

HOW INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION MIGRATES

FROM THE FARM TO THE GLOBAL TABLE

1 In low and middle-income countries, rapid industrial growth combined with poor environmental protection has resulted in a pollution crisis that is impacting us all.



3 Crops are harvested and sold in nearby cities, some flowing into the global food processing system. Children are at greatest risk from exposure to toxic chemicals in irrigation water.



5 After people become ill from consuming a tainted product, a recall may be issued and the product taken off the shelves.



Global food production system is complex and interdependent. It is not possible to stop imports. The solution is to control pollution at the source.

2 Farmers in climate-stressed areas often have no choice but to use industrial wastewater contaminated with heavy metals to irrigate crops.



4 Only a small fraction of food imports can be tested. Products contaminated with heavy metals, banned pesticides or pathogens can make it through into food store shelves around the world.



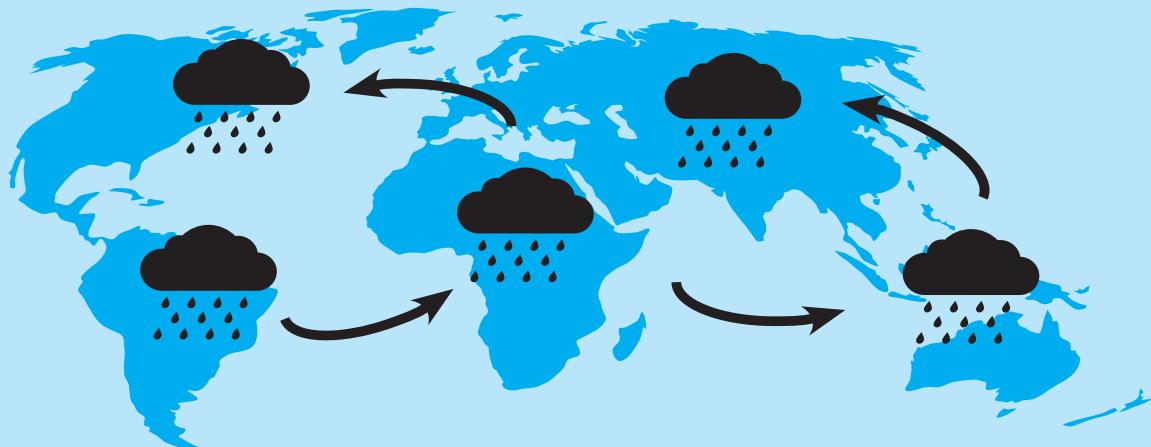
6 Children are being hurt on both ends of the production and consumption chain. Long-term damage to developing brains is especially pernicious.



MERCURY POISONING FROM GOLD MINING

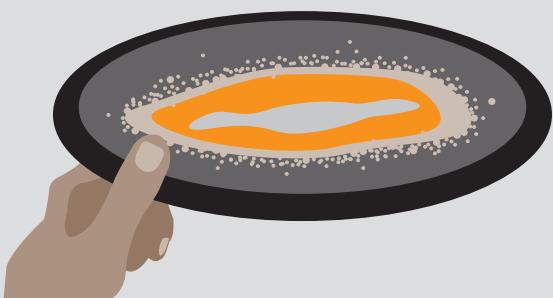
Mercury Travels the Globe

Vaporized mercury gas rises into the atmosphere, travels the globe and falls back to earth in rain or snow, spreading the poison far and wide.



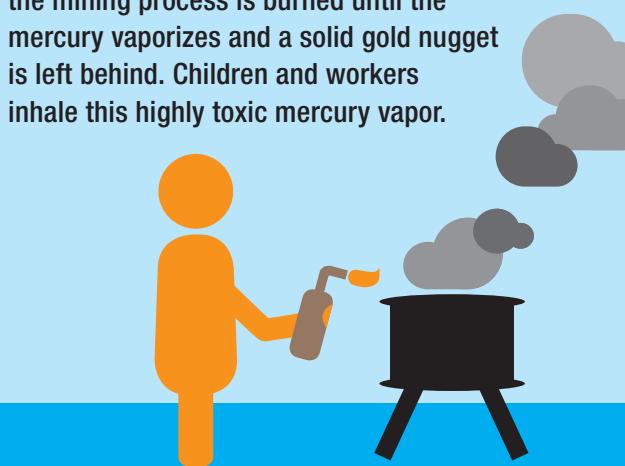
Poisoning Our Water

Water and mercury are used to separate tiny particles of gold from tons of ore manually dug out by miners. Mercury-contaminated water drains into waterways and seeps into groundwater. In addition, the mercury and gold nugget created in the mining process is burned, releasing toxic vapors into the air.



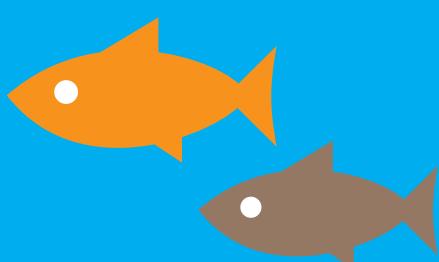
Poisoning Our Air

The mercury & gold nugget created by the mining process is burned until the mercury vaporizes and a solid gold nugget is left behind. Children and workers inhale this highly toxic mercury vapor.



Poisoning the Food We Eat

The mercury deposited in lakes and oceans is transformed into methyl mercury, the most dangerous form. This is ingested by fish and ends up in our grocery stores and on our dinner plates.



Harming Infants & Children Most

Pregnant women are advised to avoid certain fish because methylmercury causes birth defects. Children and adults can suffer neurological damage from consuming too much fish like tuna or halibut.

