

THE CHEMICAL SOUP WE LIVE IN

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are synthetic chemicals that do not break down easily and have been shown to have an adverse effect on the health of humans and wildlife.

POP's characteristics include that they are:

Toxic

Persistent (do not readily break down)

Accumulate in the bodies of animals (high affinity for fatty tissue)

Able to leach out of consumer products during normal use

Found to be contaminants in the human body

Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS) [POPs] are found in a large range of everyday household products including pesticides, plastics, and electrical equipment.

POPs and PERSISTENT TOXIC SUBSTANCES INFORMATION

LINKS

National Toxics Network [http://www.toxics.org](#) **International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN)**, a global network of scientists and activists working to reduce the use of POPs.

[IPEN Community Monitoring Handbook](#) for chemicals, POPs and PTSs.

[Working Together to Clean the Air](#) - The Airside Project in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the Pacific Islands.

[Chemical Pollution](#) - How they got inside our homes and bodies, and the issue of safety of product

[International Recognition of Children's Vulnerability to Chemical Pollution.](#)

[How Indoor Air Pollution Happens](#) - Common materials and products used in the home that contain potential

[Way Forward](#) - How Australia is contributing to International initiatives to reduce chemical pollution.



Existence of Chemical burden and Injury in Children:

Information and links

Existence of Chemical burden and Injury in Children

The health impacts on children from exposure to hazardous chemicals in the environment is increasing a

Asthma

Birth defects

Hypospadias

Behavioural disorders

Learning disabilities

Autism

Cancer

Dysfunctional immune system

Neurological impairments

Reproductive disorders

Children are at greater risk from exposure to carcinogens than adults

The US government in 2003 released the final draft of their revised US Guidelines for cancer risk assess

The US EPA's final draft of their new guidelines for cancer risk assessment recognises individual suscep

Children aged two and younger have ten times the cancer risk of adults when exposed to mutagenic carcinogens.

Children between the ages of two and fifteen are considered to have three times the risk of adults.

Mutagenic carcinogens include arsenic, benzene, formaldehyde, mutagen X, brominated organics and pesticides.

Find out more about the links between environmental toxins and child health

Chemical Legacy: Organics in the Child's Environment N. Dorey PhD. Greenpeace 2005.

www.who.int ; http://www.who.int/topics/child_health/en

Children's Health and Environment Program:

Children's Health & Environment. A review of evidence. WHO & European Environment Agency 2002. In

[WHO Children's Health Publication](#) The Budapest Collection: a WHO global e-library of children's health

<http://www.epa.gov/teach> Toxicity and Exposure Assessment for Children's Health (TEACH). US EPA

Environmental Working Group Body Burden

www.noharm.org . Health Hazard Chemicals in Household Products Common Products in the home such

Environmental Health Perspectives Children's Health Section. Free access to peer reviewed scientific articles.

Greenpeace greenpeace.org/international

Chemical Release Chemical Contaminant in Child Report Catherine N. Dorey PhD. Greenpeace 2005. Reviews the

<http://www.protectingourhealth.org> Infertility, Learning/behaviour disorders, cancer, breast cancer, endo

CANCERS [US EPA CARCINOGEN RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS – DOCS AVAILABLE ON WEB]

<http://www.protectingourhealth.org>

Eliminate Toxic Chemicals:

<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/campaigns/toxics>

Evidence of Developmental Harm: Neurotoxic effects of chemicals.

A 2005 review *Protecting Children from Pesticides and Other Toxins. Toxicity testing of pesticides and industrial*

1. Over last 30 years it has become evident that low level exposures to toxins are linked with less ob
2. Current toxicity testing has crude toxicological endpoints such as death, body weight or organ dys
3. Children have enhanced vulnerability to chemicals and evidence exists for lead, methyl mercury, p
than higher levels. The intake limits established by animal (rodent) studies have been insufficient t
4. Current testing procedures do not adequately test for neurotoxic effects and what testing is done i
5. Exposures to other chemicals or mixtures of chemicals are not yet studied or not in any detail. Ma
6. Exposure to environmental toxins is insidious. Exposures start transplacentally during fetal develo
7. We have increased knowledge and means to test BUT testing for developmental neurotoxicity (DN

