

Results of the Hanford Community Health Project Survey

In June and July 2001, we completed a telephone survey with 500 people who had been born close to Hanford between 1940 and 1951. The telephone interviewer asked the survey participants questions about their

- opinions on the possible health risks related to having been born close to Hanford
- use of health care services and their interest in thyroid medical evaluations
- need for more health information on Hanford's past releases of radioactive iodine

The response to the survey was excellent, and everyone that we called to interview was very cooperative and helpful. Since the survey was completed, we have been busy looking at the answers people gave us and have been using that information to help us plan the next stage of the project. Below we have information on what we learned from the survey and how we are using that information.

What were the main results from the survey?

The numbers below show what percentage of the 500 people who were in the survey gave these answers.

HCHP Survey Results

- 91% Were aware of past releases of radioactive iodine from Hanford
- 24% Were aware of the past releases of radioactive iodine and thought that they had been exposed
- 54% Felt poorly informed about health problems related to the thyroid gland
- 46% Felt that their health care professional knew little about the health issues related to Hanford
- 93% Seek advice about their health from their health care professional
- 59% Usually get a medical check up at least once a year
- 84% Would use a thyroid examination service if it was available free of charge
- 81% Would like to receive more information about radioactive iodine and thyroid disease

How is the HCHP using the survey results?

Looking at the answers from all the people who participated in the survey has been very helpful to us. We have been using those answers to make important decisions regarding what information on the past releases of radioactive iodine from Hanford and its possible health risks would be most useful to you, and how best to present that information to you and others who are interested.

Some of the activities we have decided to pursue in the HCHP include:

- establishing a clearinghouse of related health information for individuals
- develop a web page to disseminate information and materials
- improve outreach efforts to reach a larger audience and expand our mailing list

We will continue to use the survey findings to help us identify additional areas where we can assist Hanford 'downwinders' make informed health care choices regarding past exposures to radioactive iodine from Hanford.

The Hanford Community Health Project (HCHP) is an education and outreach program for individuals exposed as young children to past releases of Iodine-131 from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation (1945-51). The HCHP is sponsored by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, an agency of the U.S. Public Health Services. Individuals with any questions about the project should contact the HCHP at **1-800-207-3996** or by e-mail message at Hanford@norcmail.uchicago.edu. You can also contact ATSDR directly at 1-888-42ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.