

**Title:** The National Children’s Study-Polk County, Iowa: Utilizing Local Home Visiting Agencies for Listing, Enumeration, Recruitment, and Data Collection

**Names and Affiliations:**

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**Introduction:**

The Polk County, Iowa Study Location partners with Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa to conduct listing, enumeration, recruitment, and data collection visits for the National Children’s Study. VNS of Iowa, a local home visiting agency with over 100 years of experience in public health, brings expertise in maternal and child health services that compliment the NCS.

**Methods:**

VNS of Iowa conducts recruitment and data collection for the NCS. By partnering with an agency with a strong presence in the community, there is the benefit of knowing that Field Interviewers have intensive supervision from a local supervisor who is knowledgeable of the community and has regular contact to facilitate supervision. VNS of Iowa also has a team of interpreters who work with immigrant and minority populations in Polk County.

**Results:**

VNS of Iowa employs eleven full-time Field Interviewers who have previously worked in social work or education, many with experience in maternal and child health home visiting. The study center reaps the benefits of a local expert implementing the study in the community they have had a long-term vested interest in serving. In addition, the team of interpreters serving the NCS participants ensures representation of all ethnic and racial populations.

**Conclusion:**

Although some study centers seek out national agencies to assist with listing, enumeration, recruitment, and data collection, the Polk County Study Center has chosen to partner with a strong, local home visiting agency to employ data collectors who will be serving the community for the duration of the NCS.