

# Eat Safe Wild Game

## Do not eat wild game organs



Hunting in Michigan can be a lifelong hobby and a great source of food for you and your family. Eating meat from wild game can provide you with a lean source of protein. However, wild game organs can have much higher amounts of chemicals and metals than the meat. Eating wild game organs should always be avoided.

## Why should I avoid eating wild game organs?

Chemicals used in manufacturing and industry can get into the environment where wild game live. Some chemicals last a long time in the environment and can build up in wild game. Listed below are some of the chemicals and metals that can build up to high levels in wild game organs.

- Dioxins
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBS)
- Cadmium
- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
- Lead
- Mercury

Wild game organs can have higher amounts of chemicals and metals than the meat:

- The **liver** and **kidneys** filter chemicals and metals from the blood. This can lead to high amounts of chemicals and metals in the organs.
- Some chemicals can build up in the **brain** of animals.
- The **gizzard** helps the bird with mechanical breakdown of food. Birds may store contaminated food in this organ, which can lead to build up of chemicals and metals in the gizzard.

## What health concerns are related to these chemicals and metals?

Eating wild game organs can cause some chemicals to build up in your body. This could lead to health concerns such as:

- Development of cancer
- Development of diabetes
- Problems with fertility
- Reduced thyroid and immune system function
- Disrupted brain development in fetuses and children

## More Information

To learn more about wild game guidelines or for information about **lead bullets and venison**, please call: **1-800-648-6942** or visit [www.michigan.gov/eatsafegame](http://www.michigan.gov/eatsafegame).

For updated information on PFAS in wild game, visit [www.michigan.gov/PFASresponse](http://www.michigan.gov/PFASresponse).

