Plastic-associated Chemicals
and their Effects on Human Health:

PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls)

Fact Sheet

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What are PCBs?

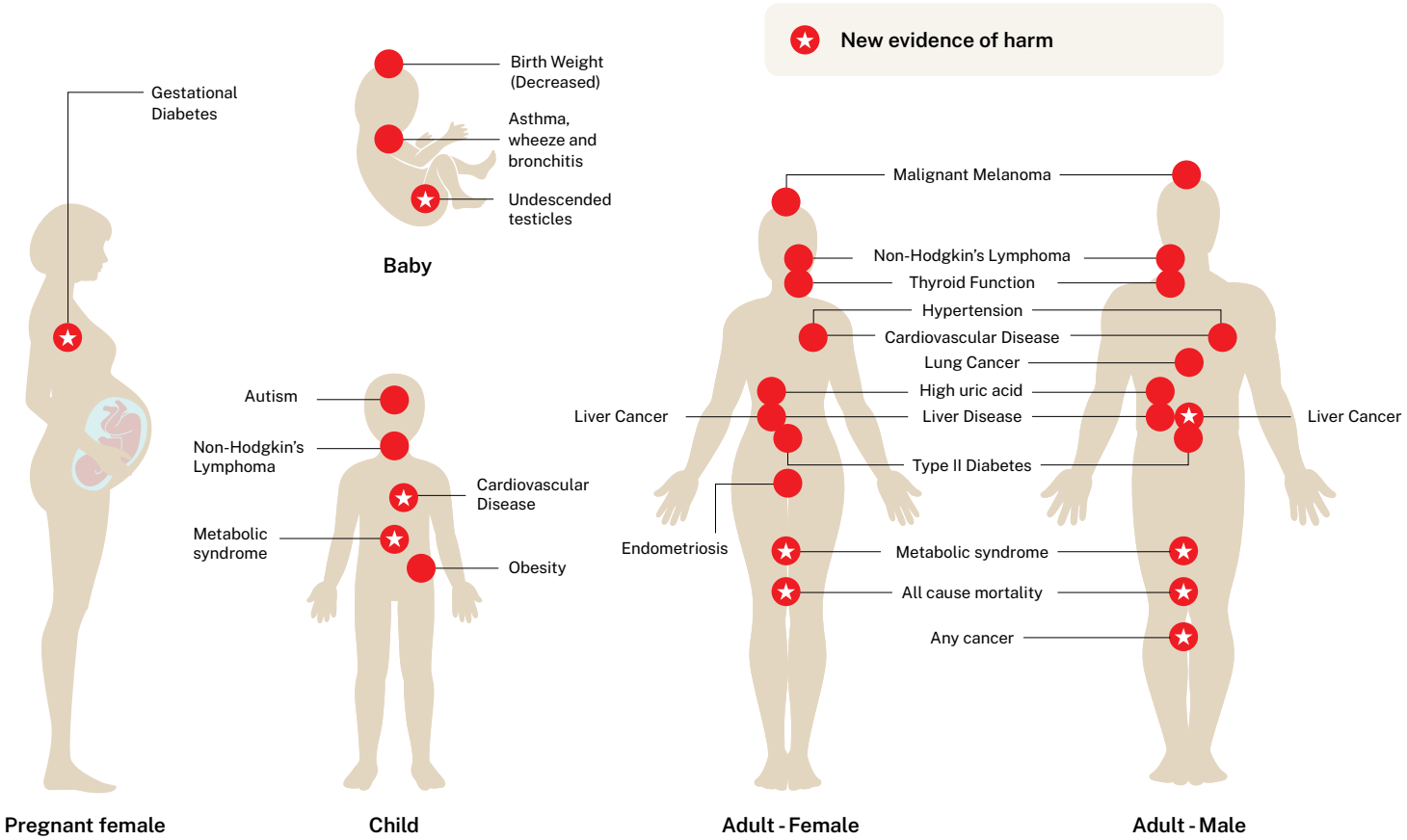
PCBs are one of the chemical classes (see also PBDEs) previously used as flame retardants in some plastics. They were also used in electrical equipment and industrial applications.

PCBs are *Persistent Organic Pollutants ('POPs')* and remain in the environment for long periods, travel widely, accumulate in the fatty tissue of living organisms and are toxic. Although banned in most parts of the world, "by-product" PCBs can be produced in paints, pigments and dyes.

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

There is consistent and significant evidence between PCB exposure and multiple health harms:



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Explore the data