

# Analysis of the EPA Data

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## Summary

OTA examined a subset (20 chemicals) of the EPA monitoring data. Differences were noted in frequencies of detection for this subset between the emergency declaration area (EDA) and control areas. Four chemicals (1,2- and 1,3-dichlorobenzene and 2- and 4-chlorotoluene) were found to be present in the EDA at greater frequencies than the control areas. The differences were significant, but the concentrations were low.

## Statistical Analysis of Indicator Substances

OTA disaggregated the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) monitoring data to allow an examination of a subset of "indicator substances," toxic chemicals known to have been disposed in the canal landfill. Twenty chemicals were identified for the OTA analysis; only 16 of them had sufficient data. Frequencies of detection for the 16 substances were compared between the EDA and control areas.<sup>1</sup> The method of analysis was the Mantel-Haenszel procedure. This procedure assumes similar patterns across those media that contain one positive sample; if a chemical is found in one medium in a region, it is assumed that the chemical may be found in the other media in the same region. The finding of no detectable levels in both regions has no effect on the assumptions.

The results of Mantel-Haenszel analysis are shown in table D-5. The EDA was found to have a significantly higher frequency of positive detections than the control area for four chemicals: 1,2- and 1,3-dichlorobenzene, 2- and 4-chlorotoluene. Table D-1 illustrates the results for one compound, 1,2-dichlorobenzene. A higher rate of positive samples was found in the EDA and the difference is statistically significant.\* The odds of finding a positive sample in the EDA is 7.5 times greater than that for the control areas. It should be noted that no comparison can be made with six of the submedia, as no control samples were analyzed. The EPA data used in this analysis are presented in tables D-2, D-3, and D-4. EPA found significant differences for 2-chlorotoluene and 1,2-dichlorobenzene in air between EDA and control areas. It should be noted that

**Table D-1.—Odds Ratio<sup>a</sup> and Detection Rates for 1,2-Dichlorobenzene**

Medium	EDA	Love Canal control area v. control area
	7.5 (.001)	4.2 (.05)
Shallow well.....	0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0
	47 <sup>c</sup>	11
Deep well .....	0.04	0.0
	28	14
Sump water .....	0.0	0.0
	104	4
Surface water.....	0.0	0.0
	4	5
Drinking water .....	0.0	0.0
	30	4
Storm sewer water .....	0.11	0.0
	9	1
Sanitary sewer water .....	1.00	—
	1	0
Soil .....	0.01	0.0
	105	9
Storm sewer sediment .....	0.07	—
	15	0
Surface water sediment .....	0.30	0.0
	4	4
Living area air .....	0.42	0.10
	539	30
Basement air .....	0.34	—
	88	0
Outdoor air.....	0.10	—
	83	0
Oatmeal .....	—	—
	0	0
Potatoes .....	—	—
	0	0
Crayfish .....	0.0	0.0
	31	9
Mice .....	0.0	0.0
	35	32
Worms.....	0.0	0.0
	19	5

<sup>a</sup>The odds ratio (P-value) indicates the odds of observing a sample with 1,2-dichlorobenzene in one region compared to another.

<sup>b</sup>Frequency of samples containing 1,2-dichlorobenzene.

<sup>c</sup>Total number of samples analyzed.

SOURCE: Cupples, op. cit.

1,4-dichlorobenzene was found to be more frequently detected in the control areas than in the EDA. The absence of significant differences for the other compounds may be due to inadequate sampling for controls and cannot be interpreted as strong evidence that the EDA and controls are similar in levels of contamination. It should be noted that these same four chemicals were detected in leachate sludge obtained at the

<sup>1</sup>L. A. Cupples, Boston University School of Public Health, report submitted to OTA, Industry, Technology, and Employment Program, May 1983.

\*Significant refers to a 90-percent confidence level or greater.

**Table D-2.—Detection (+) of Indicator Substance and Numbers of Samples Analyzed (n) for Environmental Media in the Control Areas**

Indicator substance	Environmental media and submedia <sup>a</sup>																					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
+/n	+/n	+/n	+/n	+/n	+/n	+/n	+/n	+/n	+/n	+/n	+/n	+/n	+/n	+/n	+/n	+/n	+/n	+/n	+/n	+/n	+/n	
Gamma-BHC (Lindane)	3/11	3/15	1/5	0/5	0/5	0/1	0/0	0/9	0/0	0/0	0/0	3/5	0/28	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/33
Chlorobenzene	0/11	3/16	0/5	0/5	1/5	0/1	0/0	0/17	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/4	0/31	0/0	0/0	0/4	0/3	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/5
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	0/11	0/14	0/4	0/4	0/4	0/4	0/1	0/0	0/9	0/0	0/0	0/4	3/30	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
1,3-Dichlorobenzene	0/11	0/14	0/4	0/4	0/4	0/1	0/0	0/9	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/5
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	0/11	0/14	0/4	0/4	0/4	0/1	0/0	0/9	0/0	0/0	0/0	2/4	18/30	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene	0/11	0/14	0/4	0/5	0/4	0/1	0/0	0/9	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/4	0/28	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	0/11	0/14	0/4	0/5	0/4	0/1	0/0	0/9	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/4	0/28	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
1,3,5-Trichlorobenzene	0/11	0/14	0/4	0/4	0/4	0/1	0/0	0/9	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/4	0/28	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
1,2,3,4-Tetrachlorobenzene	0/11	0/14	0/4	0/5	0/4	0/1	0/0	0/9	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/4	0/28	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
1,2,3,5-Tetrachlorobenzene	0/10	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
1,2,4,5-Tetrachlorobenzene	0/11	0/14	0/4	0/5	0/4	0/1	0/0	0/9	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
Pentachlorobenzene	0/10	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
Hexachlorobenzene	0/11	0/14	0/4	0/5	0/4	0/1	0/0	0/9	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/4	0/28	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
2-Chloronaphthalene	0/11	0/14	0/4	0/5	0/4	0/1	0/0	0/9	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
$\alpha$ -Chlorotoluene	0/11	0/16	0/5	0/3	0/5	0/1	0/0	0/17	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/4	0/3	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
2-Chlorotoluene	0/11	0/16	0/5	0/5	0/3	0/1	0/0	0/17	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/4	2/30	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/4	0/3	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
3-Chlorotoluene	0/11	2/16	0/5	0/3	0/5	0/1	0/0	0/17	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/4	0/3	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
4-Chlorotoluene	0/11	0/16	0/5	0/3	0/5	0/1	0/0	0/17	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/4	2/31	0/0	0/0	0/4	0/3	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
2,4-Dichlorotoluene	0/11	0/14	0/4	0/5	0/4	0/1	0/0	0/9	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
$\alpha,\omega$ -2,6-Tetrachlorotoluene	0/10	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
Totals	4/187	8/249	1/74	0/77	1/74	0/17	0/0	0/193	0/0	0/15	0/0	7/69	25/348	0/0	0/0	0/20	0/15	0/108	0/0	0/0	0/0	8/353
Detection frequencies (%)	2.1	3.2	1.4	0	1.4	0	—	0	—	0	—	10.1	7.2	—	—	0	0	0	—	—	5.1	3.3

<sup>a</sup>Water.

Soil.

Sediment.

Air.

1) shallow well,

6) soil,

9) sump,

10) deep well,

13) living area,

14) storm sewer,

16) oatmeal,

17) basement,

18) crayfish,

19) outdoor; and

20) maple,

21) mice,

22) worms.

SOURCE: USEPA, op. cit., vol. III.

**Table D-3.—Detection (+) of Indicator Substance and Numbers of Samples Analyzed (n) for Environmental Media in the EDA**

	Environmental media end submedia*																					
	1 + /n	2 + /n	3 + /n	4 + /n	5 + /n	6 + /n	7 + /n	8 + /n	9 + /n	10 + /n	11 + /n	12 + /n	13 + /n	14 + /n	15 + /n	18 + /n	17 + /n	18 + /n	19 + /n	20 + /n	21 + /n	22 + /n
Gamma-BHC (Lindane) . . . . .	12/47	3/29	19/105	1/3	3/31	4/7	1/1	7/109	0/0	6/13	0/0	4/4	2/292	0/84	0/79	0/0	0/0	0/31	0/0	0/0	0/136	0/8
Chlorobenzene . . . . .	1/43	2/30	2/104	0/4	7/31	0/9	0/1	3/212	0/0	3/15	0/1	3/4	8/540	1/88	2/83	0/13	0/12	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
1,2-Dichlorobenzene. . . . .	0/47	1/28	0/104	0/4	0/30	1/9	1/1	1/105	0/0	1/15	0/0	2/4	227/539	29/86	8/83	0/0	0/0	0/31	0/0	0/0	0/35	0/19
1,3-Dichlorobenzene. . . . .	0/47	1/28	2/104	0/4	0/30	1/9	1/1	0/105	0/0	1/15	0/0	2/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/31	0/0	0/0	0/35	0/19
1,4-Dichlorobenzene. . . . .	0/47	1/28	12/104	0/4	0/30	1/9	0/1	1/105	0/0	1/15	0/0	2/4	8/539	14/86	1/83	0/0	0/0	0/31	0/0	0/0	0/35	0/19
1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene. . . . .	0/47	0/28	0/104	0/4	0/15	2/9	1/1	0/105	0/0	0/7	0/0	1/4	0/292	0/84	1/79	0/0	0/0	0/31	0/0	0/0	0/35	0/19
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene. . . . .	0/47	0/28	0/104	0/4	0/30	3/9	1/1	0/105	0/0	6/15	0/0	2/4	6/292	0/84	1/79	0/0	0/0	0/31	0/0	0/0	0/35	4/19
1,3,5-Trichlorobenzene. . . . .	0/47	0/28	0/104	0/4	0/15	0/9	1/1	0/105	0/0	0/8	0/0	0/4	0/292	0/84	1/79	0/0	0/0	0/31	0/0	0/0	0/35	0/19
1,2,3,4-Tetrachlorobenzene . . . . .	0/47	0/28	0/104	0/4	0/15	2/9	1/1	0/105	0/0	3/6	0/0	2/4	15/292	3/84	0/179	0/0	0/0	0/31	0/0	0/0	8/34	0/19
1,2,3,5-Tetrachlorobenzene . . . . .	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
1,2,4,5-Tetrachlorobenzene . . . . .	0/47	0/28	0/104	0/4	0/15	2/9	1/1	0/105	0/0	1/6	0/0	0/3	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/34
Pentachlorobenzene . . . . .	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	2/291	0/84	0/77	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
Hexachlorobenzene . . . . .	0/47	0/28	1/104	0/4	0/30	0/9	1/1	0/104	0/0	1/15	0/0	2/4	0/292	0/84	0/78	0/0	0/0	1/31	0/0	0/0	0/35	0/19
2-Chloronaphthalein . . . . .	0/47	0/28	0/104	0/4	0/30	0/9	1/1	0/105	0/0	0/15	0/0	1/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/31	0/0	0/0	0/35	0/19
a-chlorotoluene . . . . .	0/43	0/31	0/90	0/0	0/31	0/9	0/1	0/213	0/0	0/6	1/1	0/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/13	0/12	0/0	0/0	0/0
2-Chlorotoluene . . . . .	0/43	1/30	0/90	0/0	0/31	1/8	0/0	0/213	0/0	0/6	0/0	2/4	141/541	14/86	12/83	0/13	0/12	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
3-Chlorotoluene . . . . .	0/43	4/30	0/90	0/0	0/31	1/8	0/0	0/213	0/0	0/6	0/0	2/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/13	0/12	0/0	0/0	0/0
4-Chlorotoluene . . . . .	0/43	1/30	0/90	0/0	0/31	1/8	0/0	0/213	0/0	0/6	0/0	2/4	69/541	12/86	7/83	0/13	0/12	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
2,4-Dichlorotoluene . . . . .	0/47	1/28	0/104	0/4	0/15	1/9	1/1	0/104	0/0	0/9	0/0	1/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	5/31	0/0	0/0
a,a,2,6-Tetrachlorotoluene; . . . . .	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
Totals . . . . .	13/779	15/448	38/1,673	1/51	10/441	20/148	11/14	12/2,328	0/0	23/167	1/2	28/67	451/4,737	73/1,018	33/965	0/65	0/80	6/372	0/0	0/0	9/419	7/217
Detection frequencies (%) . . . . .	1.7	3.1	2.2	2.0	2.3	13.5	78.6	0.5	0	13.8	50.0	41.8	0.1	7.2	3.4	0	0	1.6	0	0	2.1	3.2

Water      soil:      Sediment:      Air.      Biota:  
 1) shallow well,    8) Soil,    9) sump,    13) living area,    16) oatmeal,  
 2) deep well,    10) storm sewer,    14) basement,    17) potatoes,  
 3) sump,    11) sanitary sewer,    15) outdoor; and 18) crayfish,  
 4) surface,    12) surface water;    19) dog,  
 5) drinking,    20) maple,  
 6) storm sewer,    21) mice,  
 7) sanitary sewer;    22) worms.

SOURCE: US/EPA, Op. cit., vol. III.

**Table D-4.—Detection (+) of Substances Not Found in Control Areas and Numbers of Samples Analyzed (n) for Environmental Media in the EDA**

Indicator substance	Environmental media and submedia <sup>a</sup>																					
	1 + /n	2 + /n	3 + /n	4 + /n	5 + /n	6 + /n	7 + /n	8 + /n	9 + /n	10 + /n	11 + /n	12 + /n	13 + /n	14 + /n	15 + /n	16 + /n	17 + /n	18 + /n	19 + /n	20 + /n	21 + /n	22 + /n
2-Chlorophenol . . . . .	0/47	1/27	0/104	0/4	0/30	0/9	0/1	0/104	0/0	0/15	0/1	1/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/31	0/0	0/0	0/35	0/19
4-Chlorophenol . . . . .	1/35	3/24	2/92	0/4	0/15	0/5	0/1	0/71	0/0	0/15	0/1	0/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/31	0/0	0/0	0/35	0/19
2-Nitrophenol . . . . .	0/47	0/28	0/104	0/4	0/30	0/9	0/1	0/104	0/0	0/15	0/1	0/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/31	0/0	0/0	0/35	0/19
2,3,6-Trichlorophenol . . . . .	0/36	0/24	0/92	0/4	0/15	0/5	0/1	0/71	0/0	0/5	0/1	0/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/31	0/0	0/0	0/35	0/19
4-Chloro-3-methylphenol . . . . .	0/47	0/28	0/104	0/4	0/30	0/9	0/1	0/104	0/0	0/15	0/1	0/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/31	0/0	0/0	1/35	0/19
1,3,5-Trichlorobenzene . . . . .	0/47	0/28	0/104	0/4	0/15	0/9	1/1	0/105	0/0	0/6	1/1	0/4	0/292	0/84	1/79	0/0	0/0	0/31	0/0	0/0	0/35	0/19
Acenaphthylene . . . . .	2/47	2/28	1/104	0/4	0/30	0/9	0/1	2/105	0/0	0/15	0/1	0/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/31	0/0	0/0	0/35	0/19
Dibenzo (a,h) anthracene . . . . .	0/47	0/28	0/104	0/4	0/15	0/9	0/1	0/105	0/0	0/15	0/1	0/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/31	0/0	0/0	0/35	0/19
2,4,6-Trichloroaniline . . . . .	0/47	0/28	0/104	0/4	0/15	0/9	0/1	0/105	0/0	0/6	0/1	0/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/31	0/0	0/0	0/34	0/19
1,2,4,5-Tetrachlorobenzene . . . . .	0/47	0/28	0/104	0/4	0/15	2/9	1/1	0/105	0/0	1/6	1/1	0/3	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/31	0/0	0/0	0/34	0/19
Acrylonitrile . . . . .	0/43	0/31	0/104	0/4	0/31	0/9	0/1	0/213	0/0	0/6	0/1	0/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/13	0/12	0/0	0/0	0/0
1,1,2-Trichloroethane . . . . .	0/43	1/31	0/103	0/4	2/31	0/9	0/1	0/213	0/0	0/15	0/1	0/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/13	0/12	0/0	0/0	0/0
1,2-Dichloroethane . . . . .	1/43	0/31	1/104	0/14	0/31	0/9	0/1	0/213	0/0	0/15	0/1	0/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	7/13	0/12	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
Totals . . . . .	4/576	7/364	4/1,327	0/52	2/303	2/109	2/13	2/1,618	0/0	1/149	2/13	1/51	0/292	0/84	1/79	7/39	0/36	0/310	0/0	0/0	1/348	1/190
Detection frequencies (%)	0.7	1.9	0.3	0	0.7	1.8	15.4	0.1	0	0.7	15.4	2.0	0	0	1.3	18.0	0	0	—	—	0.3	0.5
(Control = 0%)																						

<sup>a</sup>Water      Soil:      Sediment:      Air.      Biota:  
 1) shallow well,    8) soil,    9) sump,    13) living area,    16) oatmeal,  
 2) deep well,      10) storm sewer,    14) basement,    17) potatoes,  
 3) sump,            11) sanitary sewer,    15) outdoor; and    18) crayfish,  
 4) surface,        12) surface water;    19) dog,  
 5) drinking,        20) maple,  
 6) storm sewer,     21) mice,  
 7) sanitary sewer;    22) worms.

SOURCE: US/EPA, op. cit., vol. III.

Love Canal treatment facility in volumes approaching 1 percent of the total sludge volume.<sup>2</sup>

A finding that 4 out of 16 chemicals known to have been disposed in the canal landfill calls into question the EPA conclusion that EDA is not contaminated by Love Canal chemicals except for sediments of storm sewers and surface water sediments at sewer discharge points. The discrepancy between the OTA and EPA finding can be explained. EPA aggregated data for 150 compounds including 129 priority pollutants, the majority of which were not known to have been disposed in the canal landfill. OTA focused on only those chemicals with a history of disposal.

The detection of four substances at higher frequencies in the EDA does not necessarily mean that these substances originated in the canal landfill. Frequencies of detection for 12 indicator substances were not significantly different and one had a greater frequency of detection in the control areas. It is to be expected that, at the 90-percent confidence level applied in these statistical analyses, 10 percent of the statistical tests showing significance might be in error. In this case, this means that **1.6** (or really **2**) of the **16 analyses might be a result** of chance. However, two or possibly four of the significant differences could be real indications of contamination in the EDA as compared to the control areas.

<sup>2</sup>U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Analysis of the Love Canal Treatment Plant Sludge Sample*, memo from W. L. Budde, J. W. Eichelberger, P. Olynk to T. Hauser, Aug. 22, 1980.

**Table D-5.—Summary of Mantel-Haenszel Results**

Indicator substance	EDA v. control area	Love Canal v. control area
Lindane . . . . .	No	No
Chlorobenzene. . . . .	No	Yes
1,2-Dichlorobenzene . . . . .	Yes	Yes
1,3-Dichlorobenzene . . . . .	Yes	Yes
1,4-Dichlorobenzene . . . . .	(a)	(a)
1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene . . . . .	No	No
1,2,4 -Trichlorobenzene . . . . .	No	Yes
1,3,5-Trichlorobenzene . . . . .	—	No
1,2,3,4-Tetrachlorobenzene. . . . .	No	No
1,2,3,5-Tetrachlorobenzene. . . . .	—	—
1,2,4,5-Tetrachlorobenzene. . . . .	No	No
Pentachlorobenzene . . . . .	No	—
Hexachlorobenzene . . . . .	No	Yes
2-Chloronaphthalene. . . . .	No	—
0-Chlorotoluene . . . . .	—	—
2-Chlorotoluene . . . . .	Yes	Yes
3-Chlorotoluene . . . . .	No	No
4-Chlorotoluene . . . . .	Yes	Yes
2,4-Dichlorotoluene . . . . .	No	No
a,a2,6-Tetrachlorotoluene . . . . .	—	—

Yes: Significantly greater contamination in EDA (Love Canal).

No: No significant difference between areas.

—: Insufficient data.

(a): Control area shows significantly greater contamination.

SOURCE: Cupples, op. cit.