

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINANTS: PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

QANUILIRPITAA ? 2017 HEALTH SURVEY

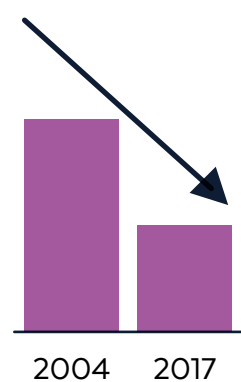
Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are man-made chemicals. Their uses include: pesticides in crop production, water-proof materials (food packaging, outdoor clothing), flame retardants (upholstery, electronics), fire-fighting foams and paints. POPs are transported by ocean and air currents to the North where they accumulate in wildlife.

Older POPs have significantly decreased in the environment and wildlife over the past decades, thanks to international conventions limiting contaminants emissions worldwide. However, new compounds are being used as replacements and need to be monitored.

Older POPs include organochlorinated compounds such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS; including PFOS, PFOA, PFHxS).

More recent POPs: long-chain PFAS (including PFNA, PFDA, PFuDA).

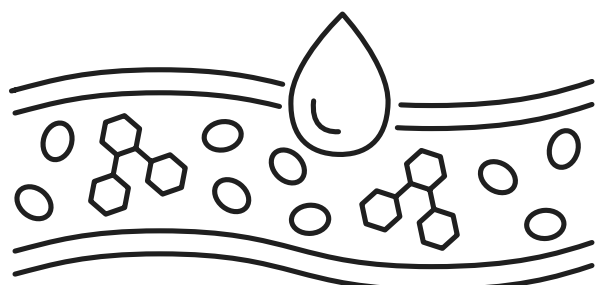
KEY FINDINGS



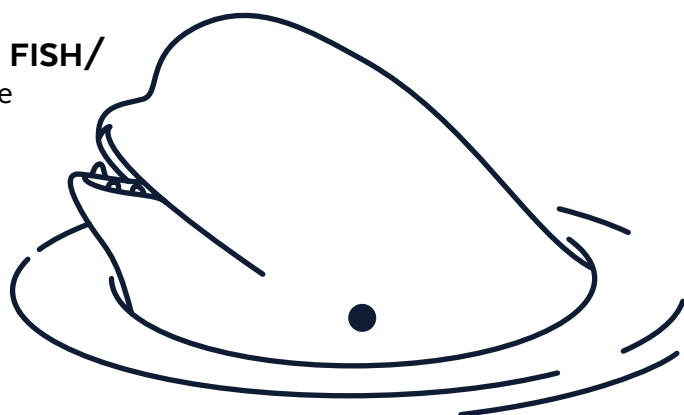
Blood levels of **OLDER POPS** (including PCBs) have **DECREASED BY HALF** between 2017 and 2004, but generally remain higher than elsewhere in Canada.

Blood levels of **MORE RECENT POPs** (long-chain PFAS) are up to seven times **HIGHER** than in the general Canadian population.

**PBDEs were
LARGELY
NOT DETECTED**
in Nunavik in 2017.



Blood concentrations of most POPs were higher in people who reported eating **MARINE MAMMALS** and **FISH/SEAFOOD** more frequently.

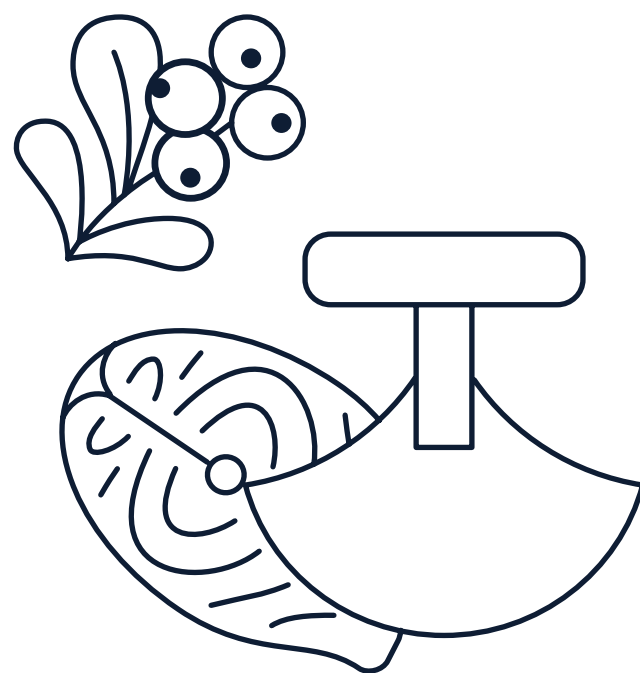


Blood levels of **POPs** were higher among **OLDER NUNAVIMMIUT.**



Exposure to most POPs is associated with living in a **HOUSE IN NEED OF MAJOR REPAIRS**. A possible explanation for this is the presence of POPs in house dust.

COUNTRY FOODS REMAIN THE HEALTHIEST!



Regional organizations and researchers are committed to continue working with the communities to **PROTECT THE EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY OF COUNTRY FOODS** and to advocate against the production and use of these harmful chemicals worldwide.

Qanuillirpita? 2017 is a population health survey carried out in Nunavik from August to October 2017. A total of 1 326 Nunavimmiut aged 16 and over from all 14 villages participated in this survey.



574 aged 16-30
752 aged 31 and +



873
women

453
men

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NUNAVIK 2017

For more information :
nrbhss.ca/en/health-surveys

Nakurmiik to all Nunavimmiut who contributed to this important health survey!