

Scorecard News...

DDT Exposure Linked to Premature Births in the 1960s

The heavy use of the pesticide [DDT](#) in the U.S. prior to 1966 may have produced an epidemic of premature births, according to a recent study. High levels of [DDE](#), a breakdown product of DDT, were detected in blood samples from mothers who gave birth to premature or low birth weight infants between 1959 and 1966. Pre-term births are a major contributor to infant mortality.

DDT was identified by Rachel Carson as being a potent reproductive toxin in birds in her pioneering 1962 book, "Silent Spring." Studies since then have strongly suggested the chemical's human reproductive toxicity. (Founded in 1967 to do battle against the spraying of DDT on Long Island, Environmental Defense was instrumental in banning the chemical in the U.S. in 1972.) DDT is still widely used in countries where mosquito-borne malaria is a major public health problem.

Read the NIEHS [press release](#)

Read more on the history of [DDT](#)

Pollution Locator

Find out about the pollution problems in your community. [Search](#) by geographic area or company name, or explore our [maps](#). Reports are currently available on:

- Air Quality
[Criteria](#) and [hazardous](#) air pollutants
- Land Contamination
[Superfund](#) sites and [lead hazards](#)
- Waste
[Toxic chemical releases](#) from industrial plants and [animal waste](#) produced by factory farms
- Water Quality
[Clean Water Act status](#) and [watershed health](#)

Pollution Rankings

Scorecard highlights pollution problems that put an area into the worst 20% of areas in the country, or in its own state, and spotlights the companies responsible.

Environmental Justice

Scorecard shows different degrees of environmental burden felt by different racial/ethnic and income groups in each county in the U.S. Environmental justice analyses are also available [in spanish](#).

About the Chemicals

Find out whether a chemical has been tested for health effects and how harmful it may be for you and the environment.

Find Your Community

Just enter your zip code and find out what pollutants are being released into your community --and who is responsible.

Explore Maps

Air

- [Criteria Air Pollutants](#)
- [Hazardous Air Pollutants](#)

Land

- [Superfund Sites and Potential Sources of Land Contamination](#)

- [Lead Hazards](#)

Waste

- [Animal Wastes from Factory Farms](#)
- [Toxic Chemical Releases from Industrial Facilities](#)

Water

- [Clean Water Act Status](#)
- [Watershed Indicators](#)

Scorecard Top Ten U.S.

Counties with Releases of Recognized Carcinogens to Air

1. [LEE, MS](#)
2. [ELKHART, IN](#)
3. [HARRIS, TX](#)
4. [ERIE, PA](#)
5. [LOGAN, KY](#)
6. [MONROE, NY](#)
7. [GEORGETOWN, SC](#)
8. [GIBSON, TN](#)
9. [LUZERNE, PA](#)

[Health Effects](#)

Select a health problem that concerns you and find out what chemicals are recognized or suspected causes.

[Regulatory Controls](#)

Find out about the regulatory programs that govern chemicals.

[Setting Priorities](#)

Want to know what the most important environmental problems in your community are? Scorecard lists the top ranking issues in your area, based on comparative risk projects.

[Take Action](#)

Get the real story on toxics in your community and organize a community meeting on toxics using Scorecard's [Guide](#). Scorecard lets you send faxes--for free--straight to the top-ranked polluters in your area or send email to key state and federal decision makers. Share your views in our [discussion forums](#) addressing pollution problems in your community, agricultural pollution, chemicals in consumer products, or the health effects of chemicals. Scorecard links you to [volunteer opportunities](#) and directories of environmental organizations in your area, so you can join with others to work on local toxic chemical problems. Or you can [support](#) Scorecard by running banners, distributing our data or maps, or [contributing](#) to Environmental Defense.

[PollutionWatch Canada](#)

PollutionWatch delivers accurate information on toxic chemicals released by manufacturing facilities in Canada, ranking and comparing the pollution situation in communities across Canada.

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Email questions regarding [the data](#) or

[how to use this information to protect the environment](#).

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10. [COOK, IL](#)

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