



LEAD-IN-VENISON STUDY

MAY 2008

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the North Dakota Department of Health are conducting a study measuring the risk, if any, of consuming wild game harvested with lead bullets. This fact sheet provides information about the study.

Why is this study being conducted?

In late March, 2008, the North Dakota departments of Health, Agriculture, and Game and Fish advised food pantries across the state not to distribute or use donated ground venison because of the discovery of contamination with lead fragments. Although we know exposure to lead can cause health problems, we don't know if the amount of lead absorbed from bullet fragments is a health risk. This study will help answer that question by comparing blood levels of people who consume wild game with those who don't.

Who can participate in the study?

Everyone, whether they eat wild game or not, is encouraged to participate. The only exception is that children 2 and younger will not be tested. Tests from 680 people are needed for this study.

The test is FREE and people do not need insurance to participate.

What can people expect if they participate in the study?

Participants who show up at a testing site will be asked to fill out a consent form. Next they will be interviewed by a researcher for about 10 minutes. Questions will focus on workplace, hobbies and home to determine possible exposures to lead. There also will be questions about how much venison participants eat and how often.

After the interview, a blood sample will be taken. The whole process should take about 15 to 20 minutes. This does not include a possible wait time if there are others at the site.

How and when will participants get their test results?

Participants will get their test results in the mail. Results will likely take a couple of months to complete. The results will include information explaining what the test found and if any medical follow-up is needed.

Will information about the participants be shared with anyone?

Data will be held confidentially to the extent allowed by law. Your name and medical information will not be released to the media or general public. Only statistical results will be released.

How do people participate?

No appointments will be taken. People willing to participate can just show up at the testing site in their area. Site information including dates and times are included below. **Please note: The testing sites will not be open on the weekends or on the Memorial Day holiday.**

Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health	500 E. Front Ave. Bismarck, N.D. 58506	Fri., May 16 and Mon., May 19 through Fri., May 23	8 a.m. – 12 p.m. 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Central Valley Health District	122 2 nd St. N.W. Jamestown, N.D. 58401	Fri., May 16 and Mon., May 19 through Fri., May 23	8 a.m. – 12 p.m. 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Grand Forks Public Health Department	151 S. 4 th St. Suite N301 Grand Forks, N.D. 58201	Fri., May 16 and Mon., May 19 through Thurs., May 22	8 a.m. – 12 p.m. 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Fargo Cass Public Health	401 3 rd Ave. N. Fargo, N.D. 58102	Fri., May 23 and Tues., May 27 through Fri., May 30	8 a.m. – 12 p.m. 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
First District Health Unit	801 11 th Ave. S.W. Minot, N.D. 58702	Tues., May 27 through Fri., May 30	8 a.m. – 12 p.m. 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Southwestern District Health Unit	2893 3 rd Ave. W. Dickinson, N.D. 58601	Tues., May 27; Thurs., May 29; Fri., May 30	8 a.m. – 12 p.m. 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Where can I get more information?

Questions about this study and the health affects of lead can be directed to the North Dakota Department of Health at 701.328.2372.

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