

This month in EHP

The March issue of Environmental Health Perspectives (EHP) (<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/>) examines what happens to discarded furniture treated with problem flame retardants, and the implications of a new, genetically diverse mouse model.



Preowned Problems: PBDEs in Discarded Furniture

Furniture industry experts expect furnishings free of flame retardants to become increasingly popular with consumers who can afford it, and people who purchase these items may reduce their exposures to certain chemicals. But what happens to older furniture that enters the waste stream?

Diversity Outbred: A New Generation of Mouse Model

Most mice used in toxicology research are genetically inbred and thus genetically identical, making it tricky to predict how the findings relate to the genetically diverse human population. A new genetically diverse mouse model, known as Diversity Outbred, offers intriguing possibilities for toxicology research.

Featured research and related news articles this month include:

- **Air Pollution and ASDs: Homing In on Environmental Risk Factors** — Researchers used data from 1,767 women in the Nurses' Health Study II to study particulate matter pollution as a potential environmental risk factor that could contribute to autism spectrum disorders.
- **Comparing Models: DBP Effects in Rat and Human Germ Cells** — A new study more narrowly defines di(*n*-butyl) phthalate's effects on germ cells and establishes that a rat model is suitable for clarifying how DBP affects some aspects of human germ cells.
- **Roadmap for Children's Health: Controlling Diverse Environmental Exposures in Latin America** — Participants of a 2012 World Health Organization and Pan American Health Organization conference review the health dangers of environmental pollutants for children who live in Latin America.
- **Continental Reference Point: Harmonized Human Biomonitoring Across Europe** — Researchers report on a human biomonitoring project that surveyed levels of mercury, cadmium, and metabolites of nicotine and phthalates in residents of 17 European nations.

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