

This month in EHP

The December issue of Environmental Health Perspectives (EHP) (<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/>) reports on promising signs of recovery in Detroit and examines the reuse of wastewater for drinking.



Arising from the Ashes: Environmental Health in Detroit

Without visiting Detroit, it is easy to imagine a ruined metropolis, but even the most cursory inspection offers evidence of resilience in the face of repeated economic and environmental injuries. In the words of Detroit's motto, "We hope for better things; it will arise from the ashes."

Advanced Thinking: Potable Reuse Strategies Gain Traction

An estimated 22 trillions gallons of wastewater are produced annually in North America. The reuse of this wastewater for drinking is not a new idea, but it is getting more attention as the squeeze tightens between drinking-water supply and demand.

Featured research and related news articles this month include:

- **Ritual Risk: Incense Use and Cardiovascular Mortality** — Scientists find an association between long-term incense use and increased cardiovascular mortality.
- **Assessing the Impact of Aerial Pesticide Spraying: Mancozeb Exposures Among Pregnant Women Living near Banana Plantations** — Researchers report that pregnant women living near banana plantations in Costa Rica have elevated urinary levels of ethylene thiourea, a metabolite of mancozeb, at levels nearly twice the normal limit of pregnant women in California who lived near ground spraying of the pesticide.
- **PFOA [Perfluorooctanoic Acid or C8] and High Cholesterol: Basis for the Finding of a Probable Link** — The C8 Science Panel finds a probable link between exposure to PFOA and high cholesterol.
- **EDCs [Estrogen-disrupting Chemicals] and Estrogen Receptor Activity: A Pathway to Safer Chemical Design?** — Biochemical, structural, biophysical, and cell-based experiments reveal critical information about the interaction of 12 EDCs with estrogen receptors.

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