The mission of the jointly funded EPA/NIEHS Children’s Centers is to protect children from environmental threats and promote their health and well-being in the communities where they live, learn, and play. Since 1998, more than 20 Children’s Centers and 40 awards have been made.

**Purpose/Utility of Research**

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**Adverse health effects linked to flame retardant (PBDE) exposure**

- Children with higher PBDE cord blood levels scored lower on mental and physical development tests at 12-48 and 72 months *Herbstman et al., 2010*
- Poorer attention, motor skills, and IQ scores in children *Eskenazi et al., 2012*

**Application & Translation**

With more than 1,000 peer-reviewed publications, Children’s Centers research cited as evidence in policy decisions to protect human health by limiting exposure to air pollution, pesticides and endocrine-disrupting chemicals.

**Columbia Children’s Center** research findings and testimony on integrated pest management influenced the passing of:
- NYC Pesticide Reduction Law (Intro 329A), 2007
- Neighborhood Notification Law (Intro 328A), 2007

**EPA proposal for strengthened worker protection standard** for pesticides to protect agricultural workers and vulnerable groups including farmworker families cites Children’s Centers research from UW and UC Berkeley/Eskesenzi.

**Intended End Users**

**Research Community**
- e.g., Dartmouth College Children’s Center

**Decision Makers**
- Federal, State and local (e.g., FDA arsenic and rice studies)

**General Public**

**Lessons Learned**

- Living near a freeway while pregnant and around the time of birth is associated with increased risk of autism in children. *Volk et al., 2011*
- Prenatal exposure to PAHs is associated with behavioral issues e.g., anxiety, depression, and attention problems. *Perera et al., 2012*
- PCB-95 exposure modulates calcium-dependent signaling pathway for growth of neuron dendrites in brain. *Wayman, 2012*
- Specific maternal antibodies that target fetal brain proteins or antigens linked to maternal autoantibody-related (MAR) autism. *Braunschweig et al, 2013*