



Pollution in People



PARTICIPANT PROFILE: Karen Bowman

Place of residence: Seattle, Washington
Birthplace: Seattle, Washington
Lived in Washington since: 1953
Occupation: occupational and environmental health nurse
Age: 53
Known specific exposures to toxic chemicals: potential occupational exposures at foundries and other industries
Special diet: vegetarian (eats fish)
Estimated proportion of diet organic: 40%
Home pesticide use: none

Karen Bowman's Chemical Profile

- * 35 chemicals detected
- * highest level of phthalates, found in vinyl/PVC and personal-care products.
- * mercury above EPA "safe" level; tested positive for lead

Chemical Class	Found In	Potential Health Effects	Found in Participant	
			(Yes)	(No)
Phthalates (plasticizers and fragrance carriers)	PVC (vinyl) flooring, toys, shower curtains, personal-care products	harm to reproductive development	✓	
PBDEs (toxic flame retardants)	televisions, mattresses, furniture	learning deficits, hormone disruption	✓	
Lead	PVC (vinyl), drinking water, paint & dust in older homes, hobby products	learning deficits	✓	
Mercury	thermostats, fluorescent light bulbs	learning deficits	✓	
Arsenic	treated wood, herbicides, contaminated soil	cancer	✓	
PFCs ("Teflon chemicals")	coated food packaging such as for french fry boxes; stain-protection treatments for carpeting and clothing	cancer, organ damage, reproductive effects	✓	
Pesticides	weed and pest sprays for farming and home and garden	cancer, nervous system harm, developmental effects, potential acute effects		✓
DDT (pesticide)/PCBs (industrial coolant); banned but persistent toxic chemicals	present in many food sources, especially animal and fish fats	nervous system harm, hormone disruption, learning deficits,	✓	