

Assessment of Task-Based Exposures That May Affect Reproductive Health in Nail Salon Employees

Study Information for Salon Owners



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational
Safety and Health



Photo Source: Getty Images

What is the study?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is conducting this study to measure exposure to certain chemicals used in salons. Based on animal studies, these chemicals could increase risk of preterm birth, pregnancy loss, or birth defects.

Why is the study being conducted?

Based on interviews and past data, there is evidence that work as a nail technician could affect reproductive health. However, there isn't much research on chemicals in nail salons that may cause reproductive health problems. The goal of this study is to measure these chemicals in air and urine samples. We will also look at whether the types of services a nail tech performs affects exposure to these chemicals.

Who is being asked to participate?

We aim to enroll 40 nail technicians at salons all over the country. The study is open to employees of salons that do not provide hair services. We hope to enroll 2 or 3 people at each salon we visit. Any nail tech who works full time and has worked in a salon for at least a month may participate.

What does participation involve?

Researchers will visit your salon for two to three days in a row. On the first day, we will enroll workers who provide informed consent. Either later that day or the next day, we will collect data for two days in a row. We will ask participants to:

- Provide a urine sample when they start and finish work for 2 days (5-10 minutes)
- Wear sampling devices the entire time they work for 2 days (5-10 minutes to attach and remove devices)
- Answer some questions about themselves, their work, and health history on the first day (20-30 minutes)

Researchers will observe workers while they work if possible. We will also collect air samples from different areas in the salon. After filling out the consent form, participating in the study should take 30 to 45 minutes the first day. It should take 10 to 15 minutes on the second day.

Do all workers have to participate?

Participation is voluntary. Workers do not have to participate. Workers who enroll may choose not to participate in any part of the study. They may also stop participating at any time for any reason.

For more information, contact the primary investigator, Paro Sen, MPH



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Are there risks of participating?

There are no known risks associated with giving urine samples or wearing the sampling devices. There is a minimal risk of a breach of confidentiality. The NIOSH research team will do our best to protect workers' information following federal privacy laws.

Are there benefits of participating?

Data collected in this study may help researchers understand how chemical exposures in nail salons affects reproductive health. This may guide future research on this topic. Participants can also choose to receive their personal sampling results.

Salons will receive a report about 18 months after participating with summarized air sampling results. We will compare air results to occupational exposure limits. We will also give recommendations, if any, to reduce exposures in your salon.

Who can I contact with questions?

For more information about this study, please contact the primary investigator:

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