

What are carcinogens?

Health and Human Services uses two classifications for carcinogens: “Known to Be Human Carcinogens” and “Reasonably Anticipated to be Human Carcinogens”.

Some examples in each category include:

Known to Be Human Carcinogens	Reasonably Anticipated to be Human Carcinogens
Alcoholic Beverages	Acrylamide [Ack-RILL-am-eyed] (found in starchy fried foods, cosmetics, and tobacco smoke)
Formaldehyde	Styrene (a chemical use to create Styrofoam)
Human Papillomaviruses [pap-ill-OMA-viruses]	DEHP (a phthalate [“ph” is silent] commonly added to plastics)
Sunlamps and Sunbeds	Naphthalene (found in moth balls)
Tobacco Smoke	Lead (found in many products, from old house paint to some imported pottery to many lipsticks)
Radon	UV radiation (primary exposure is from sunlight)

In the toolkit, you can find a link to the most recent U.S. Department of Health and Human Services report listing known carcinogens.