One Page Summary of NIEHS Testimony by John Bucher, Associate Director NTP
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I am Dr. John Bucher, Associate Director of the National Toxicology Program (NTP). The NTP has researched phthalates for cancer and reproductive effects in experimental animals, and our Center for the Evaluation of Risks to Human Reproduction (CERHR) has reviewed the literature on seven phthalates and on bisphenol A (BPA) for potential effects on human reproductive health.

BPA has been extensively studied for its ability at very low doses to affect hormonal processes involved in development. The doses of BPA that cause subtle effects on the development of animals are close to estimates of current exposures to the U.S. population.

Based on these animal studies, the NTP CERHR express "some concern" that current exposures of BPA to fetuses, infants, and children could cause neural and behavioral effects, effects on the prostate and mammary gland, and an earlier age at which females attain puberty, and "negligible concern" or "minimal concern" for effects in other segments of the population.

The NTP has conducted many experimental animal studies on various phthalate esters. Not all phthalates produce adverse reproductive effects, but all "active" phthalates cause malformations or cancer in the male reproductive tract of animals exposed during development.

The NTP CERHR expressed "serious concern" that current exposures of male infants to one particular phthalate, di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP), during certain medical treatments could adversely affect development of the reproductive tract. We expressed "concern" for male offspring of women undergoing certain medical treatments during pregnancy or breastfeeding, and for infants less than one year old exposed to DEHP from diet or mouthing of DEHP-containing objects, or undergoing certain medical treatments. We expressed "some concern" for male children who may be exposed to levels of DEHP higher than those to the general population.