



RESEARCHING THE ENVIRONMENT AND WOMEN'S HEALTH

Pollution Gets Personal

Reporting Personal Exposures When Health Effects are Uncertain

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Pollution looks like...



New science measures *in-visible* pollution in people, personal space ...

IS IT IN US
TOXIC TRESPASS, REGULATORY FAILURE & OPPORTUNITY

Project Results Media Participants Contact Us Chemicals

PROJECT ON CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION

What would it feel like to learn you are contaminated w damage laboratory animals? What would it feel like to learn t soda cans, baby bottles, and thousands of other produc

With recent headlines about toxic chemicals in everything from ca 35 Americans—including a commercial fisherman in Alaska, a 9/11 f from Illinois, a Massachusetts minister, a Connecticut Senator, a M Minnesota—volunteered to find the answer to one simple question

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2009
Fourth National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals

Are U.S. Homes a HAVEN for TOXINS

KELLYN BETTS

The most comprehensive analysis to date shows that people are exposed to a wide variety of potentially toxic compounds in their homes.

ENVIRONMENTAL
Science & Technology

For emerging contaminants

- **Early exposure measurements precede knowledge of...**
 - Human health effects
 - Sources
 - “None of these chemicals come with a return address.”*
 - Toxicity, mechanism of action

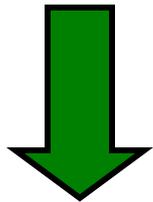


With science uncertain...

- **Could reporting individual results to study participants do more harm than good?**

CBPR values

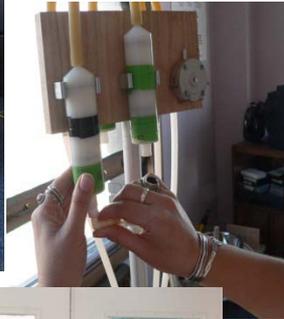
- Mutual respect, open communication
- Knowledge is power
- Co-ownership of data
- Information for action



- Research right to know (or not know)



Household Exposure Study



- 170 homes
- 150 compounds
- 89 EDCs
- Air
- Dust
- Urine

Rudel et al., ES&T, 2003

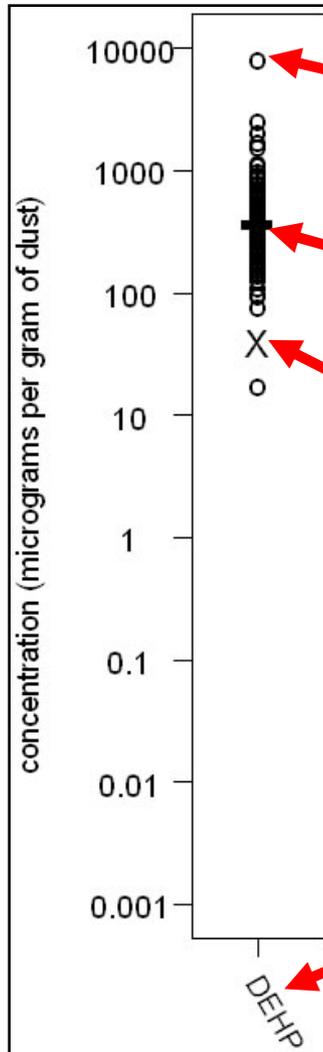
Brody et al., AJP, 2009

Individual report-back

- Begins with consent
- What we know/don't know
- Multi-level, verbal and visual
- Community, individual exposure reduction



How to read your results



Each \circ represents one other home in the study

- is the sample from your home

X is the EPA Guideline

DEHP common uses: Plastics, inks, insect repellent, cosmetics, rubbing alcohol, liquid soap, detergents, lacquers, munitions, industrial lubricant.

Chemical abbreviation (di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate)

Interviews with participants

- Participants wanted their results
- Report-back increased trust and pride in contributing to science and community
- Dramatic conceptual shifts: pollution is redefined and it's personal
- Frustration at knowledge gaps
- Evolving interpretations, brainstorming
- Motivation to reduce exposure



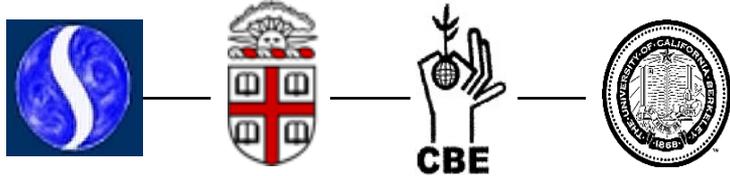
Researcher experiences

Report-back draws researchers to:

- Explain outliers
- The temptation to reassure
 - “...there’s no evidence that...”
 - Outdated EPA guidelines
- Consider public health and good vs. bad worry
- Rethink health “literacy” to design for universal capacities



Thanks to our team



- [Silent Spring Institute](#): Julia Brody, Ruthann Rudel, Ami Zota, Robin Dodson, Sarah Dunagan, Laura Perovich, Cheryl Osimo
- [Brown University](#): Phil Brown, Rebecca Altman, Crystal Adams
- [UC Berkeley](#): Rachel Morello-Frosch
- [Communities for a Better Environment](#): Nile Malloy, Jessica Tovar, Andrea Lopez, Carla Perez, Amanda Keller, Andrea Samulon, Marleen Quint, Wanna Wright
- [Harvard University](#): John Spengler, Wendy Jacobs, Shaun Goho

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A HEALTHIER FUTURE

View a brief introduction to Silent Spring Institute's research on the links between the environment and breast cancer, environmental health issues and the emerging field of green chemistry.

CLICK TO VIEW VIDEO



Silent Spring Institute researches the links between the environment and women's health, especially breast cancer.



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Today's Environmental Health news



FEATURED RESEARCH

Researchers call for better results reporting in breastmilk studies

Flame retardants in some California homes exceed guidelines

Pollution from household and personal care products has been a blind spot for society, according to a new study based on Silent Spring Institute's Household Exposure Study

Kaiser builds on Silent Spring research - shows increased breast cancer risk from several common pharmaceuticals

Californians have elevated levels of toxic flame retardants in their bodies and in their homes, according to a new Silent Spring Institute study

Human hormones and

MEDIA COVERAGE

Solvent used in Cape pipes linked to birth defects, *The Cape Cod Times*

Sacramento News & Review

Green alternatives exist for NStar's weed battles, *The Cape Cod Times*

National media brings attention to hormones in drinking water and consumer products, *The Colbert Report, The New York Times & National Public Radio*

Could Cape's Cancer Rates Be Linked To The Water?, *WBZ TV*

Fresh Water, Salt Water: Rx in H₂O, *The Cape and Islands NPR Station*

Cape Cod ponds' pollution explored, *Cape Codder*

NEW AT SILENT SPRING INSTITUTE

Join Us for "Strength in Knowing," a Breast Cancer Awareness Program on Sunday, November 8

Area screening of the documentary *No Family History*, October 14

High school student reflects on her summer internship with Silent Spring Institute

Brody quoted in peer-reviewed article about gaps in media coverage of environmental links to breast cancer

Environmental justice partners win lawsuit blocking Chevron permit

New book highlights Silent Spring Institute's role in environmental breast cancer research

www.silentspring.org