

- Title
 - Developing Best Practices to Encourage Non-Residential Father's Participation in the National Children's Study: Perspectives of Non-Residential Fathers.
- Names and Affiliations
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- Description of research (up to 250 words)
 - Introduction: This study explores perceptions on how best to facilitate recruitment of nonresidential fathers. The purpose is to inform NCS recruitment methods for this often marginalized population.
 - Methods: Focus group inquiry was used to collect information from a convenience sample of nonresidential fathers of very young children.
 - Results: A total of 50* fathers residing in one of two urban communities participated in a total of 5 focus groups. Four prevalent themes emerged: MISTRUST; LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES; INCENTIVES AND ASSURANCES; and THE IDENTIFIABLE.
 - Conclusions: Other studies clearly indicate that fathers have been "left out" of research on child health and where included, low consent rates raise questions about the representativeness of participating fathers. Finding from this current study indicate that the primary barrier to participation is trust, something that is highly valued, is most likely influenced by life circumstances and has been previously reported in other minority population studies. The issue of trust also raises consideration of the dissociation between science and medicine: fathers express trust in and familiarity with the medical community and mistrust of the scientific community. The results of this study indicate that if the challenges to recruitment and retention can be structured to address the perceptions and lifestyles of the target populations, participation can be secured to the benefit of all stakeholders. Key to this structure is the ability of researchers to present the study as low commitment and low threat and to develop a communication plan with community partners.
- Tables, Graphs, Figures.
 - NONE

* Rounds to 50. SOURCE: NCS Alternate Recruitment Substudy, Vanguard Study, November 2010-April 2011. NOTE: NCS Rounding Rules applied