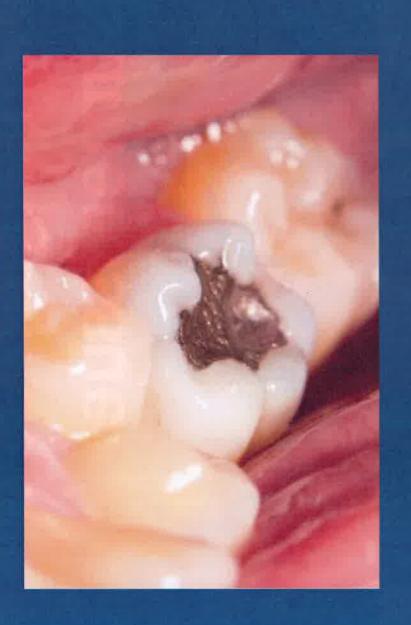
## Dental Amalgam as a Consumer Issue



Charles G. Brown, Executive Director Consumers for Dental Choice

# What is dental amalgam?

- A filling material that is 50% mercury
- Mercury-free alternatives are available



## Amalgam is a major source of mercury Concerns about amalgam:

- 226-322 tonnes of dental mercury is used around the world annually.
- The dental industry is one of the largest users of mercury consumption. mercury in the U.S., accounting for 35-57% of
- About half of restored teeth in the U.S. contain amalgam.

#### Amalgam releases mercury Concerns about amalgam:

- Dental amalgam releases mercury the U.S. Food and Drug Administration throughout its lifecycle, according to
- Higher exposure to mercury is associated with placement and chewing, tooth grinding, and brushing. released during mastication, gum teeth, amalgam continues to release removal of amalgam. Implanted in mercury vapor, with higher amounts



## Amalgam's mercury has toxic effects Concerns about amalgam:

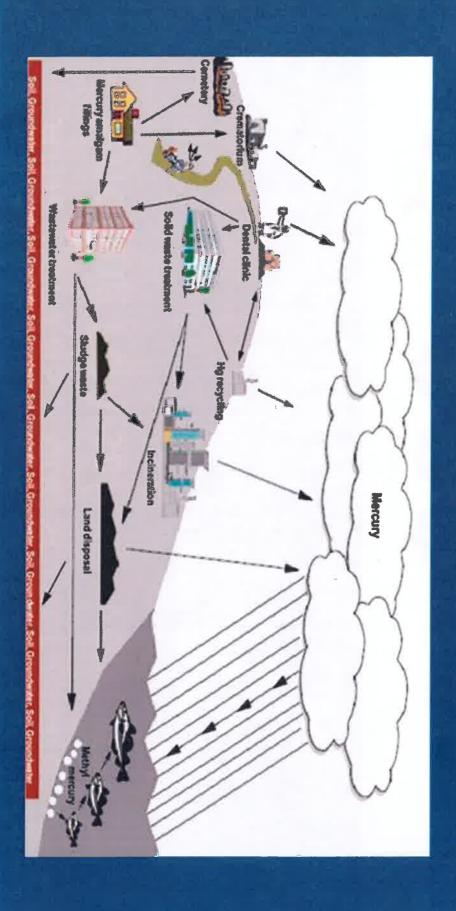
- Mercury is a neurotoxin, reprotoxin, and nephrotoxin that is known to cause adverse health effects.
- Mercury can pose particular risks when exposure is toxic effects (like children). sources), when individuals have reduced ability to individuals are sensitive or vulnerable to mercury's remove mercury from their bodies, and when high (and it can bioaccumulate from multiple

# Misleading with the "silver" filling deception Amalgam as a consumer issue:

- Amalgam is often marketed as "silver fillings" (or "silver stars" in some pediatric clinics).
- Zogby polls show many Americans are not aware that amalgam's main ingredient is mercury.
- As a result, amalgam is commonly placed without creams, etc.) exposure from fish consumption, skin-lightening risk factors (such as high pre-existing mercury informed consent – and without assessing consumers'

## Preventing green consumerism Amalgam as a consumer issue:

pollutes air, water, and land. Much of the mercury from amalgam eventually



#### Ignoring FDA safety warnings Amalgam as a consumer issue:

against amalgam use in high-risk populations. The U.S. FDA issued a safety communication warning

## Dental Amalgam Recommendations



FDA U.S. FOOD & DRUG



young or libert six especially those Report and I have appoint impairment or aidney dystunction High-Risk Populations pregnant or planning UP COUNT WINDLY SCHEMENT TO THE TURY, SHIVEY, Cobbet tel of and ave than aidolad

> in mescary vapors may be harmful to certain groups swaleswing small postecles of dental amalgam, breathing While there are no known health risks associated with

dental amalgam, if possible and appropriate. The FOA recommends that high-risk populations avoid

- If your liking is an good condition, the FDM Assistable Aprice and Stages Tolker and Stages mediente and and the bisons son sprentagen
- If you are in a high-risk population, talk to your dental provides about other available treatment options

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For more information, please visit www.fda.gov/dental-amalgam

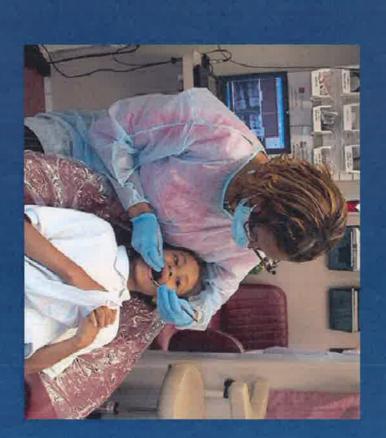
#### Amalgam as a consumer issue: Damaging tooth structure

Preparation for amalgam placement results in a greater loss of healthy tooth tissue than placement of mercury-free fillings, weakening tooth structure.



## Amalgam's disproportionate impact on lowincome consumers and consumers of color

- Amalgam is disproportionately used
- Amalgam disproportionately pollutes
- Amalgam poses disproportionate risks



#### Thank you

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