

Legislative Highlight Report

Biomonitoring California is required to submit progress reports every two years to the Legislature. This document is the third such report and includes information on program accomplishments for the time period between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2013, with updated financial information. The legislative reports can be accessed at: www.biomonitoring.ca.gov/biomonitoring-california-reports.

The California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program (also called Biomonitoring California) was established through legislation in 2006 by Senate Bill 1379 (Perata) and codified in Health & Safety Code Sections 105440 et seq. It is a collaborative effort involving the California Department of Public Health as the lead, with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and the Department of Toxic Substances Control. It receives technical advice and peer review from a Scientific Guidance Panel and public input.

Biomonitoring California has focused to date on building laboratory capabilities, developing techniques to appropriately communicate results of individual tests to participants (as required by the statute), and engaging in targeted biomonitoring studies of vulnerable subpopulations. The Program has also undertaken a number of small-scale studies of California subpopulations, which will establish a strong foundation for possible statewide surveys in the future. The results from these biomonitoring studies are compared with data from national surveys, providing valuable information about exposures in some California subpopulations. Biomonitoring California's laboratories are also collaborating with university researchers and other expert scientists to analyze samples collected for other studies. Results for Biomonitoring California's studies are available at: www.biomonitoring.ca.gov/results.

By the end of the two-year period covered by this report (2012-2013), the Program had:

- Increased its capability to measure 140 distinct toxic chemicals or their breakdown products in urine, serum, and whole blood.
- Obtained specimens from over 3,700 Californians.
- Conducted over 7,000 biomonitoring analyses for toxic metals, flame retardants, phthalates, and pesticides.
- Returned the individual results of the analyses to all participants who requested them (96% of all participants) and posted aggregate results on the Program's website.
- Established its ability to serve as an early warning system for new chemical exposures and support the state's environmental and occupational health policies.
- Launched the re-designed Biomonitoring California website.

California is a leader in identifying chemicals of emerging concern in the environment and consumer products. To contribute to this effort, and specifically to provide information to the Safer Consumer Products program, Biomonitoring California has prioritized the development of methods to identify new chemicals that present potential risk to Californians. The Program also places a high priority on identifying opportunities to monitor chemical exposures in subpopulations, including: disadvantaged communities with specific exposure concerns; employees in workplaces where levels of chemicals of concern exceed ambient environmental levels; and, sensitive populations such as pregnant women and infants. These studies provide important data that will help inform public health practice and chemical regulation policy to reduce harmful chemical exposures in Californians. For more information about Biomonitoring California, visit the Program website at: www.biomonitoring.ca.gov.