



Pollution in People



PARTICIPANT PROFILE: Dr. Patricia Dawson

Place of residence: Seattle, Washington
Birthplace: Kingston, Jamaica
Lived in Washington since: 1979
Occupation: breast cancer surgeon
Age: 56
Known specific exposures to toxic chemicals: DDT trucks as child
Special diet: vegetarian (does eat fish)
Estimated proportion of diet organic: 33%
Home pesticide use: none

Dr. Patricia Dawson's Chemical Profile

- * 38 chemicals detected
- * PBDE levels approach those that cause reproductive problems in laboratory animals
- * exposure to DDT (banned in 1972) greater than 90% of U.S. population on average

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,	✓	