

# Pesticides

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**Pesticides are substances used to control unwanted pests such as insects, weeds, fungi and rodents.**



## Who is most at risk?



**Fetuses**



**Children**



**Agricultural Workers  
and Their Families**

## How are we exposed?

### Inhalation Exposure

Pesticides that are sprayed into the air or that accumulate in dust can be breathed in



### Oral Exposure

Pesticides contaminate food and water and are ingested



### Dermal Exposure

Small amounts of pesticides may enter the body through skin



## What are the health risks?

### Nervous System Effects

Pesticides interfere with how brain cells signal and are linked to cognitive and behavior problems.



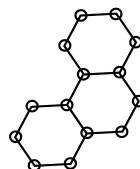
### Cancer

Laboratory experiments and studies of farm workers show that some pesticides have the potential to cause cancer.



### Hormonal System Effects

Pesticides interfere with hormones in the body that control important functions like development and reproduction.



### Respiratory Effects

Exposure to pesticides during pregnancy increases the risk of asthma and wheeze in children. Long term and high dose pesticide exposure can cause respiratory problems.

