

Participant Experience In The National Children's Study, Salt Lake County Vanguard Center

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Background

Participant retention is critical to the success of the National Children's Study (NCS). Responses to the Participant Experience Questionnaire (PEQ) can reveal motivators for and barriers to continued participation.

Methods

In the original Vanguard Center "Legacy" protocol, in-home study visits, including multiple modes of data collection, were made to women who were not yet pregnant (P1) and to women in the 1st (T1) and 3rd (T3) trimesters of pregnancy. Participants filled out the paper PEQ at the end of each visit, describing their study experience.

Results

In-home study visits typically were 2 to 3 hours duration. After a first study visit in Salt Lake County, only 2% of PEQ respondents found the amount of time spent to be "far too long"; 71% described the time as "about the right length". The factors most often rated as "very important" contributors to a decision to take part in the study were "feeling as if I can help children now and in the future", and "helping doctors and researchers learn more about children and their health." 90% of participants rated their experience with the National Children's Study as "mostly positive". After a second study visit, 74% described the time spent as "about the right length" and 84% described their experience as "mostly positive."

Conclusions

Most study participants described their first and second study visit experience as positive and did not indicate dissatisfaction with the length of the study visits. Participants reported motivating factors that align well with the goals of the study.

Table 1. Respondents to NCS Legacy Protocol Participant Experience Questionnaire (PEQ), Salt Lake County, UT

	First Study Visit		Second Study Visit	
	n	%	n	%
Age				
18-24	*	8.0	*	4.7
25-34	*	59.9	*	62.5
35-44	*	32.1	*	32.8
Race				
White	*	70.8	*	75.0
African-American	*	0.7	*	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	*	0	*	0
Asian	*	3.6	*	4.7
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	*	0.7	*	0
Other	*	2.9	*	3.1
Not Reported	*	21.2	*	17.2
Hispanic or Latina				
Yes	*	1.5	*	1.6
No	*	89.0	*	92.2
Not Reported	*	9.6	*	6.2
Interview Language				
English	*	94.2	*	93.7
Spanish	*	5.8	*	6.3

* Counts suppressed pending disclosure review.

Table 2. Overall Experience with NCS and Description of Time Spent on Study Activities, Salt Lake County, UT

	First Study Visit		Second Study Visit	
	n	%	n	%
Time spent				
Far too long	*	2.2	*	0
A little too long	*	26.7	*	25.8
About the right length	*	71.1	*	74.2
Experience with the NCS				
Mostly negative	*	0	*	0
Somewhat negative	*	0	*	0
Neither negative nor positive	*	0	*	1.6
Somewhat positive	*	9.6	*	14.3
Mostly positive	*	90.4	*	84.1

* Counts suppressed pending disclosure review.

Figure 1. Importance in decision to take part in the NCS

