



**MERCURY AWARENESS STUDY:  
Survey of Residents, State of Washington**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Introduction

The Washington State Department of Ecology Environmental Assessment Program is interested in learning what the public knows about the presence of mercury in the environment. In an effort to determine the level of public awareness about the problem, as well as understand how consumers dispose of products that contain mercury, the Environmental Assessment Program asked Gilmore Research Group to conduct a telephone survey of Washington state residents.

### Methodology

The survey was pre-tested at Gilmore Research Group facilities on September 30 and October 7, 2002. Fielding began October 10, following revisions that were made in the survey programming. Fielding ended on October 28, 2002, with a total of 400 interviews completed. Interviewing took place from Gilmore Research Group facilities in Bremerton, Washington.

### Key Findings

#### General Awareness of Products Containing Mercury

Asked in an open-ended question to name common products that may contain mercury, 53% of residents mentioned thermometers and 16% said tuna fish. Twenty-seven percent (27%) said, "don't know."

## Specific Product Knowledge

If respondents failed to name certain products that contain mercury in open-ended questioning, they were asked to decide whether those objects contain mercury or not. A majority answered that thermometers (88%), thermostats (66%) and dental fillings (53%) contain mercury, and 66% were also aware that a toaster does not contain mercury. Over one-quarter (26%) of those asked about a toaster were unsure.

Opinion about fluorescent lights, car batteries and trunk switches was more divided, with about as many or more respondents saying that these items do not contain mercury as saying they do. Well over one-third said they didn't know whether each of these three common objects contained mercury or not.

## Manual Home Thermostats

Over half of the respondents (56%) said they have manual thermostats. Of these, 61% said they would call a professional to replace it if it was broken, while 37% said they would replace it themselves. Respondents who would call a professional most often said they would call a landlord (40%) or a heating contractor (37%).

Among respondents who said they would replace a broken thermostat themselves, 63% said they would likely throw the old thermostat in the trash. Twelve percent (12%) said they would take it to a hazardous waste collection site and 5% said they would recycle it.

### Fluorescent Lights

Three out of five state respondents (60%) said they have fluorescent lights in their homes. Of these, 59% said they would dispose of a burned-out light in the trash and 8% said they would take it to the dump. Seven percent (7%) said they would take it to a hazardous waste collection site, and 6% said they would recycle it.

### Awareness and Use of Hazardous Waste Collection Programs

Overall, 62% of respondents interviewed across the state said they know about hazardous waste collection programs that are offered where they live. While many respondents said they participate in these programs (28%), slightly more (34%) said they do not participate. Nearly two out of five said they were either unaware of any hazardous waste collection programs where they live (23%) or don't know about the programs (15%).

### General Awareness of Mercury Contamination of Fish

Asked to name the types of fish that contain the highest levels of mercury, respondents mentioned tuna and bottom feeders in equal proportions (22%). They also frequently mentioned salmon (14%). Nearly one-third (30%) said, "don't know."

### Mercury Contamination of Fish – Factors that Affect Contamination

Nearly three out of four respondents (72%) were aware that older fish contain more mercury than younger fish, but fewer than half knew that large fish contain more mercury than small fish (44% said large fish; 20% said small fish), or knew that carnivorous fish contain more mercury than herbivorous fish (46% said

carnivores; 20% said herbivores). Many respondents said they don't know how age, size and diet of fish relate to mercury absorption (22%, 36% and 34%, each factor).

### Mercury Contamination of Fish Habitat

Seven out of ten respondents (71%) said they thought a lake in a populated urban area could contain mercury-contaminated fish. Fewer (44%) specified the ocean. Although a remote mountain lake was a third possible choice, just one out of ten respondents (11%) chose it.

### Environmental and Health Effects

When asked how long mercury stays in the environment once it is released, half the respondents (50%) chose the option, "more than 100 years." Twelve percent (12%) said, "don't know," and the remainder estimated incorrectly.

Respondents most often mentioned brain damage and cancer as health problems related to mercury exposure (19% and 16%, respectively). Nearly two out of five (38%) said they don't know.

### Sources of Information About Mercury

Asked directly whether they had seen or heard any information about mercury during the past year, over one-third of respondents (35%) replied, "yes." Those who had seen or heard news about mercury mentioned newspapers (37%), television (34%) and brochures and flyers (19%) as information sources.

## Conclusions

Many residents across the state are unaware of products that contain mercury. Many also lack basic knowledge about mercury, which in turn, leads to improper handling and disposal of at least two products that contain the element - household thermostats and fluorescent light bulbs.

Evidence of a high level of overall lack of awareness can be presumed from large proportions of “don’t know” responses (and incorrect responses) to questions that were asked about common products containing mercury, mercury-tainted fish and fish habitats, and health problems associated with mercury exposure. The fact that only two respondents correctly identified all products containing mercury lends additional evidence to results that show an overall tendency to be unaware of the problem.

Awareness and use of hazardous waste collection programs and facilities is low across the state: less than one-third of respondents are aware and participate. Information communicated within the past year about the hazards of mercury has reached only one-third of the public. The results of this study demonstrate a need for additional, ongoing communication through media that are used most often: newspapers, television and brochures or flyers. Increased communication through radio and the Internet should also be considered.

## **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

The Washington Department of Ecology Environmental Assessment Program is interested in learning what the public knows about the presence of mercury in the environment. In an effort to determine the level of public awareness about the problem, as well as understand how consumers dispose of products that contain mercury, the Environmental Assessment Program asked Gilmore Research Group to conduct a survey of Washington residents.

The main objectives of the study were:

- Assess the public's current knowledge of 1) household products that contain mercury; 2) the presence of mercury in the environment; 3) exposure to mercury through consumption of fish; and 4) health risks associated with exposure to mercury.
- Determine how consumers dispose of broken thermometers, thermostats and fluorescent lights.
- Learn whether or not people are aware of, and use publicly funded hazardous waste facilities.
- Understand where residents obtain information about mercury.

## METHODOLOGY

A total of 400 residents of the State of Washington were interviewed by telephone between October 10 and October 28, 2002. Respondents were screened to reach a head of household 18 years or older.

Upon completion of the fielding, respondent demographic data was examined and compared with corresponding state census information in order to ensure respondents' age/gender groups were proportionate to the representation of their age/gender groups in the state population. Because the comparison revealed a variance of .05 or less for any subgroup of respondents, survey weighting was considered unnecessary. Any differences between subgroups that are noted in the text are statistically significant.

The questionnaire was administered using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) technology and averaged 6.8 minutes in length. A random-digit sample was purchased from Genesys, a respected national sample provider.

## DETAILED FINDINGS

The survey began with two questions to determine respondents' general knowledge about the pervasiveness of mercury.

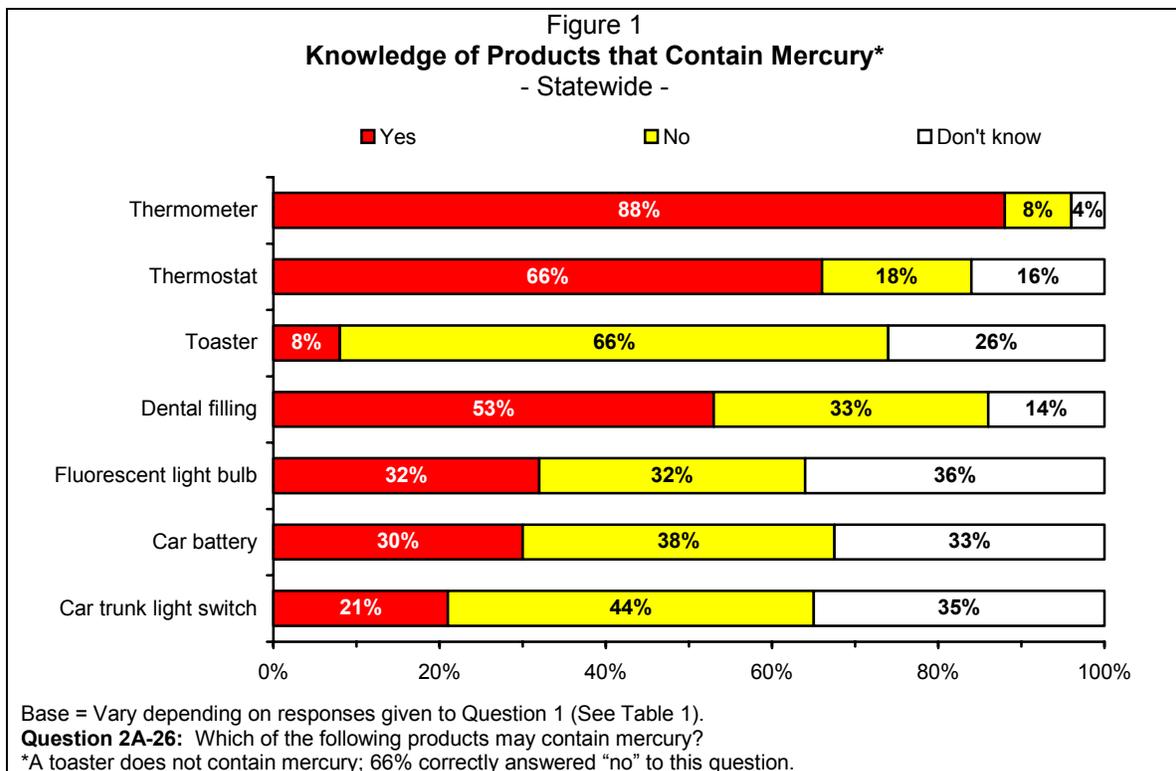
### General Knowledge of Products Containing Mercury

Asked which common products may contain mercury, 53% mentioned thermometers, and 16% said tuna fish. Thermostats and fish/seafood were each mentioned by 8% of respondents. Well over one-quarter of responses (27%) were "don't know." Please see Table 1.

Table 1 Items Believed To Contain Mercury -Statewide-	
	Total
Thermometers	53%
Tuna fish	16
Thermostats	8
Fish / seafood / shellfish / canned fish	8
Fluorescent light bulbs	5
Dental fillings	5
Batteries	4
Paint	3
Home cleaning products	2
Water	2
Electrical switches	2
Medications / immunizations	2
Other	6
Don't Know	27
<small>Base: 400 respondents  <b>Question 1:</b> What common products can you name that may contain mercury?                      Multiple response question; proportions may add to more than 100%.                      Respondent mentions that gathered 1% or less of total response are included in "other."</small>	

If respondents failed to name any of six common objects that contain mercury in the preceding open-ended question (see Table 1), they were asked to decide whether these objects contain mercury or not.<sup>1</sup> Figure 1 shows a majority of those asked the questions correctly answered that thermometers (88%), thermostats (66%) and dental fillings (53%) contain mercury, and 66% were also aware that a toaster does not contain mercury. Over one-quarter (26%) of those asked about a toaster were unsure.

Opinion about fluorescent lights, car batteries and trunk switches was more divided, with as many or more respondents saying the items do not contain mercury as those who said they do. Well over one-third said they didn't know whether each of these three common objects contained mercury or not.



<sup>1</sup> To further test their knowledge, all 400 respondents were also asked about a seventh object that does not contain mercury (a toaster) .

Subgroup Differences: Females were more likely than males to say, “don’t know” when asked about a thermostat, a car battery, a trunk light switch and a toaster. Males were more likely than females to say, “no” when asked if a car battery contains mercury.

Building and Residential Items

Respondents were asked about the type of thermostats they have in their homes, and thermostat maintenance. They were additionally asked about their use and disposal of fluorescent lights.

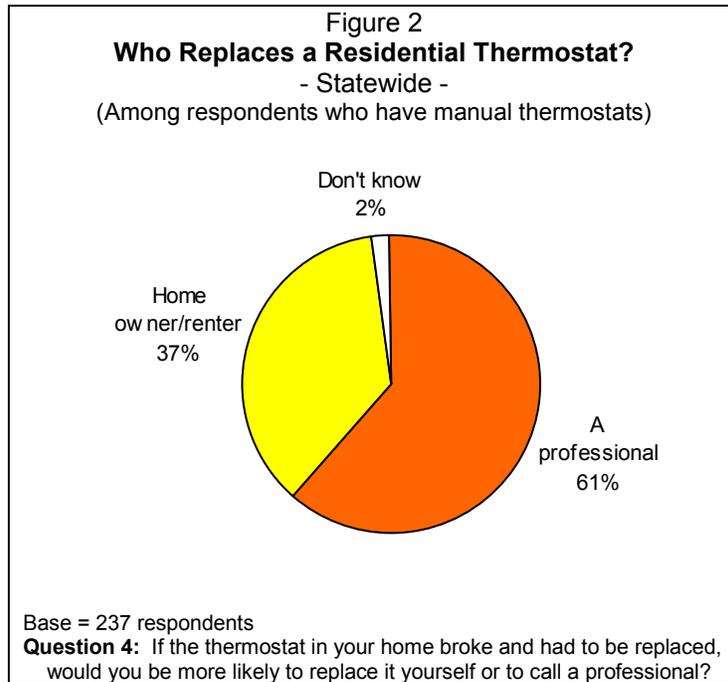
Thermostats

Over half (56%) said they have manual thermostats in their homes or apartments, while 37% said their thermostat was electronic. (See Table 2.)

Table 2 Does Your Home Or Apartment Have A Manual or An Electronic Thermostat? -Statewide-	
	Total
Manual thermostat	56%
Electronic	37
Have both	2
Use a fireplace for heating	1
None / don't have a thermostat in the residence	4
Base: 400 respondents <b>Question 3:</b> Does your home or apartment have a thermostat that you must turn up and down yourself, or do you have an electronic thermostat that you can program?	

Those who said they have a manual thermostat were asked follow-up questions about the maintenance and disposal of broken thermostats.

As Figure 2 shows, respondents are more inclined to call a professional to replace a broken thermostat than to replace it by themselves (61% compared to 37%).



Subgroup Differences: Males were more likely than females to say they would replace a broken thermostat themselves (51% compared to 25%); in comparison, females were more likely than males to say they would call a professional (72% compared to 48%).

Among those who said they would call a professional to replace the thermostat, most said they would call their landlord (40%). Thirty-seven percent (37%) said they would call a heating contractor, 9% would call an oil or gas company and 6% mentioned an electrician (Table 3).

Table 3 Who Would You Call To Replace A Broken Thermostat? -Statewide-	
	Total
Landlord	40%
Heating contractor	37
Oil or gas company	9
Electrician / electrical company	6
Family / friends	3
Someone else	2
Don't know	3
Base: 145 respondents who said they would call a professional to replace a broken manual thermostat. Question 4B: Who would you be most likely to call to replace a broken thermostat?	

Subgroup Differences:

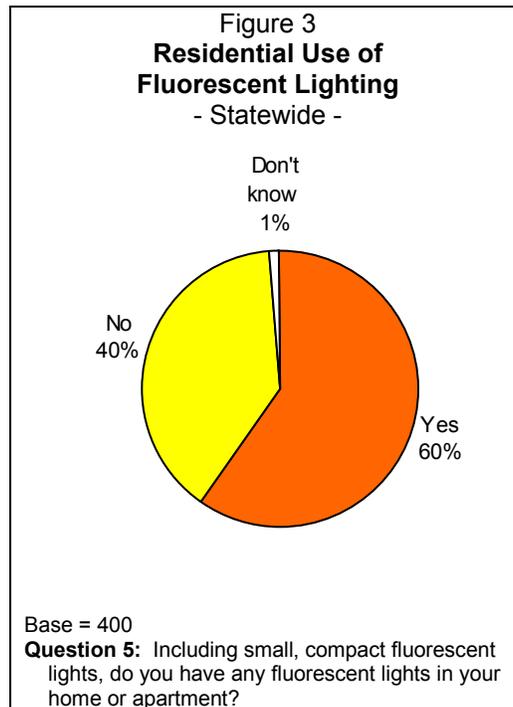
- Respondents who were 18 to 44 years old were more likely than other age groups to say they would call a landlord to replace a broken thermostat.
- Those whose incomes were less than \$25,000 per year were more likely than those whose incomes were more to say a landlord would replace a broken thermostat.

Asked what they would most likely do with a broken thermostat they replaced themselves, 63% said they would probably throw it in the trash, and 2% said they would take it to the dump (Table 4). Fewer (12%) replied they would take it or send it to a hazardous waste disposal site. Respondents mentioned other things that they might do with broken thermostats (14%), for example, “store it somewhere,” “use it for something else,” or “save it to show my kids.”

Table 4 Preferred Methods For Disposing Of Broken Thermostats -Statewide-	
	<b>Total</b>
Throw it in the trash	63%
Send it / take it to a hazardous waste collection site	12
Send it / take it to recycling	5
Take it to the dump	2
Other	14
Don't know	3
Base: 87 respondents who said they would most likely replace a broken manual thermostat themselves. <b>Question 4A:</b> What would you be most likely to do with the broken thermostat?	

## Fluorescent Lights

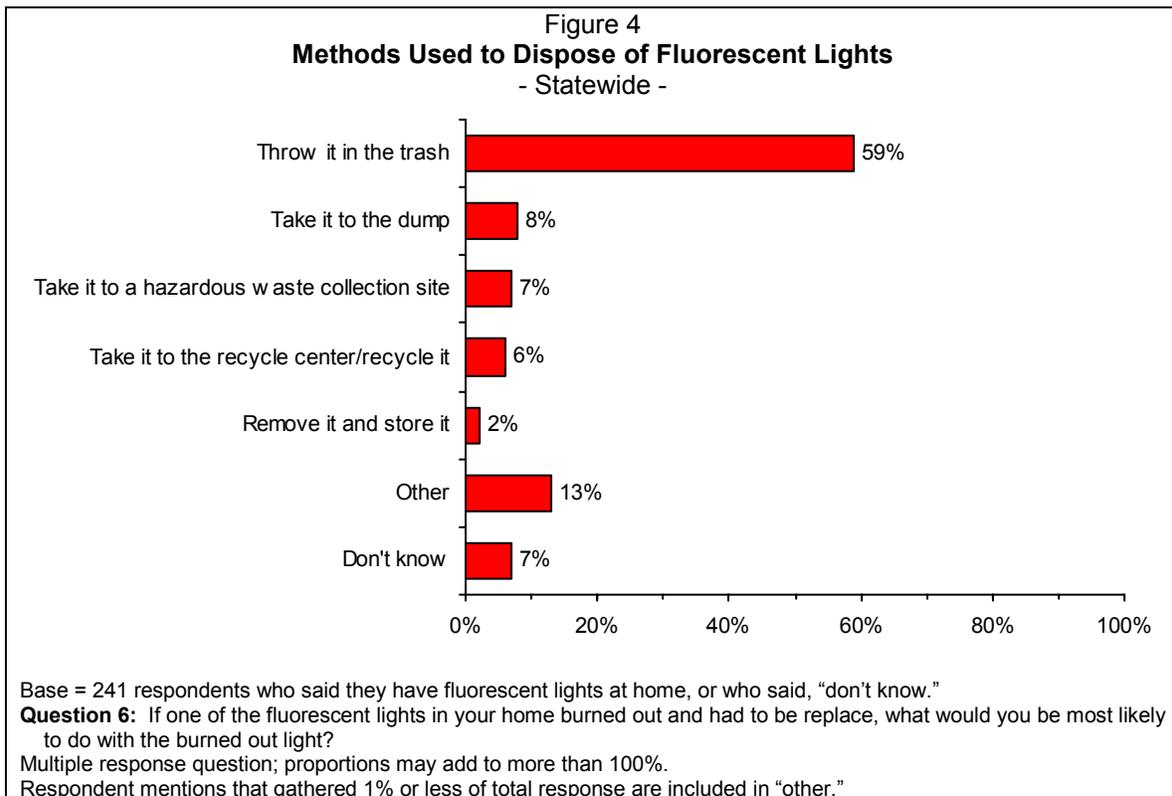
Sixty percent (60%) of respondents said they have fluorescent lights (including small, compact fluorescent lights) in their homes or apartments. (See Figure 3.)



### Subgroup Differences:

- 45 to 54 year old respondents were more likely than younger respondents to have fluorescent lights in their homes or apartments.
- Males were more likely than females to have fluorescent lights.
- Whites were more likely than non-whites to have fluorescent lights in their homes or apartments.

As Figure 4 indicates, respondents most often said that they would throw burned out fluorescent lights in the trash (59%), and 8% said they would take them to the dump. One out of eight responses were either “take it to a hazardous waste collection site” (7%), or “take it to the recycle center/recycle it” (6%). “Other” comments shown in Figure 4 included “call the landlord to replace it” (1%) and “call a repair person to replace it” (1%). Respondents also said they would “look at the package for disposal recommendations.”

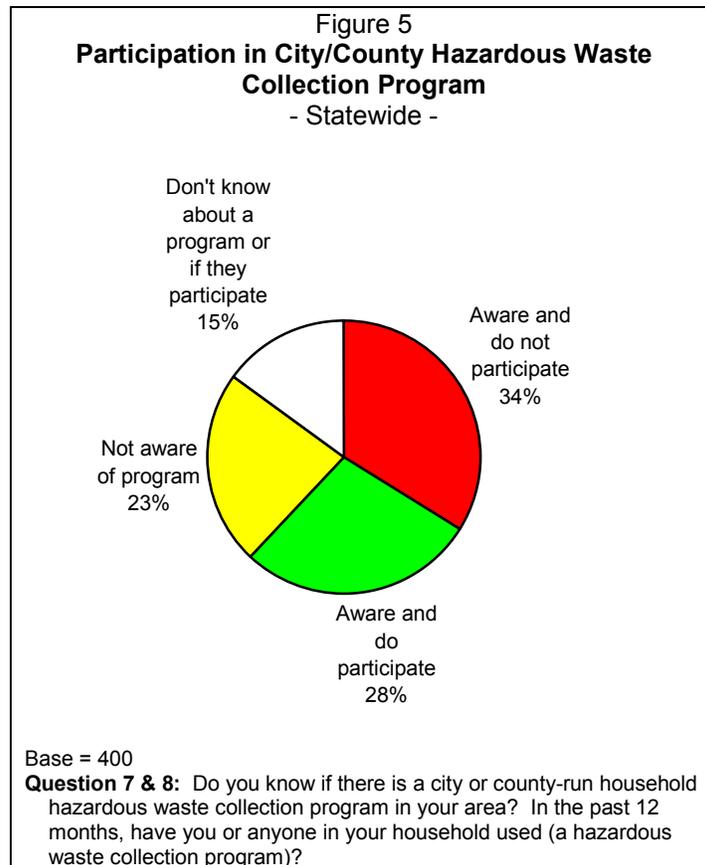


**Subgroup Differences:**

- 35 to 44-year olds were more likely than other age groups to say they would throw a fluorescent light in the trash.

## Awareness and Use of Hazardous Waste Collection Programs

In two questions, respondents were asked about their awareness of city or county-run household waste collection programs and (if they were aware), whether or not they were active participants.



Overall, 62% of respondents said they know about hazardous waste collection programs that are offered where they live (see Figure 5). While many respondents said they participate in these programs (28%), slightly more (34%) said they do not participate.

Nearly two out of five said they were unaware of any hazardous waste collection programs where they live (23%), or don't know about the programs (15%).

Subgroup Differences:

- These groups were more likely than comparison groups to say they are unaware of hazardous waste collection programs: non-whites, as compared to whites, and respondents who earn less than \$25,000 per year, compared to those who earn more.
- Respondents who have children who are less than 7 years old living at home were more likely than those who have no children of this age living at home to say they are aware of hazardous waste collection programs.

## Mercury Contamination of Fish

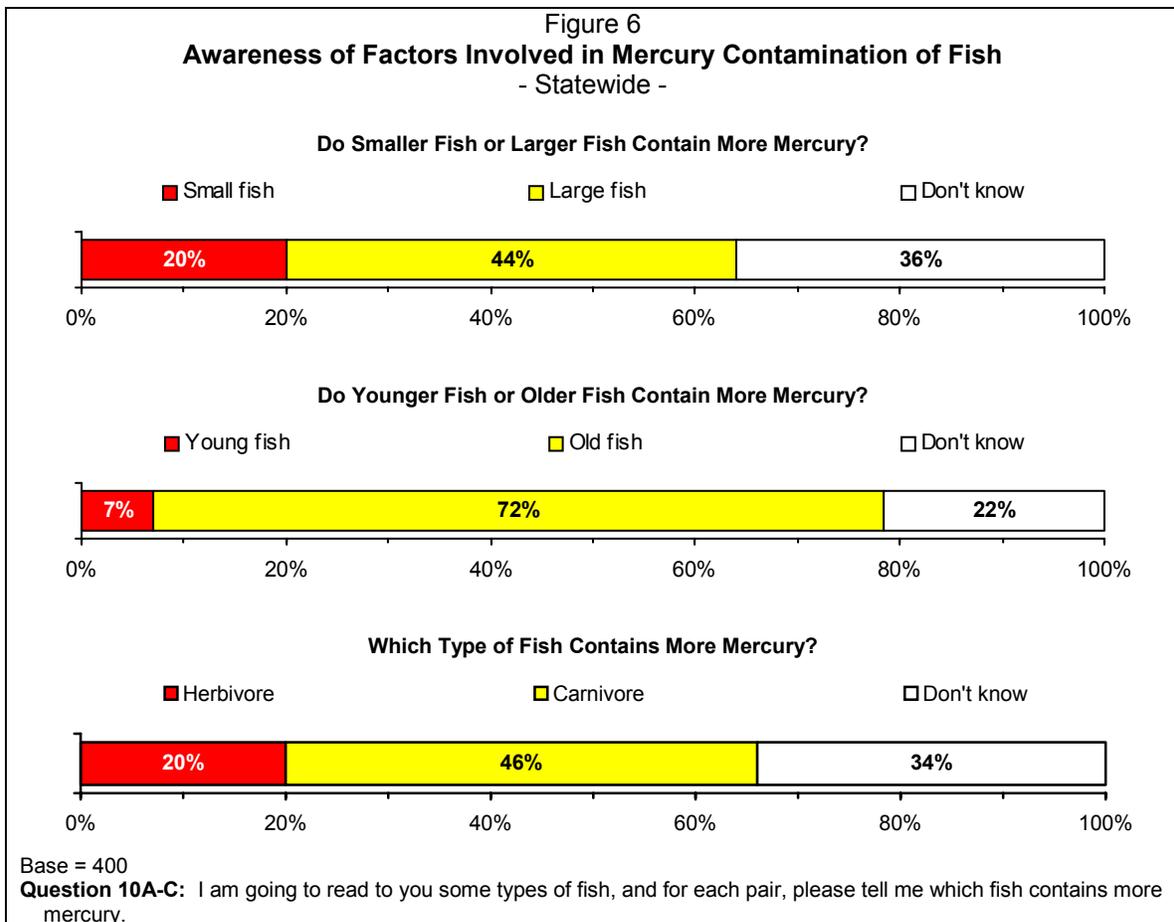
Asked to name the types of fish that contain the highest levels of mercury (Table 5), respondents across the state mentioned tuna and bottom feeders in equal proportions (22%). They often said they thought salmon also contained high concentrations of mercury (14%). About one out of three respondents (30%) were unable to identify any types of fish they thought might be highly affected.

Table 5 Types Of Fish Believed To Contain Mercury -Statewide-	
	<b>Total</b>
Tuna	22%
Bottom feeders (general)	22
Salmon	14
Shellfish	6
Halibut	4
Swordfish	4
Salt / ocean water fish	3
Fresh water fish	3
Cod	3
Trout	3
River and stream fish	2
Catfish	2
Flounder	2
Other	15
Don't know	30
Base: 400 respondents <b>Question 10:</b> Eating some fish can expose people to mercury. Different fish contain different amounts of mercury. To the best of your knowledge, what kinds of fish contain the highest levels of mercury? Multiple response question; proportions may add to more than 100%. Respondent mentions that gathered 1% or less of total response are included in "other."	

## Factors That Affect Contamination

Three questions were asked to determine how much respondents know about mercury contamination of fish (Figure 6).

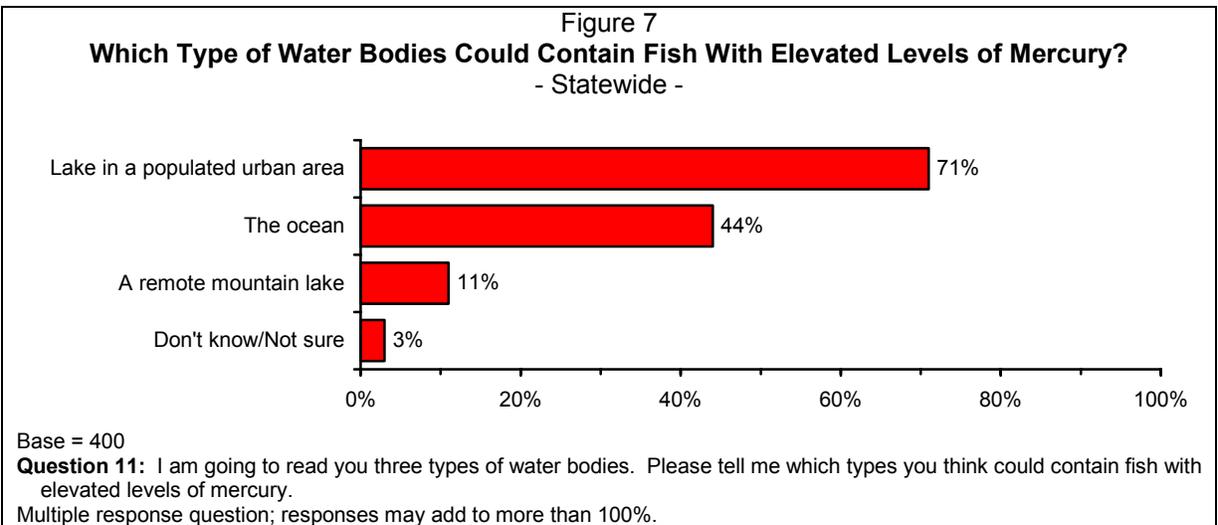
Nearly three out of four residents (72%) were aware that old fish contain more mercury than young fish, but fewer than half knew that large fish contain more mercury than small fish (44% said large fish; 20% said small fish), or knew that carnivorous fish contain more mercury than herbivorous fish (46% said carnivores; 20% said herbivores). In addition to these other things, Figure 6 shows that many respondents don't know how size, age and diet of fish relate to mercury absorption.



Subgroup Differences: Males were more likely than females to say, “yes,” when asked about all three factors. In comparison, females were more likely than males to say they don’t know how these things relate to mercury absorption.

Respondents were read a list of three types of water bodies and were asked to decide which among the three contain fish with elevated levels of mercury.<sup>2</sup> (Please see Figure 7.)

Seven out of ten respondents (71%) said they thought a lake in a populated urban area could contain mercury-contaminated fish. Fewer (44%) specified the ocean. Although a remote mountain lake was a third possible choice, just one out of ten respondents (11%) chose it.

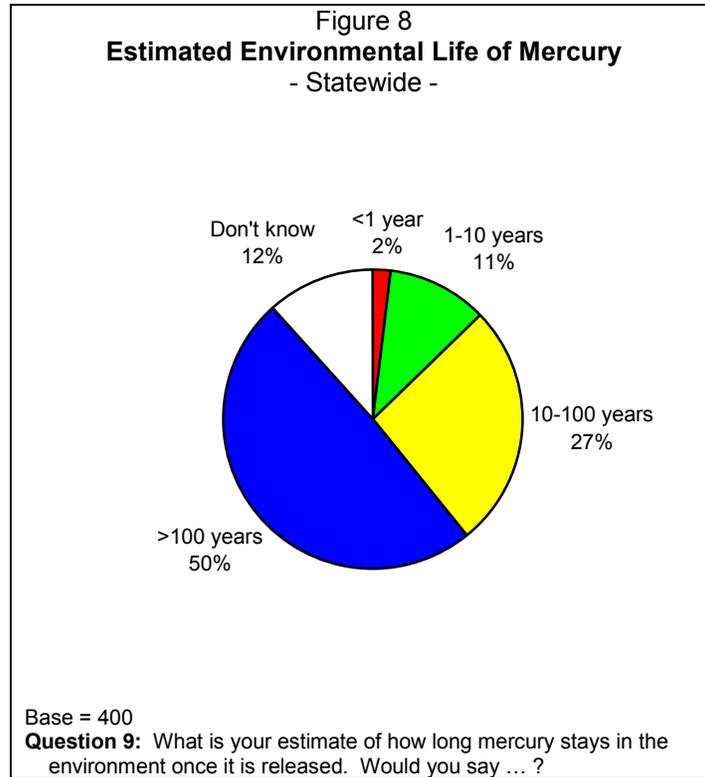


Subgroup Differences: 18 to 24 year-olds were more likely to know that a remote mountain lake could contain fish with elevated levels of mercury than were respondents in other age groups.

<sup>2</sup> Respondents were allowed to choose any or all of the water bodies.

## Environmental and Health Effects

When respondents were asked to estimate how long mercury stays in the environment once it is released, half (50%) chose the option, “more than 100 years.” (See Figure 8.) Twelve percent (12%) failed to make a choice, and the remainder estimated incorrectly.



### Subgroup Differences:

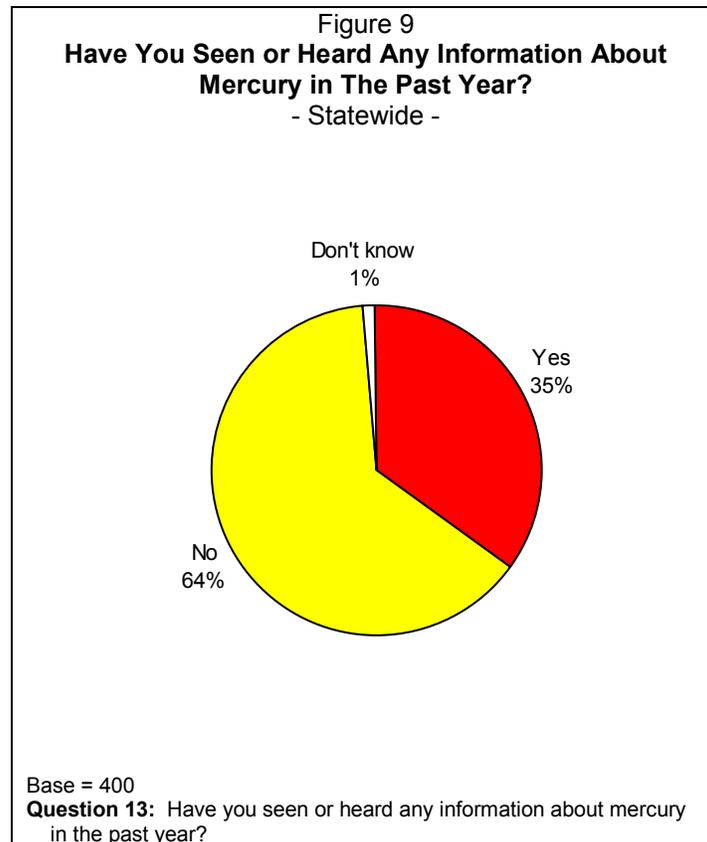
- Males were more likely than females to say mercury stays in the environment more than 100 years.
- Respondents who were 75 years old or older were more likely to say, “don’t know,” when asked about the endurance of mercury in the environment.

Respondents gave an array of answers when they were asked to name health or physical problems related to mercury exposure (see Table 6). Brain damage and cancer topped the list of mentions (19% and 16%, respectively), followed by poisoning (7%), mental/psychological problems (6%) and birth defects, liver problems and death (5% each mention). Nearly two out of five (38%) respondents said they were unsure of health problems related to mercury exposure.

Table 6 Health Problems Believed To Be Related To Mercury Exposure -Statewide-	
	Total
Brain damage / neurological problems	19%
Cancer	16
Poisoning	7
Mental / psychological problems	6
Birth defects	5
Death	5
Liver problems	5
Learning / developmental problems	3
Nausea	3
Alzheimer's disease	2
Blindness	2
Breathing problems	2
Headaches	2
Heart problems	2
Kidney failure	2
Memory loss	2
Rashes	2
Other	11
Don't know / refused	38
Base: 400 respondents <b>Question 12:</b> Exposure to mercury may pose risks to people's health. To the best of your knowledge, what health or physical problems could be related to mercury exposure? Multiple response question; proportions may add to more than 100%. Respondent mentions that gathered 1% or less of total response are included in "other."	

## Sources of Information About Mercury

Asked directly whether they had seen or heard any information about mercury during the past year, over one-third of respondents (35%) replied, “yes.” (See Figure 9.)



Subgroup Differences: Respondents who had more education than high school were more likely to have seen or heard news about mercury.

Respondents who said they had seen or heard news about mercury were asked to identify the information sources. As Table 7 indicates, many (37%) mentioned newspapers, television (34%) and brochures or flyers (19%). Radio was named as a source fairly frequently (8%), followed by comments about magazines or journals (5%).

Table 7 Information Sources Named For Providing News About Mercury -Statewide-	
	Total
Newspaper	37%
Television	34
Brochure / flyer	19
Radio	8
Magazines / journals	5
Internet	4
Word-of-mouth	4
School / classes	3
Health department	2
Other	10
Don't know	4
<b>Base:</b> 139 respondents who said they had seen or heard information about mercury during the previous year. <b>Question 14:</b> Where did you see or hear this information? Multiple response question; proportions may add to more than 100%. Respondent mentions that gathered 1% or less of total response are included in "other."	

## RESPONDENT PROFILE

The following table summarizes demographic information about survey respondents.

Table 15 Respondent Profile	
	<b>Statewide</b> (n=400)
<u>Age</u>	
18 to 24	10%
25 to 34	20
35 to 44	18
45 to 54	24
55 to 64	15
65 to 74	7
75+	5
Refused	2
<u>Children under age 7 at home</u>	
Yes	21%
No	79
<u>Race / Ethnicity</u>	
White	87%
Black	2
Asian, Pacific-Islander	5
American Indian, Alaskan Native	3
Hispanic, Latino	4
Other	1
Refused	3
<u>Education</u>	
High school grad or less	28%
Some college, technical	29
College graduate	30
Beyond college graduate	14
<u>Income</u>	
<\$25,000	15%
\$25,000 - \$49,999	31
\$50,000 - \$74,999	20
\$75,000+	24
Don't know / Refused	10
<u>Gender</u>	
Male	45%
Female	55

## **APPENDIX**

### **Questionnaire**

**INT0:**

*IF NOT AVAILABLE, ARRANGE CALL-BACK. PRESS F7 FOR IF NEEDED STATEMENTS*

Hello, this is \_\_\_\_\_ from Gilmore Research Group calling on behalf of the Washington Department of Ecology. We are conducting a brief study this evening to find out what people know about mercury. Your answers will be helpful in determining educational needs and future programs. Is this a private residence in<type>? (Are you)/(May I please speak to) a member of your household age 18 or over? REINTRODUCE IF NECESSARY. Would you have time to participate in this survey right now? It takes about 9 minutes and all of your answers will remain confidential. IF NO, ARRANGE CALL-BACK.

Continue .....91

**Q2:**

To the best of your knowledge, which of the following household products may contain mercury.

Continue .....1

**Q2A:**

Does a thermostat contain mercury?

- Yes, it may.....1
- No, it doesn't.....2
- Don't know/Unsure.....3
- Refused.....4

**Q2B:**

Does a thermometer contain mercury?

- Yes, it may.....1
- No, it doesn't.....2
- Don't know/Unsure.....3
- Refused.....4

**Q2C:**

Does a car battery contain mercury?

- Yes, it may.....1
- No, it doesn't.....2
- Don't know/Unsure.....3
- Refused.....4

**Q2D:**

Does a fluorescent light bulb contain mercury?

- Yes, it may.....1
- No, it doesn't.....2
- Don't know/Unsure.....3
- Refused.....4

**Q2E:**

Does a toaster contain mercury?

Yes, it may.....	1
No, it doesn't.....	2
Don't know/Unsure.....	3
Refused.....	4

**Q2F:**

Does a dental filling contain mercury?

Yes, it may.....	1
No, it doesn't.....	2
Don't know/Unsure.....	3
Refused.....	4

**Q2G:**

Does a car trunk light switch contain mercury?

Yes, it may.....	1
No, it doesn't.....	2
Don't know/Unsure.....	3
Refused.....	4

**Q3:**

Does your home or apartment have a thermostat that you must turn up and down yourself, or do you have an electronic thermostat that you can program? IF NEEDED: That you program by punching in a desired setting. IF NEEDED: Your primary residence

\$E 1 4

Manual thermostat.....	01	
Electronic/Programmable thermostat.....	02	=> Q5
Have a thermostat but don't use it or it doesn't work.....	03	
Have both types (manual and programmable).....	04	
Other (SPECIFY):.....	97	
NONE/Don't have thermostat in home or unit.....	00	=> Q5
Don't know.....	98	=> Q5
Refused.....	99	=> Q5

**Q4:**

If the thermostat in your home broke and had to be replaced, would you be more likely to replace it yourself or to call a professional? IF NEEDED: "Yourself" covers anyone in your family.

\$E 1 7

Replace it myself.....	1
Call a professional.....	2
Don't know.....	3
Refused.....	4

**Q4A:**

What would you be most likely to do with the broken thermostat?

\$E 1 4

Record Comments .....	97
Don't know - DO NOT READ .....	98
Refused - DO NOT READ .....	99

**Q4B:**

*READ 1-97 IN ORDER SHOWN*

Who would you be most likely to call to replace a broken thermostat?

\$E 1 4

Landlord .....	01
Heating contractor .....	02
Oil or gas company .....	03
Or someone else? (SPECIFY) .....	97
Don't know - DO NOT READ .....	98
Refused - DO NOT READ .....	99

**Q5:**

Including small, compact florescent lights, do you have any fluorescent lights in your home or apartment? IF NEEDED: The CFL's are the small, twisted-looking compact fluorescent light bulbs. IF NEEDED: Your primary residence.

Yes .....	1
No .....	2
Don't know .....	3
Refused .....	4

**Q6:**

If one of the fluorescent lights in your home burned out and had to be replaced, what would you be most likely to do with the burned out light?

RECORD COMMENTS .....	01
Don't know - DO NOT READ .....	98
Refused - DO NOT READ .....	99

**Q7:**

Do you know if there is a city or county-run household hazardous waste collection program in your area?

Yes .....	1
No .....	2
Don't know .....	3
Refused .....	4

**Q8:**

In the past 12 months, have you or anyone in your household used this service?  
 IF NEEDED: The household hazardous waste collection facility.

- Yes.....1
- No.....2
- Don't know .....3
- Refused.....4

**Q9:**

*READ 1-5*

And now some questions about mercury. What is your estimate of how long mercury stays in the environment once it is released? Would you say....

- Less than a year .....1
- 1 to 10 years .....2
- 10 to 100 years .....3
- Or more than 100 years .....4
- Don't know - DO NOT READ .....6
- Refused - DO NOT READ .....7

**Q10:**

Eating some fish can expose people to mercury. Different fish contain different amounts of mercury. To the best of your knowledge, what kinds of fish contain the highest levels of mercury?

- RECORD COMMENTS .....01
- Don't know .....98
- Refused.....99

**Q10A:**

I am going to read to you some types of fish, and for each pair, please tell me which fish you think contains more mercury. Small fish, large fish or would you say you are not sure?

- Small fish.....1
- Large fish.....2
- Don't know/Not sure.....3
- Refused.....4

**Q10B:**

(Please tell me which fish you think contains more mercury). Young fish, older fish or would you say you are not sure?

- Young fish.....1
- Older fish.....2
- Don't know/Not sure.....3
- Refused.....4

**Q10C:**

(Please tell me which fish you think contains more mercury). Herbivores (erb i vores), fish that eat plants, carnivores (car ni vores), fish that eat other fish, or would you say you are not sure?

Herbivores .....	1
Carnivores .....	2
Don't know/Not sure .....	3
Refused .....	4

**Q11:**

*READ 1-3*

I am going to read you three types of water bodies. Please tell me which types you think could contain fish with elevated levels of mercury. . .

The ocean .....	1
A remote mountain lake .....	2
A lake in a populated, urban area .....	3
None of the above - DO NOT READ .....	4
Don't know/Not sure - DO NOT READ .....	5
Refused - DO NOT READ .....	6

**Q12:**

Exposure to mercury may pose risks to people's health. To the best of your knowledge, what health or physical problems could be related to mercury exposure? (PROBE "Anything else")

RECORD COMMENTS .....	01
Don't know .....	98
Refused .....	99

**Q13:**

Have you seen or heard any information about mercury in the past year?

Yes .....	1
No .....	2
Don't know .....	3
Refused .....	4

**Q14:**

*DO NOT READ! ENTER ALL THAT APPLY.*

Where did you see or hear this information? PROBE: Where Else?

\$E 1 7

Health Department (State or Local).....	01
Internet .....	02
Pharmacy .....	03
Radio .....	04
Newspaper.....	05
Television.....	06
Brochure/flyers.....	07
Other (SPECIFY): .....	97
Don't know/Can't remember.....	98
Refused.....	99

**Q15:**

I have just a few more questions to help categorize your responses. Could you please tell me how many members of your household living at home are age 6 or under?

One .....	1
Two.....	2
Three.....	3
Four .....	4
Five.....	5
Six.....	6
Seven or more.....	7
None .....	8
Refused.....	9

**Q16:**

Could you please tell me your age?

\$E 18 99

Refused.....	99
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**Q16A:**

*READ 1-7*

Is that . . .	
18 to 24.....	1
25 to 34.....	2
35 to 44.....	3
45 to 54.....	4
55 to 64.....	5
65 to 74.....	6
Or 75 or over .....	7
Refused.....	8

**Q17:**

*READ 1-97. ENTER ALL THAT APPLY.*

And how would you describe your race or ethnicity. Would you say...

White .....	01
Black.....	02
Asian, Pacific-Islander .....	03
American Indian, Alaskan Native .....	04
Hispanic, Latino .....	05
Or something else? (SPECIFY):.....	97
Don't know .....	98
Refused.....	99

**Q18:**

*READ 1-6 ONLY IF NECESSARY*

What is the highest grade or year of school you completed?

Grade 8 or less.....	1
Some high school .....	2
High school graduate or GED .....	3
Some college, technical school or community college.....	4
College graduate.....	5
Beyond college.....	6
Don't know/Not sure - DO NOT READ.....	7
Refused - DO NOT READ.....	8

**Q19:**

*READ 1-4*

Would you say your annual household income from all sources is . . . IF NEEDED: Annual household income before taxes.

Less than \$25,000.....	1
\$25,000 to just under \$50,000 .....	2
\$50,000 to just under \$75,000 .....	3
Or \$75,000 or more?.....	4
Don't know/Not sure - DO NOT READ.....	7
Refused - DO NOT READ.....	9

**Q20:**

What is your zip code? IF NEEDED: The zip code of your residence.

\$E 98000 99999	
Don't know .....	88888
Refused.....	99999

**GENDR:**

*DO NOT ASK!*

RECORD GENDER

Male.....	1
Female .....	2

**Q21:**

That concludes my questions. I want to thank you very much for taking the time to participate in this vital research. May we call you again if we do any additional research on this topic? IF YES, RECORD FIRST NAME.

- Yes.....1
  - No.....2
  - Refused.....3
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