

**California Department of Public Health  
Biomonitoring California  
Report to the Legislature – January 2013  
Summary**

The Legislature created the California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program, also known as Biomonitoring California, to help protect the people of California from harmful chemicals. Biomonitoring California currently measures chemicals in people's blood and urine. Determining chemical levels in Californians can help scientists examine how human exposure to these chemicals changes over time and whether some population groups have high exposures. Biomonitoring also helps us evaluate how well government programs protect the public from harmful chemicals. Biomonitoring California is the nation's only ongoing state-mandated biomonitoring program and represents a collaboration of the California Department of Public Health, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

Biomonitoring California is required to submit progress reports to the Legislature every two years. This report describes the Program's activities during calendar years 2010 and 2011.

Since FY 2008-09, state funding for Biomonitoring California has come from the Toxic Substances Control Account (TSCA). Currently TSCA provides \$1.9 million per year for all three Biomonitoring California departments combined. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides supplemental funding of about \$2.6 million per year under a five-year Cooperative Agreement, which will expire in 2014. The program has initially focused on purchasing laboratory equipment, training scientists, developing new analytical tests, and on community studies and collaborations with university scientists. Testing of a statewide sample of Californians is mandated by the program's enabling legislation, but has been delayed due to resource limitations.

During 2010 and 2011 program staff:

- Enhanced state laboratory capacity to analyze environmental chemicals by purchasing and installing state-of-the-art analytical instruments; developing testing methods, standard operating procedures, and quality assurance protocols for chemicals the laboratories will analyze; and hiring and training scientists to conduct these analyses;
- Planned and initiated three biomonitoring surveys;
- Formally identified a list of environmental chemicals as priorities for biomonitoring in California based on toxicity and exposure concerns, as well as input from the Program's Scientific Guidance Panel and the public;
- Collaborated with researchers at the University of California, Berkeley to develop best practices and materials for returning individual test results to biomonitoring study participants who request them;
- Provided many opportunities for public participation in program implementation; and
- Accomplished goals set forth in the above-noted Cooperative Agreement with the CDC to supplement existing state biomonitoring capability.

Biomonitoring California was established by California Health & Safety Code, Title 8, sections 105440 et seq., in 2006.

A copy of this report can be ordered by contacting Phillip Gonzaga (510-620-3623, or [phillip.gonzaga@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:phillip.gonzaga@cdph.ca.gov)) or by downloading it from <http://www.oehha.ca.gov/multimedia/biomon/reports/index.html>