



Mercury Facts

Mercury pollution linked to coal plants nationally
43 percent

Mercury pollution linked to coal plants in the Great Lakes states
55-58 percent

Percentage of Illinois waterways contaminated with mercury
100 percent (52 waterways)

Percentage of Illinois waterways covered by Department of Public Health's fish advisory
100 percent (52 waterways)

Rank of Illinois nationally for most severe mercury pollution hot spots
4th

States that have enacted mercury pollution controls for coal plants
Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Wisconsin

States currently taking similar action
Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Virginia

Percentage of women of childbearing age in the U.S. estimated to have mercury levels that could put their developing children at risk
6 to 10 percent

Children born in the U.S. at risk for developmental problems due to mercury exposure
230,000 to 410,000 annually

Women of childbearing age in Illinois whose blood mercury levels likely exceed the federal recommended limit
more than 100,000

Reduction in mercury pollution possible by 2009 by requiring coal plants to install affordable, readily available pollution controls
up to 95 percent

Reduction in mercury pollution required by 2010 by Bush Administration's inadequate Clean Air Mercury Rule
47 percent

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