no significant differences in cholesterol levels, in persons exposed to PCP[Baxter]. The effects were more marked in those with chloracne. In contrast, Jones et al[Jones] found no differences in cholesterol or HDL cholesterol levels and Klemmer et al[Klemmer] found no differences in cholesterol after control for age and ethnicity between persons with and without PCP exposure. Studies of TCDD exposure have also yielded conflicting results with several but not all of the studies noting higher serum cholesterol or triglycerides or lower HDL-cholesterol levels in persons exposed to TCDD [Oliver, Walker, Martin, Pazderova, May, Suskind, Moses]. Suggested mechanisms include decreased binding of LDL to its receptors[Bombick] and decreased lipoprotein lipase activity[Brewster]. We are the first, to our knowledge, to examine the effect of PCP exposure on apolipoproteins.

We did not detect significant differences between PCP-exposed workers and unexposed workers with respect to symptoms of central nervous dysfunction after adjusting for age. Neurobehavioral testing did not detect any global differences in central nervous system function between PCP-exposed and unexposed workers after adjusting for confounders. We did observe some significant differences in performance on individual tests. Work in the PCP department was associated with slightly slower reaction times on the continuous performance test which is a test of sustained visual attention. PCP exposed workers with chloracne had a lower mean alternating finger tapping than unexposed. PCP-exposed workers had fewer mean number correct on the pattern memory test which is a test of visual spatial memory and significantly poorer scores on the serial digit learning test. On the other hand, PCP exposed workers had significantly lower (better) scores on the mood scale for confusion.

In a study of workers with past exposure to 2,3,7,8-TCDD, Alderfer et al did not find any significant differences in measures of depressed mood between exposed workers and community controls[Alderfer]. Previous studies of workers exposed to PCP have provided very little data on the central nervous system

STLCOPCB4043933