

Concentrations ($\mu\text{g/L}$) of environmental phenols ([bisphenol A](#) and [triclosan](#)) collected from 77 pregnant women in 2010 - 2011 for the [Maternal and Infant Environmental Exposure Project \(MIEEP\)](#)

Environmental Phenols ^a	Geometric Mean (95% Confidence Interval)	Selected Percentiles				Limit of Detection (LOD)
		25 th	50 th	75 th	90 th	
Bisphenol A	1.25 (0.984 – 1.58)	0.490	1.27	3.13	4.85	0.20
Triclosan	17.2 (10.5 – 28.2)	2.44	11.1	139	445	1.0

a. See page two for [explanation of terms](#).

Explanation of Terms

µg/L

Micrograms of the chemical per liter of urine.

Geometric mean

The geometric mean is an estimated middle value of a set of numbers. This is different than the average, also called the "arithmetic mean". A geometric mean is sometimes calculated when the set of numbers contains some extreme values. For example, the geometric mean of the set of numbers "1, 2, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5, 6, 10, 100" is calculated by *multiplying* all ten numbers together and then *raising to the 1/10th power*, giving 4.8. To compare, the arithmetic mean is calculated by *adding* all ten numbers and *dividing by 10*, giving 14.

95% confidence interval

A *sample* is a subset of a larger *population*. A confidence interval for a statistical measure is a range of values estimated from *sample* data. This interval is likely to include the true value of the statistical measure, such as a geometric mean, for the larger *population*. A 95% confidence interval for a statistical measure implies that we are 95% confident that the range includes the true *population* value for this measure.

Percentiles

Percentiles are best explained by an example: if the 75th percentile is 1.5 µg/L, this means that 75% of participants had levels less than or equal to 1.5 µg/L.

Limit of detection (LOD)

The LOD is the lowest level of a chemical that the laboratory can measure in blood or urine.
