SECOND EDITION

Understanding Environmental Health

How We Live in the World

Chapter 5 Producing Manufactured Goods

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Introduction

- Social and economic changes in US
 - -Expectations and realities
 - "use it up, wear it out, make it do"; thrift as a necessity and a virtue
 - became: "the good life": house, car, washing machine, TV
 - became: "lifestyles": luxuries as necessities
 - –Changes in industry and pollution \rightarrow
 - Visible air pollution -> hazardous wastes





FIGURE 5.1 Polluted air blankets a U.S. city in 1946.

FIGURE 5.2 Workers wear protective gear as they handle hazardous wastes.

Source: Reprinted courtesy of CDC Public Health Image Library. ID# 8998. Cont provider CDC/Roy Perry. Available at: http://phil.cdc.gov/phil/home.asp. Accessed October 15, 2012.

5.1 Synthetic Organic Chemicals

- 5.2 Toxic Metals
- 5.3 Nano-Scale Materials
- 5.4 Physical Hazards in the Workplace
- 5.5 Asthma-Causing Agents in the Workplace
- 5.6 Social Disparities in Exposure to Industrial Pollution
- 5.7 Regulation of Industrial Pollution

Organic Solvents Phthalate Plasticizers and Bisphenol A Persistent Toxic Substances Ozone-Depleting Chemicals

Toxics Use Reduction

Organic solvents

- Solvents: chemicals that dissolve other substances
 - -Cleaning; synthesizing chemicals
 - Petroleum refineries
 - Chemical industry
 - Degreasing metals in electronics industries
 - Dying and dry cleaning textiles
 - -Common groundwater contaminants

Organic solvents

- Health effects^{1,2}
 - -Most affect central nervous system
 - -Many damage liver, kidney
 - -Cancer
 - Benzene—Group 1 (leukemia)
 - TCE, PCE—Group 2A
- Some widely used solvents \rightarrow

Nonchlorinated Solvents	Chlorinated Solvents
Benzene	Trichloroethylene (TCE)
Toluene	Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)
Ethylbenzene	1,1,1-Trichloroethane (TCA)

Organic Solvents **Phthalate Plasticizers and Bisphenol A** Persistent Toxic Substances Ozone-Depleting Chemicals Toxics Use Reduction

Phthalate plasticizers and bisphenol A

- Phthalate plasticizers—chemicals used to make plastics *plastic*
- Bisphenol A also used in production
- Both present in some plastic products
 - May move slowly into air or into contents of container

Phthalate plasticizers and bisphenol A

- The phthalate family³⁻⁵
 - -DEHP—polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic
 - -DINP-plastic toys
 - DBP, DEP, DMP—spreadable / sprayable products
- Common in consumer products⁵
- Indoor sampling and surveillance biomonitoring shows widespread exposure in US population^{6, 7-9}

Phthalate plasticizers and bisphenol A

- Health effects of phthalates and bisphenol-A: ^{3, 10-16}
 - -Endocrine disruptors
 - Developmental effects in male lab animals and male infants (hypospadias, reduced anogenital distance)
 - Emerging evidence of link to obesity in lab animals and people

Organic Solvents Phthalate Plasticizers and Bisphenol A **Persistent Toxic Substances** Ozone-Depleting Chemicals Toxics Use Reduction

- All are halogenated (CI, FI, Br, I)
- PCBs, dioxins, and furans
 - PCBs: family of hi-MW manmade compounds
 - -Chemically stable, nonflammable; used as insulating fluids in electrical equipment
 - -Entered environment as industrial wastes
 - Manufacture of PCBs created dioxins, furans as byproducts
 - -All are lipophilic and persistent

- Dioxins also byproducts of other chemical processes
 - Production of herbicide 2,4,5-T
 - Pulp & paper industry (chlorine bleach)
- -Acute exposure \rightarrow chloracne¹⁷⁻¹⁹
- Dioxins detectable at low levels in everyone²⁰
- -Wide range of health effects in test animals
- Epidemiologic evidence suggests effects on neurological development,²⁰ cancer mortality²¹
- -Cancer: PCBs Group 2A, dioxin Group 1² Copyright © 2014 by Jones & Bartlett Learning, LLC, an Ascend Learning Company

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- Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs)
 - Used as flame retardants in many products
 - Penta-BDEs—in fabrics, foams
 - Octa- and deca-BDEs—in plastics
 - –Not chemically bound to plastics or textiles²²

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- -Widespread in environment,^{23,24} including indoor environment
- Measured in wildlife and in humans²³⁻²⁵
- -Most likely health effect: thyroid disruption^{26,27} Copyright © 2014 by Jones & Bartlett Learning, LLC, an Ascend Learning Company

- Perfluorochemicals
 - -Process chemicals in production of water- and stain-resistant coatings
 - -Released in industrial wastes
 - Widespread in environment and wildlife^{28,29}
 - –Persist in the body³⁰
 - -Limited info on human health effects

Organic Solvents Phthalate Plasticizers and Bisphenol A Persistent Toxic Substances **Ozone-Depleting Chemicals** Toxics Use Reduction

Ozone-depleting chemicals

- Major cause: chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)
 - Refrigerants, aerosol propellants, blowing agents
- Seemed ideal: nontoxic, not flammable or corrosive, chemically stable
- But <u>due to</u> stability, reach stratosphere, where complex reactions with O, O₂, and O₃ → net loss of ozone ³¹

Ozone-depleting chemicals

- Stratospheric ozone depletion results in
 - -More UV exposure at earth's surface, especially UV-A and UV-B
 - -Increased risk of skin cancer
- Ozone concentrations hit low in mid-1990s; little change since then³²
- Recovery anticipated by mid-21st century due to controls of Montreal Protocol

Organic Solvents Phthalate Plasticizers and Bisphenol A Persistent Toxic Substances Ozone-Depleting Chemicals **Toxics Use Reduction**

Toxics use reduction

- Preventive approach; objectives:
 - -Use less toxic chemicals
 - -Use smaller quantity of toxic chemicals
- Achieved through:
 - -Green chemistry: the scientific work
 - Alternatives assessment: the practical work
- Benefits workers, communities

5.1 Synthetic Organic Chemicals

5.2 Toxic Metals

- 5.3 Nano-Scale Materials
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Lead^{33,34}

- In workplace, mostly inorganic lead
- Smelters,
 demolition
- CNS effects: memory, attention
- Peripheral effects:
 "wrist drop"
- Renal toxicity, high blood pressure, miscarriage / stillbirth

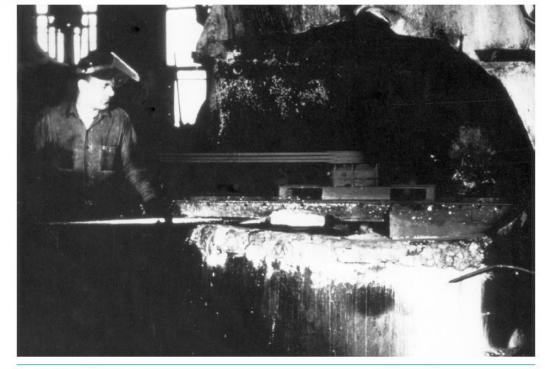


FIGURE 5.4 A laborer works with molten metal in a lead smelting plant in Cincinnati, Ohio, at mid-20th century.

Source: Reprinted courtesy of CDC public Health Image Library. ID# 9527. Content providers CDC/Barbara Jenkins. Available at: http://phil.cdc.gov/phil/home.asp. Accessed October 15, 2012.

- Mercury³⁵
 - In manufacturing, mostly elemental or inorganic mercury
 - Effects: excitability, delirium, hallucinations (as displayed by the Mad Hatter)
- Arsenic ³⁶⁻³⁸
 - -Widespread in earth's crust; groundwater contaminant
 - -Copper smelters, tanneries
 - -Group 1 carcinogen; neurotoxic effects Copyright © 2014 by Jones & Bartlett Learning, LLC, an Ascend Learning Company

- Cadmium ³⁶⁻³⁸
 - Mining and smelting (lead, zinc); metal plating
 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic kidney disease; itai-itai;
 - -Group 1 carcinogen: lung cancer
- Chromium-VI ³⁶⁻³⁸
 - -Chrome plating, leather tanning
 - -Group 1 carcinogen: lung cancer

- Beryllium ³⁶⁻³⁸
 - -Not a common metal
 - -Strong, lightweight; used in hightech industries (aircraft, space)
 - Chronic beryllium disease:
 debilitating lung disease; scarring,
 impaired breathing
 - -Group 1 carcinogen: lung

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Nano-scale Materials

- Nanoparticles: < 100 nm in diameter</p>
 - Same size as ultrafine particulates; materials have different properties on nanoscale
 - Rapidly expanding technology for medicine, industry, consumer products
 - Health effects unclear; concern due to known effects of ultrafine particulates^{39,40}
 - Nano<u>tubes</u>, like asbestos fibers, can cause toxicity because of shape^{39,40}

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5.4 Physical Hazards in the Workplace

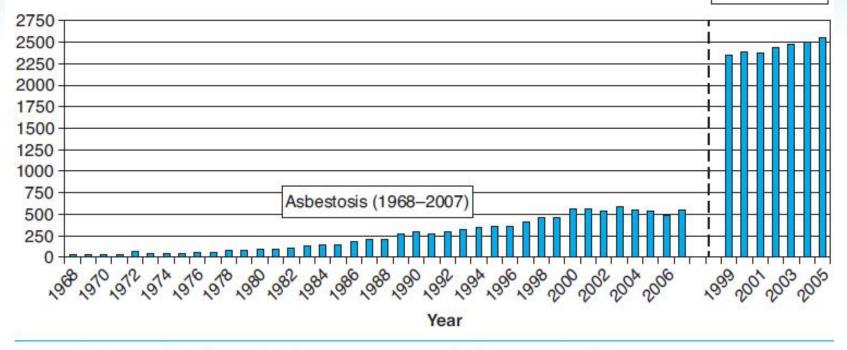
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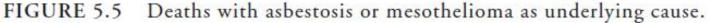
Fibers and Dusts Mechanical Hazards Noise Light during the "Biological Night"

Fibers and dusts

- Asbestos fibers
 - -Mineral fiber; insulating, noncombustible
 - -Widespread occupational exposure
 - Mining, manufacturing, construction, shipbuilding, auto repair; workers' families also exposed
 - -Asbestosis, lung cancer, mesothelioma (sentinel illness for asbestos exposure)⁴¹⁻⁴³ \rightarrow
 - Control lagged behind understanding; high exposures today in less developed countries







Source: Data from Mortality multiple cause-of-death data from National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System. Population estimates from U.S. Census Bureau; see Appendix (www2a.cdc.gov/drds/WorldReportData/Appendix.asp) for information about data sources, methods, ICD codes, and limitations for general caution regarding inferences based on small numbers of deaths. Reference Number: 2012F01-01.

Fibers and dusts

- Cotton dust
 - -Cotton mill workers
 - -Fibrotic lung disease: byssinosis ("brown lung")
 - -Disabling but not highly fatal44,45
 - -Common today in less developed but rapidly industrializing countries^{46,47}

Fibers and Dusts **Mechanical Hazards** Noise Light during the "Biological Night"

Mechanical hazards

- Occupational fatalities
 - –Overall 3.5 fatalities per 100,000 FTE workers in US (2010)⁴⁸
 - –Highest-fatality occupations: fishing (116.0), logging (91.9) 49
- About 250 nonfatal injuries for each death⁴⁸
 - Chronic effects of vibration, repetitive work^{50,51} Copyright © 2014 by Jones & Bartlett Learning, LLC, an Ascend Learning Company www.jblearning.com

Fibers and Dusts Mechanical Hazards **Noise** Light during the "Biological Night"

Noise

- Noise: sound that can damage hearing or otherwise harm health
- Effects on hearing
 - -Threshold shift—upward shift in threshold at which sound at certain frequency can be perceived
 - -Tinnitus (ringing or other sound in the ears) after exposure to loud noise

Noise

- Annual incidence noise-induced hearing loss: 15 per 10,000 full-time manufacturing workers⁵²
- Highest—hearing-loss industries: iron foundries, animal slaughterhouses⁵²
- Military service linked to hearing loss^{53,54}
- Other workplace noise effects: "cognitive failures,"⁵⁵ cardiovascular risks⁵⁶

Fibers and Dusts Mechanical Hazards Noise Light during the "Biological Night"

Light during the "biological night"

- Shift work can disrupt circadian rhythms: basic physiological day/night cycle
 - Common in varied sectors: manufacturing, finance, real estate, food services ⁵⁷
- IARC classifies "shift work that involves circadian disruption" as Group 2A carcinogen⁵⁸
- In rodents, light-at-night linked to increase in body mass index⁵⁹

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Exposures and Occupations

- Isocyanates⁶⁰⁻⁶²
 - Paint-hardening chemicals; exposures to paint sprayers in various settings
- Metals ^{61, 62}
 - -Aluminum (soldering)
 - -Chromium and nickel (electroplating)
- Various dusts, fumes, organic compounds

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- 5.6 Patterns in Exposure to the Products and Byproducts of Manufacturing
- 5.7 Regulation of Industrial Pollution

Industrial Pollution and Workplace Exposures in the United States

Chemical Burdens in People and Microenvironments

The Global Disparity in Protections for Workers

Industrial pollution / workplace exposures

- Social disparities (race, poverty) in
 - Industrial pollution and occupational hazards
 - -Particulate air pollution
 - -Disposal of hazardous wastes
- Regional disparities in burden of coal mining, uranium mining

Industrial Pollution and Workplace Exposures in the United States

Chemical Burdens in People and Microenvironments

The Global Disparity in Protections for Workers

Burdens of chemical exposure

- Differences in blood serum levels of BPA and PFCs by income and/or ethnicity⁸
- Differences in measures of PBDE exposure by geographic location, socioeconomic status, and race/ethnicity⁶³⁻⁶⁶

Industrial Pollution and Workplace Exposures in the United States Chemical Burdens in People and Microenvironments The Global Disparity in Protections for

The Global Disparity in Protections for Workers

Global Disparity in Protections for Workers

- More developed countries export hazards to avoid costs of managing them
- Workers in less developed countries bear heavy burden of illness & injury
 - -Shipbreaking \rightarrow
 - In India and Bangladesh, to extract scrap metal
 - -Recycling of used computers
 - In China and India, to extract salable components
- Basel Convention



FIGURE 5.7 Manual laborers break down beached ships on the shore of Bangladesh. Source: © 2008 Pierre Claquin. Used with permission.

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Moving upstream: Cleanup of abandoned hazardous waste sites

- Superfund (CERCLA) passed 1980 and amended as SARA in 1986
- EPA identifies abandoned hazardous waste sites →
 - -Placed on National Priorities List
 - -Site assessment, including risk assessment
 - If possible, *polluter pays* for assessment and cleanup; if not, the Superfund pays
 - –Work complete at >1000 sites; in process at >1000 sites

Cleanup of abandoned hazardous waste sites



FIGURE 5.8 Drums of toxic wastes litter a Superfund site in this undated photo. Source: Reprinted courtesy of CDC Public Health Image Library. ID# 1193. Content provider: CDC. Available at: http://phil.cdc.gov/phil/home.asp. Accessed October 15, 2012.

Controls on current discharges of manufacturing wastes

- Discharges to air: Clean Air Act
 - Criteria Air Pollutants, Hazardous Air Pollutants
- Discharges to water: Clean Water Act
 - Federal standards for ambient water quality (Ambient Water Quality Criteria; AWQC)
 - Requirement to use "best available technology" to meet standard
 - States set permit requirements for discharges, to meet AWQC and technology requirement
 - Law distinguishes point, nonpoint sources

Controls on current discharges of manufacturing wastes

- Land disposal of hazardous wastes: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
 - -Applies to specific wastes listed by EPA
 - And to any waste that is ignitable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic (according to criteria)
 - Requires: "cradle-to-grave" tracking of hazardous wastes; performance requirements for landfills

Controls on workplace hazards

- OSHAct (1970)—requires most employers to provide workplace "free of recognized hazards"
- Focus on mechanical hazards, chemical inhalation hazards
- OSHA sets Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs)
 - Time-weighted average, short-term exposure limit, ceiling

Controls on workplace hazards

- -NIOSH produces Recommended Exposure Limits (RELs), intended as basis for OSHA's PELs
- ACGIH produces Threshold Limit Values (TLVs, also time-weighted average)
- -Process of deriving PELs from RELs (or TLVs) has foundered

Controls on workplace hazards

- -OSHAct gives modifications to work environment priority over personal protective equipment
- Employers must provide workers training and information on chemical hazards
 - Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)

Regulation of the manufacture and use of chemicals

- Toxic Substances Control Act
 - Precautionary: before manufacturing new chemical, company must notify EPA
 - -EPA can restrict manufacture, distribution, use of chemical
 - In practice, EPA has restricted only 5 chemicals (or sets of chemicals)
 - Issues: corporate confidentiality as barrier; EPA's lack of resources Copyright © 2014 by Jones & Bartlett Learning, LLC, an Ascend Learning Company

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Regulation of the manufacture and use of chemicals

- Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008
 - Ban on sale of toys and children's products containing phthalates
- Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
 - In force 1989; 197 nations, including US, have signed
 - Country-specific limits on production and consumption of specific chemicals

Securing the public's right to

information about chemical wastes

- Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (part of SARA)
 - Requires industry to publish quantities (in pounds) of specific chemicals released each year at specific sites
 - Data in Toxics Release Inventory, publicly available electronic database
 - Created state and local emergency response commissions
 - Companies must submit relevant MSDSs to local commission

Pollution prevention and the precautionary principle

- Pollution Prevention Act (1990)
 - Named source reduction (waste prevention) as preferred option over treatment / disposal
 - Created Office of Pollution Prevention in EPA
 Had little effect
- In 2009, EPA announced new principles for managing toxic chemicals
 - -More precautionary, more transparent
 - -Future impact uncertain

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