



100,000 babies are about to change the world. Yours could be one of them.

Perspectives



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"Oh, I can't talk."
The woman who answered the door seemed busy. I tried to explain what the study is about but she cut me off and said, "I'll be home tomorrow."
I do EPSC (pronounced "ep-sick") for the National Children's Study. EPSC stands for Enumeration Pregnancy Screening and Consent. EPSC staff members are also known as Household Interviewers. We have been going to every home in the 15 Orange County neighborhoods that were randomly selected to participate in the study. Our job is to find women who are eligible to participate in the study and also to record the age and gender of household members even if there are no eligible women.
I went back to the woman's home. She answered the door but said "I'm not interested."
I started explaining why the study is important. She said she really wanted to help but didn't feel well.
I asked, "Are you OK?" And then she really opened up. I just listened. The more she talked about how she wasn't feeling well, the better she seemed to feel. She started joking and got more energized.
Then she said, "What the heck, I'll do this."
Now when she sees me in the neighborhood, she'll wave, crack a joke or give a honk if she is driving. That day, I learned how important it is sometimes to just listen.

Happy New Year 2010!

Happy New Year!
This past year, we made great strides on many fronts. We almost completed the "Household Interviewing" phase of the study, having visited more than 10,000 homes around Orange County to introduce residents to the study and invite eligible women to participate.

We started doing home visits for pregnant women in the summer and were excited to welcome our first NCS babies in the fall.

We have started enrolling some women who are not yet pregnant in order to learn more about children's earliest environments from the moment of conception. In addition, we are following hundreds of other non-pregnant women with periodic

phone calls, waiting to invite them to enroll in the study should they become pregnant.

The new year will find us expanding the NCS on many fronts. Our research team will soon begin training to conduct home visits with NCS babies when they reach 6 months of age.

Our door-to-door work will enter its next phase as well, as we track household turnover and conduct Household Interviews with new residents who move into our 15 neighborhoods.

As we reflect upon our many accomplishments of the past year and the exciting new roads that lie ahead in 2010 we offer our heartfelt gratitude to our participants and community partners, without whom this important work could not be done.

We hope you have a healthy and prosperous 2010.

FAQ

Do participants see NCS physicians for their prenatal care? No. Participants would not see NCS physicians for their prenatal care. In fact, NCS does not have its own physicians that treat participants. Participants should continue to see their own physicians.

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 19** - OC School Nurses presentation
- Jan. 21** - Santa Ana NAC meeting
- Jan. 28** - Anaheim NAC meeting
- Jan. 29** - Aliso Viejo NAC meeting