities and communities of color can be disproportionately exposed to environmental pollution compared to higher-income, white communities. Through continued education and training about the effects of environment on health, engagement of patients in discussions about their environment, and sharing information with entities working to improve conditions, clinicians can continue to play an important role in recognizing and addressing the impacts of CAFOs and other environmental injustices on their patients’ health.

have been replaced with the following paragraphs to provide proper attribution to the commentary by Virginia T. Guidry, PhD, Sarah M. Rhodes, Courtney G. Woods, PhD, Devon J. Hall, and Jessica L. Rinsky, PhD titled “Connecting Environmental Justice and Community Health: Effects of Hog Production in North Carolina” (79[5]:324-328):

The homes and communities that are affected by environmental hazards create an opportunity to address environmental justice issues. Clinicians with a better understanding of how the environment affects their patients’ health are better poised to recognize symptoms and conditions associated with known sources of pollution [11].

Several authors in this issue focus on hog production not because it is the only source of environmental injustice in North Carolina, but because it impacts vulnerable populations disparately. As Guidry et al. write, “Low-income communities and communities of color can be disproportionately exposed to environmental pollution compared to higher-income, white communities [11].” Their hope, and the hope of many authors in this issue, is that as clinicians receive better education and training about environmental issues, they will be able to better engage with patients and communities around the impacts of CAFOs and other environmental injustices [11].

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