

WOMEN AND EDCs

**Mainstreaming Gender in National
Implementation Plans under the Stockholm
Convention**

**“Incorporating Gender Dimensions into
National Strategy Setting in Chemicals
Management”**

26 August 2025



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Chemical safety policies rarely take gender-discrimination impacts into account

Women and girls are exposed to toxic chemicals in numerous ways, from personal care products and household items to agricultural activities and informal waste management. This exposure is compounded by biological susceptibility and social roles that place women at higher risk.

While gender-contrast hazard data on chemical impacts remain rare, studies have linked chemicals such as endocrine disruptors, persistent organic pollutants, and heavy metals to serious health consequences for women and girls.

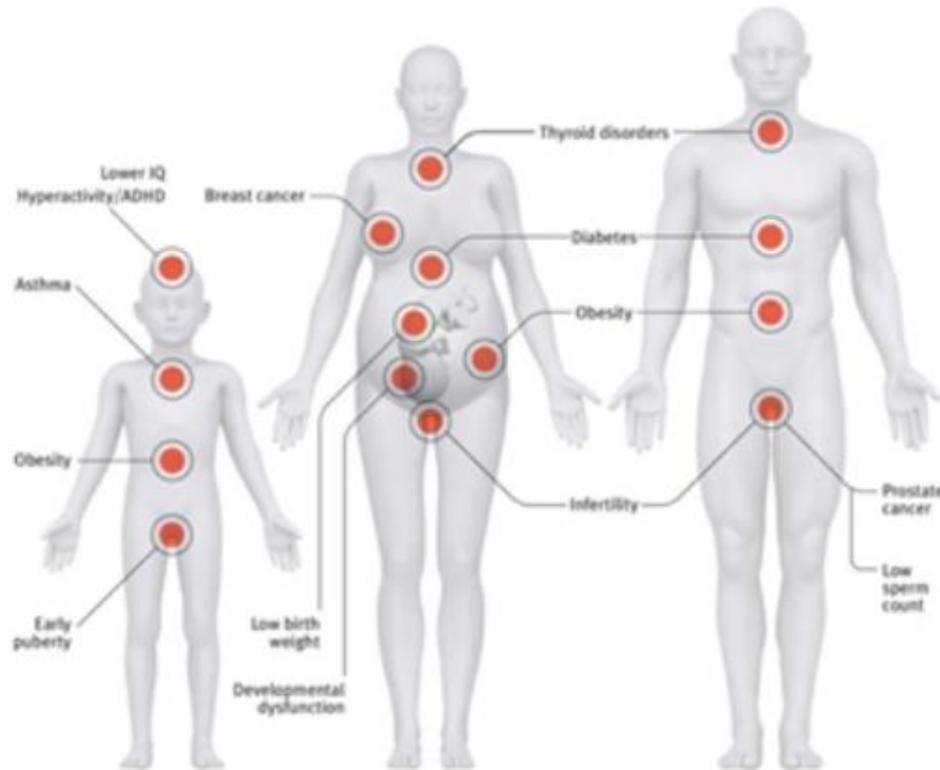


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What are Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals?

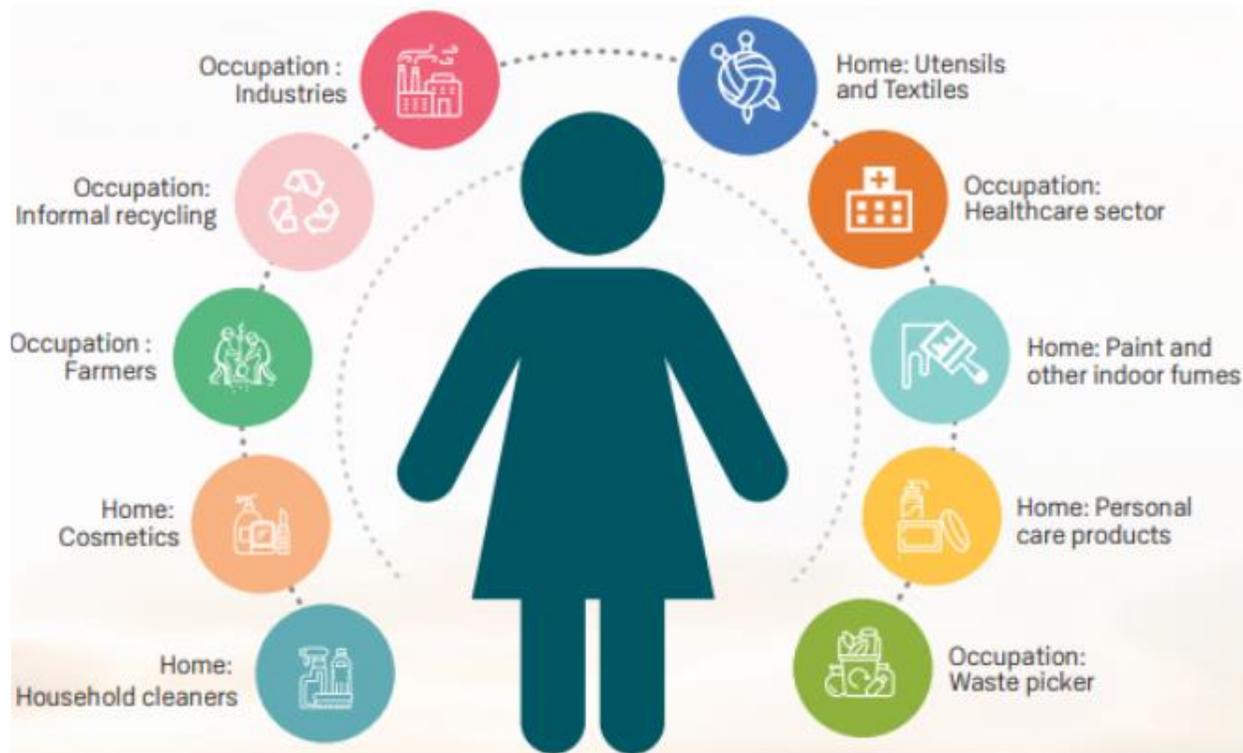
Everyday exposures to EDCs contribute to modern health epidemics.



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.



Why Focus on Women?



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 or work women do.



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Phthalates: The “Everywhere and Everyone” Chemicals



Phthalates are EDCs called “the everywhere and everyone” chemicals because they have been found in almost all environments and human samples tested.



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How do phthalates affect women's health?



- Phthalates**
are in hundreds of
everyday products,
including many plastics.
Exposure is linked to:
- **Cancers**
 - **Reproductive harm
and preterm birth**
 - **Infertility**
 - **Early puberty**
 - **Disruptions in child
development**



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Bisphenol A (BPA)



BPA is one type of bisphenol, a large group of chemicals used in plastics, many of which are known or suspected to be EDCs. Studies have found BPA in urine, blood, placenta, and amniotic fluid.



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How does BPA affect women's health?



BPA is in hundreds of everyday products, including many plastics.

Exposure is linked to:

- **Breast and prostate cancer**
- **Infertility and miscarriage**
- **Metabolic disorders (including diabetes)**
- **Developmental issues in children**
- **Impacts on semen quality**
- **Early onset puberty in girls**



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We Have a Right to Know



We have no way to know when plastics contain these toxic substances
We have a right to know about toxic chemicals in the products our children and families use.



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Why This Matters



**Transparency,
access to
information, and
strong regulations
are essential to
protect our health.**



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What Can We Do?



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. Join the conversation and advocate for strong policies that protect women's health and the health of our communities.



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Thank you

<https://www.rapaluguay.org/>

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