

## **Abstract for NCS Day at NIH on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Recommended category: Recruitment and Retention**

**Point person: Amanda Harrod, Project Director, Gateway Study Center**  
[harrodas@slu.edu](mailto:harrodas@slu.edu), 314-977-8334

**Title:** Non-Response Formative Study

**Submitting Study Center:** Gateway Study Center, St. Louis City Study Location

**Authors and Affiliations:** Vetta L. Sanders Thompson, PhD, Washington University; Louise H. Flick, DrPH, Saint Louis University; Lisa John, PhD, Battelle Memorial Institute; Amanda Harrod, MPH, Saint Louis University; Maggie Callon, MSW, Saint Louis University; Grant Farmer, MPH, MA, Saint Louis University

### **Description of research:**

**Introduction:** The Non-Response Study will take place in two Enhanced Household Based Recruitment Study Locations, St. Louis City, MO and Valencia County, NM. Surveys of the U.S. household population are experiencing higher refusal rates, and studies of refusal and non-response suggest there are characteristics of non-responders that could bias estimates of risk, functioning, & well-being. It is important to gain more information on non-responders in the context of the National Children's Study. This formative research has been approved by local IRBs and is awaiting OMB approval.

**Methods:** We will collect questionnaire and qualitative data from segment residents who could not be contacted during enumeration, could not be enumerated, refused participation in the pregnancy screener, and refused recruitment into the NCS. A stratified random sample of 100 households per site will be drawn from these two groups: 50% from refusals and 50% from those we were unable to contact. Participants will be asked about the following:

- Age, education, income, employment, marital status
- Race/ethnicity
- Usual source of health care
- Number of pregnancies, # of children
- Rating of health status
- Prior research participation
  - Participation in the last two years
  - Motivation for participation in past studies
  - Incentives
  - Study type
  - Types of questions that might affect participation

We will describe and compare the characteristics and qualitative responses of refusals and those who were originally “unable to contact” to gain insight into what influences such responses. This will inform field work and potentially reduce non-response rates and refusals.