



National Toxicology Program



Informing Policy Protecting Public Health

The National Toxicology Program (NTP) is a federal, interagency program within the Public Health Service of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), whose goal is to safeguard the public by identifying substances in the environment that may affect human health. Since 1978, NTP has been generating information that helps health agencies and members of the public make informed decisions about public health.

Core Agencies

Three federal agencies comprise NTP:

- [National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences \(NIEHS\)](#), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). NIEHS administers NTP.
- [National Center for Toxicological Research](#), part of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- [National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health](#), part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Leadership

- [Brian Berridge, D.V.M., Ph.D.](#), associate director of NTP

Mission

To evaluate agents of public health concern by developing and applying tools of modern toxicology and molecular biology.

<https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov>

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NTP Research at Work

In the past 40 years, NTP has studied and shared information on the health effects of more than 2,800 substances, including dietary supplements, industrial chemicals, and consumer products. Key activities include:

Testing substances nominated for study

- Conducting short-term and long-term studies to determine health-related effects, including cancer, reproductive and developmental disorders, genetic damage, and effects on cardiovascular, immune, and nervous systems.
- Looking more closely at windows of susceptibility in long-term rodent studies.

Developing better ways to predict what effect chemicals will have on people

- Working with NIH, FDA, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, through the [Tox21](#) program, to test chemicals faster and more efficiently, through the use of robotics.
- Helping predict effects from short-term and long-term exposures by using computational models.

Decreasing the use of animals in toxicity testing

- Leading [federal](#) and [international](#) efforts to advance the acceptance of scientifically valid alternative tests.
- Improving study design and models for toxicity testing of chemicals.

Public health decision-making

- Informing the public about substances that pose a cancer hazard to humans, through the [Report on Carcinogens](#).
- Identifying substances that may adversely affect health at current human exposures, such as [per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFAS\)](#).
- Increasing transparency and improving literature-based hazard assessments, through a [systematic review process](#).

Training the next generation of toxicologists and pathologists

- Providing first-rate training opportunities for postdoctoral students.
- Training approximately 15 fellows a year for careers in industry, government, and academia.

Making databases and tools available to scientists around the world

- [Nonneoplastic Lesion Atlas](#) — A searchable, web-based guide for standardizing terminology in toxicologic pathology for rodents.
- [Chemical Effects in Biological Systems \(CEBS\) database](#) — Integrates more than 9,000 toxicology and toxicogenomics study results and supporting information.