



Oregon
Environmental
Council
It's Your Oregon

Environmentally attributable chronic disease takes a \$1.5 billion dollar toll on Oregon's families and economy each year--and rates are on the rise. The Toxics Disclosure for Healthy Kids Act is a practical strategy to reduce a significant risk factor: exposure to toxic chemicals early in life.

Toxics Disclosure for Healthy Kids Act 2012

Chronic disease linked to environmental factors takes a billion-dollar toll on Oregon.

Toxic chemical exposure is a risk factor for cancer. In 2007, **cancer cost Oregon \$2.6 billion** in health care, lost productivity and diminished earning potential. Toxic exposure is also a risk factor for birth defects (\$2.8M/year cost to Oregon) and neurobehavioral disorders (\$187.1M/year). Preventable exposures in early childhood create risk for disease later in life.

Chronic disease is on the rise.

Growing scientific evidence demonstrates that **chemicals are likely contributing to an epidemic of chronic diseases** and disorders including thyroid disease, cancers, asthma, learning & developmental disabilities, birth defects, reproductive disorders such as infertility, and neurodegenerative disorders.

Toxics Disclosure for Healthy Kids:

- Designates a "High Priority Chemicals of Concern for Children's Health" list.
- Publishes this chemical list with information on potential health impacts of exposure.
- Allows a period of time for manufacturers to disclose chemical information on children's products sold in Oregon.
- Authorizes Oregon Health Authority to share information about chemical ingredients with other states.



Chemicals linked to disease are found in consumer products and in our bodies.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) biomonitoring studies regularly find several hundred toxic chemicals in our bodies. According to the CDC, sources of exposure include "using products with chemicals in them or products stored in containers made with the chemicals."

Yet chemical ingredient information is not fully disclosed to consumers or health officials.

Early childhood is the most critical period for preventing toxic exposure.

The brain and body are most vulnerable to chemical exposure during critical windows of development, in utero through adolescence. These exposures can be a significant risk factor for chronic disease later in life. CDC biomonitoring studies have found **higher concentrations of toxic chemicals in the youngest age groups.**

"All levels of government, from federal to local, must work to protect every American from needless disease through rigorous regulation of environmental pollutants."

--President's Cancer Panel, 2010
Report entitled *Reducing Environmental Cancer Risk: What We Can Do Now*

States take the lead to reduce health risk.

In 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) acknowledged that outdated chemical laws don't protect consumers from harmful exposures to chemicals in everyday products. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson said: **"Where EPA...wants to protect the public against well-known, unreasonable risks to human health and the environment, there are too many legal hurdles to take quick and effective regulatory action."**

With federal action stalled, Washington, Maine, Minnesota and California have passed laws to identify and provide information on chemicals that pose a risk to health in consumer products.

Medical authorities and health professionals support action.

Groups calling for policy to reduce public exposure to toxic chemicals include the American Medical Association, American Nurses Association, American Public Health Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, the President's Cancer Panel, and the Endocrine Society.

Toxic reduction is a Northwest priority.

Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality has created a focus list of toxic chemicals that are highest priority to address in our environment. This list, where it intersects with Washington's "Chemicals of High Concern for Children," will provide the starting point for the "High Priority Chemicals of Concern for Children's Health" list designed to understand children's health risks.

Information builds consumer confidence.

Polls consistently reveal that consumers are concerned about chemicals in consumer products and are searching for products that are safe for the health of their families and the health of our environment.

Information can spur innovation.

Oregon has an exceptional foundation of research and business expertise in manufacturing that reduces the use of toxic chemicals. We have an opportunity to lead the country in the growing market for safer products. Information disclosure gives consumers the information they need to reward these innovative businesses.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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