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GEISEL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT of
EPIDEMIOLOGY

“What have we learned about the effects of highly-fluorinated chemicals on maternal and child health?”



Megan Romano, PhD, MPH, associate professor of epidemiology, leads COBRE project 2, which investigates perfluoroalkyl substances and their effect on gestational weight gain, breastfeeding, and early life growth. Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are synthetic, endocrine-disrupting chemicals commonly used in nonstick coatings, food packaging, and water repellent clothing.

Dr. Romano’s COBRE project leverages biospecimens and data from the New Hampshire Birth Cohort Study to determine whether maternal blood concentrations of PFAS are associated with excessive weight gain during pregnancy, reduced duration of breastfeeding, or changes in breast milk composition. She also investigates the influence of prenatal PFAS on physical growth trajectory in infancy and maternal postnatal cardiometabolic health.



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