



Hanford Community Health Project

The Hanford Community Health Project (HCHP) is an outreach and education initiative sponsored by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The project seeks to provide educational information and materials about potential health risks to individuals who were exposed as young children to past releases of radioactive iodine (I-131) between 1944 and 1951 from the Hanford Nuclear reservation. The project's goal is to assist individuals and their health care providers in making informed health care choices concerning these exposures.

Plutonium for nuclear weapons was produced at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation from its opening in 1944 until its closing in 1972. The Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction Project (HEDR) estimates that 740,000 curies of radioactive iodine were released to the air from facilities used to produce plutonium and that the majority of releases of I-131 occurred between 1944 and 1951. HEDR also estimates that children up to five years of age who lived in Adams, Benton, and Franklin counties received the highest doses of I-131. It is estimated that children who lived in several counties beyond the three high exposure counties received significant, but lower, doses of I-131.

Iodine accumulates in the thyroid gland. Some studies have shown that exposure to radioactive iodine is associated with an increased risk of developing thyroid cancer and other thyroid related diseases. Medical studies indicate that children up to five years of age may be at greater risk than the general population for developing thyroid problems following exposure to radioactive iodine.

The HCHP is working to make information and educational materials about health risks of exposure to I-131 available to concerned Hanford citizens. Materials are under development by multiple agencies including ATSDR, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). The HCHP hopes to act as a clearinghouse for health information about I-131 exposure from past Hanford releases, making it easier for individuals and their health care providers to locate the information they need.

The HCHP is also developing a web site—which should be available later this year—that will make all of these materials available online. The reverse side of this handout lists currently available web sites that contain information about Hanford health-related activities, I-131 exposure, and thyroid disease.

Individuals with questions about the project should contact HCHP at **1-800-207-3996**, or by e-mail message at **Hanford@norcmail.uchicago.edu**. You can also contact ATSDR directly at 1-888-42-ATSDR (1-888-422-8737).

Information Sources on the Internet

This is a list of resources available on the Internet that contain information about Hanford health-related activities, radioactive iodine (I-131) exposure, other projects looking at I-131 exposure, and thyroid disease.

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry	www.atsdr.cdc.gov
American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists <i>(recommended for health care providers)</i>	www.aace.com
American College of Preventive Medicine	www.acpm.org
American Thyroid Association	www.thyroid.org
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Radiation Studies Branch	www.cdc.gov/nceh/radiation/default.htm
Department of Energy (Hanford)	www.hanford.gov/safety/healthstudies/index.html
Hanford Health Effects Subcommittee	www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hhes/site/about.html
National Cancer Institute	www.cancer.gov
Thyroid Foundation of America	www.tsh.org
Washington State Department of Health (Hanford)	www.doh.wa.gov/hanford