

or other forms of information technology. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

**Proposed Project**

Supplement to the National Birth Defects Prevention Study: Qualitative Assessment of the Attitudes Mothers Have Toward Collecting Biological Specimens on their Infants and Young Children to Study Risk Factors for Birth Defects and Preterm Delivery—New—National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

*Background and Brief Description*

National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has been conducting the National Birth Defects Prevention Study (NBDPS) (OMB# 0920-0010) since 1997. The NBDPS is a case-control study of major birth defects that includes cases identified from existing birth defect surveillance registries in nine states, including metropolitan Atlanta. Control infants are randomly selected from birth certificates or birth hospital records. Mothers of case and control infants are interviewed using a computer-assisted telephone interview.

Parents are asked to collect cheek cells from themselves and their infants for DNA testing. Information gathered from both the interviews and the DNA specimens will be used to study independent genetic and environmental factors as well as gene-environment interactions for a broad range of carefully classified birth defects.

This proposed supplement to the National Birth Defects Prevention Study will use qualitative research to provide data on the barriers to participation in the collection of biological specimens by mothers on themselves, their infants, and young children. It is costly to implement the collection of biological specimens into an interview/questionnaire-based study. However, an ever-increasing number of studies include the examination of environmental and genetic interactions to help medical and public health professional's better target appropriate interventions. A critical component for studies of gene variants is the collection of biological specimens. Participation and non-participation in the collection of biological specimens is not fully understood. We will conduct multiple well-designed focus groups to assess the attitudes of both mothers who participated and mothers who did not participate in the collection of biological specimens to increase the effectiveness

of these studies. This information will be useful to many groups at the CDC who are currently collecting biological specimens from infants and their families but with less than optimal response rates and those who are working to implement studies that include the use of biological specimens.

Scientists from the National Birth Defects Prevention Study in NCBDDD, the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) in National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP), and Office of Genomics and Disease Prevention (OGDP) have received Collaborative Initiative intramural funding to conduct focus groups aimed at gaining insight into the barriers and motivations women have for participating in the collection of biological specimens. Among the three collaborating Centers within the Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, NCBDDD's National Birth Defects Prevention Study provides a unique opportunity for exploring the barriers and motivations toward collection of genetic material. This focus group project will recruit mothers who participated in the maternal interview for the NBDPS. There are no costs to the respondents other than their time to participate in the survey.

**ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN**

Instrument	Number of respondents	Frequency of response	Average burden/response (in hours)	Annual burden hours
Telephone Contact .....	90	1	5/60	7.5
Focus Group Discussion .....	45	1	2	90

Dated: March 12, 2006.

**Joan F. Karr,**

*Acting Reports Clearance Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

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**BILLING CODE 4163-18-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

**Decision To Evaluate a Petition To Designate a Class of Employees at the Nevada Test Site, Mercury, Nevada, To Be Included in the Special Exposure Cohort**

**AGENCY:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) gives notice as required by 42 CFR 83.12(e) of a decision to evaluate a petition to designate a class of employees at the Nevada Test Site, Mercury, Nevada, to be included in the Special Exposure Cohort under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000. The initial proposed definition for the class being evaluated, subject to revision as warranted by the evaluation, is as follows:

- Facility:* Nevada Test Site.
- Location:* Mercury, Nevada.
- Job Titles and/or Job Duties:* Workers potentially exposed to above-ground weapons testing.
- Period of Employment:* 1951 to 1963.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Larry Elliott, Director, Office of

Compensation Analysis and Support, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 4676 Columbia Parkway, MS C-46, Cincinnati, OH 45226, Telephone 513-533-6800 (this is not a toll-free number). Information requests can also be submitted by e-mail to [OCAS@CDC.GOV](mailto:OCAS@CDC.GOV).

Dated: March 10, 2006.

**John Howard,**

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