

Maine people face many persistent toxic chemical exposures

| Toxic Chemical | Serious Exposures & Health Concerns | Higher Risk Groups |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Mercury | <p>10% to 20% of all women of childbearing age are exposed above the reference dose</p> <p><i>In developing children – learning disabilities, adverse effects on attention span and memory</i></p> | <p>Women and young children who eat fish – tuna, swordfish, shark and most freshwater species</p> <p>Workers handling mercury and products containing mercury</p> |
| Lead | <p>7.5% of kids tested high in '99; low income children had more lead poisoning but were tested less often</p> <p><i>In children – reduced intelligence, learning disabilities, behavior problems, hyperactivity</i></p> | <p>Young children living in pre-1950 housing (41% of housing stock)</p> <p>Workers: construction & demolition, electronics, auto work, marine & commercial painters, ammunition, ceramics</p> |
| Arsenic | <p>10% to 30% of all private drinking water wells exceed health standard</p> <p>Skin contact with any pressure treated wood</p> <p><i>Cancer – bladder, skin, lung, liver; effects on stomach, blood, heart</i></p> | <p>People who rely on private wells for water</p> <p>Kids in contact with pressure treated wood decks, tables, playground equipment, etc.</p> <p>Carpenters, other wood workers</p> |
| Dioxins | <p>Daily diet exceeds advisory levels; average body burden approaches level of known adverse effects</p> <p><i>Disrupts fundamental biological processes, increasing risk of cancer, reproductive harm, neurodevelopmental effects, endometriosis, diabetes and more</i></p> | <p>People eating more fatty foods & fish downstream of paper mills</p> <p>Vietnam veterans, workers & nearby residents around waste incinerators, paper mills, burn barrels, building fires, etc.</p> |
| DEHP & Other Phthalates | <p>Leaching from PVC (vinyl) medical products and toys; various beauty & personal care products</p> <p><i>Reproductive toxicity affecting developing male genitals</i></p> | <p>Baby boys and pregnant women undergoing intensive medical procedures</p> <p>Pregnant and nursing women using beauty products</p> |

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Mercury

National Research Council, *Toxicological Effects of Methylmercury*, National Academy Press, 2000.
<http://books.nap.edu/catalog/9899.html>

Maine Bureau of Health:

- *Know the Mercury Levels in the Fish You Eat*, updated 5/28/02, www.state.me.us/dhs/etp/hglevels.htm
- *Mercury in Fish Brochure*, February 2001, www.state.me.us/dhs/etp/fishbroch.pdf
- *Safe Eating Guidelines*, www.state.me.us/dhs/etp/hgchart.pdf
- *Fillings: the Choices You Have -- Mercury Amalgam and Other Filling Materials*, 10/18/02, www.state.me.us/dhs/boh/pubs.htm

Maine Department of Environmental Protection, *Mercury: A Significant Environmental Problem*, www.state.me.us/dep/mercury/

Natural Resources Council of Maine, *A Guide to Eliminating Mercury in Maine*, www.maineenvironment.org/toxics/Mercury_Brochure/Mercury_Menace.htm

Lead

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Environmental Health, *CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program*, www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/lead.htm

Maine Bureau of Health, *Maine Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program*, www.state.me.us/dhs/bohdcfh/led/index2.htm

Maine Department of Environmental Protection, *Lead Hazard Prevention*, www.state.me.us/dep/rwm/lead.htm

Maine Lead Action Project, www.maineleadaction.org/index.html

Arsenic

Maine Bureau of Health, *Have You Tested Your Well Water for Arsenic? Arsenic in Well Water*, May 13, 2002, www.state.me.us/dhs/etp/ASBROCH3.pdf

Healthy Building Network, *Arsenic Wood: Hazards & Alternatives*, www.healthybuilding.net/arsenic/hbn_wood_factsheet.html;
• *Arsenic Tools*, www.healthybuilding.net/arsenic/aindex.html

Dioxins

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Dioxin Reassessment Draft Documents*, September 2000, www.epa.gov/ncea/dioxin.htm

Maine Bureau of Health, *Waterbody Specific Warnings on Eating Fish*, updated 8/30/01, www.state.me.us/dhs/etp/rivers.htm

Center for Health, Environment and Justice, *Stop Dioxin Exposure Campaign*, www.chej.org/techassist.html

DEHP and other Phthalates

U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Center for Devices and Radiological Health:

- *Safety Assessment of Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP) Released from PVC Medical Devices*, September 2001, www.fda.gov/cdrh/ost/dehp-pvc.pdf
- *FDA Public Health Notification: PVC Devices Containing the Plasticizer DEHP*, July 12, 2002, www.fda.gov/cdrh/consumer/dehp.html

Environmental Working Group, Health Care Without Harm, Coming Clean, *Not Too Pretty: Phthalates, Beauty Products & the FDA*, July 8, 2002, www.NotTooPretty.org

Health Care Without Harm, *PVC*, www.noharm.org/index.cfm?page_ID=6