

# “Estimating the Benefits of Superfund: Framework, Methods and Some Preliminary Results”

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## Abstract:

The discovery that many sites across the country were contaminated with hazardous materials, most of it industrial waste, sparked a national controversy in the late 1970s. This debate led to passage of the Comprehensive Environmental Recovery, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) in 1980, and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), which largely shape today's Superfund program. The costs and liability rules associated with Superfund have been extremely controversial and the subject of significant analyses. The benefits, on the other hand, have received less attention. This talk will describe ongoing research into defining and measuring the benefits of the Superfund program including methodological challenges and some preliminary results.