

## Progress Report

### Assess the Impact of Environmental Counseling on Pregnant Women's Perception and Behavior about Chemical Hazards

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The purpose of this study is to determine the importance and influence of environmental hazard counseling for pregnant women in a clinical setting. We aim to identify changes in risk perception and behavior of pregnant women after receiving educational materials describing exposure pathways, and a counseling session on recommendations and preventative measures.

**Performed Activities.** This research is funded by Society for Chemical Hazard Communication (SCHC) in year 2015. The allocated funds were used to perform the following activities:

- (i) Using an evidence based approach, a literature search on human and animal toxicological studies with confirmed evidence of adverse health effects were selected to identify categories of environmental hazards.
- (ii) The gathered information from the studies was used to prepare a pre and post-counseling questionnaire, design a counseling session layout, and develop educational materials in the form of a brochure and grocery card.
- (iii) The pre-counseling survey was conducted during the patient's scheduled prenatal visit where they answered questions on demographic information, food and water intake, and general information about indoor/occupation environment.
- (iv) The counseling session followed the pre-counseling survey where dissemination of educational materials and private dialogue for recommendations to influence the participant's existing knowledge took place.
- (v) The post-counseling survey is conducted roughly one month after the initial visit where they will be asked questions about changes in behavior and current perception of risk related to chemical hazards during pregnancy.
- (vi) Ms. Sewit Tedla, presented a poster and summarized tentative findings in a poster event, sponsored by SCHC.

**Current Status.** The pilot study is currently on-going in a clinic that predominantly serves minority patients and those of low socioeconomic status. 20 participants have completed the pre-counseling survey. We are in the process of completing post-counseling survey from the enrolled participants who have already completed pre-counseling survey. Our next step is to analyze survey responses to evaluate the effect of environmental counseling on patient perception and behavior.