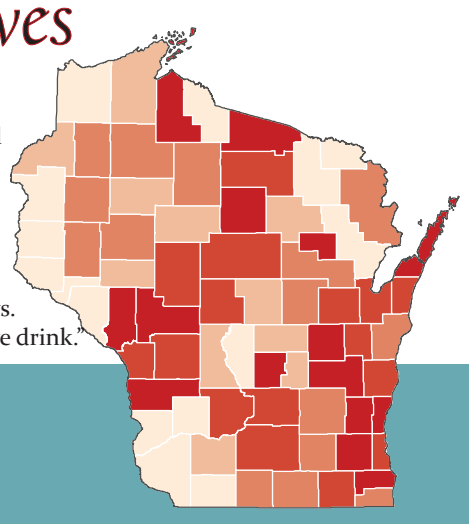
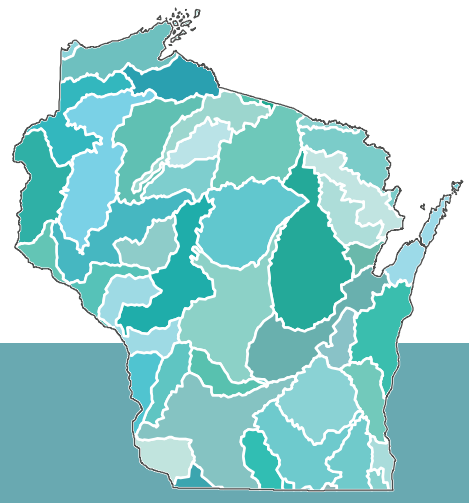
Protect Our Water, Protect Ourselves

Ecosystem Threats and Breast Cancer Rates in Wisconsin Watersheds

Products that we use every day have consequences for human and ecosystem health. Industrial processing of paper, plastic, metals, wood, electrical components, petrol, and industrial chemicals produces dioxins, which pose a real threat, even when handled according to regulations. Unfortunately, corners are cut, and permits designed to protect people and the envrionment are disregarded. Since 2003, the Environmental Protection Agency has reported multiple violations of emission standards by Wisconsin manufacturers, Because facilites are often situated along waterways, communites within the watersheds are affected in adverse ways. There are those who say, "We are what we eat." The story of Wisconsin water is," We are what we drink."



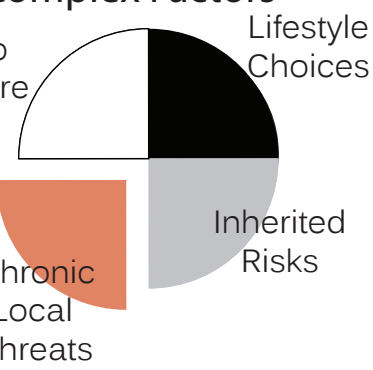
Breast Cancer*



Watersheds

ST. LOUIS
BEARTRAP - NEMADJI
BAD-MONTREAL
UPPER ST. CROIX
BLACK-PRESQUE ISLE
ONTONAGON
NAMEKAGON
FLAMBEAU
BRULE
UPPER CHIPPEWA
SOUTH FORK FLAMBEAU
UPPER WISCONSIN
MENOMINEE
LOWER ST. CROIX
JUMP
RED CEDAR
LAKE DUBAY
OCONTO
PESHTIGO
LOWER CHIPPEWA
RUSK-VERMILLION
EAU CLAIRE
PENSAUKEE
DOOR-KEWAUNEE
BUFFALO-WHITEWATER
BLACK
WOLF
TREMPEALEAU
CASTLE ROCK
LA CROSSE-PINE
FOX NORTH
LAKE WINNEBAGO
MANITOWOC-SHEBOYGAN
COON-YELLOW
KICKAPOO
BARABOO
UPPER ROCK
MILWAUKEE
LOWER WISCONSIN
GRANT-LITTLE MAQUOKETA
PECATONICA
SUGAR
LOWER ROCK
FOX SOUTH
PIKE-ROOT
APPLE-PLUM
PISCASAW
KISHWAUKEE
DES PLAINES

The Cancer Cascade: Complex Factors

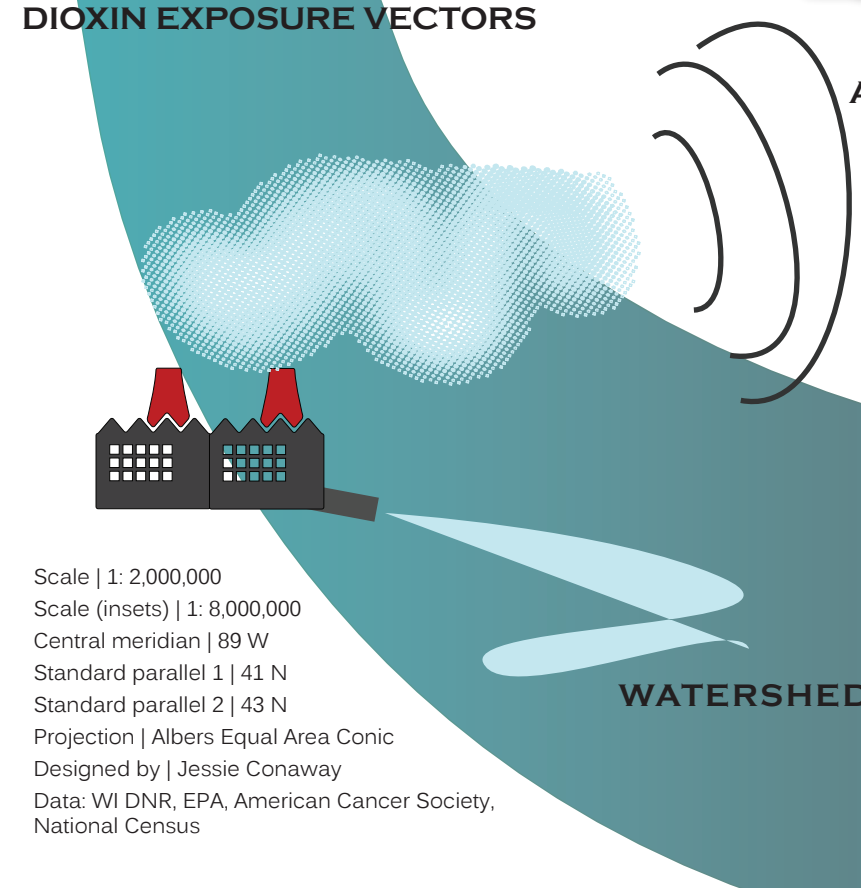


People are exposed to industrial pollutants, including dioxins, via pathways of air, water, soil, and food webs. Wastewater from point-source polluters affects downstream areas of the watershed. Air emissions from point-source polluters carry particulates into down wind airsheds.These particulates make their way into soil and water, where they can persist for many decades. Soil on land and sediments in rivers are entry points for dioxins into food webs. People consume dioxins in vegetables that are grown in contaminated soil, and in fish that feed in polluted waterways. Large storm events can stir up sediments from river and lake beds, which can result in increased exposure.

Violaters of Emissions Standards, 2003 - 2011

- Paper
- Metals
- Electric
- Plastics
- Coal & Petrol
- Wood Processing
- Industrial Organic Chemicals

DIOXIN EXPOSURE VECTORS



Breast Cancer Incidents

(Per 10,000 female population)

35 | 56 | 61 | 67 | 71 | 73 | 78 | 118

*County Rates of Breast Cancer Occurrence per 100,000 female population, 2003 - 2007

Scale | 1: 2,000,000
Scale (insets) | 1: 8,000,000
Central meridian | 89 W
Standard parallel 1 | 41 N
Standard parallel 2 | 43 N
Projection | Albers Equal Area Conic
Designed by | Jessie Conaway
Data: WI DNR, EPA, American Cancer Society, National Census