



Douglas County Fact Sheet

What is the National Children's Study?

- The National Children's Study is the largest long-term study of environmental and genetic influences on children's health ever conducted in the United States.
- The Study will follow 100,000 children from before birth to age 21.
- It will look at a child's environment including family history and where they live, learn and play.
- This Study will research the potential causes of major childhood diseases in order to improve the health and well-being of children.

What Will We Learn From the Study?

- When completed, the National Children's Study will be the richest information resource for questions related to child health ever.
- The Study will examine important health issues, such as birth defects and pregnancy-related problems; injuries; asthma, autism, obesity, and diabetes; and behavior, learning, and mental health disorders to establish links between children's environments and their health.
- Findings from the Study will benefit all Americans by providing researchers, health care providers, and public health officials with information from which to develop prevention strategies, health and safety guidelines.

Where Will the Study Be Conducted?

- The Study will be conducted in Douglas County and 104 other locations across the United States.
- Each location was selected to ensure a comprehensive sample of the entire nation, in terms of ethnic, racial, economic, religious, geographic, and social composition.
- In these locations, Study teams will work with health care professionals and community leaders to invite women who are pregnant or are likely to become pregnant to participate in the Study.

Who Will Conduct the Study in Douglas County?

- The Colorado School of Public Health and University of Colorado School of Medicine.
- The researchers will conduct the Study through a strong partnership with local community-based organizations, health departments, schools, religious, business, neighborhood and ethnic organizations, as well as delivery hospitals and local health care providers.
- Douglas County was chosen for the National Children's Study based on factors such as location, excellent schools and its rural and suburban mix of communities.
- The Study will be conducted by an interdisciplinary team consisting of scientists from the diabetes field, environmental experts, epidemiologists, nutritionists, pediatricians and obstetricians. Team leadership consists of Dana Dabelea, MD, PhD, Principal Investigator; Stephen Daniels, MD, PhD, Pediatrics; Susan Johnson, PhD, Community Outreach; Anne Lynch, MD, MSPH, Obstetrics and Gynecology; John Adgate, PhD, MSPH, Environmental Health; Carolyn DiGuseppi, MD, MPH, PhD, Developmental disabilities epidemiology; and Richard Hamman, MD, DrPH, Chronic disease epidemiology.

What Will the Study Involve?

- Researchers will invite pregnant women, or women who are likely to become pregnant, from selected neighborhoods within Douglas County, to participate in the Study.
- Eventually we hope to have 1,000 children enrolled from Douglas County.

How Will Participants Be Encouraged to Continue in the Study?

- Efforts to encourage women to participate in the Study will include community based campaigns promoting the creation of community partnerships; building relationships with area obstetricians and other health care providers; and directing outreach to parenting, religious, and community groups, as well as other organizations offering health information and support to families.
- Some tools and activities to promote connection and cohesion among participants may include newsletters, interactive Web sites for the children, periodic get-togethers, on-line social networking tools and public presentations.
- As with most studies of this kind, participants will receive compensation for their time.

How Will Our Community Benefit From the Study?

- Learning about how the environment influences children's health and development can provide new information to improve the health and well-being of both children and adults.
- Families and children who participate in the Study will directly contribute to the health and well being of future generations of children, in Douglas County and throughout the United States.

Who Can I Contact to Get More Information?

- Melanie Herrera Bortz, Community Liaison 303.724.5636 or melanie.herrerabortz@ucdenver.edu
- Tabria Winer, Community Outreach Coordinator 303.724.5689 or tabria.winer@ucdenver.edu
- <http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov>