

Supporting the Community Air Protection Program (AB 617)

Background

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) established the [Community Air Protection Program \(CAPP\)](#) to address the issue of impacted communities as outlined in [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 617](#). CAPP focuses on reducing exposures in California communities most impacted by air pollution. These communities are often referred to as “AB 617 communities” and have high exposure to air pollution, [toxic air contaminants](#) and [criteria air pollutants](#). The goal of AB 617 is to:



Develop ongoing local air monitoring and community emissions reduction plans.



Reduce exposures to air pollution and other stressors in these communities.



Advance environmental justice.

Biomonitoring Studies to Support CAPP (AB 617)

Biomonitoring is a way to measure chemicals in a person's body. It can show which chemicals are getting into people and at what levels. Community biomonitoring studies can aid in understanding exposures in overburdened communities and inform efforts to reduce exposures.

[Biomonitoring California](#) supports CAPP by working with community and academic partners to develop, design, and conduct biomonitoring studies in communities disproportionately affected by air pollution.

Biomonitoring can:

- Help identify local sources of exposure, when combined with other information, like environmental data.
- Identify disparities in air pollution exposures within and across communities.
- Track exposures within a community over time.
- Help evaluate specific measures intended to reduce emissions and/or exposures, like air filtration.

Visit the [Biomonitoring California Projects Webpage](#) to learn about current and completed studies, including those that support the goals of AB 617.



Environmental and Other Stressors in AB 617 Communities

In addition to air pollution, AB 617 communities may be affected by other sources of chemical exposures and environmental stressors (like extreme weather events). Social and financial stressors can also make healthy living difficult and result in environmental health disparities. Biomonitoring California aims to understand more about these disparities in overburdened communities in California.

Community Partnerships

Biomonitoring California partners with communities to identify their specific concerns about exposures to air pollution and other chemicals and design studies to address these concerns. The Program also works closely with study participants and others in the community to make sure they understand why and how the study is being done, and what the results mean.

Some examples of how community members and organizations can be involved include:

- Highlighting specific air pollution concerns in their communities.
- Helping design and conduct biomonitoring studies, including recruiting participants and sharing study findings.
- Identifying language needs, including interpretation and translation.

Which Chemicals Can Be Measured to Show Exposures to Air Pollution?

Air pollution is made up of many different chemicals. Some of these chemicals have been identified in [California law](#) as “toxic air contaminants” or TACs, while some others are “criteria air pollutants.” Biomonitoring California measures chemicals on the [Program’s list of Designated Chemicals](#) that may show exposure to different air pollutants, including:

- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- Lead and other heavy metals



To learn more about these chemicals, including information on health effects, see [Biomonitoring California’s chemical fact sheets](#).