



# What's New?

## Perspectives Community Leaders' Thoughts about the National Children's Study

Sharon Quirk  
Mayor of Fullerton

Sharon is an elementary school teacher who, within minutes of learning about the study, was sold on its benefits. "I've seen first-hand the devastating effects of the growing number of childhood diseases like early-onset diabetes, and other health and medical-related issues such as obesity and learning disabilities," says Quirk. "The data and research acquired over this long-term study will allow elected officials the information we need to support intervention and prevention programs and apply for grant funding to build these programs." Mayor Quirk offered to help by getting the word out to school principals, and sending letters to the police, fire department and homeowners association in Fullerton's study neighborhood.



## A brief update on the National Children's Study

Meetings, meetings, meetings! And every one of them has been a valuable investment in learning about the 15 neighborhoods where families will be recruited to be part of the pioneering National Children's Study. Over the past few months, our local community engagement team has met with elected officials, community-based organizations and individuals in each of the study neighborhoods to create awareness of the study, gain local support and learn the distinctive qualities that make each community unique.

At each meeting, we ask, "Who else do we need to hear from?" which leads to more ideas, more questions and more meetings!

We've received offers of support in numerous ways—from letters of support to introductions to community leaders and organizations, and recommendations on outreach to schools, child care centers, businesses and churches. You're telling us how to reach your families, pointing out the barriers we might encounter and raising the questions that we are sure to be asked by study participants.

This dialogue is so important and we are both enjoying and benefitting from the conversation. We are looking forward to even more in-depth conversations with those who live in the neighborhoods as the study progresses.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who is funding this study?

The U.S. Congress passed the Children's Health Act of 2000, which authorized the National Children's Study. Congress also funds the Study's implementation through the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Education and the Environmental Protection Agency.

### What's in it for the participants?

While there are some direct benefits of being part of the study, much of the reason

for participating will be altruistic—helping the future children in our cities, nation, and the world live healthier lives. Families enrolled in the study will have access to health and developmental screenings for their children that they might not otherwise get—in other words, they'll have another set of expert eyes on their child's health and development. There will also be cash and non-cash incentives for the participants' efforts.

**The National Children's Study** will examine the effects of environmental influences on the health and development of more than 100,000 children across the United States, following them from before birth until age 21. The goal of the study is to improve the health and well-being of children. Orange County is one of the first locations to implement the Study. For more information please visit: [www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov](http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov)