

## HEALTH EFFECTS UPDATE

### Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP)

1. Completed reports:
  - Cardiovascular disease and Air Pollution (Published Feb. 2006):  
<http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/comeap/statementsreports/CardioDisease.pdf>
2. COMEAP continues its work on the following major reports:
  - Quantification of the Effects of Air Pollution on Health
  - Ozone in the UK – Health Implications
  - Does asthma cause air pollution?

A COMEAP sub-group has been working on updating the 1998 quantification report and the 2001 report on long-term effects of particles since June 2005. Initial work has focused on the effects on mortality of long-term exposure to air pollution. An interim statement on the quantification of the effects of air pollution on health in the UK has been available on its website since January 2006 (<http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/comeap/pdfs/interimlongtermeffects2006.pdf>). The subgroup has met to discuss key chapters of the draft report on its initial work which should be available for comment by June 2006.

It has been agreed that the report on ozone will be published in two sections – the first is a general review of the latest information on the health effects, the second will consider the shape of the exposure response relationship. A final draft of the chapter on the effects of long-term exposure to ozone was discussed at an ozone sub-group meeting in June. This will be circulated to the full Committee for comments. After agreement by the Chairman and sub-group members, the first section will be placed on the COMEAP website. A printed hard copy will not be produced until all sections are completed.

The asthma report is presently on hold. COMEAP will consider a work schedule for resuming its work on this report as the CV report has been published.

### Committee on Carcinogenicity (COC)

3. The COC conducted a review of the possible associations between childhood leukaemia and residence near sources of traffic exhaust and petrol vapour. The final statement is now available on their website:  
<http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/coc/childleukaemia.htm>  
A full statement and lay summary are available.