



Scared to Death

How Chemophobia Threatens Public Health

By Jon Entine

Posted: Tuesday, January 18, 2011

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The American Council on Science and Health (ACSH) is pleased to announce the release of a new book and companion friendly, abbreviated position paper, *Scared to Death: How Chemophobia Threatens Public Health*. The book is authored by Jon Entine, a scholar with the American Enterprise Institute and highly regarded science journalist. In response to the growing level of chemophobia -- the irrational fear of chemicals -- among the American public, ACSH compiled this resource book and position to educate legislators, industry, media, consumers and parents on the actual risks of chemical exposure and use in everyday products.

“Over the last several years the level of fear, misinformation and media hype surrounding the use of safe chemicals in everyday, household products has swelled to a level which we feel must be addressed in detail before this situation gets even further out of hand,” said ACSH president, Dr. Elizabeth Whelan. “Pseudoscience and fear of perceived environmental risks among the public has led to what we call Chemophobia. Keeping in mind that exposure does not necessarily equate to risk, activists and some in the media have led Americans to believe that chemicals are not to be trusted in our environment—even those with fifty or more years record of safe use. This kind of panic can – and historically has – led to potentially dangerous outcomes and unintended consequences. A perfect example of this overhyped media misconception is the recent release of Environmental Health Perspectives on pregnant woman. The study merely notes that chemicals have been detected in women’s bodies. Yet, it fails to identify any definitive ill effects.”

Scared to Death: How Chemophobia Threatens Public Health addresses scientific realities and dispels unfounded fears regarding the safe use of chemicals. The position paper and resource book brings research to light that illustrates how little evidence-based support exists for Chemophobia. This paper serves as a resource for media, parents, consumers and policymakers to put risk into proper perspective and reduce public support for harmful, unnecessary regulations.

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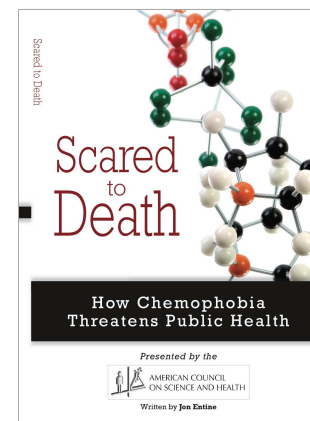
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Published: January 2011

Paperback
ISBN: 9780578075617

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