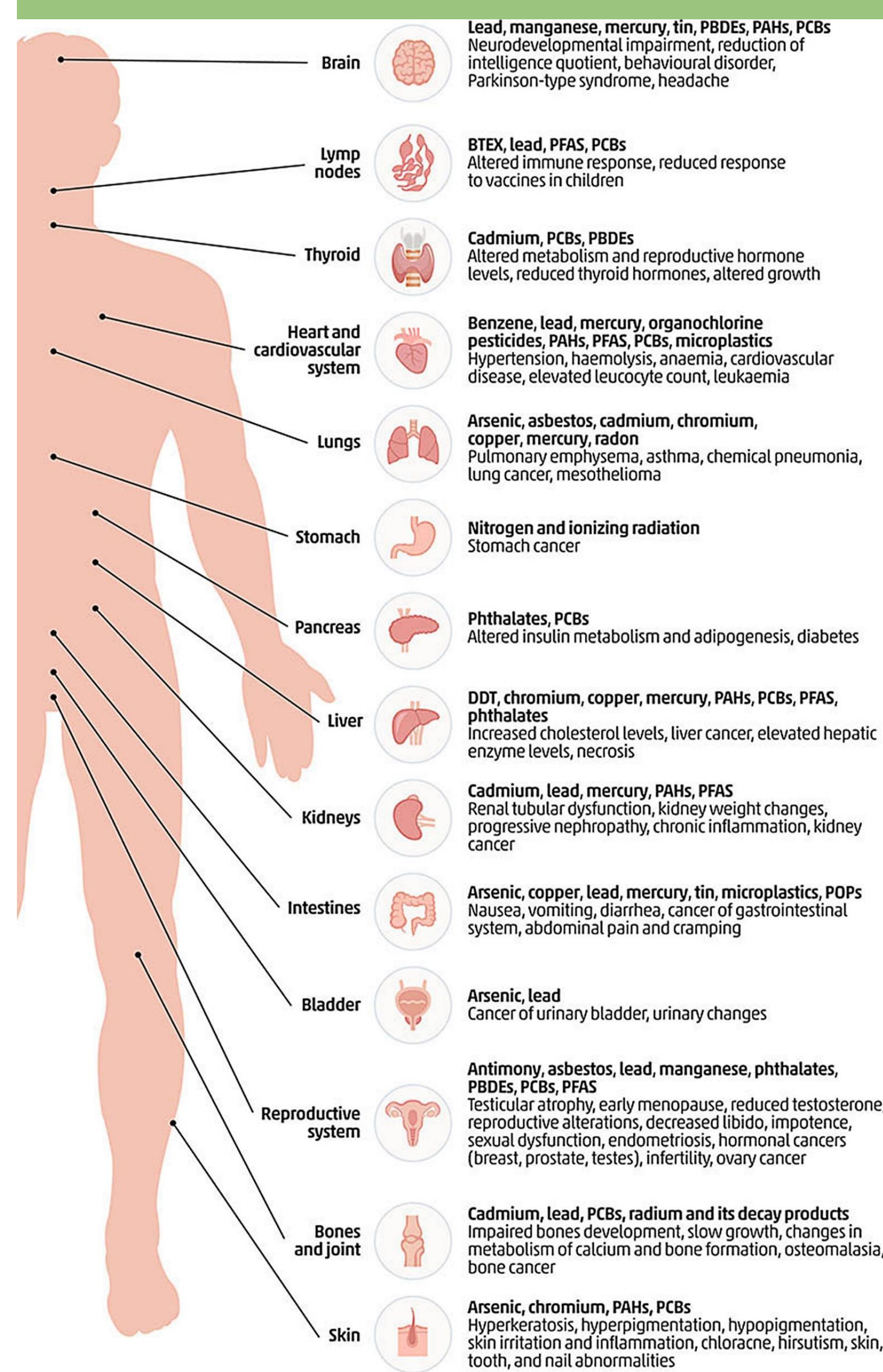


CONSEQUENCES OF SOIL CONTAMINATION

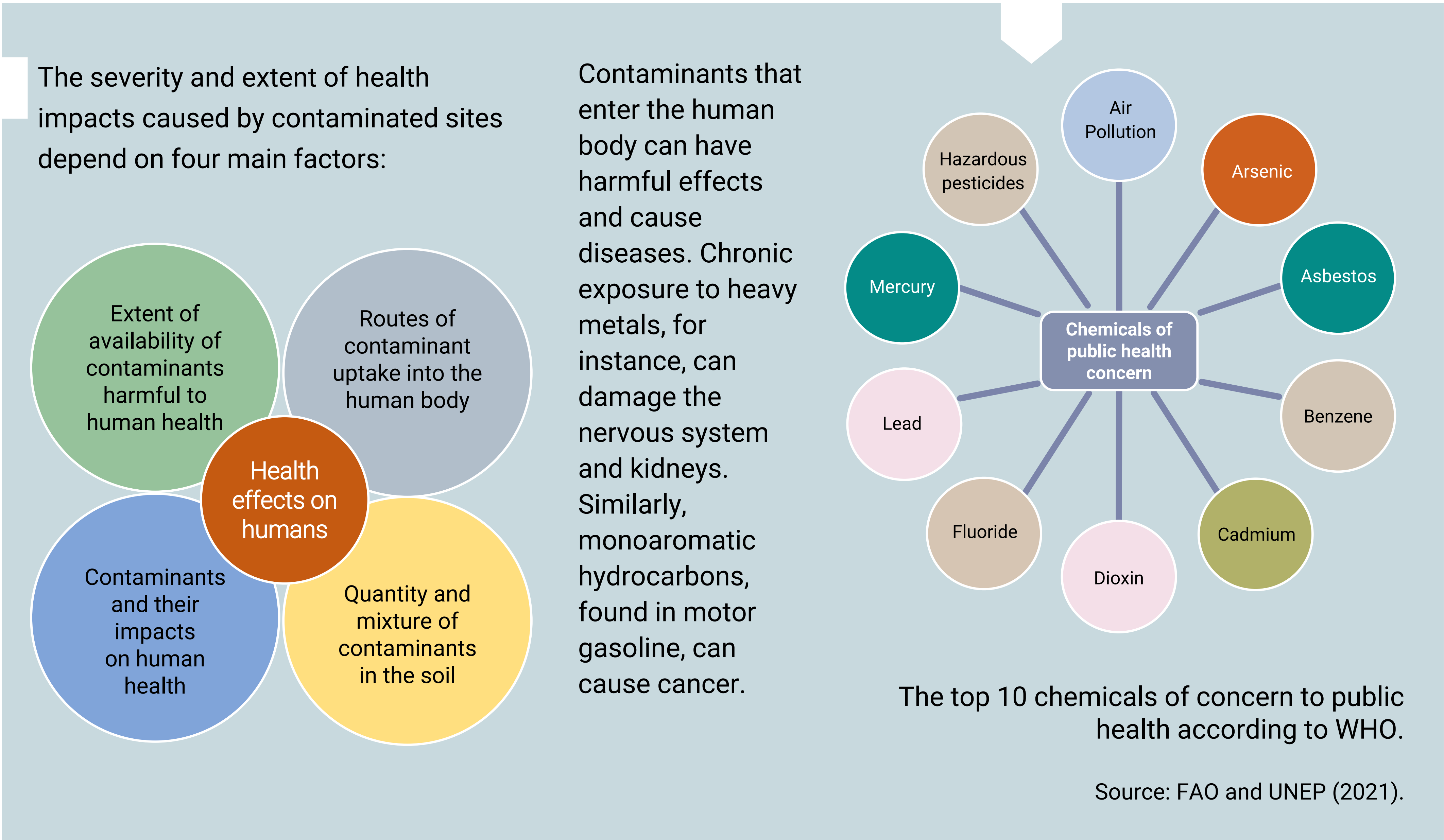
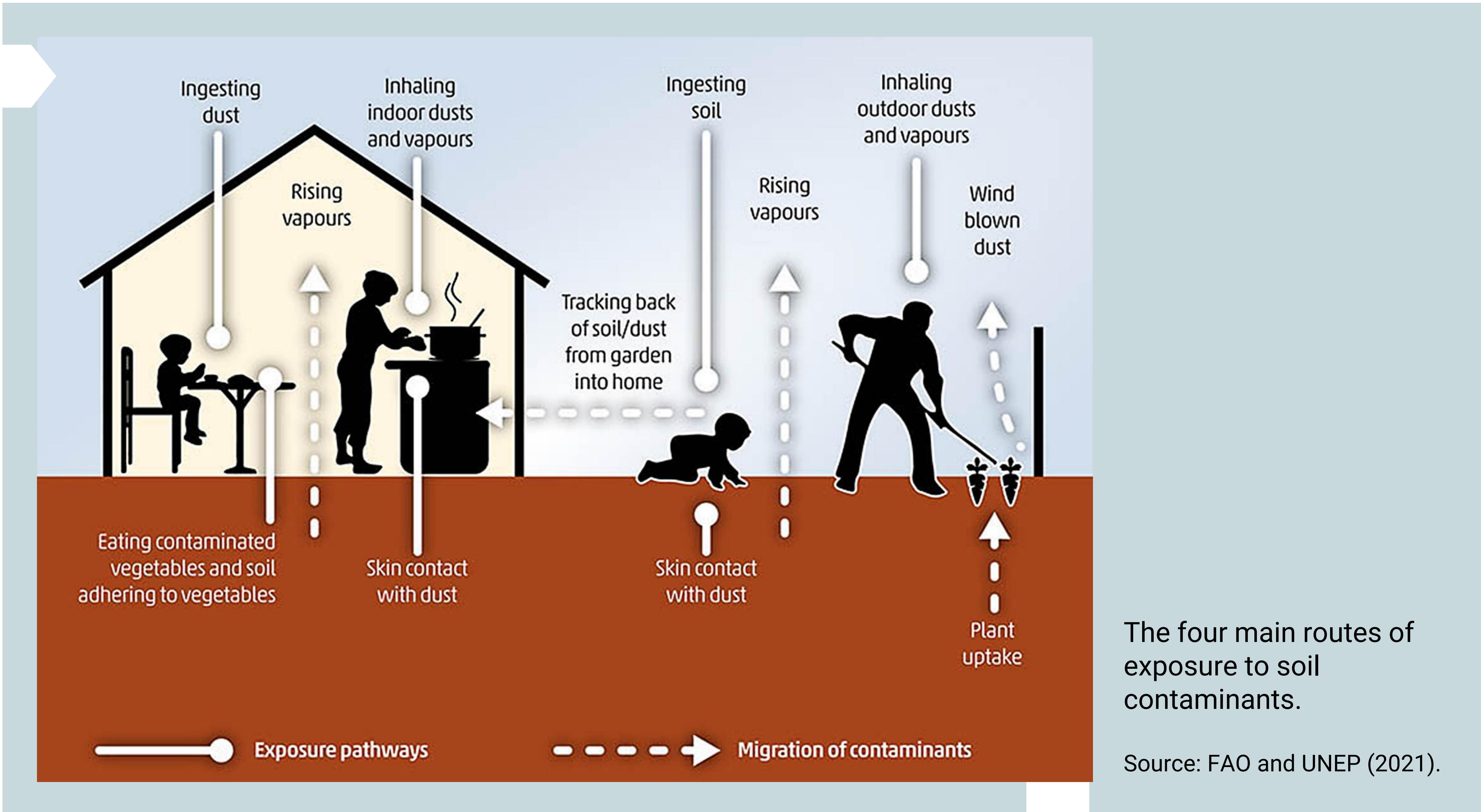
Why can Soil Contamination be Harmful to Humans?

Contaminants in soil can reach humans through various means. For example, children playing on the ground may ingest contaminated soil or vegetables grown in contaminated soil can absorb the contaminants. Additionally, dust from contaminated soil can be inhaled.



Soil contaminants can have significant effects on human health. These effects can impact various organs or systems in the body and are caused by different pollutants.

Source: FAO and UNEP (2021).



Some Key Facts on Soils:

1. Ninety-five percent of our food supply is directly or indirectly dependent on soil, making it a vital resource for both plant and animal products. This includes both plant and animal products that rely on the nutrients provided by soils (FAO, 2015).
2. Soil regulates gas exchange with the atmosphere and plays a significant role in both storing and releasing greenhouse gases (Lei et al., 2021).
3. Soils filter water from rainfall or irrigation, store water, support plant growth and regulate water distribution. This regulates both water quality and quantity, vertically and horizontally, to ground and surface water bodies (O'Green, 2013).

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