

The **National Children's Study** will be a rich source of information available to answer questions related to children's health and development and will form the basis of child health guidance, interventions, and policy for generations to come. Scientists and the public can also use these findings to inform their understanding of adult health.



Study Sponsors

Congress authorized the planning and implementation of the National Children's Study with the Children's Health Act of 2000. The National Children's Study is led by the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in collaboration with a consortium of federal government partners. Study partners include the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences of the NIH, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Environmental Protection Agency. Both the CDC and the NIH fall under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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The National Children's Study

Making a Difference in Children's Health



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
National Institutes of Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

What is the National Children's Study?

The National Children's Study is the largest research study to examine the effects of genetic and environmental influences on the health and development of children. The Study will follow more than 100,000 children across the United States from before birth until age 21. The goal of the Study is to learn how to improve the health and well-being of children.

The Study defines "environment" broadly and takes a number of factors into account, including:

- Natural and man-made environmental factors, such as air quality and building safety
- Biological and chemical factors, such as infections and exposure to chemicals
- Social factors, such as community services and support systems
- Behavioral influences, such as response to stress
- Family health history
- Cultural and family influences, such as family structure and ethnicity

Researchers will analyze how these elements interact with each other and what helpful and harmful effects they might have on children's health and development. By studying children's health and development through their different phases of growth, researchers will be better able to understand the roles these factors play in health and disease. Findings from the Study will be made available as the research progresses, so that the public can benefit from any information as soon as possible.



THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S STUDY



THE NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
STUDY

HEALTH GROWTH ENVIRONMENT

What makes this study different from other U.S. health studies?

The National Children's Study has several features that make it unique:

- The Study is truly national in scope—The National Children's Study will enroll women from more than 100 locations across the country. Families from diverse backgrounds and communities will be joining the Study to allow research on health-related factors important to the diverse U.S. population.
- The Study takes a broad approach to "environment"—This study includes a wide range of biological, physical, genetic, social, cultural, and other factors comprising a child's environment that can affect health and development.
- The Study is long-term in design—This study is called a longitudinal study because it collects information on the same group of people from before birth into adulthood. By following children for 21 years, the Study will collect information about health at different ages and stages of growth and in various situations to shed light on the factors that influence health and development as people grow.

- Results will be made public as the Study progresses—Even though the Study will span more than 20 years, Study researchers will begin to analyze information as soon as it is collected and will release results periodically. The results may lead to new questions about children's health and the environment that can be answered later in the course of the Study.



- The Study involves partners from multiple government agencies (federal, state, local), as well as from public organizations—The National Children's Study represents a unique partnership with many components. Federal, state, and local agencies, universities, academic and professional societies, medical centers, communities, organizations, industries, companies, and other private groups all play vital roles in this partnership.
- The Study examines many questions—The National Children's Study addresses multiple questions on multiple topics to provide as much information as possible on child health and development. The Study Plan focuses on several priority health exposures, including outcomes such as pregnancy, child growth and development, injury, asthma, and psychological and emotional health.

The National Children's Study is being implemented in several phases that include the Vanguard or pilot study, the Main Study, and smaller related studies. All phases together form the National Children's Study and will run in parallel, each for 21 years.

How can I get involved with the National Children's Study?

To get involved with the National Children's Study, you can:

- Sign up at <http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov> for Study e-mail updates, which give you easy access to information about the Study and its progress.
- Take about 5 minutes to answer some questions if you live in a Study community and are contacted by a representative of the National Children's Study.
- Find the contact information for the National Children's Study facility near you through the Study Web site at <http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov> and get in touch with your local Study facility.



Everyone has a stake in this study because it is about providing information that may lead to improvements in the health, development, and well-being of children.

How can I get more information about the Study?

To learn more about the National Children's Study or to receive the Study's e-mail updates, contact us at:

- E-mail:** ContactNCS@mail.nih.gov
- Internet:** <http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov>
- Phone:** 1-877-865-2619
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