TIDES Updates

The Infant Development and Environment Study (TIDES) is underway in four locations across the US. We have centers in Rochester, NY; Minneapolis, MN; Seattle, WA; and San Francisco, CA. The purpose of our research is to explore the relationship between everyday chemicals and children’s health and development.

We are excited to announce that as of September 2013, TIDES has completed the birth exam phase of our study and has completed 191 one-year exams and 280 one-year questionnaires across the four study centers.

Since our last newsletter we have had some staff changes at University of Minnesota and University of Rochester. At UMN, Brooke Rody took the summer off to travel around Central America and learn Spanish—she returned to the study in September. Mackenzie Turk joined the UMN TIDES team for her summer break. At University of Rochester, Erin Driscoll-Brantley has moved to Washington, DC to pursue a doctorate in public health policy.

We want to thank all of the TIDES families. Without your dedication to TIDES none of this would be possible! Your participation will help us to better understand how chemicals in the environment affect children’s health.
TIDES Research

The TIDES team is working hard to use the information we have gathered from you and your family. We have used information from your study visits to help describe how we standardized measurements that were taken at your baby’s birth exam. Thanks to all of our parents and babies, we were able to easily measure anogenital distance with excellent accuracy and reliability. We have developed a written protocol for how to measure anogenital distance in all infants which has been used by many other research groups. We also wanted to use information from TIDES to examine how pregnant women feel about chemicals in their environment. From your questionnaires, we learned that 60% of TIDES participants strongly agree that environmental chemicals are dangerous, and those participants were more likely to make “eco-friendly” food and personal care product choices, than women who were less convinced that chemicals are dangerous. In addition, 25% of our participants felt strongly that chemicals in the environment are impossible to avoid.

Please email or call your TIDES site if you have moved or changed any of your contact information including your address, email address, or phone number. Your contribution is valuable, and we would like to stay in touch!

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Future TIDES Activities

We are currently applying to the National Institute of Health for funding to continue to follow TIDES families in the coming years. If our grant application is successful, we hope to meet with you when your child is around 3 years old and 5 years old. If your family has agreed to allow us to contact you, we may ask you to come in for a visit. At the visit you may be asked answer some questions and bring your child for a physical exam. At the soon! physical exam we will measure things like your child’s height and weight. We are also interested in your child’s brain development, so she or he may be asked to complete some simple tasks and answer some questions. We look forward to seeing you and your family again soon!

Please email or call your TIDES site if you have moved or changed any of your contact information including your address, email address, or phone number. Your contribution is valuable, and we would like to stay in touch!

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