

Discussion Questions for the March 16, 2011 Scientific Guidance Panel Meeting Looking Forward for Biomonitoring California

Identifying Populations for Community Studies

We would like the Panel's input on populations the Program should consider for biomonitoring in future community studies. For example, the Program could expand the current projects on mothers and infants and firefighters. Other examples include:

- Other occupational cohort (e.g., health care workers)
- Cohorts with higher environmental exposures to particular contaminants
- Incoming medical students

Does the Panel have input on the above examples or other suggestions for populations the Program should consider studying? Does the Panel have suggestions for potential collaborators who could help study populations of interest? Such collaborations could entail designing a new project or conducting laboratory analyses of samples collected by other researchers.

Approximating a Statewide Representative Sample

One of the Program's goals is to measure chemicals in a statewide representative sample of Californians. Carrying out CDC-NHANES-type sampling is desirable, but it is unlikely that the Program will be able to obtain adequate funding to support this option in the near term. Two options staff have identified as possible ways to approximate a statewide representative sample are:

- Expansion of Kaiser collaboration
- Pooled infant blood spots and pooled maternal serum collected at birth

Does the Panel have input on the above options? Does the Panel have other suggested approaches for approximating a statewide representative sample, bearing in mind the resource constraints of the Program?

Investigating Environmental Exposure Sources

As we begin to identify biomonitored chemicals in project participants, questions will arise about the sources of exposures. Investigating sources of biomonitored chemicals will help the Program interpret biomonitoring results. A small environmental sampling component was included as part of the Firefighter Occupational Exposures Project. Adding a more comprehensive environmental sampling component to each biomonitoring project would be ideal, but this option would require a great deal of external resources.

- How should the Program approach investigating environmental exposure sources of the biomonitored chemicals?
- Would modeling chemical exposures be a good avenue to explore?
- Does the Panel have suggestions of researchers who might be interested in collaborating on environmental sampling or exposure modeling components of a project?

Additional Input

Does the Panel have any other input to offer on planning for the future of the Program?