

Department of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences



The UW Department of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences (DEOHS) provides cutting-edge research and training to create sustainable communities where everyone has access to clean air, clean water, safe food and safe workplaces.

Through our unique legislative mandate to serve Washington state, we train the next generation of professionals in environmental public health and workplace health and safety, while safeguarding workers and communities in our region through research, teaching and public health guidance.



Safe workplaces

Are transit operators exposed to drug smoke or residues on the job? Spurred by transit operators' concerns, our researchers were asked to evaluate this question by five transit agencies in the Northwest. We found that fentanyl and methamphetamine smoke and residue are prevalent on buses and light-rail trains at low levels and suggested protective measures to keep operators safe.

[Read more >](#)



Healthy communities

We support resilient communities in response to environmental hazards from climate change, infectious diseases, health inequity, disasters and more. Our recent efforts have highlighted recommendations for saving lives from extreme heat in Washington state, and advised policymakers on new state rules for outdoor heat and wildfire smoke exposure.

[Read more >](#)



Clean water

Could limiting antibiotics in animal feed or veterinary prescriptions help reduce people's resistance to antibiotics? DEOHS Assistant Professor Erica Fuhrmeister is tackling this question using next-generation metagenomic tools to understand how antibiotic-resistance genes are transmitted in the environment.

[Read more >](#)



Clean air

Commuting in rush-hour traffic fumes can be as harmful as a high-sodium diet. Our researchers recently showed that breathing unfiltered highway air during rush hour raises blood pressure to a similar extent as a high-sodium diet, both while in the car and up to 24 hours later.

[Read more >](#)



Safe food

Our Environmental Public Health majors graduate job-ready after completing a 400-hour internship at health agencies, nonprofits and private companies. DEOHS undergraduate Belen Salguero mapped relationships among foodborne illness, retail health violations and socioeconomic status during her internship with the Denver Department of Public Health & Environment.

[Read more >](#)

CONNECT

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