

What are EDCs?

Main message:

EDCs are chemicals that interfere with our bodies' natural hormones and can increase the risk of serious diseases, including cancers, infertility, and other health conditions.

Sub-messages

EDCs are in many everyday products including hundreds of plastics that are in our homes, workplaces, schools and all around us.

Tests have shown that nearly everyone has EDCs in their bodies and doctors and scientists say they are already seeing increases in diseases linked to exposures to EDCs.

Why are we concerned about women and chemicals?

Main message: Women face different and often more serious exposures to harmful chemicals, because women's bodies are different and because of social factors, like products women use (such as cosmetics or cleaning products) or work women do. Pregnant women and the developing fetus are especially vulnerable to EDCs.

How are women exposed to harmful chemicals?

Main message: Everyday products, especially plastics, contain harmful chemicals, including EDCs. Two common plastic chemical groups are phthalates and bisphenols, which are found in everything from clothing to baby bottles to food packaging and hundreds of other products.

What are the health risks from phthalates and bisphenols?

Main message: Many phthalates and bisphenols are known to be endocrine disrupting chemicals (and many have not been studied but are suspected of being EDCs). Studies have linked these EDCs to serious health effects, including cancer, infertility, diabetes and other serious health concerns.



a toxics-free future

What are phthalates?



Main Message: Phthalates are a common plastic chemical, they are called “the everywhere and everyone” chemicals, as they are found in almost all environments and almost all human samples tested. Studies have linked them to cancer, infertility, early puberty, risk of low birth weight, diabetes, and other serious health problems.

What is BPA?

Main message: BPA is a common bisphenol found in many plastics. Studies have linked

BPA to breast and prostate cancer, infertility and miscarriage, metabolic disorders (including diabetes), developmental issues, impacts on semen quality, and early onset puberty in girls, among other serious health problems.

How do people know when plastic products contain harmful chemicals?

Main message: There is no way to know when plastics contain phthalates, BPA, or other toxic substances. We have a right to know about toxic chemicals in the products our children and families use.

What can we do?

Main message: We need global regulations to protect health, our right to know, and to promote innovation for toxics-free materials. By demanding safer choices, we can protect our families and push for national, local, and global policies that put our health before chemical industry profits.

Sub-message: A meaningful Plastics Treaty can help protect our children and families and the healthy environments we need to thrive. A health-protective Treaty needs to address the overproduction of plastic and include global controls on toxic chemicals through the life cycle of plastics.