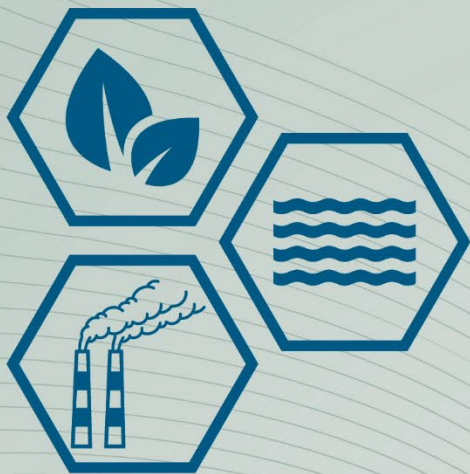




Toxicological Profile for Benzene

Draft for Public Comment

October 2024



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

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DISCLAIMER

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FOREWORD

This toxicological profile is prepared in accordance with guidelines developed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The original guidelines were published in the *Federal Register* on April 17, 1987. Each profile will be revised and republished as necessary.

The ATSDR toxicological profile succinctly characterizes the toxicologic and adverse health effects information for these toxic substances described therein. Each peer-reviewed profile identifies and reviews the key literature that describes a substance's toxicologic properties. Other pertinent literature is also presented, but is described in less detail than the key studies. The profile is not intended to be an exhaustive document; however, more comprehensive sources of specialty information are referenced.

The focus of the profiles is on health and toxicologic information; therefore, each toxicological profile begins with a relevance to public health discussion which would allow a public health professional to make a real-time determination of whether the presence of a particular substance in the environment poses a potential threat to human health. The adequacy of information to determine a substance's health effects is described in a health effects summary. Data needs that are of significance to the protection of public health are identified by ATSDR.

Each profile includes the following:

- (A) The examination, summary, and interpretation of available toxicologic information and epidemiologic evaluations on a toxic substance to ascertain the levels of significant human exposure for the substance and the associated acute, intermediate, and chronic health effects;
- (B) A determination of whether adequate information on the health effects of each substance is available or in the process of development to determine the levels of exposure that present a significant risk to human health due to acute-, intermediate-, and chronic-duration exposures; and
- (C) Where appropriate, identification of toxicologic testing needed to identify the types or levels of exposure that may present significant risk of adverse health effects in humans.

The principal audiences for the toxicological profiles are health professionals at the Federal, State, and local levels; interested private sector organizations and groups; and members of the public. ATSDR plans to revise these documents in response to public comments and as additional data become available. Therefore, we encourage comments that will make the toxicological profile series of the greatest use.

Electronic comments may be submitted via: www.regulations.gov. Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.

Written comments may also be sent to: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
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The toxicological profiles are developed under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (CERCLA or Superfund). CERCLA Section 104(i)(1) directs the Administrator of ATSDR to "...effectuate and implement the health-related authorities" of the statute. This includes the preparation of toxicological profiles for hazardous substances most commonly found at facilities on the CERCLA National Priorities List (NPL) and that pose the most significant potential threat to human health, as determined by ATSDR and the EPA. Section 104(i)(3) of CERCLA, as amended, directs the Administrator of ATSDR to prepare a toxicological profile for each substance on the list. In addition, ATSDR has the authority to prepare toxicological profiles for substances not found at sites on the NPL, in an effort to "...establish and maintain inventory of literature, research, and studies on the health effects of toxic substances" under CERCLA Section 104(i)(1)(B), to respond to requests for consultation under Section 104(i)(4), and as otherwise necessary to support the site-specific response actions conducted by ATSDR.

This profile reflects ATSDR's assessment of all relevant toxicologic testing and information that has been peer-reviewed. Staffs of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other Federal scientists have also reviewed the profile. In addition, this profile has been peer-reviewed by a nongovernmental panel and is being made available for public review. Final responsibility for the contents and views expressed in this toxicological profile resides with ATSDR.



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VERSION HISTORY

Date	Description
October 2024	Draft for public comment toxicological profile released
June 2015	Addendum to the toxicological profile released
August 2007	Final toxicological profile released
September 1997	Final toxicological profile released
April 1993	Final toxicological profile released
May 1989	Final toxicological profile released

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ATSDR scientists review peer reviewers' comments and determine whether changes will be made to the profile based on comments. The peer reviewers' comments and responses to these comments are part of the administrative record for this compound.

The listing of peer reviewers should not be understood to imply their approval of the profile's final content. The responsibility for the content of this profile lies with ATSDR.

CONTENTS

DISCLAIMER	ii
FOREWORD	iii
VERSION HISTORY	v
CONTRIBUTORS & REVIEWERS	vi
CONTENTS.....	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
LIST OF TABLES.....	x
CHAPTER 1. RELEVANCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH	1
1.1 OVERVIEW AND U.S. EXPOSURES	1
1.2 SUMMARY OF HEALTH EFFECTS.....	2
1.3 MINIMAL RISK LEVELS (MRLs)	5
CHAPTER 2. HEALTH EFFECTS.....	9
2.1 INTRODUCTION.....	9
2.2 DEATH	61
2.3 BODY WEIGHT.....	63
2.4 RESPIRATORY.....	65
2.5 CARDIOVASCULAR.....	66
2.6 GASTROINTESTINAL.....	67
2.7 HEMATOLOGICAL	67
2.8 MUSCULOSKELETAL	81
2.9 HEPATIC.....	81
2.10 RENAL.....	83
2.11 DERMAL	84
2.12 OCULAR	84
2.13 ENDOCRINE.....	85
2.14 IMMUNOLOGICAL	86
2.15 NEUROLOGICAL.....	90
2.16 REPRODUCTIVE	93
2.17 DEVELOPMENTAL	95
2.18 CANCER.....	97
2.19 GENOTOXICITY	121
2.20 MECHANISMS OF ACTION	128
CHAPTER 3. TOXICOKINETICS, SUSCEPTIBLE POPULATIONS, BIOMARKERS, CHEMICAL INTERACTIONS.....	131
3.1 TOXICOKINETICS.....	131
3.1.1 Absorption.....	131
3.1.2 Distribution	138
3.1.3 Metabolism.....	141
3.1.4 Excretion	150
3.1.5 Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK)/Pharmacodynamic (PD) Models	156
3.1.6 Animal-to-Human Extrapolations	178
3.2 CHILDREN AND OTHER POPULATIONS THAT ARE UNUSUALLY SUSCEPTIBLE	179
3.3 BIOMARKERS OF EXPOSURE AND EFFECT	183

3.3.1	Biomarkers of Exposure.....	184
3.3.2	Biomarkers of Effect.....	184
3.4	INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER CHEMICALS	185
CHAPTER 4. CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL INFORMATION		188
4.1	CHEMICAL IDENTITY	188
4.2	PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES	188
CHAPTER 5. POTENTIAL FOR HUMAN EXPOSURE		190
5.1	OVERVIEW.....	190
5.2	PRODUCTION, IMPORT/EXPORT, USE, AND DISPOSAL	192
5.2.1	Production	192
5.2.2	Import/Export.....	196
5.2.3	Use	197
5.2.4	Disposal.....	199
5.3	RELEASES TO THE ENVIRONMENT.....	200
5.3.1	Air	200
5.3.2	Water.....	205
5.3.3	Soil	206
5.4	ENVIRONMENTAL FATE	206
5.4.1	Transport and Partitioning.....	206
5.4.2	Transformation and Degradation	208
5.5	LEVELS IN THE ENVIRONMENT	213
5.5.1	Air	215
5.5.2	Water.....	223
5.5.3	Sediment and Soil	226
5.5.4	Other Media	227
5.6	GENERAL POPULATION EXPOSURE.....	231
5.7	POPULATIONS WITH POTENTIALLY HIGH EXPOSURES	241
CHAPTER 6. ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE.....		248
6.1	EXISTING INFORMATION ON HEALTH EFFECTS	248
6.2	IDENTIFICATION OF DATA NEEDS	248
6.3	ONGOING STUDIES.....	259
CHAPTER 7. REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES		260
CHAPTER 8. REFERENCES		263
APPENDICES		
APPENDIX A. ATSDR MINIMAL RISK LEVEL WORKSHEETS		A-1
APPENDIX B. LITERATURE SEARCH FRAMEWORK FOR BENZENE		B-1
APPENDIX C. FRAMEWORK FOR ATSDR'S SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF HEALTH EFFECTS DATA FOR BENZENE		C-1
APPENDIX D. USER'S GUIDE		D-1
APPENDIX E. QUICK REFERENCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS		E-1
APPENDIX F. GLOSSARY		F-1
APPENDIX G. ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND SYMBOLS.....		G-1

LIST OF FIGURES

1-1. Health Effects Found in Animals Following Inhalation Exposure to Benzene	3
1-2. Health Effects Found in Animals Following Oral Exposure to Benzene	4
1-3. Summary of Sensitive Targets of Benzene – Inhalation.....	6
1-4. Summary of Sensitive Targets of Benzene – Oral.....	7
2-1. Overview of the Number of Studies Examining Benzene Health Effects	13
2-2. Levels of Significant Exposure to Benzene – Inhalation.....	33
2-3. Levels of Significant Exposure to Benzene – Oral.....	51
2-4. Mechanisms of Action for Benzene-Induced Hematological and Immunological Effects and Leukemogenesis	130
3-1. Metabolic Pathways for Benzene	142
3-2. General Structure of Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic Models of Benzene	160
5-1. Number of NPL Sites with Benzene Contamination	190
5-2. Environmental Transformation Products of Benzene in Various Media.....	209
5-3. Benzene Emissions and Exposures.....	239
6-1. Summary of Existing Health Effects Studies on Benzene by Route and Endpoint.....	249

LIST OF TABLES

1-1. Minimal Risk Levels (MRLs) for Benzene	8
2-1. Levels of Significant Exposure to Benzene – Inhalation.....	14
2-2. Levels of Significant Exposure to Benzene – Oral.....	42
2-3. Levels of Significant Exposure to Benzene – Dermal.....	60
2-4. Results of Epidemiological Studies Evaluating Exposure to Benzene and Hematological Effects.....	69
2-5. Hematological Effects of Inhalation Exposure to Benzene in Mice and Rats	74
2-6. Hematological Effects of Oral Exposure to Benzene in Mice and Rats (Ordered by Exposure Duration).....	78
2-7. Immunological Effects of Inhalation and Oral Exposure to Benzene in Mice and Rats	87
2-8. Results of Epidemiological Studies Evaluating Occupational Exposure to Benzene and Reproductive Effects	93
2-9. Summary of Cohort Studies and Meta-Analyses Evaluating Associations Between Occupational Exposure to Benzene and Risk of Death from Lymphatic-Hematopoietic Cancers	99
2-10. Summary of Inhalation Studies Evaluating Tumor Response in Rodents.....	108
2-11. Summary of Oral Studies Evaluating Tumor Response in Rodents.....	116
2-12. Genotoxicity of Benzene <i>In Vivo</i>	121
2-13. Genotoxicity of Benzene <i>In Vitro</i>	124
3-1. Summary Comparison of Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic Models for Benzene	157
4-1. Chemical Identity of Benzene	188
4-2. Physical and Chemical Properties of Benzene	189
5-1. Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use Benzene	192
5-2. U.S. Manufacturers of Benzene Reported to the CDR in 2019.....	195
5-3. Releases to the Environment from Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use Benzene.....	200
5-4. National Emission Inventory (NEI) Total National Emissions for Benzene Estimated by Sector 2020.....	203
5-5. Lowest Limit of Detection Based on Standards	214
5-6. Summary of Environmental Levels of Benzene.....	214

5-7. Benzene Levels in Water, Soil, and Air of National Priorities List (NPL) Sites.....	214
5-8. Historical Comparison of Benzene Levels in Urban Air.....	216
5-9. Summary of Annual Concentrations of Benzene (ppbv) Measured in Ambient Air at Locations Across the United States	216
5-10. Summary of Benzene in Outdoor Air (ppbv) Near Selected Schools Across the United States	221
5-11. Summary of Benzene Concentrations (ppb) in Surface and Groundwater Across the United States	224
5-12. Summary of Benzene in Food and Beverages	228
5-13. Benzene in Whole-Blood Samples (ng/mL) of the U.S. Population (2017–2018).....	232
5-14. Benzene in Whole Blood Samples (ng/mL) of the U.S. Smoking and Nonsmoking Populations (2015–2016).....	232
5-15. Urinary Metabolites of Benzene (ng/mL) in the U.S. Population (2017–2018).....	234
5-16. Benzene in Personal Air Monitoring ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) of the U.S. Adult Population (1999–2000).....	235
5-17. Estimated RME Daily Inhalation Dose and Administered Dermal Dose for the Target Person	236
5-18. Percentage of Employees Exposed to Benzene by Exposure Level and Industry Division (1987)	245
6-1. Ongoing Studies on Benzene.....	259
7-1. Regulations and Guidelines Applicable to Benzene.....	260