



## Project tested for three classes of chemicals in volunteers

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In a project that involved 35 people from seven states, including five from Illinois, tests were administered to measure for three classes of chemicals.

The results were detailed in a report called "Is It In Us? Chemical Contamination in Our Bodies," a project of the Commonwealth Biomonitoring Resource Center and the Body Burden Working Group.

The following is information on the three classes of chemicals that were tested for, as provided by the groups behind the report:

**Phthalates:** Used to soften plastics; found in toys, shower curtains, flooring and medical equipment. Studies have found that the chemical interferes with hormones and might lead to early puberty, reproduction defects and other health problems, according to the report's authors. California has banned toys and baby products containing more than a trace amount of phthalates.

**Bisphenol A:** Used in some plastic water and baby bottles, dental sealants, impact-resistant safety equipment and the protective coatings of metal food cans. Human and animal studies link it to cancer, obesity and reproductive impacts including miscarriages and reduced sperm count, according to the report.

**PBDEs:** Chemical flame retardants used in upholstered furniture, automobile components, home electronics, etc. Studies in laboratory animals link exposure to impaired memory, learning and behavior, according to the report.

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