



ECHO

Environmental influences
on Child Health Outcomes

A program supported by the NIH



A good start to life can last a lifetime. What we experience during the earliest stages of our development — from conception through early childhood — can set trajectories of long-term health.

What if we discovered how to improve conditions during these early stages, giving our children the best chance for a healthy future?

Then we could achieve the mission of the ECHO program: to enhance the health of children for generations to come.

ECHO

The scientific goal of ECHO, a research program launched by the National Institutes of Health, is to understand the effects of a broad range of early environmental influences on child health and development. ECHO uses information from existing longitudinal research projects (cohorts) that will include more than 50,000 children from diverse backgrounds across the United States. Together, these cohorts follow participants from before they are born through childhood and adolescence. ECHO also supports a 17-state clinical trials network to test prevention and treatment strategies among children from rural and medically underserved backgrounds.



ECHO'S PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Improve the health of children and adolescents by conducting observational and intervention research that will inform high-impact programs, policies, and practices.
- Institute best practices for conducting Team Science in the 21st century, giving researchers the tools to work collaboratively to improve child health.

ECHO'S FIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES

- Pre-, peri-, and postnatal conditions
- Upper and lower airways
- Obesity
- Neurodevelopment
- Positive health

A NEW APPROACH TO CHILD HEALTH RESEARCH



Build upon Existing Cohort Studies

Create an ECHO-wide Cohort that combines existing and new data from diverse populations of children to answer important questions about the origins of their long-term health.



Enhance Capacity for Clinical Trials

Build the IDeA States Pediatric Clinical Trials Network to provide children living in rural and medically underserved communities the benefits of clinical research.



Tie it Together with Team Science

Bring together more than 1200 scientists and their institutions from 44 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia to ensure that the best minds are working collaboratively to advance the health of all children.