

Teaching Environmental Health With Comic Book materials

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Malta
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About HEAL



Health & Environment Alliance

Over 70 members in >28 countries

Environmental groups

Patient groups / Disease charities

Women's groups

Doctors

Scientists

Youth groups

Nurses

Public Health Research Institutes

Public Health Insurers

*Promoting environmental policies
that contribute to good health*



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Action for Breast Cancer Foundation MALTA

Policy Advocacy in EU Institutions



Bring health science to politicians

- Presented European politicians with the new science on the health effects of pesticides - for the review of pesticides laws (2009).



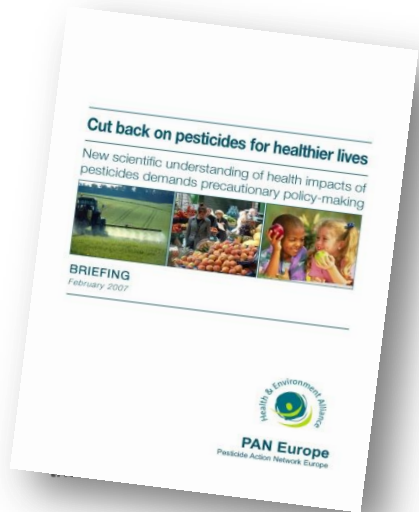
Prof. Philippe Grandjean, presenting the latest scientific evidence on pesticide exposure effects on neurodevelopment.



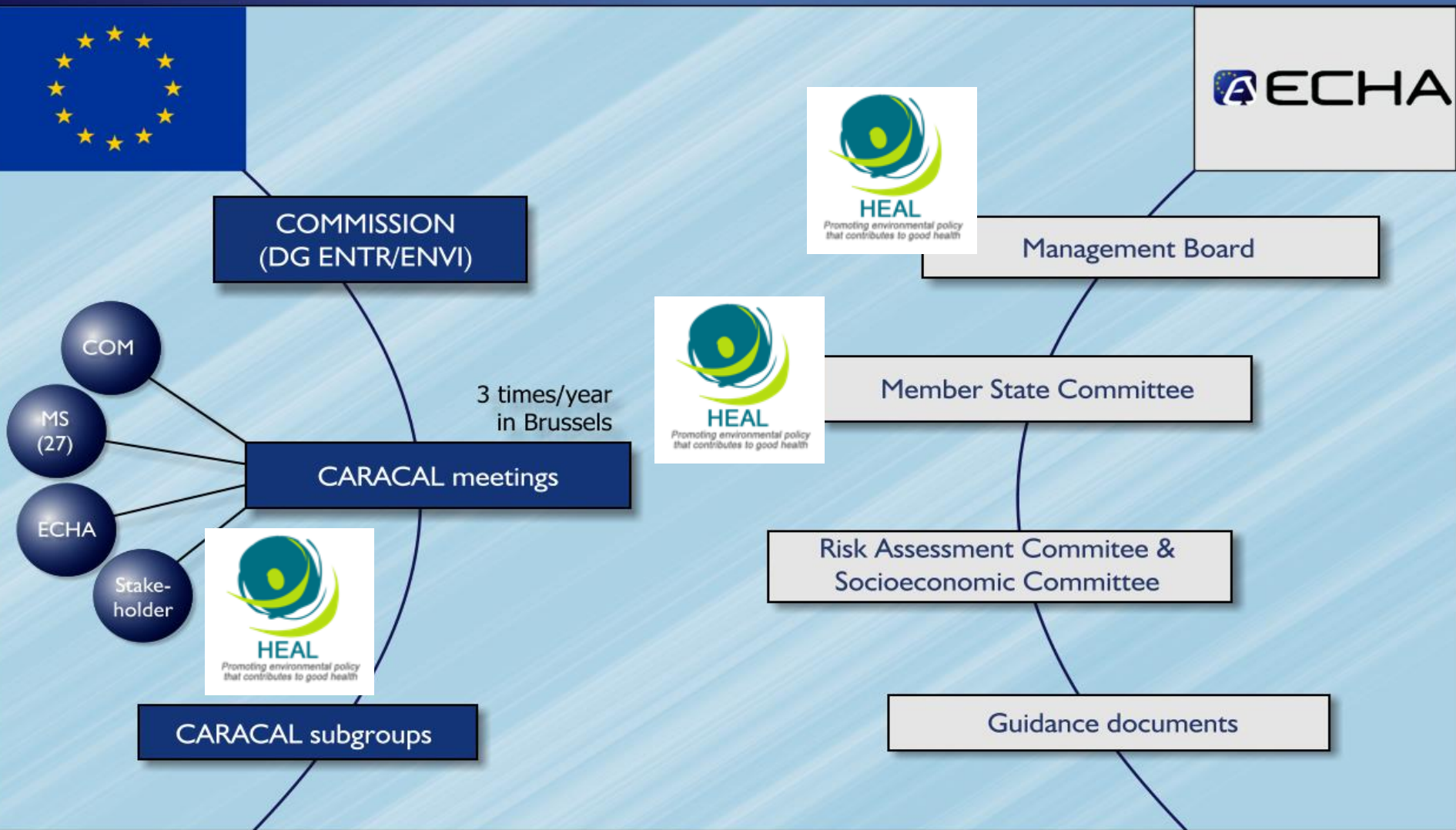
MEPs urged to address "missing link" in fight against cancer



Dr Roberto Bertollini, Director, Special Programme on Health and Environment, WHO Regional Office for Europe.



Monitor implementation of laws



Disseminate the science



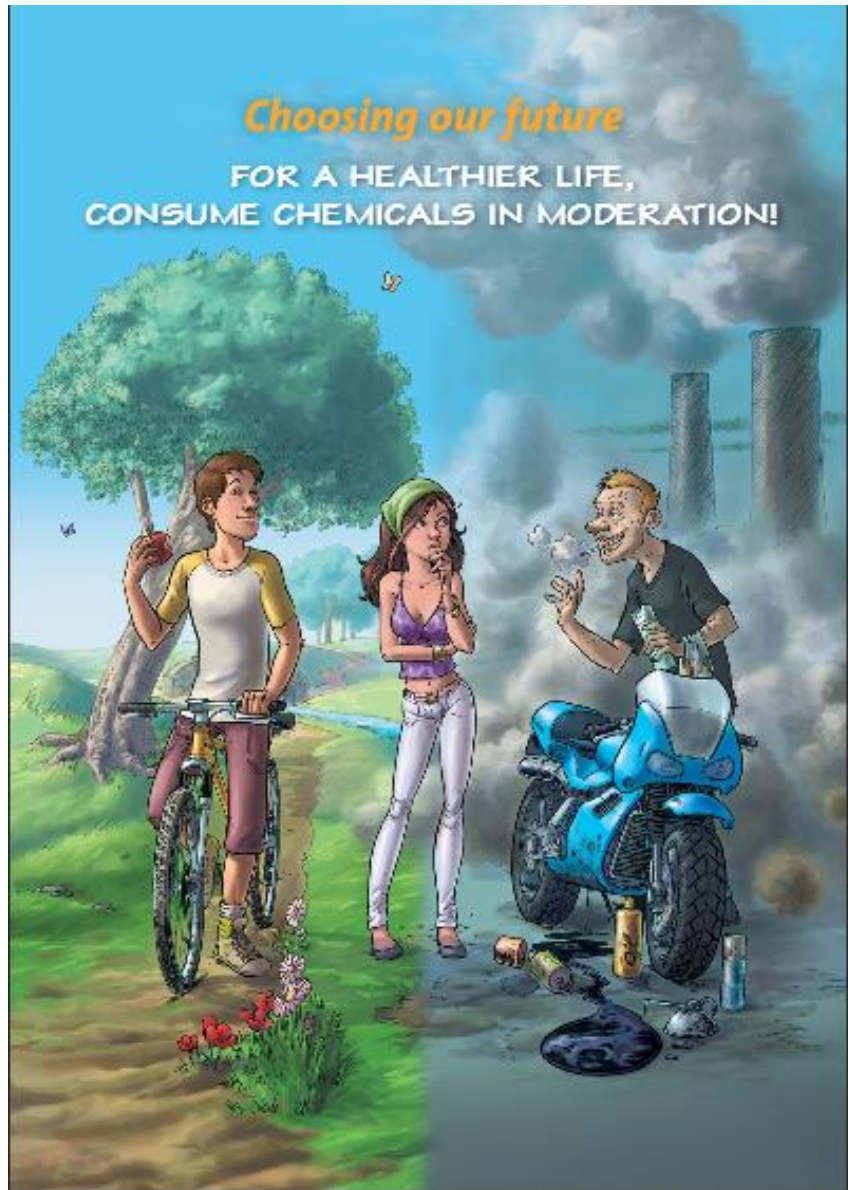
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Choosing Our Future



Why a Comic Book?



[http://env-health.org/
img/pdf/hea_006-12_en.pdf](http://env-health.org/img/pdf/hea_006-12_en.pdf)

- Humor
- Pictures
- Simplicity
- New Science
- **Basic Concepts in
*Environmental
Health***

Four Stories, key concepts - 1

- **Harmful chemicals in everyday things**
 - Food, water, air, consumer products, etc
 - Some last long time / don't break down
 - What we don't know can harm us.



that contributes to good health



No escape from exposure

Reality = mixtures



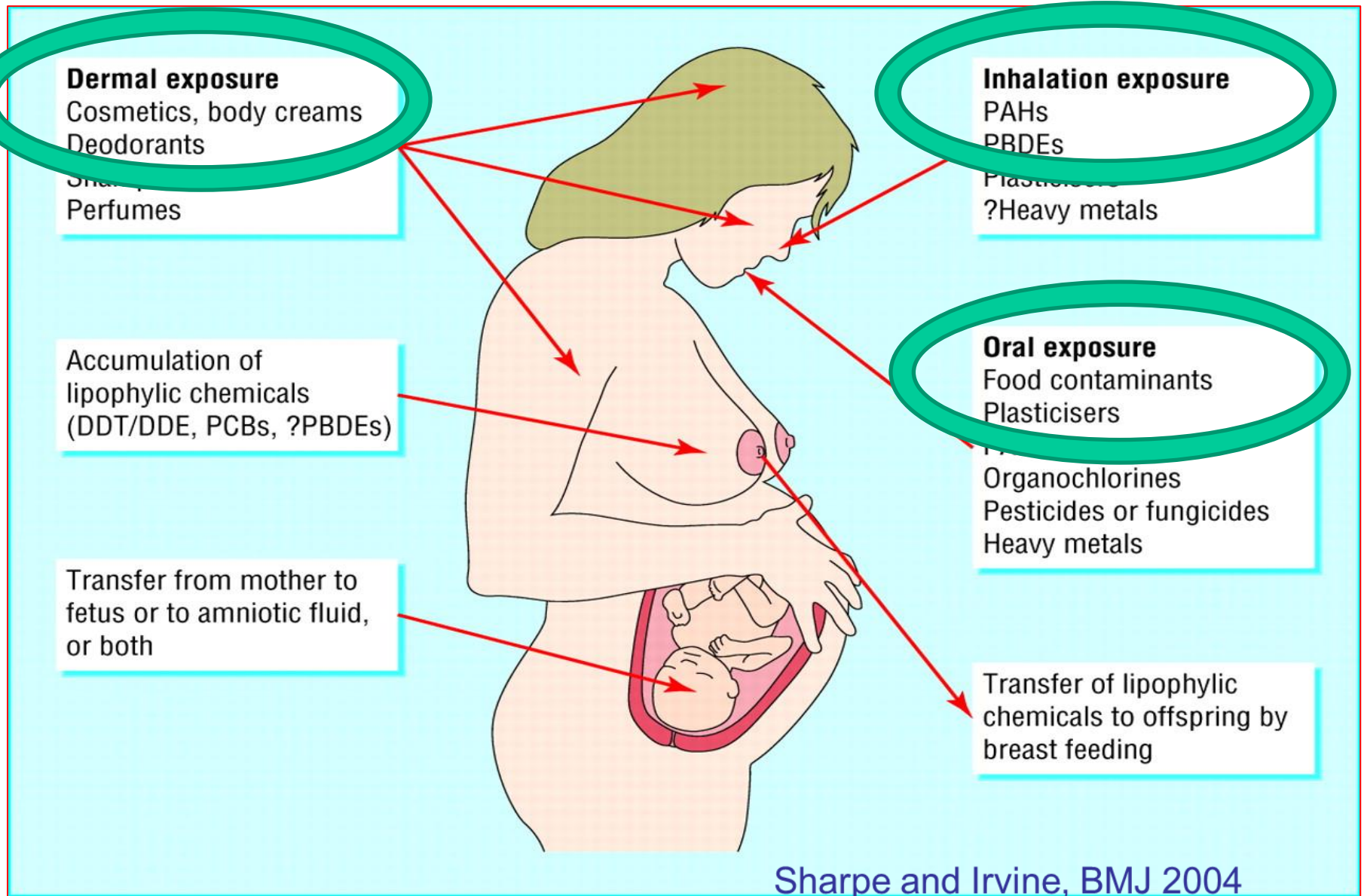
- **Pollution gets into our bodies**
 - Daily re-exposure
 - Build up over time



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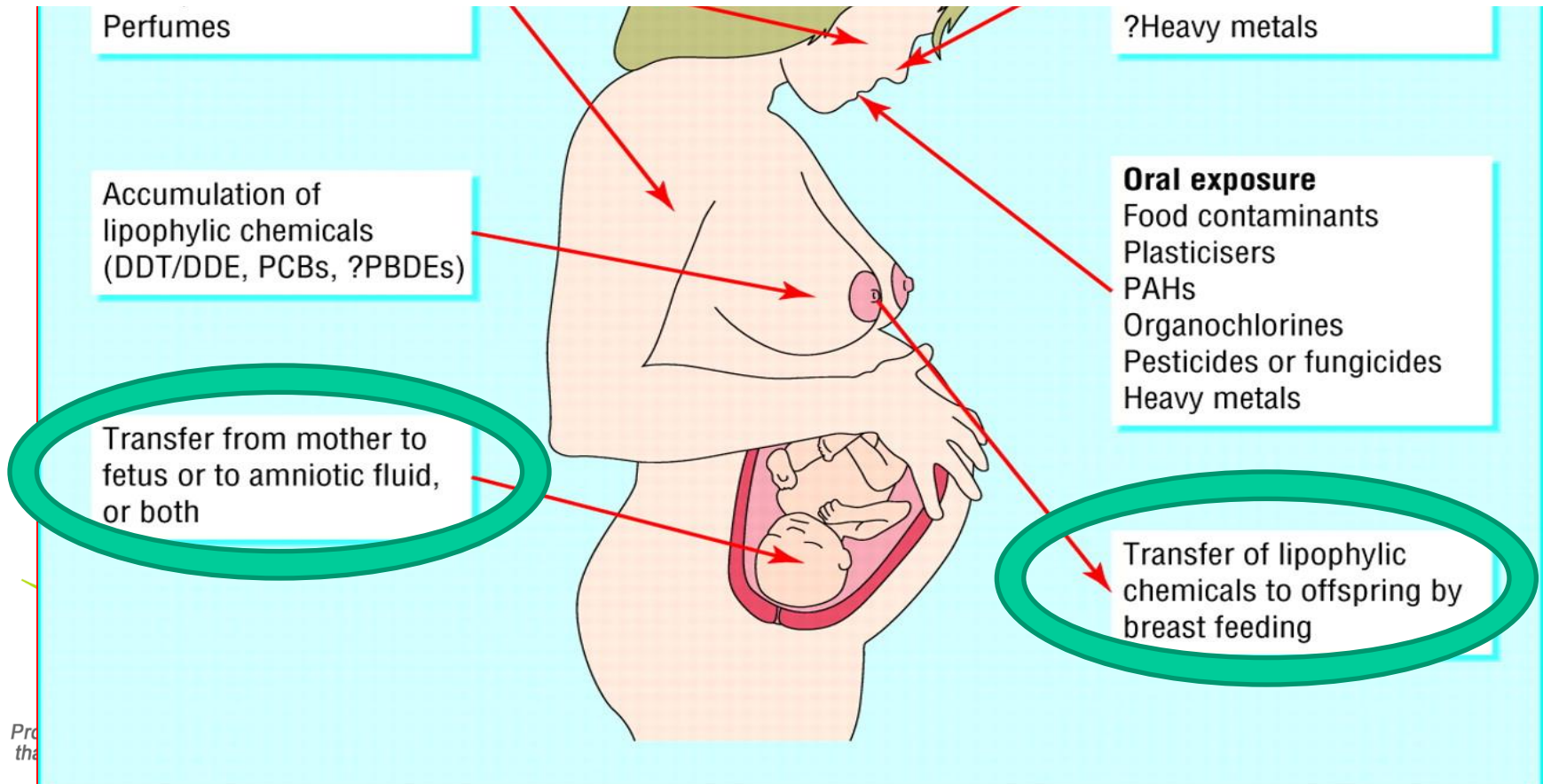
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Key concepts - 2



Key concepts - 3

- **Most vulnerable during key growth phases**
 - babies, young children, pregnant women
 - Timing of even small amounts are a big deal



Key concepts - 4

- **Pollution makes us more likely to get sick**
 - **Cancer:** breast, prostate, testicular, ...
 - **Metabolic:** diabetes, obesity,
 - **Reproductive:** fertility, pregnancy
 - **Neurological:** learning / attention deficit / IQ
 - **Other:** asthma & allergies,

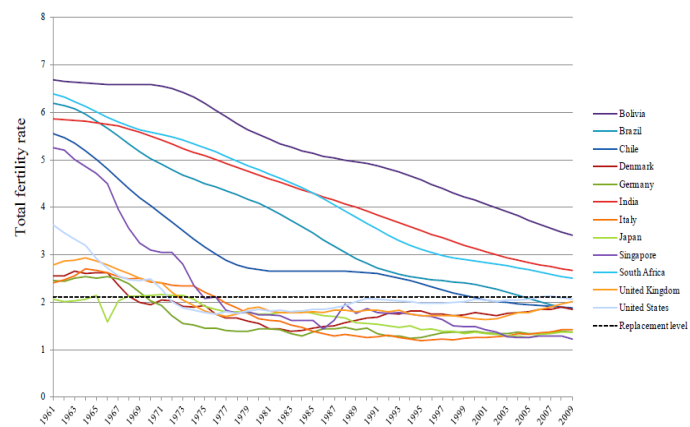
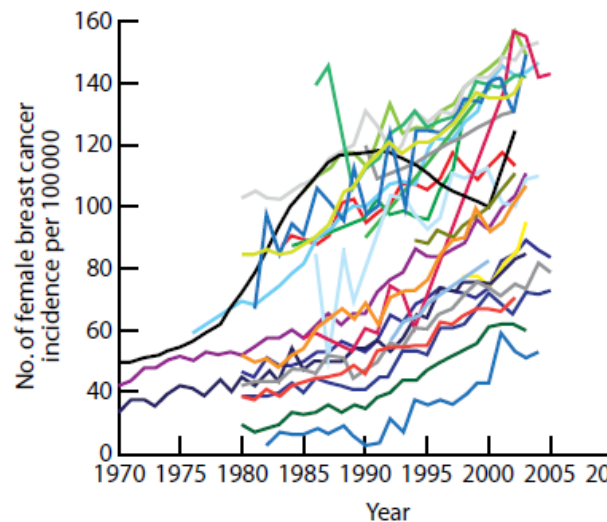
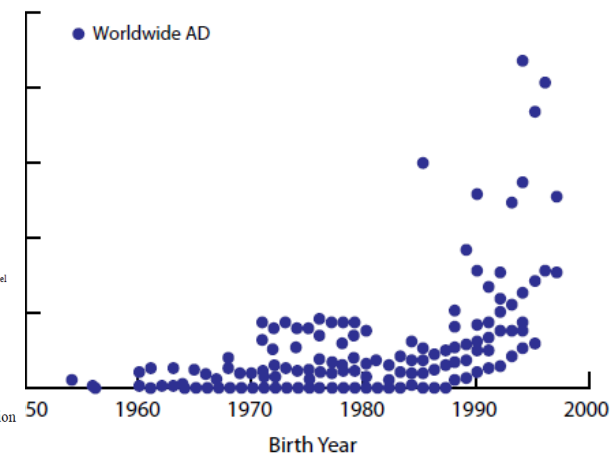


Figure 1. Fertility trends in selected countries from 1961 to 2010. The dotted black line marks the population replacement level of 2.1 children per woman. World DataBank (2012).



Four Stories, key concepts - 5

- **Combinations can be more harmful**
(cocktail effect)

See Chemical Cocktails brochure

English

Maltese



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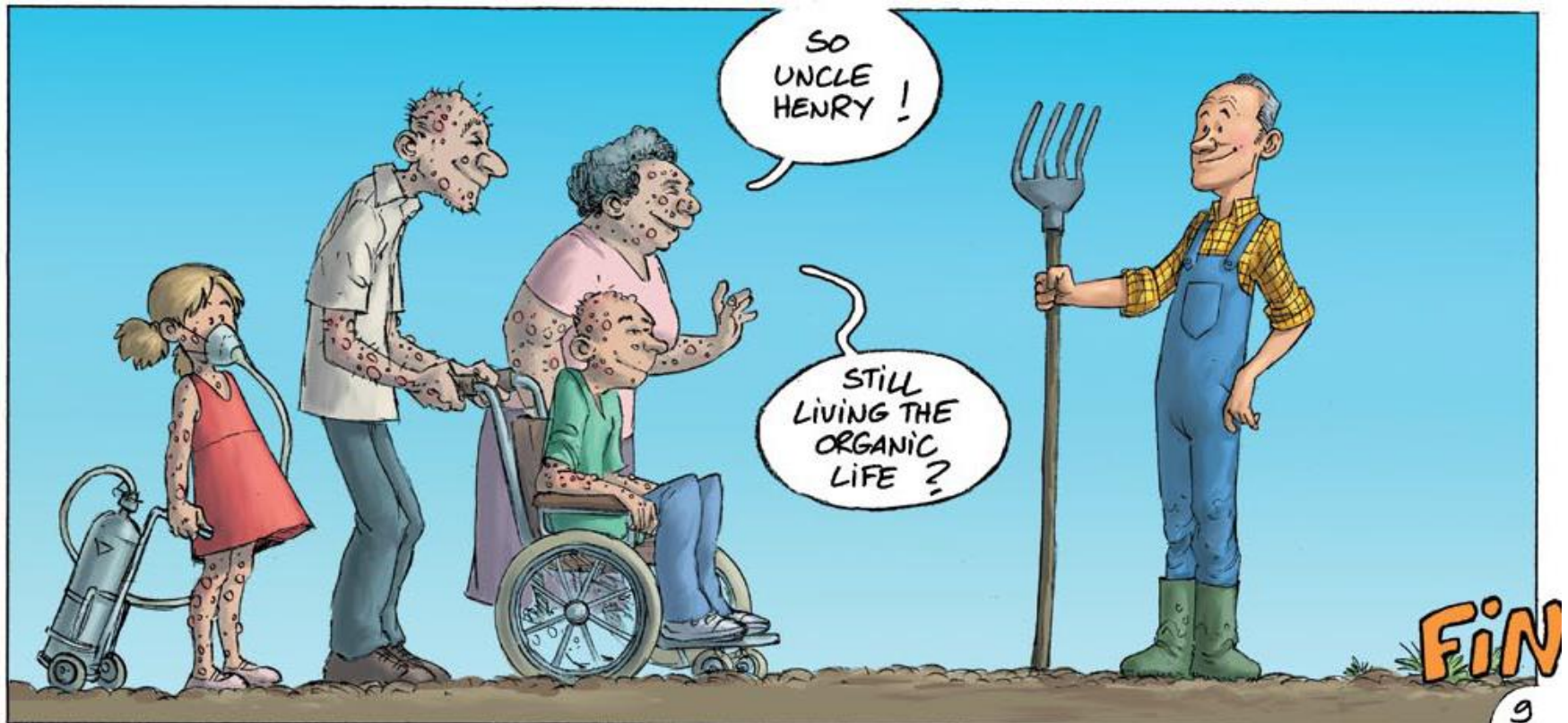
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Four Stories, key concepts - 3

- **Absence of proof of harm
does not equal
proof of safety -> PRECAUTION is necessary**
- **Safer alternatives exist**
- **We have a right to know about pollution
what we're being exposed to**
- **Governments should help protect us from
pollution.**

Crazy Uncle Henry



Crazy Uncle discussion

Town / country – who is from where?

Is countryside always healthier?

How is Henry different from family?

What is organic?

Know anyone growing food without pesticides?

Why are organics good to eat? Have you eaten any?

Where else are pesticides used?

Why could these uses be a problem?

What is an organic life?



How reduce pesticide exposures?

YOUR FOOD

Eating organic

See PAN Europe
Disrupting food guide



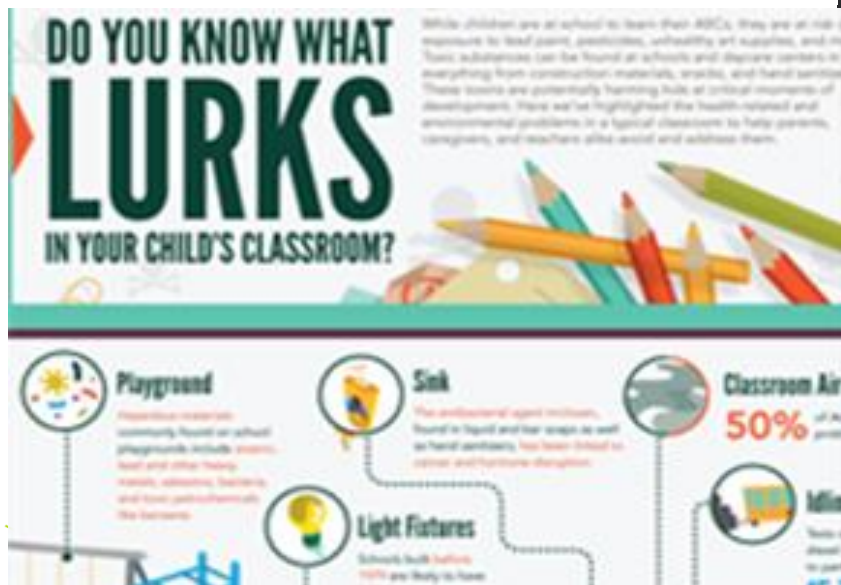
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How reduce pesticide exposures?

YOUR SCHOOL



Healthy Child website

www.healthychild.org/healthy-living/resources

How reduce pesticide exposures?

YOUR PUBLIC PLACES



Further Tools to help you

- Choosing Our Future
Website Resources
- Pesticides in Schools Leaflet
- School Pesticides Survey
- Honolulu CDs
- Toxicology in the Classroom CD
- Healthy Kids Healthy Environment
Student Curriculum



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Teach us

- What you need to better teach environmental health...



THANK YOU!

Questions? Comments?

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