Spring 2025 Newsletter

University at Buffalo
Environmental Health Study for Western New York

DANDELIONS, HERE WE COME!

After a long winter of snowflakes and heavy coats, springtime sunshine will soon be here! Until then - enjoy some warm tea, and let's talk about biosamples and the EHS!

WHAT ARE BIOSAMPLES, AND HOW ARE THEY BEING USED IN THE STUDY?

WHAT ARE BIOSAMPLES?

Biosamples are donations of blood, urine, and saliva. Biosamples can be used in research for many things, including finding how much of a chemical is in your body.

BIOSAMPLES AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH STUDY

- Biosamples are being assessed to determine the level of chemicals such as benzene and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the bodies of sample donors.
- People are exposed to benzene and PAHs through coke oven emissions, but also through pumping gas, burning wood, cigarette smoke, paint thinners, glue, and more.
- We aren't able to tell how a person was exposed, as it is most likely a combination of sources.

INSIDE THE NUMBERS

3,016
Total biosamples collected

2,003
People provided an initial biosample

1,016
People provided a 2nd biosample

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WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW, AND WHAT'S NEXT?

- Participants' biosamples (blood, saliva, urine, etc.) continue to be analyzed.
- Our new website is up and running! Visit at publichealth.buffalo.edu/ehstudy.
- Informative Flyers have been shared on Facebook and the website.
- Watch for new findings soon.