



The California Environmental Health Tracking Program

Central Valley and South Coast

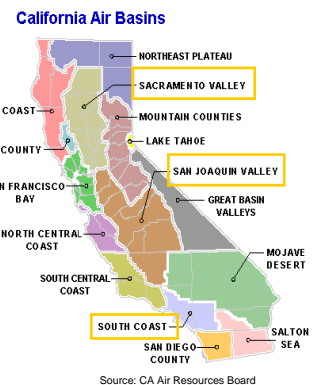
Children's Environmental Health Pilot Project

Environmental Public Health Tracking is the ongoing, systematic monitoring of pollutants and diseases that are known or suspected to be related to the environment. The California Environmental Health Tracking Program (CEHTP) is implementing a 3-year pilot project that will serve as a “road test” for elements of an environmental public health tracking system.

Scope of the Project

This project will demonstrate how existing data can be used to contribute to public knowledge while maintaining data confidentiality. The project focuses on counties in the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, and South Coast air basins. We are exploring geographic variations in health outcomes and their possible relationships with environmental hazards, using data on:

- **Preterm birth and term low birthweight** (Source: CA Center for Health Statistics)
- **SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome)** (Source: CA Center for Health Statistics)
- **Autism Spectrum Disorders** (Source: CA Department of Developmental Services)
- **Mental retardation** (Source: CA Department of Developmental Services)
- **Airborne hazards** (Sources: CA Department of Pesticide Regulation and CA Air Resources Board)
- **Maternal and child blood lead levels** (Source: CA Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch)



Project Components

- **Building Partnerships for Tracking**
Our partners include Cal/EPA Air Resources Board (CARB), DHS Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch (CLPPB), and the CA Center of Excellence for Autism and Developmental Disabilities Research and Epidemiology (CADDRE).
- **Information Technology (IT)**
We are developing IT capacity to help agencies refine and standardize their health and environmental data and make them more amenable to geographic analysis. We are also working with CARB to develop the capacity for their CHAPIS system to respond to geographic queries in an automated fashion.
- **Data Processing and Analysis**
We are assessing information from a variety of sources to describe health outcomes for a single birth cohort. We will then develop methods to visualize this information and look for associations with exposure to airborne hazards.
- **Stakeholder Participation**– We are convening a stakeholder advisory team to provide input and guidance on project activities (see back).

Intended Outcomes

- Demonstrate the feasibility of tracking airborne hazards, lead exposure, and health outcomes.
- Increase capacity to examine possible connections between airborne hazards and lead with health outcomes of infancy and childhood.
- Create materials that can be used for education, outreach, planning, and public health action.
- Provide communities with new information to address health concerns regarding air toxics and pesticide exposures.

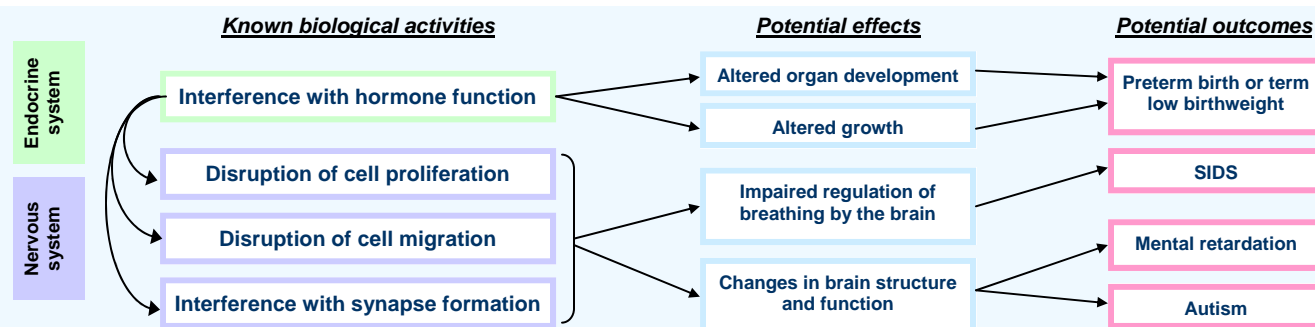
For more information, go to www.catracking.com

Funding for this project is provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Project Highlights

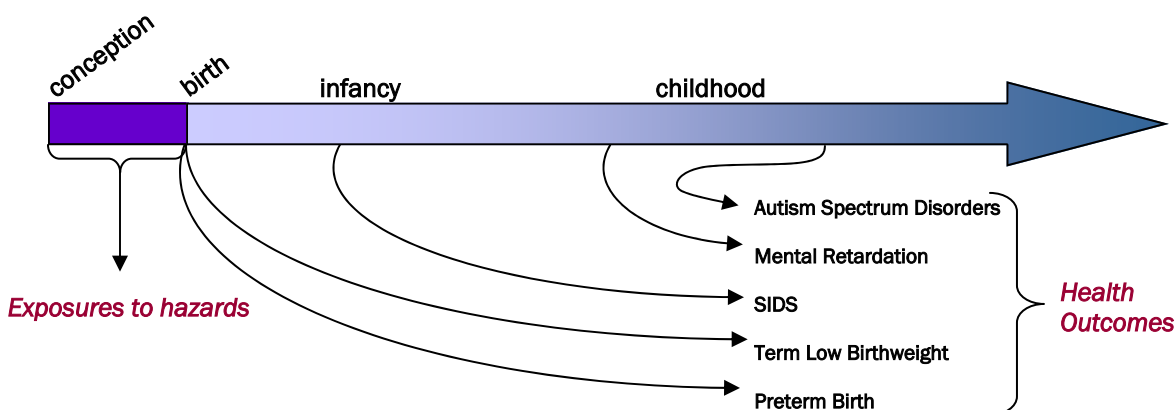
Concerns About Airborne Hazards

Airborne hazards are pollutants from industrial sources and traffic, as well as pesticides. We are looking at pollutants that are potentially related to the project health outcomes.



Exposures During Pregnancy

The time between conception and birth is a critical developmental period when interference in normal processes can result in significant consequences. Given the potential toxicity of airborne hazards and the vulnerability to environmental insults during this period, we are developing a system that may further our understanding about how environmental exposures during pregnancy can impact infant and childhood health.



Advisory Team

An essential component of this project is to receive and utilize guidance and feedback from stakeholders who are familiar with the exposures and health outcomes of the project and whose organizations use environmental health information to improve the public's health. We are convening an Advisory Team that includes representatives from local health departments, regional air quality management districts, research institutions, and a variety of non-profit and advocacy organizations including parent groups and community groups. The role of the Advisory Team is to:

- **Advise on project activities**, such as identifying information needs, defining the scope of project, reviewing project findings, and ensuring that approaches and methods are culturally sensitive and appropriate.
- **Develop policy recommendations** to address policy issues related to tracking at the county, state, or national level.
- **Support the development and implementation of the project evaluation plan**
- **Help develop and implement the communication and dissemination strategies** for project results. This includes identifying key audiences, determining appropriate formats and uses of results, identifying cultural and linguistic issues, and communicating project activities and results to key stakeholders.
- **Evaluate the need for new organizational initiatives** to support issues identified or developed through the pilot project, as well as identifying opportunities to assist in building sustainable capacity to address project outcomes and policy initiatives.

CEHTP Central Valley and South Coast Children's Environmental Health Pilot Project- Contact Information

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