

Turkey has ratified the Stockholm Convention in 2010 and since then submitted national implementation plans to the Secretariat. As part of the process, Turkey is currently preparing to start a nation-wide monitoring plan for POPs. A nation-wide monitoring study would provide valuable spatial data which could then be used for a comprehensive risk assessment. Since, currently such spatially resolved PCB levels are not available, this study can only investigate the risk levels of the cities in which scientific studies were conducted. Therefore, the provincial distribution is biased, i.e. showing Aliğa and Kocaeli to be the provinces having the highest cancer risk. As monitoring data with proper spatial resolution becomes available, congener-specific risk assessment studies covering all of Turkey will be possible.

Even though the worst-case scenarios were studied with the highest values from the literature, this is the first study that attempts risk assessment of PCBs in Turkey which shows that in highly populated and/or highly industrialized cities in Turkey, cancer risk due to PCBs is of concern. Systematic monitoring of all POPs to reveal environmental levels in a variety of media would enable better and more informed decisions on chemicals to be made by the Turkish government.

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