

**M**ost children born today are growing up healthy and living longer than ever before. But the rates of asthma, diabetes, autism, and other health problems in many children are on the rise. We still have many questions about how children's environments—the air they breathe, the water they drink, and the communities they live in—affect their health and well being into adulthood.

With the help of communities across the country, the National Children's Study hopes to find the answers to these questions, and to use the answers to improve the health of children for years to come.

To learn more about the National Children's Study, please contact:

**National Children's Study**

**Mail:** 6100 Executive Boulevard, Room 5C01,  
Rockville, MD 20892-7510

**E-mail:** [NCS@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NCS@mail.nih.gov)

**Internet:** [www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov](http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov)

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# THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S STUDY AND YOUR COMMUNITY:

## Partners in Our Children's Health



**How does pollution in the environment affect our children's health?**

**Can asthma in children be prevented?**

**What is the long-term impact of playing video games on a child's development?**

**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 of the environment's effects on children's health and development ever conducted in the United States.

In this Study, "environment" not only includes air, water, and dust, but also what children eat, how they are cared for, the safety of their neighborhoods, and how often they see a health care provider.

The Study will examine the most important child health issues of our time, including:

- Birth defects and other pregnancy-related problems
- Injuries
- Asthma
- Obesity and diabetes
- Behavior, learning, and mental health

**Local research teams will observe children from before birth to age 21.**



## How will the Study be conducted?

Local Study teams will work with doctors, nurses, community leaders, and public health officials across America to observe 100,000 children from before birth to age 21.

Working with each community, these teams will visit the homes, schools, and neighborhoods of the children and families who participate in the National Children's Study.

They will collect samples from children's environments, such as indoor and outdoor air, tap water, dust, and soil.

They may note what communities look like and whether there are medical, public, and social services available in the area.

Local Study teams will also invite participants to visit a nearby Study center a few times. At these visits, the teams may collect samples of things like blood and urine, and will hand out questionnaires to get information about the health and activities of children and their families.

Participants will not have to take medicines or get any treatments.

All information collected for the Study will be kept private.

**100,000 children from more than 100 diverse communities nationwide will participate.**



## Who will participate in the Study?

In 2007–2008, the National Children's Study will begin recruiting women who are pregnant or are likely to have a child in the near future. Their families will also be encouraged to participate.

Families who join the Study will come from many different racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups in more than 100 communities across the country.

## Why was our community chosen for the Study?

Your community was chosen for the National Children's Study based on factors such as location, diversity, and the number of children born there each year. Including your community helps the Study to fairly represent all of America's children.



**Environmental factors in homes, schools, and neighborhoods will be measured.**

## How will our community benefit from the Study?

Findings from the National Children's Study will help doctors and other health care providers treat and prevent environmentally related health problems. Study findings will help national, state, and local leaders make better environmental and health policies. Findings will also help communities prevent health problems and keep families healthy. The Study may even lead to new treatments and cures for diseases.

Families and children who participate in the National Children's Study will directly contribute to the health and well being of generations of children, in their own communities and throughout the country.

## How can we support the Study in our community?

The success of the National Children's Study depends on the participation of families and communities. You can encourage friends, neighbors, and families who live in Study areas to participate beginning in 2007–2008. Community organizations can also help by spreading the word about the Study.



With the support of communities like yours, the National Children's Study can help to improve the growth and development of all children across the country, now and in the future.

**Findings will suggest prevention strategies, inform policy, and improve the lives of future generations.**

