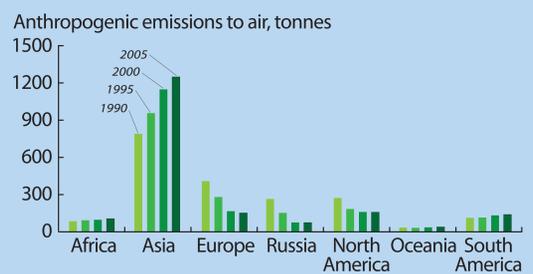




Mercury in the Arctic

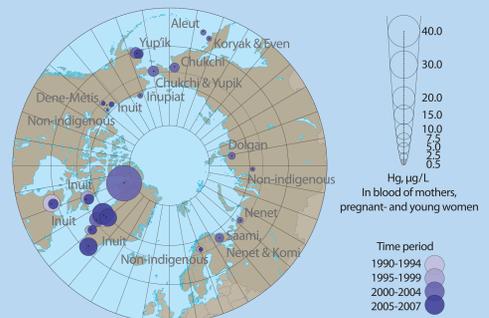
Mercury is transported to the Arctic from source regions around the globe. Modelling indicates that NW Eurasia and SE Asia are important source regions for mercury in Arctic air.

AMAP in cooperation with UNEP produced the 2005 global inventory of anthropogenic emissions of mercury to air – the most complete inventory available to date. AMAP work has also updated historical global inventories.



Mercury accumulates and biomagnifies in Arctic (marine) food-webs. AMAP human health studies have linked mercury to health effects in some Arctic population groups.

Mercury levels are increasing in some parts of the Arctic, especially parts of the North American Arctic.



Anthropogenic mercury recycles in the environment. Food advice can reduce exposure in vulnerable groups, such as mothers and children, but global actions are needed to reduce major sources of mercury emissions.

Climate change will alter pathways of mercury delivery to the Arctic and routes of human exposure. AMAP is coordinating Nordic Council and EU funded projects looking into climate change impacts on environmental pathways and human exposure to mercury.

AMAP's third assessment dealing with mercury in the Arctic will be delivered to the Arctic Council in May 2011. This information will also be available to the UNEP INC.

