



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Flanigan Square, 547 River Street, Troy, New York 12180-2216

Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H.
Commissioner

Dennis P. Whalen
Executive Deputy Commissioner

July 2, 2001

Arnold Wendroff, Ph.D.
544 Eighth Street
Brooklyn, NY 11215-4201

Dear Dr. Wendroff:

I am writing in response to identical letters, addressed to Commissioner Novello and me, dated June 5, 2001. You asked that we reply with a written response to your request that we invite the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct a "health investigation of mercury health effects in the Caribbean and Hispanic populations in New York City". The New York State and New York City Departments of Health (NYSDOH and NYCDOH) and CDC are discussing working together on conducting a study to assess mercury levels in children that may have been exposed to mercury through ritualistic uses. If conducted, this study would build on previous work conducted by the NYCDOH and Montefiore Hospital. Also, data describing mercury levels in urine and blood reported by the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, a national survey that is examining the health of the Nation, could be used for comparison.

We hope this letter helps to clarify the efforts that NYSDOH, NYCDOH and CDC are planning to answer the question of children's exposure to mercury through ritualistic practices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Horn', written over a horizontal line.

Edward G. Horn, Ph.D.
Director
Bureau of Toxic Substance Assessment

cc: ECU 2001157.37102.TZG01
Mr. Tramontano
P. Fritz
C. Rubin, CDC
N. Jeffery, NYCDOH

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