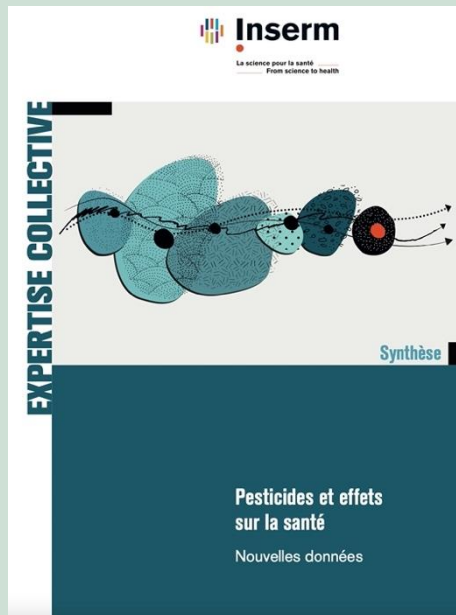




Pesticide newsletter N°5 - September 2021

Civil Society Activities



France: Links between pesticides and some diseases confirmed

In response to concerns about the possible effects of pesticides on human health and more broadly on the environment, the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm) was asked in 2018 to update its 2013 report [Pesticides : Effets sur la santé](#) (Pesticides : effects on health) by five ministerial departments. The group of experts convened by Inserm analyzed the recent scientific literature to examine the link between about twenty pathologies and pesticides and published on June 30, 2021 a very big [collective expertise](#) that reviews the knowledge on the links between pesticide exposure and human health through a critical analysis of more than 5,300 documents from the international scientific literature.

The [conclusions](#) of the updated report confirm the links between pesticide exposure and some diseases:

The expertise confirms the strong presumption of a link between pesticide exposure and six diseases: non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL), multiple myeloma, prostate cancer, Parkinson's disease, cognitive disorders, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and chronic bronchitis. For NHL, the strong presumption of links with active substances (malathion, diazinon, lindane, DDT) and with the chemical family of organophosphate pesticides was specified, as was the link between Parkinson's disease, cognitive disorders and organochlorine insecticides and organophosphates.

The expertise also concludes that there is a strong presumption of a link between maternal exposure to pesticides during pregnancy (through occupational exposure or domestic use) or in the child and the risk of some cancers, in particular leukemia and tumors of the central nervous system .

Mother-child cohort studies have also made it possible to characterize the links between occupational or environmental exposure (i.e. in the general population) of mothers during pregnancy and neuropsychological and motor development disorders in the child.

Populations living near agricultural areas are not immune and may be affected by the drift of products applied to crops.

The strong presumption of a link between exposure to chlordane (insecticide used in the French West Indies in the past) in the general population and the risk of prostate cancer has been confirmed.

For glyphosate, the study concluded that there was an increased risk of NHL with a moderate presumption of a link.

Let's hope that this well-documented report will allow pesticide victims to obtain compensation and policy makers to stop the attacks on our health perpetrated by the agrochemical industry.

[Back to Justice Pesticides website](#)