

Pollutants' Passage From Mother To Child

Researchers assess how efficiently mothers transfer 87 environmental contaminants to their developing babies

Researchers used to think that the placenta was fairly effective at protecting the fetus against foreign compounds, says Philippe Grandjean of Harvard University's School of Public Health. In recent years, researchers have documented that pregnant and lactating mothers transfer environmental contaminants to their children and that these exposures can impair neurological, reproductive, immunological, respiratory, and metabolic development.

by Kellyn Betts