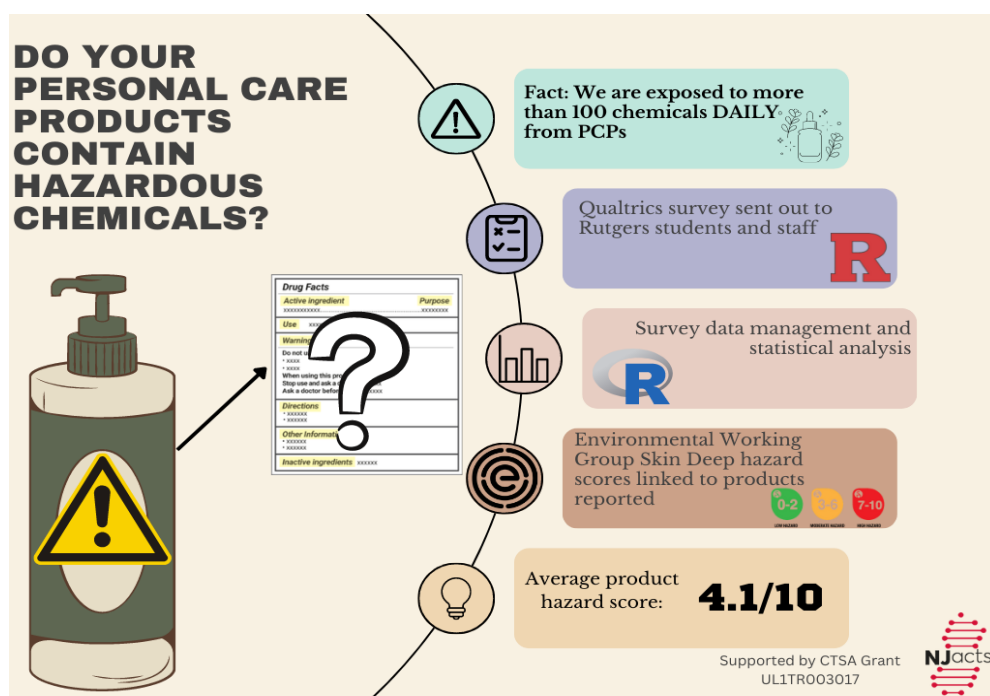




## Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals in Personal Care Products

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The average person in the U.S is exposed to more than one hundred chemicals daily from their personal care products (PCPs). These products are regulated by the FDA, but are not required to be approved (Chan, 2014). This cohort study aimed to examine the prevalence and sociodemographic variation in PCP uses and evaluate the products' safety based on pre-determined hazard ratings. Project data was collected using a Qualtrics survey administered to Rutgers University staff and students. Participant characteristics, product choices, purchasing behaviors, perceptions, and attitudes related to PCPs were summarized, and differences across race/ethnicity categories were explored. Categorical variables were summarized using frequencies and percentages, while continuous variables were summarized using means and standard deviations. Using the Environmental Working Group Skin Deep (EWG) database, hazard ratings were linked to each reported product, and then respondent-level results were summarized. Of the 676 responses received from the survey, 656 were used in the data analysis. On average, the highest number of products were reported in the hair and beauty categories, and non-Hispanic Black females reported using the highest number of products. The average product hazard score across all categories was 4.1 (+/- 0.72), with the highest scores coming from the perfumes and colognes category (6.8 +/- 2.3) and the lowest scores coming from the oral care category (3.2 +/- 0.72). Additionally, average hazard scores were similar across all race/ethnicity categories. Based on these results, further education is still needed for people to better understand potentially harmful ingredients in their products and their risks.



References: *Harmful, untested chemicals rife in personal care products*. Harvard T.H. Chan. (2014, February 19). Retrieved November 17, 2022, from <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/features/harmful-chemicals-in-personal-care-products/>