



# National Children's Study Overview and Highlights of Pilot Studies

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# Pilot Studies and the NCS

- The NCS has been conducting pilot studies for the last five years
- Many early studies conducted through existing EPA mechanisms
- Since then, funding has come from 4 lead agencies
- 3 general categories of pilot studies
  - Reviews and white papers
  - Workshops
  - Pilot studies



# Ideas for pilot studies

- Many pilot ideas were “born” through former NCS working groups
- Also from agency scientists, PO staff, and ICC members
- Proposals sent to review subcommittee and Advisory Committee
- All pilots are reviewed for content, scope, and relevance
- Pilots are tracked in database



# Reviews and white papers

- Formal literature review or white paper that summarizes existing information and identifies gaps in knowledge
- Written for both peer-reviewed journals and internal use
- Cover wide range of topics including exposures, recruitment/retention, methods, ethics, IT, and outcomes
- Approximately 50 proposed, in progress, or completed



# Workshops

- Small (3-4 people) or large (15-30 people) gathering of experts to discuss issues and make recommendations
- Held in many different geographic locations (MD, DC, VA, GA, TX, MA, FL)
- Most workshops have issued a report of findings for internal use
- Approximately 50 proposed, in progress, or completed



# Pilot studies

- Many projects that cover wide range of scientific query from very small budget to large
- Most designed to test methods and measures
- Use of various contract mechanisms allow efficiency and easier feasibility
- Approximately 62 proposed, in progress, or completed



# Workshops



- Psychosocial Stress and Pregnancy and Infancy
- Use of Herbal Products
- Media Effects
- Gene Environment Interaction and Regulation of Behavior
- Racial/Ethnic Discrimination and Racism
- Collection and Use of Genetic Information
- Ethical Issues
- Sampling Design
- Capturing Day-Specific Probabilities of Conception



# Reviews/White papers

- Technology needs assessment
- Measuring housing quality and characteristics
- Recall and collection of retrospective data
- Lessons learned from Children's Environmental Health Centers
- Assessment of existing linkages with local communities
- Identifying and selecting developmental measures
- Evaluation of exposure measurement methods and approaches for the NCS





# Pilot Studies



- Focus group: eliciting community involvement, recruitment, and retention of subjects
- Demonstration of low cost, low burden exposure monitoring strategies
- Feasibility of primary care sites for subject observation and data collection
- Reliability and validity of injury reporting
- Tampa Asthmatic Children's Study (TACS)
- Methods Advancement for Milk Analysis (MAMA)
- North Carolina Cohort Study



# For more information...



- Poster session today from 5:30-6:30 (Blue Room)
- Program Office staff, ICC members  
[NCS@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NCS@mail.nih.gov)
- NCS website:  
<http://nationalchildrensstudy.gov/>  
("the research")

