

STUDY SUMMARY

Biomonitoring among residents of subsidized housing in King County



Why are we doing this study?

The Washington State Department of Health is doing this study to measure and better understand exposures to pyrethroid pesticides and plastics-related compounds (bisphenol A and phthalates) among residents of low-income housing. Biomonitoring studies done elsewhere have shown that people with lower incomes have higher levels of these compounds in their bodies. Health research studies show that these compounds may disrupt hormone function in early life. This study is funded by a grant by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Who do we want to participate?

We would like girls and women ages 6–44 and boys and men ages 6–19 who live in subsidized housing to participate. We will invite all people these ages living in a household to participate.

What will we ask them to do?

We will ask participants to collect up to two urine samples, put the samples in their freezer, and fill out a questionnaire. We will pick up frozen urine samples and completed questionnaires at a convenient time. We provide all study supplies. Urine samples will be tested at the Washington State Public Health Laboratories. Adults who give urine samples will be given a \$25 Visa card as a thank you, teenagers will be given a \$15 Visa card, and everyone will get a stainless steel water bottle.

When will the study start?

We will begin recruiting participants in May 2013. We will recruit participants until April 2014 and would like about 1,000 people total to participate.

Where do the chemicals we are measuring come from?

Pyrethroid pesticides are used to control ants, fleas, spiders, cockroaches and other pests in and around buildings. These pesticides are in many products that people buy to kill bugs. They are also used by pest control companies.

Bisphenol A (BPA) is used in some hard plastics, such as baby bottles and re-useable water bottles, and in the lining of food cans. Bisphenol A has been banned recently in baby bottles, young children's drink and food containers, and sports water bottles sold in Washington State.

Phthalates are used to make soft, flexible plastics; vinyl products; food packaging materials; and are found in some beauty and skin care products such as shampoos and lotions.

What will we do with the results?

1. We will compare urine levels measured in this study to state and national levels.
2. We will use questionnaire information we collect about sources of exposure to help prevent exposures in the future.

For more information, please contact:

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