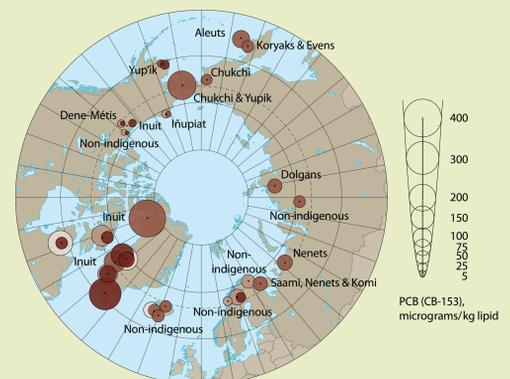




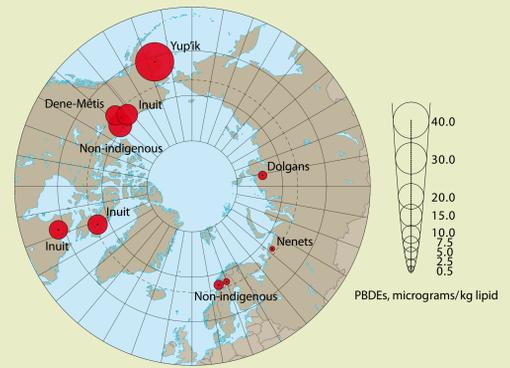
Persistent Organic Pollutants

– The Good News and the Bad News

- Levels of 'legacy' POPs (PCB, DDT, toxaphene, etc.) have significantly declined in most components of the Arctic environment since their peaks levels in the latter part of the 20th century due to national ban and the Stockholm Convention.



- There is evidence that for some 'legacy' POPs the declines are stabilizing and in some cases levels may be slightly increasing. The most likely cause is changes in contaminant recycling in the environment under changing climatic conditions.



- New substances have been identified as POPs in the Arctic. These 'emerging' POPs include brominated flame retardants, (per)fluorinated compounds, polychlorinated naphthalenes, and a range of current-use pesticides. Some of these compounds are widely used and 'candidates' for control under international agreements.
- Despite reductions, concentrations of some legacy POPs, such as PCBs in some top predators in the marine food web, are still high enough to affect the health of wildlife and humans.

