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A Prospective Birth Cohort Study Involving Environmental Uranium Exposure in the Navajo Nation

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Purpose

To design and conduct epidemiological studies of health conditions among Navajo children potentially associated with environmental exposures to uranium released from past mining and milling operations on the Navajo Nation



Projected Timeline

- FY10 and 11 – ATSDR received \$2M each year
 - University of New Mexico funded as project lead (\$1M annually)
 - IHS and Navajo Nation Division of Health funded to conduct medical aspects and community/participant outreach, respectively (~\$375K each annually)
- Spring/Summer 2011 – study protocols were reviewed/approved by all participating Institutional Review Boards (UNM, CDC and Navajo Nation/IHS) for compliance with human subjects work
- Fall 2011 – OMB review in process; raising community awareness of project prior to initiating field work
- Early 2012 – initiate participant recruitment
- 2013/14 – complete recruitment, participant follow-up and analyses
- 2015 – disseminate results to participants/communities/scientific literature



Navajo Birth Cohort Study Organization



Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention/Agency for Toxic
Substances and Disease Registry

DiNEH Project Team

- UNM Community Environmental Health Program (CEHP)
- UNM Pediatrics Department, Center for Development and Disability
- Southwest Research and Information Center (SRIC)
- Consultants

Birth Cohort

Navajo mothers,
fathers and
babies; other
community
members;
chapters

Navajo Area Indian
Health Service (NAIHS)

Navajo Nation
Division of Health

With Help From

Growing in Beauty
(developmental
disabilities services
provider)

638 Facilities
(Ft. Defiance, Tuba City)

Other Navajo Nation Agencies
(Environmental Protection Agency,
WIC, Health Education,
Office of Uranium Workers)

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