

# PCBs

## (Polychlorinated Biphenyls)



### What are PCBs?

PCBs are one of the chemical classes (see also PBDEs) previously used as flame retardants in some plastics. They were also used in electrical equipment and other industrial applications.

PCBs are *Persistent Organic Pollutants* ('POPs') and as such, remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of living organisms and are toxic to humans and wildlife. PCBs are banned in most parts of the world.

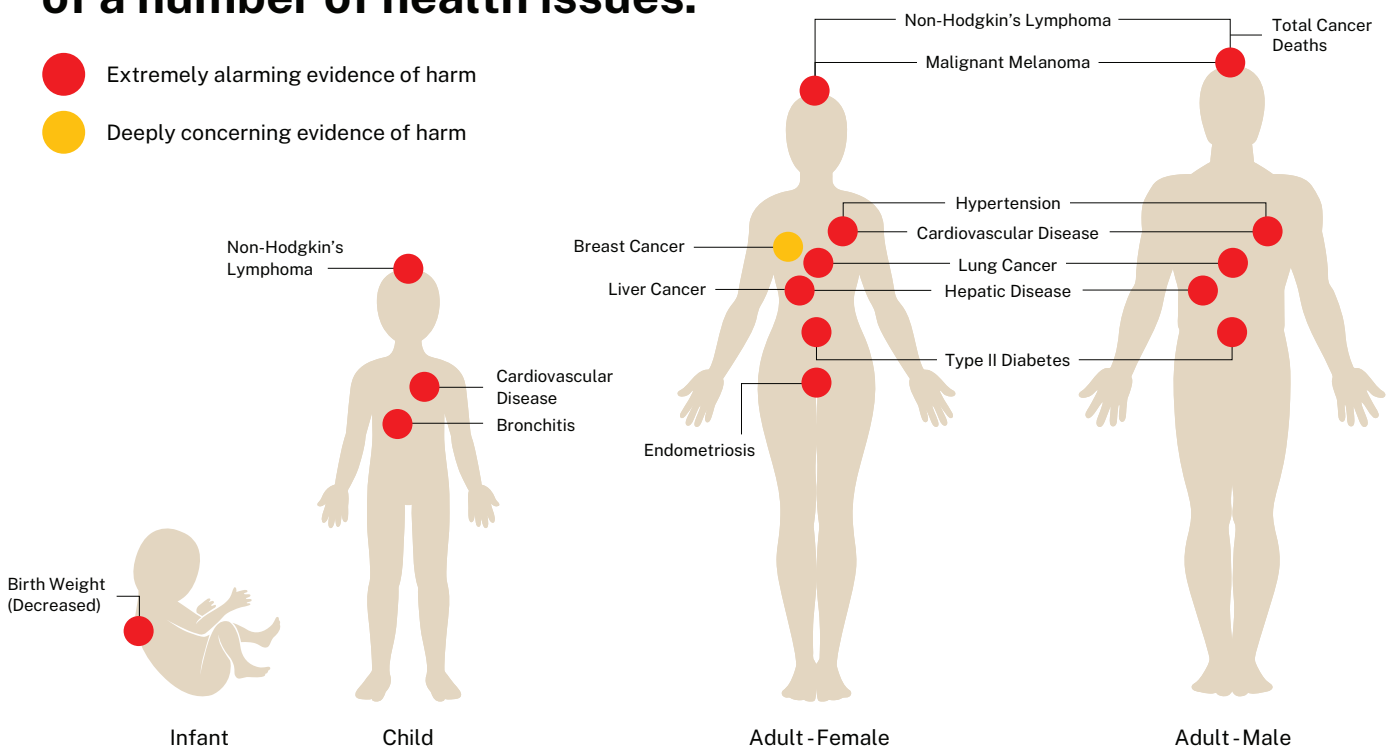
PCB exposure often occurs through the use of these products:

- Electrical waste (e-waste) (e.g. old transformers, capacitors, cable insulation)
- Old plastics
- Paints
- Fluorescent light fixtures
- Old industrial rubbers



### PCB exposure increases the risk of a number of health issues:

- Extremely alarming evidence of harm
- Deeply concerning evidence of harm



#### Sources:

Symeonides C, Aromataris E, Mulders Y, Dizon J, Stern C, Barker TH, Whitehorn A, Pollock D, Marin T, Dunlop S. An Umbrella Review of Meta-Analyses of Plastic-Associated Chemical Exposure and Human Health. *Annals of Global Health*. 2024; 90 (1) : 00, 1–52. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5334/aogh.4459>

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Food Packaging Forum Foundation (2022) "FCCmigex Database." <https://www.foodpackagingforum.org/fccmigex>