Toxic Beauty Products & Black Women’s Health

BizNGO Conference
December 6, 2022
Mission Statement:
Black Women for Wellness, a 501 c(3) non-profit, is committed to the health and well-being of Black women and girls through health education, empowerment and advocacy.

Programs:
- Reproductive Justice
- Get Smart B4 U Get Sexy
- Grown & Sexy
- Maternal & Infant Health
- Sisters@8
- Kitchen Divas & Food Distribution
- Voting Rules Everyone Around Me
- Diabetes Prevention Program
- BWWAP
- Environmental Justice
Environmental Justice Team

Built Environment Initiatives:

- Water equity
- STAND LA
- Plastics Pollution

Beauty Justice Initiatives:

- Research: Taking Stock
- Empowerment: Curls & Conversations
- Advocacy: Safer Beauty Bill Package

Dr. Astrid Williams
Tianna S.W
Non-Toxic Black Beauty Project
DID YOU KNOW?! Black women and girls are over-exposed to and under-protected from toxic chemicals in the beauty and personal care products they use every day.
Black Beauty

Toxic ingredients found in everyday beauty products sold to Black women may be linked to:

- Breast cancer
- Ovarian cancer
- Uterine fibroids
- Fertility issues
- Reproductive harm
- Endocrine disruption
Environmental Injustice of Beauty

Overview

• Black women spend more on beauty products per capita than any other demographic -- $7.5B a year on beauty products and 9x more on hair care

• Compared with White women, women of color have higher levels of beauty product-related environmental chemicals in their bodies, independent of socioeconomic status.

Systemic Issues that Instigate & Worsen the Problem

• Poor regulation
• European, white beauty standards
• Financial inequality
• Workplace discrimination
• Systemic racism
• Local environmental exposures
• Healthcare access

citation
Hair straightening chemicals associated with higher uterine cancer risk

NIH study finds Black women may be more affected due to higher use.

Permanent Hair Dye and Straighteners May Increase Breast Cancer Risk

News Release

Archive - New Contact Information

For more information about this archival news release, please contact Christine Flowers, Director, Office of Communications & Public Liaison at (919) 541-3665.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Women who used chemical hair straightening products were at higher risk for uterine cancer compared to women who did not report using these products, according to a new study from the National Institutes of Health. The researchers found no associations with uterine cancer for other hair products that the women reported using, including hair dyes, bleach, highlights, or perms.

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919-541-5143
Links between Black beauty products and potential adverse health effects

Hair dyes
Hair straighteners
Relaxers
Color cosmetics
Perfumes
Feminine Care spray
Sunscreen
Deodorants
Skin Lighteners
And More....

Menstrual Cycle Characteristics
Breast Cancer
Endometriosis
Uterine Fibroids
Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome
Allergic Reactions
Circulatory Dysfunction
Urinary Dysfunction
Neurological Dysfunction
Beauty Justice Work

Occupational health & Safety for Hairstylists

- CHANGE coalition
- Campaigns
  - Behind the Chair
  - Styling Safely
- Micro-grants during COVID
- Research & Advocacy

Occupational Hazards/Styling Safely

Annie Malone
Educator, Inventor, Philanthropist

Madam CJ Walker
Inventor, Entrepreneur, Political Activist

Behind the Chair

Stylin' Safety Tip:
Try natural fragrances; synthetic fragrances can contain carcinogens, respiratory irritants, and hormone mimics (endocrine disruptors).

Celebrating Inspirational and Influential Black Hair Professionals

Behind the Chair
The Non-Toxic Black Beauty Project
1. Raise Awareness

Raise public, manufacturer, and retailer awareness about the hazardous chemicals in Black beauty products.
2. Help get safer products into the hands of Black women and girls

We created a list of 80 verified-as-safe, non-toxic Black-owned beauty brands, so Black women can shop with confidence knowing the beauty and personal care products they are purchasing do not contain chemicals linked to negative health effects.

The Non-Toxic Black Beauty Project is tackling the environmental injustice of Black beauty with our list and database of over 800 non-toxic Black beauty products that Black women can trust. See the list→
3. Equip Black women with tip cards and other resources they can trust that will empower them to make safer choices.
4. Grow the Safe Black Beauty Industry

The Non-Toxic Black Beauty Project is elevating Black-owned companies that are making safer beauty and personal care products for Black women and providing technical support to help businesses that don’t make it onto the list of non-toxic beauty brands and want to do better.
Safer Beauty Resources

EWG's Skin Deep®

Clearya

Black Women for Wellness

Breast Cancer Prevention Partners

WVE Women's Voices for the Earth

Silent Spring Institute

Researching the Environment and Women's Health
Thank you!

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