

TITLE: Campaign for Safe Cosmetics

Authors:

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Institutions:

Breast Cancer Fund in coalition with Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow, Commonweal, Environmental Working Group, Friends of the Earth, Health Care Without Harm, National Environmental Trust, National Black Environmental Justice Network, Women's Voices for the Earth.

Background:

Many brand-name personal care products—soap, shampoos, toothpaste and makeup—contain chemical ingredients linked to cancer and birth defects, according to an analysis by the Environmental Working Group (EWG).

Lack of oversight by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) allows the \$35 billion cosmetics industry to use unlimited amounts of industrial chemicals in personal care products with no required testing, no monitoring of health effects, and without fully disclosing ingredients on the label. By contrast, as of September 2004, the European Union prohibits the use of dangerous chemicals in cosmetics and personal care products.

Work Performed:

The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, educates consumers about the news that many of the personal care products they use each day contain hazardous ingredients. Coalition partner Environmental Working Group released *Skin Deep: A Safety Assessment of Ingredients in Personal Care Products*, an interactive database that catalogs ingredients in over 7,500 personal care products.

The Campaign is currently working with over 180 cosmetic companies that have signed The Compact for Safe Cosmetics, a pledge to eliminate the use of dangerous ingredients from their products. At the same time we work to influence government and other companies throughout the industry to end the use of ingredients linked to health concerns.

Conclusions: Chemicals known or suspected to cause cancer, birth defects, and other serious health concerns don't belong in cosmetics. Continued work by the coalition has shown that consumers want healthier products and that it is entirely possible to produce quality products that do not contain carcinogens.