



Here are some ECHO study results!

ECHO Study Investigates Exposure to Flame-Retardants During Pregnancy and Childhood Obesity Risk

Authors: Alicia K. Peterson, Stacey E. Alexeeff, et al.

What did the study find?

- Children ages 5–10 whose mothers had higher levels of flame-retardants during pregnancy had a 14% greater risk of obesity.
- Kids with low exposure had the lowest risk of becoming obese.

Why was this study done?

- Flame-retardants are found in many household items like furniture, electronics, and baby products.
- Health experts have raised concerns that flame-retardants may affect hormones and be linked to obesity.
- Researchers wanted to understand if these chemicals could impact a child's long-term health.

Who was involved and what happened?

- The study included pregnant women from 2006 to 2020.
- Researchers tested their urine to measure flame-retardant levels.
- They tracked their children's BMI (Body Mass Index) from birth to age 10.

What does this mean going forward?

- The study suggests a link between flame-retardant exposure during pregnancy and childhood obesity.
- This may be an important public health concern.
- Results could help policy makers decide if changes are needed in how flame-retardants are used and regulated.

Where can I learn more?

- Read the full article: "Gestational Exposure to Organophosphate Ester Flame Retardants and Risk of Childhood Obesity" in the ECHO program journal.
- Note: These findings are from the authors, not necessarily the NIH.

Interested in reading more about our findings?

Scan this QR code to explore other research from the ECHO study team!



RECRUITMENT NUMBERS AS OF MAY 7, 2025

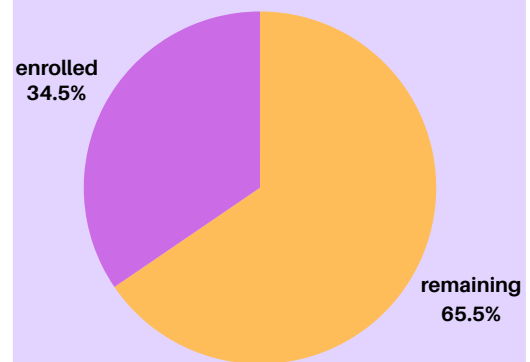
174 Enrolled Mothers

100 Enrolled Children

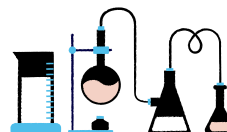
6 Enrolled Partners

Thank You Families!

174 MOMS ENROLLED



330 MOMS REMAINING TO REACH
OUR 504 ENROLLED GOAL





You're invited!

Our ECHO, Our Health: Connecting Research with Community

Our ECHO, Our Health is a space where ECHO participants, investigators, and community members come together to learn about the latest findings from the ECHO Cohort.

- Learn about the latest findings from the ECHO Cohort
- Share insights and have an open discussion around child health research
- Join Facebook group live events that create meaningful opportunities for direct communication between researchers and participants
- Promote mutual learning, trust, and collaboration

Join our Facebook group!



25 YEARS SUPPORTING
MOMS
POSTPARTUMSUPPORTCHS.ORG

This spring, the ECHO team assembled 24 lasagnas for Postpartum Support Charleston.

Postpartum Support Charleston is dedicated to providing support to mothers across the Lowcountry who are experiencing mental illness.



Share, support, and connect with moms like you across Charleston!

Read more here:



Did You Know?

Charleston is nicknamed the "**Holy City**" because of its skyline filled with church steeples — no building in downtown's historic district can be taller than the tallest church!

The **Waterfront Park pineapple fountain** in Charleston is not just for looks — it's a public fountain, and visitors are welcome to splash and cool off on hot days!

Charleston's official flower is the **jessamine** — a small, yellow, sweet-scented blossom that thrives in the warm Lowcountry air.

