

Anniston/Calhoun PCB Health Study

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Anniston/Calhoun PCB Health Study?

The Anniston/Calhoun PCB Health Study is designed to examine the adverse health effects of PCB exposure in Anniston and surrounding Calhoun County. This is an **opportunity** for the residents of the area to become involved and to gain information that they can use to improve their quality of life.

2. Who is conducting the study?

The study is being conducted by a team of experts from across the country and led by Jacksonville State University College of Nursing and Health Sciences. In addition to JSU, our team includes members from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Emory University, Tuskegee University, Meharry Medical College, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, SUNY Albany, SUNY Buffalo, and SUNY Medical University Syracuse, University of South Carolina, University of Alabama, University of Pennsylvania, and University of Utah.

The study is fully funded by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The community is at the center of this study with members from the Community Against Pollution (CAP) also on the research team. Other community members will be involved in a Community Advisory Committee to ensure that the people's **voice** is heard throughout the study.

3. Why is the study being conducted?

We need to know how exposure to PCBs causes certain health problems or diseases. PCBs were manufactured in Anniston from the early 1900's to 1971. There is substantial evidence that Anniston's waterways, soil, and air have been heavily contaminated when compared to other communities in the U.S. that have been exposed to PCBs, resulting in some of the highest PCB levels in the blood and bodies of Anniston

residents. The goal of this study is to determine the relationship of PCB exposure and the adverse health effects specific to Anniston residents.

4. How can I participate in this study?

The following are projects are being conducted:

Neuro Study for Kids

- Must live or have lived in the Wellborn, Oxford, or Anniston areas of Calhoun County
- Must be between the ages of 11-15

Health Survey

- Households in the Anniston and Calhoun County areas will be selected by chance
- One adult in each household will be asked to complete a detailed health survey

Participation in any study is totally voluntary.

5. Will participation in this study affect my lawsuit?

No. Any information given by you will not affect your personal business and will be used only for this research study.

6. Will my individual test results be private?

Yes, your individual test results will be private (confidential). The results reported in the full study will not name individuals.

7. How will I learn about my test results?

You will be contacted by a representative of the health study to discuss your results.

8. What happens if an abnormality is found on my tests?

A representative of the health study will assist you by referring you to the appropriate health care professional. At this time, we are only allowed to operate as a referral service and cannot provide medical treatment.

9. What will the benefits of this study be?

The overall benefit of the study is to improve health and quality of life of residents in Anniston and surrounding Calhoun County. In addition, the results of the study will increase the knowledge of how PCBs affect the health of residents in the Anniston community. The results will also benefit others across the world that have also been exposed to PCBs.

10. Who do I contact for more information?

To ask questions about the study, you may call:

Ms. Christie Shelton, RN, MSN, JSU College of Nursing and Health Sciences, 256-237-9399

Community Against Pollution at 236-5229

You may email questions or comments to pcbinfo@jsu.edu or visit our web site at www.jsu.edu/depart/nursing/PCB