



# Environmental Exposures During Windows of Susceptibility for Breast Cancer: A Framework for Prevention Research



## Windows of susceptibility:

Risk of breast cancer may increase if a woman is exposed to environmental chemicals during critical “windows of susceptibility” including times when she is in her mother’s womb and during puberty, pregnancy, and menopause.

**Research on environmental causes of breast cancer is most likely to identify effective risk reduction approaches when 3 things are considered**



## Endocrine disrupting chemicals:

Some studies of endocrine disrupting chemicals—chemicals that affect the body’s natural hormone systems—suggest that exposure is related to breast cancer risk.



## Collaborative research:

Collaborations including epidemiologists, basic scientists, communication researchers and community partners are most likely to identify high priority research questions, conduct strong studies, and translate research findings effectively back to the public and policy makers.