

**California Department of Public Health  
California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program  
Report to the Legislature – January 2010  
Summary**

The California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program (CECBP) was established in 2006 by Senate Bill (SB) 1379 (Perata, Chapter 599, Statutes of 2006; codified in Health & Safety Code Sections 105440 through 105459). Biomonitoring involves measuring chemicals in blood, urine or other tissues or body fluids. Recognizing that environmental chemical exposures can have profound influences on children's development and on the incidence of chronic disease, the Legislature created the CECBP to identify the presence of toxic chemicals in Californians and help shape critical public health and environmental policies. CECBP is the first legislatively mandated state biomonitoring program in the country, 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. The program is required to submit progress reports to the Legislature every two years.

The principal goals of CECBP are to:

- monitor, analyze, and report on specific environmental chemicals detected in biological specimens from a representative statewide sample of Californians; and
- help assess the effectiveness of existing public health programs in reducing exposures to those chemicals.

Full implementation of a statewide sampling program has been limited by California's budget crisis. Consequently, CECBP has modified its implementation strategy to focus on smaller community and pilot studies. CECBP has also leveraged its existing state resources to obtain external funding and collaborate with other programs and university researchers.

Baseline annual program funding for all three CECBP departments from FY 2007-08 to the present is \$1.9 million. In FY 2008-09, the Legislature transferred CECBP's funding from the General Fund to the Toxic Substances Control Account.

This report describes progress made towards implementing the CECBP. Program staff has:

- formally identified specific environmental chemicals as priorities for biomonitoring in California, based on toxicity and exposure concerns, and on input from the CECBP's blue-ribbon Scientific Guidance Panel and from the public;
- built 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;
- provided multiple opportunities for public participation in program implementation;
- successfully competed for a five-year cooperative agreement with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to supplement existing state biomonitoring laboratory capacity;
- planned and initiated community biomonitoring surveys;
- collaborated with researchers at UC Berkeley to develop best practices and materials for returning individual test results to participants who request them; and
- developed a five-year plan to implement a scalable, statewide biomonitoring survey that can be deployed when resources become available.

A copy of this report can be ordered by contacting Latasha Speech ((510) 620-3648 or [lspeech@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:lspeech@cdph.ca.gov)) or by downloading it from [www.biomonitoring.ca.gov](http://www.biomonitoring.ca.gov).