

**TOXICOLOGICAL PROFILE FOR
DDT, DDE, and DDD**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry**

September 2002

DISCLAIMER

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UPDATE STATEMENT

Toxicological profiles are revised and republished as necessary, but no less than once every three years. For information regarding the update status of previously released profiles, contact ATSDR at:

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FOREWORD

This toxicological profile is prepared in accordance with guidelines* developed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The original guidelines were published in the *Federal Register* on April 17, 1987. Each profile will be revised and republished as necessary.

The ATSDR toxicological profile succinctly characterizes the toxicologic and adverse health effects information for the hazardous substance described therein. Each peer-reviewed profile identifies and reviews the key literature that describes a hazardous substance's toxicologic properties. Other pertinent literature is also presented, but is described in less detail than the key studies. The profile is not intended to be an exhaustive document; however, more comprehensive sources of specialty information are referenced.


The focus of the profiles is on health and toxicologic information; therefore, each toxicological profile begins with a public health statement that describes, in nontechnical language, a substance's relevant toxicological properties. Following the public health statement is information concerning levels of significant human exposure and, where known, significant health effects. The adequacy of information to determine a substance's health effects is described in a health effects summary. Data needs that are of significance to protection of public health are identified by ATSDR and EPA.

Each profile includes the following:

- (A) The examination, summary, and interpretation of available toxicologic information and epidemiologic evaluations on a hazardous substance to ascertain the levels of significant human exposure for the substance and the associated acute, subacute, and chronic health effects;
- (B) A determination of whether adequate information on the health effects of each substance is available or in the process of development to determine levels of exposure that present a significant risk to human health of acute, subacute, and chronic health effects; and
- (C) Where appropriate, identification of toxicologic testing needed to identify the types or levels of exposure that may present significant risk of adverse health effects in humans.

The principal audiences for the toxicological profiles are health professionals at the federal, state, and local levels; interested private sector organizations and groups; and members of the public.

This profile reflects ATSDR's assessment of all relevant toxicologic testing and information that has been peer-reviewed. Staff of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal scientists have also reviewed the profile. In addition, this profile has been peer-reviewed by a nongovernmental panel and was made available for public review. Final responsibility for the contents and views expressed in this toxicological profile resides with ATSDR.


Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.
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*Legislative Background

The toxicological profiles are developed in response to the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986 (Public law 99-499) which amended the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA or Superfund). This public law directed ATSDR to prepared toxicological profiles for hazardous substances most commonly found at facilities on the CERCLA National Priorities List and that pose the most significant potential threat to human health, as determined by ATSDR and the EPA. The availability of the revised priority list of 275 hazardous substances was announced in the *Federal Register* on November 17, 1997 (62 FR 61332). For prior versions of the list of substances, see *Federal Register* notices dated April 29, 1996 (61 FR 18744); April 17, 1987 (52 FR 12866); October 20, 1988 (53 FR 41280); October 26, 1989 (54 FR 43619); October 17, 1990 (55 FR 42067); October 17, 1991 (56 FR 52166); October 28, 1992 (57 FR 48801); and February 28, 1994 (59 FR 9486). Section 104(i)(3) of CERCLA, as amended, directs the Administrator of ATSDR to prepare a toxicological profile for each substance on the list.

QUICK REFERENCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Toxicological Profiles are a unique compilation of toxicological information on a given hazardous substance. Each profile reflects a comprehensive and extensive evaluation, summary, and interpretation of available toxicologic and epidemiologic information on a substance. Health care providers treating patients potentially exposed to hazardous substances will find the following information helpful for fast answers to often-asked questions.

Primary Chapters/Sections of Interest

Chapter 1: Public Health Statement: The Public Health Statement can be a useful tool for educating patients about possible exposure to a hazardous substance. It explains a substance's relevant toxicologic properties in a nontechnical, question-and-answer format, and it includes a review of the general health effects observed following exposure.

Chapter 2: Relevance to Public Health: The Relevance to Public Health Section evaluates, interprets, and assesses the significance of toxicity data to human health.

Chapter 3: Health Effects: Specific health effects of a given hazardous compound are reported by *type of health effect* (death, systemic, immunologic, reproductive), by *route of exposure*, and by *length of exposure* (acute, intermediate, and chronic). In addition, both human and animal studies are reported in this section.

NOTE: Not all health effects reported in this section are necessarily observed in the clinical setting. Please refer to the Public Health Statement to identify general health effects observed following exposure.

Pediatrics: Four new sections have been added to each Toxicological Profile to address child health issues:

Section 1.6	How Can (Chemical X) Affect Children?
Section 1.7	How Can Families Reduce the Risk of Exposure to (Chemical X)?
Section 3.8	Children's Susceptibility
Section 6.6	Exposures of Children

Other Sections of Interest:

Section 3.9	Biomarkers of Exposure and Effect
Section 3.12	Methods for Reducing Toxic Effects

ATSDR Information Center

Phone: 1-888-42-ATSDR or (404) 498-0110 **Fax:** (404) 498-0057
E-mail: atsdric@cdc.gov **Internet:** <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>

The following additional material can be ordered through the ATSDR Information Center:

Case Studies in Environmental Medicine: Taking an Exposure History—The importance of taking an exposure history and how to conduct one are described, and an example of a thorough exposure history is provided. Other case studies of interest include *Reproductive and Developmental Hazards*; *Skin Lesions and Environmental Exposures*; *Cholinesterase-Inhibiting Pesticide Toxicity*; and numerous chemical-specific case studies.

Managing Hazardous Materials Incidents is a three-volume set of recommendations for on-scene (prehospital) and hospital medical management of patients exposed during a hazardous materials incident. Volumes I and II are planning guides to assist first responders and hospital emergency department personnel in planning for incidents that involve hazardous materials. Volume III—*Medical Management Guidelines for Acute Chemical Exposures*—is a guide for health care professionals treating patients exposed to hazardous materials.

Fact Sheets (ToxFAQs) provide answers to frequently asked questions about toxic substances.

Other Agencies and Organizations

The National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) focuses on preventing or controlling disease, injury, and disability related to the interactions between people and their environment outside the workplace. *Contact:* NCEH, Mailstop F-29, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, Atlanta, GA 30341-3724 • Phone: 770-488-7000 • FAX: 770-488-7015.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducts research on occupational diseases and injuries, responds to requests for assistance by investigating problems of health and safety in the workplace, recommends standards to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), and trains professionals in occupational safety and health. *Contact:* NIOSH, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201 • Phone: 800-356-4674 or NIOSH Technical Information Branch, Robert A. Taft Laboratory, Mailstop C-19, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45226-1998 • Phone: 800-35-NIOSH.

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is the principal federal agency for biomedical research on the effects of chemical, physical, and biologic environmental agents on human health and well-being. *Contact:* NIEHS, PO Box 12233, 104 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 • Phone: 919-541-3212.

Referrals

The Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics (AOEC) has developed a network of clinics in the United States to provide expertise in occupational and environmental issues. *Contact:* AOEC, 1010 Vermont Avenue, NW, #513, Washington, DC 20005 • Phone: 202-347-4976 • FAX: 202-347-4950 • e-mail: AOEC@AOEC.ORG • Web Page: <http://www.aoec.org/>.

The American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) is an association of physicians and other health care providers specializing in the field of occupational and environmental medicine. *Contact:* ACOEM, 55 West Seegers Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005 • Phone: 847-818-1800 • FAX: 847-818-9266.

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THE PROFILE HAS UNDERGONE THE FOLLOWING ATSDR INTERNAL REVIEWS:

1. Health Effects Review. The Health Effects Review Committee examines the health effects chapter of each profile for consistency and accuracy in interpreting health effects and classifying end points.
2. Minimal Risk Level Review. The Minimal Risk Level Workgroup considers issues relevant to substance-specific minimal risk levels (MRLs), reviews the health effects database of each profile, and makes recommendations for derivation of MRLs.
3. Data Needs Review. The Research Implementation Branch reviews data needs sections to assure consistency across profiles and adherence to instructions in the Guidance.

PEER REVIEW

A peer review panel was assembled for DDT, DDE, and DDD. The panel consisted of the following members:

1. Dr. D. Andrew Crain, Assistant Professor, Maryville College, Maryville, TN;
2. Dr. Donald Michael Fry, Director, Center for Avian Biology, University of California at Davis;
3. Dr. Christopher Metcalfe, Professor and Chair, Environmental and Resource Studies, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada; and
4. Dr. Mary S. Wolff, Professor of Community Medicine, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY.

These experts collectively have knowledge of DDT, DDE, and DDD's physical and chemical properties, toxicokinetics, key health end points, mechanisms of action, human and animal exposure, and quantification of risk to humans. All reviewers were selected in conformity with the conditions for peer review specified in Section 104(I)(13) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended.

Scientists from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) have reviewed the peer reviewers' comments and determined which comments will be included in the profile. A listing of the peer reviewers' comments not incorporated in the profile, with a brief explanation of the rationale for their exclusion, exists as part of the administrative record for this compound. A list of databases reviewed and a list of unpublished documents cited are also included in the administrative record.

The citation of the peer review panel should not be understood to imply its approval of the profile's final content. The responsibility for the content of this profile lies with the ATSDR.

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	v
QUICK REFERENCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS	vii
CONTRIBUTORS	ix
PEER REVIEW	xi
LIST OF FIGURES	xvii
LIST OF TABLES	xix
1. PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT	1
1.1 WHAT ARE DDT, DDE, AND DDD?	2
1.2 WHAT HAPPENS TO DDT, DDE, AND DDD WHEN THEY ENTER THE ENVIRONMENT?	2
1.3 HOW MIGHT I BE EXPOSED TO DDT, DDE, AND DDD?	4
1.4 HOW CAN DDT, DDE, AND DDD ENTER AND LEAVE MY BODY?	5
1.5 HOW CAN DDT, DDE, AND DDD AFFECT MY HEALTH?	6
1.6 HOW CAN DDT, DDE, AND DDD AFFECT CHILDREN?	8
1.7 HOW CAN FAMILIES REDUCE THE RISK OF EXPOSURE TO DDT, DDE, AND DDD?	10
1.8 IS THERE A MEDICAL TEST TO DETERMINE WHETHER I HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO DDT, DDE, AND DDD?	11
1.9 WHAT RECOMMENDATIONS HAS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MADE TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH?	11
1.10 WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?	13
2. RELEVANCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH	15
2.1 BACKGROUND AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES TO DDT/DDE/DDD IN THE UNITED STATES	15
2.2 SUMMARY OF HEALTH EFFECTS	19
2.3 MINIMAL RISK LEVELS	27
3. HEALTH EFFECTS	33
3.1 INTRODUCTION	33
3.2 DISCUSSION OF HEALTH EFFECTS BY ROUTE OF EXPOSURE	34
3.2.1 Inhalation Exposure	35
3.2.1.1 Death	36
3.2.1.2 Systemic Effects	36
3.2.1.3 Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	37
3.2.1.4 Neurological Effects	37
3.2.1.5 Reproductive Effects	37
3.2.1.6 Developmental Effects	37
3.2.1.7 Cancer	37
3.2.2 Oral Exposure	37

3.2.2.1	Death	72
3.2.2.2	Systemic Effects	74
3.2.2.3	Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	86
3.2.2.4	Neurological Effects	90
3.2.2.5	Reproductive Effects	93
3.2.2.6	Developmental Effects	99
3.2.2.7	Cancer	107
3.2.3	Dermal Exposure	126
3.2.3.1	Death	127
3.2.3.2	Systemic Effects	127
3.2.3.3	Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	128
3.2.3.4	Neurological Effects	129
3.2.3.5	Reproductive Effects	129
3.2.3.6	Developmental Effects	129
3.2.3.7	Cancer	129
3.3	GENOTOXICITY	129
3.4	HEALTH EFFECTS IN WILDLIFE POTENTIALLY RELEVANT TO HUMAN HEALTH	133
3.5	TOXICOKINETICS	138
3.5.1	Absorption	139
3.5.1.1	Inhalation Exposure	139
3.5.1.2	Oral Exposure	139
3.5.1.3	Dermal Exposure	140
3.5.2	Distribution	140
3.5.3	Metabolism	143
3.5.4	Elimination and Excretion	149
3.5.5	Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK)/Pharmacodynamic (PD) Models	151
3.6	MECHANISMS OF ACTION	160
3.6.1	Pharmacokinetic Mechanisms	160
3.6.2	Mechanisms of Toxicity	161
3.6.3	Animal-to-Human Extrapolations	176
3.7	TOXICITIES MEDIATED THROUGH THE NEUROENDOCRINE AXIS	176
3.8	CHILDREN'S SUSCEPTIBILITY	180
3.9	BIOMARKERS OF EXPOSURE AND EFFECT	187
3.9.1	Biomarkers Used to Identify or Quantify Exposure to DDT, DDE, and DDD	188
3.9.2	Biomarkers Used to Characterize Effects Caused by DDT, DDE, and DDD	190
3.10	INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER CHEMICALS	191
3.11	POPULATIONS THAT ARE UNUSUALLY SUSCEPTIBLE	193
3.12	METHODS FOR REDUCING TOXIC EFFECTS	193
3.12.1	Reducing Peak Absorption Following Exposure	194
3.12.2	Reducing Body Burden	194
3.12.3	Interfering with the Mechanism of Action for Toxic Effects	195
3.13	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE	196
3.13.1	Existing Information on Health Effects of DDT, DDE, and DDD	196
3.13.2	Identification of Data Needs	199
3.13.3	Ongoing Studies	210
4.	CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL INFORMATION	215

4.1	CHEMICAL IDENTITY	215
4.2	PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES	215
5.	PRODUCTION, IMPORT/EXPORT, USE, AND DISPOSAL	221
5.1	PRODUCTION	221
5.2	IMPORT/EXPORT	222
5.3	USE	222
5.4	DISPOSAL	223
6.	POTENTIAL FOR HUMAN EXPOSURE	225
6.1	OVERVIEW	225
6.2	RELEASES TO THE ENVIRONMENT	230
6.2.1	Air	230
6.2.2	Water	230
6.2.3	Soil	231
6.3	ENVIRONMENTAL FATE	232
6.3.1	Transport and Partitioning	232
6.3.2	Transformation and Degradation	237
6.3.2.1	Air	237
6.3.2.2	Water	237
6.3.2.3	Sediment and Soil	238
6.4	LEVELS MONITORED OR ESTIMATED IN THE ENVIRONMENT	241
6.4.1	Air	241
6.4.2	Water	244
6.4.3	Sediment and Soil	246
6.4.4	Other Environmental Media	251
6.5	GENERAL POPULATION AND OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE	263
6.6	EXPOSURES OF CHILDREN	278
6.7	POPULATIONS WITH POTENTIALLY HIGH EXPOSURES	279
6.8	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE	281
6.8.1	Identification of Data Needs	281
6.8.2	Ongoing Studies	284
7.	ANALYTICAL METHODS	287
7.1	BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS	287
7.2	ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES	291
7.3	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE	296
7.3.1	Identification of Data Needs	297
7.3.2	Ongoing Studies	298
8.	REGULATIONS AND ADVISORIES	299
9.	REFERENCES	309
10.	GLOSSARY	397
APPENDICES		
A.	ATSDR MINIMAL RISK LEVELS AND WORKSHEETS	A-1

B. USER'S GUIDE B-1

C. ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND SYMBOLS C-1

D. HEALTH EFFECTS IN WILDLIFE POTENTIALLY RELEVANT TO HUMAN
HEALTH D-1

E. INDEX E-1

LIST OF FIGURES

3-1. Levels of Significant Exposure to DDT, DDE, and DDD (except <i>o,p'</i> isomers) - Oral	59
3-2. Levels of Significant Exposure to <i>o,p'</i> -DDT, DDE, and DDD - Oral	69
3-3a. Model I Metabolic Scheme for DDT	147
3-3b. Model II Metabolic Scheme for DDT	148
3-4. Proposed Metabolic Pathway for the Conversion of <i>p,p'</i> -DDE to its Methylsulfone Derivative	152
3-5. Conceptual Representation of a Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) Model for a Hypothetical Chemical Substance	158
3-6. Diagrammatic Representation of the PBPK Model for Gestation	159
3-7. Diagrammatic Representation of the PBPK Model for the Lactating Dam and Nursing Pup	160
3-8. Existing Information of Health Effects of DDT, DDE, and DDD	201
6-1. Frequency of NPL Sites with DDT, DDE, and DDD Contamination	233

LIST OF TABLES

3-1. Levels of Significant Exposure to DDT, DDE, or DDD (except o,p' isomers) - Oral	38
3-2. Levels of Significant Exposure to o,p'-DDT, DDE, and DDD - Oral	65
3-3. Genotoxicity of DDT, DDE, and DDD <i>In Vivo</i>	132
3-4. Genotoxicity of DDT, DDE, and DDD <i>In Vitro</i>	133
3-5. Tissue:Blood Partition Coefficients and Pharmacokinetic Constants for Modeling DDE Disposition in the Pregnant Rat	156
3-6. Physiological Constants Used in the PBPK Model for the Lactating Dam and the Nursing Pup	157
3-7. Ongoing Studies on the Health Effects of DDT and DDT Analogues	215
4-1. Chemical Identity of p,p'- and o,p'-DDT, DDE, and DDD	220
4-2. Physical and Chemical Properties of p,p'- and o,p'-DDT, DDE, and DDD	222
6-1. Concentrations of DDT and Metabolites in Biota	260
6-2. Average Residues in Food Groups and Average Daily Intake from U.S. FDA Total Diet Studies	265
6-3. Mean Daily Intake of DDT Per Unit Body Weight ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ body weight/day) for Various Age Groups in the United States	269
6-4. Levels of DDT Compounds in Human Milk, Blood, and Tissues — Recent Studies	273
7-1. Analytical Methods for Determining DDT, DDE, and DDD in Biological Samples	292
7-2. Analytical Methods for Determining DDT, DDE, and DDD in Environmental Samples	296
8-1. Regulations and Guidelines Applicable to DDT/DDE/DDD	304

