

Report: http://www.herbogeminis.com/IMG/pdf/gulf_study_june_2010.pdf

Assessing the Effects of the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill on Human Health - Workshop Summary

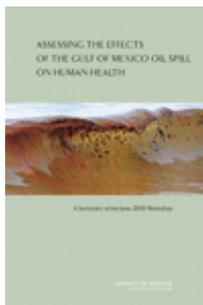
Released: **August 10, 2010**

Type: Workshop Summary

Topics: Public Health, Environmental Health, Food and Nutrition

Activity: Assessing the Human Health Effects of the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill

Board: Studies under the IOM Executive Office



Note: Workshop Summaries contain the opinion of the presenters, but do NOT reflect the conclusions of the IOM. [Learn more about the differences between Workshop Summaries and Consensus Reports](http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2010/~/_link.aspx?id=C27730C5010A4482906A94C10296FEE1&z=z) (http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2010/~/_link.aspx?id=C27730C5010A4482906A94C10296FEE1&z=z).

On April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico exploded, causing an oil leak one mile beneath the ocean's surface. The explosion killed 11 workers and unleashed one of the largest offshore oil spills in history. The oil well was plugged in mid-July, but the effects of the spill on the short- and long-term health of individuals—including workers, volunteers, residents and visitors—remain uncertain.

At the request of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the IOM convened a public workshop June 22-23 to begin planning for the surveillance of the Gulf oil spill's effects on human health. Speakers explored the potential adverse health effects for at-risk populations living in the Gulf region or assisting with clean-up activities. Participants also discussed current monitoring activities, the types of research methods and data sources currently available, and options to consider when

developing short- and long-term surveillance plans. Additionally, participants considered effective ways to communicate potential health risks to the public and to engage them in research on the spill's effects. This document summarizes the workshop.

Presentations from the meeting as well as full video and transcripts are available online (<http://www.iom.edu/Activities/PublicHealth/OilSpillHealth/2010-JUN-22.aspx>).



Assessing the Human Health Effects of the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill

Decades later, we still can feel the consequences of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. How will the even larger crisis in the Gulf impact our health? The IOM will hold a meeting June 22-23 to discuss the health issues for those living and working near the Gulf.

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Reports of Interest



Review of the Proposal for

the Gulf Long-Term

Follow-Up Study: Highlights ...

Released: **October 8, 2010**

(<http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2010/Review-of-the-Proposal-for-the-Gulf-Long-term-Follow-up-Study.aspx>):



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Report:

http://www.herbogeminis.com/IMG/pdf/gulf_study.pdf

Review of the Proposal for the Gulf Long-Term Follow-Up Study: Highlights from the September 2010 Workshop - Workshop Report

Released: **October 8, 2010**

Type: Workshop Report

Topics: Public Health, Environmental Health, Select Populations and Health Disparities

Activity: Review of the Federal Response to the Health Effects Associated with the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill

Board: Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice



Note: Workshop Summaries contain the opinion of the presenters, but do NOT reflect the conclusions of the IOM.

On April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon offshore drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico exploded. As a result, the oil well spilled millions of gallons of crude oil into the Gulf until it was successfully capped in mid-July. This oil spill is unprecedented in its size and duration, as were the use of chemical dispersants and controlled burns to remove the oil. It is as yet uncertain how the spill itself and the attempts to disperse the oil will affect the health of clean-up workers and volunteers, residents, and visitors in the Gulf.

To fill this knowledge gap, the *National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences* (NIEHS) is developing a study protocol to investigate the potential short- and long-term health effects among workers engaged in clean-up activities linked to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. As part of its ongoing commitment to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide independent review of the federal response to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, the IOM held a workshop on September 22, 2010, to review and comment on NIEHS's study protocol. This document summarizes the workshop.