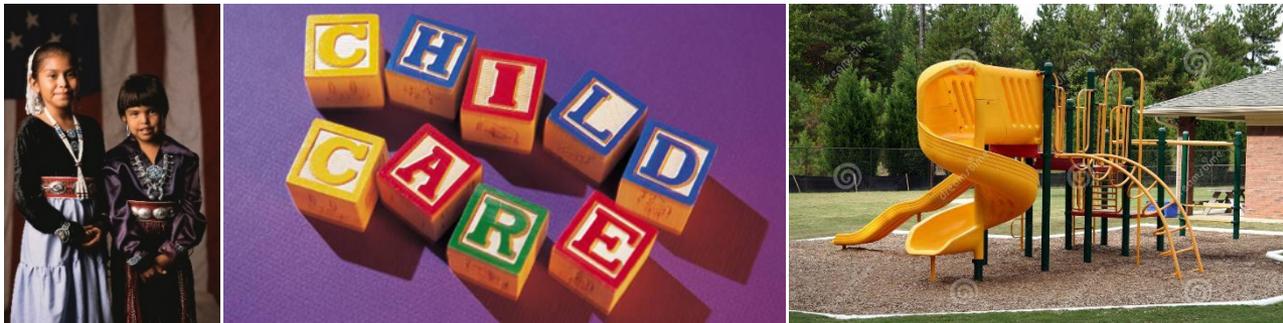


# Environmental Health Assessment of Tribal Child Care Centers in the Pacific Northwest

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SCIENCE

## Background

- Young children's exposures to lead, allergens, pesticides, PCBs, and other chemical and biological agents may result in adverse health effects
- Do not currently know the levels of these chemical and biological agents in child care facilities located in Portland Area Indian Country – a key data gap identified by R10 and Indian Health Service (IHS)
- IHS approached Region 10 about conducting a study comparable to the 2001 National Survey in child care centers in Portland Area Indian Country (all federally recognized tribes within the states of Washington, Idaho, and Oregon)
- Builds on the 2001 National Survey by conducting an environmental health assessment of Portland Area Indian Country child care centers using the design and methodology from that survey

## Objectives

- Assess children's potential exposures to lead, allergens, pesticides, PCBs, and other chemical and biological agents in IHS direct-service licensed child care centers in Portland Area Indian Country (WA, ID, OR)
- Compare these study findings to the 2001 National Survey
- Compare the PCB results to existing studies on PCBs in child care centers
- Translate research into practice by reporting results and providing training, materials, and recommended actions
- Assess proof-of-concept of how non-chemical stressors in IHS direct-service licensed child care centers may modify chemical exposures

## Methods

- Methodology for sample collection and analysis based on the methods and approaches in the 2001 National Survey
- Up to 45 Tribal child care centers, including Head Start facilities will be enrolled
- Questionnaire administered to the center director (or designee)
- Environmental measurements collected by IHS staff
- No biological samples will be collected

## Sample Types

- Dust
  - Lead
  - Allergens
  - PCBs
- Soil
  - Lead
  - Pesticides
  - PCBs
- Indoor surfaces
  - Pesticides
- Potential other chemical and biological agents
  - Radon
  - Mold/water damage
  - Formaldehyde
- Non-Chemical Stressors
  - Noise
  - Number of windows in the child care center
  - Tree cover
  - Shade cover in play area

## Impact

- Study will provide valuable data about levels of lead, allergens, pesticides, PCBs, and other chemical and biological agents in child care facilities located in Portland Area Indian Country (WA, ID, OR) and how time spent at these facilities may impact young children's potential exposures
- Study will help prioritize services and funding to tribal child care centers

## Status

- 60-day FRN prior to OMB submission
- Questionnaire finalized
- IHS submitted package for IRB approval
- Chemical lists finalized
- QAPP and SOPs are being drafted
- Training for the field staff is being planned
- Communication plan being finalized