

# Prenatal exposure to phthalates may affect infants' health

February 24 2022

---



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

Phthalates are endocrine disrupting chemicals that are used in plastics and as food additives. A recent study in *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* examined whether prenatal exposure to phthalates in maternal

and cord blood affects birth outcomes in infants.

Results from the study involving 65 mother-infant pairs suggest that phthalates have potentially estrogenic effects in female [infants](#) and anti-androgenic effects in male infants. Also, higher levels of several different phthalates were associated with smaller head circumference in all infants.

"Follow-up of the study participants could help to clarify the long-term impacts of phthalates on infants' growth and health," said corresponding author Pai-Shan Chen, Ph.D., of National Taiwan University.

**More information:** Hsiao-Lin Hwa et al, Monitoring Phthalates in Maternal and Cord Blood: Implications for Prenatal Exposure and Birth Outcomes, *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* (2022). [DOI: 10.1002/etc.5280](#)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Prenatal exposure to phthalates may affect infants' health (2022, February 24) retrieved 28 June 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-02-prenatal-exposure-phthalates-affect-infants.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--