



THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF GYNECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS

XXI WORLD CONGRESS
4-9 October 2015



PRE-CONGRESS WORKSHOP

**Summit on Shaping Our Planetary Legacy: Setting an Agenda for
Environmental Reproductive Health**



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF GYNECOLOGY & OBSTETRICS

Recommendations for Preventing Exposure to Toxic Chemicals

Recommendation 1: Advocate for policies to prevent exposure to toxic environmental chemicals

Recommendation 2: Work to ensure a healthy food system for all

Advocate for policies to prevent exposure to toxic environmental chemicals

Work to ensure a healthy food system for all

Make environmental health part of health care

Champion environmental justice

Recommendation 3: Make environmental health part of health care

Recommendation 4: Champion environmental justice

Reproductive Health and the Environment

What is “The Environment”?

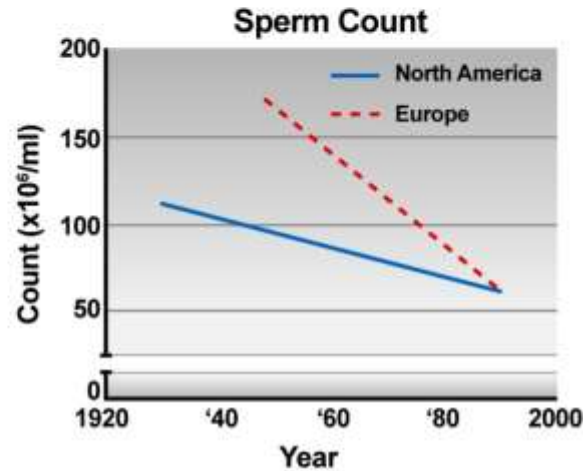
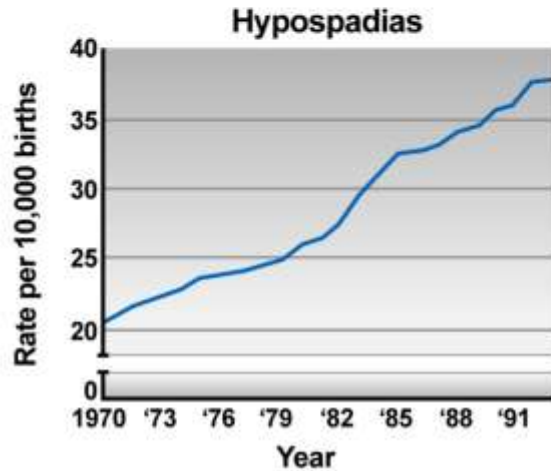
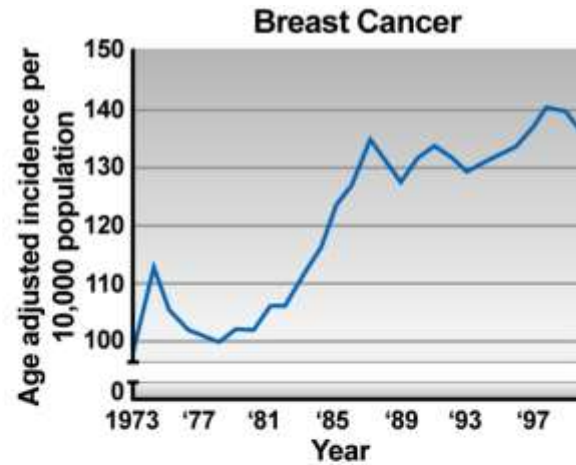
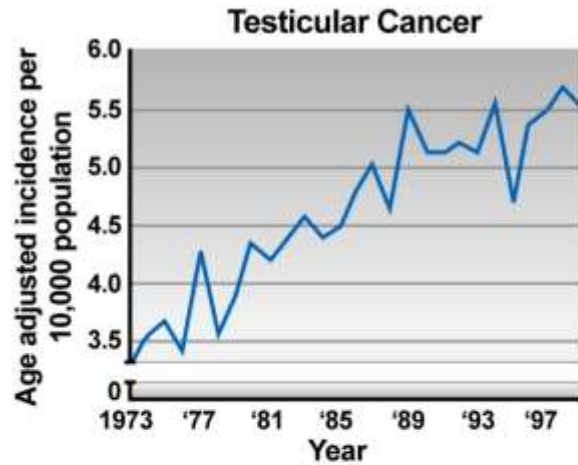


“ENVIRONMENT” Includes:

- Industrial chemicals
- Agricultural chemicals
- Physical agents
(heat, radiation)
- By-products of combustion
and industrial processes
(dioxin)
- Foods and nutrients
- Prescription drugs
- Lifestyle choices and
substance abuse
- Social and
economic factors



Should We Be Concerned?



Gene-Environment and Disease

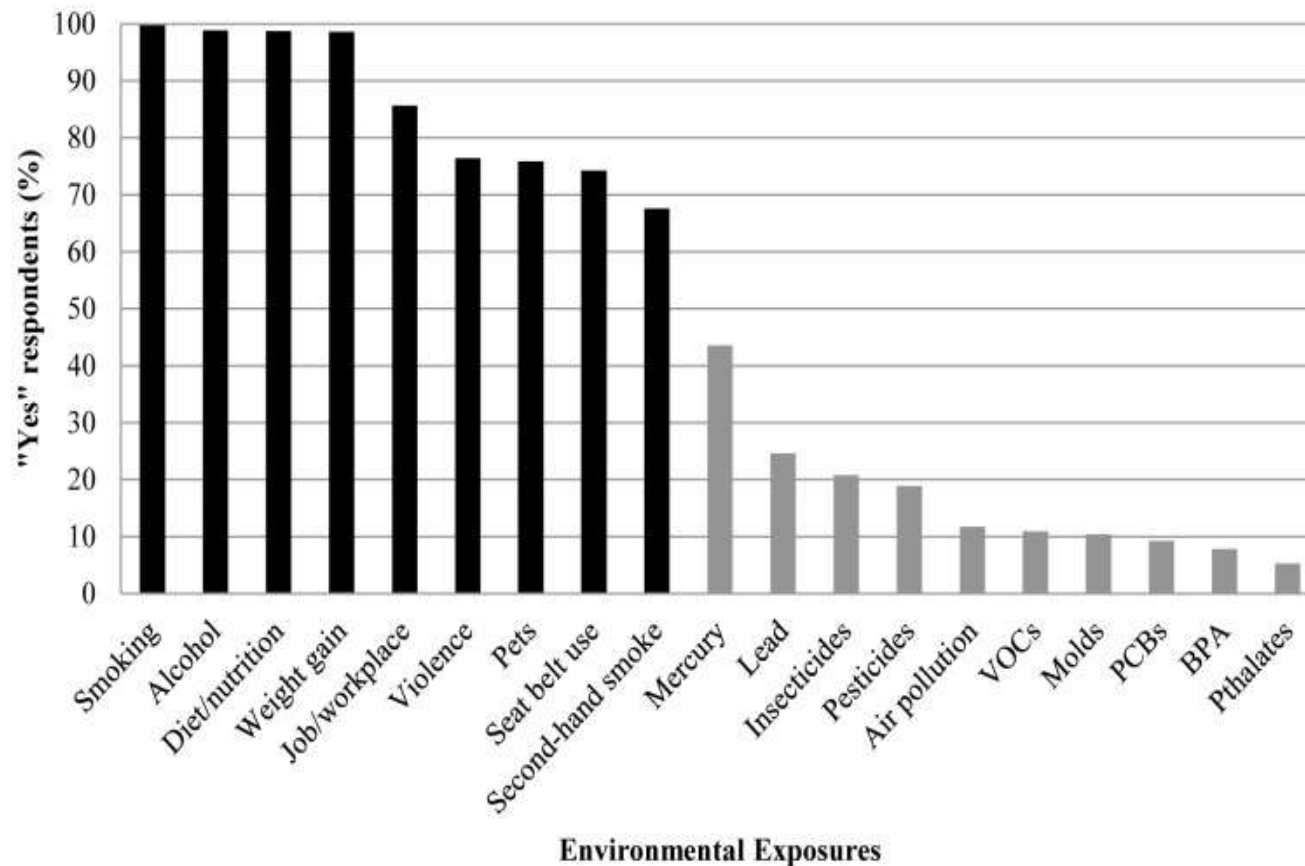
- Why have some diseases increased in incidence over the past 40 years?
- Genes have not changed over that time
- Recent “epidemics” of diabetes, asthma, ADHD, obesity due to environmental, dietary and behavioral changes
- We will never understand the etiology of diseases without an understanding of the role of “environment”

Chemicals in the International environment



- There are 70-100,000 chemicals in global commerce
- Production is increasing about 3.4% annually
- 4800 chemicals are “high volume” or exceed 1million pounds of use a year
- By 2020, LOW INCOME countries will lead the world in high volume production

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS



American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology. [Volume 207, Issue 3](#), Pages 164–173, September 2012

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The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS



COMMITTEE OPINION

Number 575, October 2013

**The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Committee on Health Care for Underserved Women
American Society for Reproductive Medicine Practice Committee**

The University of California, San Francisco Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment

This Committee Opinion was developed by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Committee on Health Care for Underserved Women and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine Practice Committee with the assistance of the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment. The Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment endorses this document. This document reflects emerging clinical and scientific advances as of the date issued and is subject to change. This information should not be construed as dictating an exclusive course of treatment or procedure to be followed.

[PDF Format](#)

Exposure to Toxic Environmental Agents

ABSTRACT: Reducing exposure to toxic environmental agents is a critical area of intervention for obstetricians, gynecologists, and other reproductive health care professionals. Patient exposure to toxic environmental chemicals and other stressors is ubiquitous, and preconception and prenatal exposure to toxic environmental agents can have a profound and lasting effect on



Royal College of
Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Bringing to life the best in women's health care

Scientific Impact Paper No. 37

May 2013

Chemical Exposures During Pregnancy: Dealing with Potential, but Unproven, Risks to Child Health



FIGO Opinion: Reproductive Health Impacts of Exposure to Toxic Environmental Chemicals

ENDORSED BY THE FOLLOWING HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES



European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology

SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES



The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
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SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics opinion on reproductive health impacts of exposure to toxic environmental chemicals☆

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ABSTRACT

Exposure to toxic environmental chemicals during pregnancy and breastfeeding is ubiquitous and is a threat to healthy human reproduction. There are tens of thousands of chemicals in global commerce, and even small exposures to toxic chemicals during pregnancy can trigger adverse health consequences. Exposure to toxic environmental chemicals and related health outcomes are inequitably distributed within and between countries; universally, the consequences of exposure are disproportionately borne by people with low incomes. Discrimination, other social factors, economic factors, and occupation impact risk of exposure and harm. Documented links between prenatal exposure to environmental chemicals and adverse health outcomes span the life course and include impacts on fertility and pregnancy, neurodevelopment, and cancer. The global health and economic burden related to toxic environmental chemicals is in excess of millions of deaths and billions of dollars every year. On the basis of accumulating robust evidence of exposures and adverse health impacts related to toxic environmental chemicals, the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) joins other leading reproductive health professional societies in calling for timely action to prevent harm. FIGO recommends that reproductive and other health professionals advocate for policies to prevent exposure to toxic environmental chemicals, work to ensure a healthy food system for all, make environmental health part of health care, and champion environmental justice.

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International Ob-Gyns Group Urges Greater Efforts to Prevent Toxic Chemical Exposure

Reproductive Health Professionals Say Links Between Prenatal Exposure to Chemicals and Poor Health Outcomes Are Increasingly Evident

Vancouver – Dramatic increases in exposure to toxic chemicals in the last four decades is threatening human reproduction and health, according to the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), the first major international reproductive health organization to take a stand on the ill-effects of exposure to toxic chemicals.

FIGO, which represents ob-gyns from 125 countries, is releasing its historic opinion urging global policies to reduce human exposure to toxic chemicals at a global conference in Vancouver on October 4-9.

“We are drowning our world in untested and unsafe chemicals and the price we are paying in terms of our reproductive health is of serious concern,” said [Gian Carlo Di Renzo](#), MD, PhD, Honorary Secretary of FIGO and lead author of the FIGO opinion. According to Di Renzo, reproductive health professionals witness first-hand the increasing numbers of health problems facing their patients, and preventing exposure to toxic chemicals can reduce this burden on women, children, and families around the world.”

Miscarriage and fetal loss, impaired fetal growth, congenital malformations, impaired or reduced neurodevelopment and cognitive function, and an increase in cancer, attention problems, ADHD behaviors, and hyperactivity are among the list of poor health outcomes linked to chemicals such as pesticides, air pollutants, plastics, solvents,¹ and more, according to the FIGO opinion.

World chemical manufacturing has grown rapidly over the past 40 years and developing countries will lead the world in growth rate for high volume chemicals within five years, according to FIGO. In the U.S. alone, an equivalent of more than 30,000 pounds of chemicals per person is manufactured or imported and yet the vast majority has not been tested. Chemicals travel the globe via international trade agreements such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) currently being negotiated between the European Union and the United States. TTIP has been criticized by environment

¹ These are only a few examples of toxic environmental chemicals. There are 70,000 to 100,000 chemicals in global commerce; approximately 4,800 “high-production volume chemicals” constitute the vast majority in global production. References: OECD Environmental Outlook to 2030. Paris, France: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; 2008. The European Environment, State and Outlook 2010: Assessment of Global Megatrends, Copenhagen, Denmark: European Environment Agency; 2010:80-91.



FOR ...
EVERY WOMAN
EVERY TIME