



# Pollution in People



## PARTICIPANT PROFILE: Laurie Valeriano

**Place of residence:** Seattle, Washington  
**Birthplace:** Long Island, New York  
**Lived in Washington since:** 1994  
**Occupation:** environmental health advocate  
**Age:** 36  
**Known specific exposures to toxic chemicals:** none  
**Special diet:** none  
**Estimated proportion of diet organic:** 80%  
**Home pesticide use:** no

## Laurie Valeriano's Chemical Profile

- \* 27 chemicals detected
- \* no pesticides detected
- \* lowest levels of PFCs ("Teflon chemicals")
- \* no detectable exposure to DEP, a phthalate used in vinyl/PVC

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,	✓	