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**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN DIOXIN EXPOSURE STUDY:  
UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2004**

Field data collection for the Michigan Dioxin Exposure Study began on October 2, 2004, with interviews and collection of blood, house dust, and soil samples from randomly selected residents and properties in Midland and Saginaw counties. Nearly 80% of households with residents eligible to participate in the study have agreed to be interviewed, and among those also eligible to provide blood samples over 90% agreed to have blood drawn. Within those households eligible, over 90% have also agreed to have dust from their homes sampled and soil samples from their property collected by UM field researchers.

To date the study has completed interviews with 375 eligible persons, and of these, 300 have consented to give blood samples. Blood samples have been collected from nearly all of these 300, 286 in total so far.

In addition, those agreeing to give blood samples have been asked if they would allow study teams to vacuum dust from a living area in their home and to collect soil samples from their property. Already 248 of those agreeing to give blood have agreed to have dust collection, and 243 have agreed to the soil sampling. Teams have actually vacuumed dust in nearly 200 homes, and collected soil from the property of 213 homes.

Since it is not possible to take soil samples when the ground is frozen, contact and recruitment of new subjects was stopped in late November, and will resume in the spring. Data and sample collection are continuing among subjects who previously consented to participate. It is anticipated that all interviews and samples from recruited subjects will be completed by mid to late December, so the numbers shown above will increase slightly.

More details about the study are available by calling (toll-free) 1-888-689-0006, or by visiting the following website: <http://www.umdioxin.org>

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