



Perspectives

Community Leaders' Thoughts about the National Children's Study

Julie Brown

Mother and Yorba Linda Resident



Julie Brown first heard about the National Children's Study from a nurse she met while doing a *different* study. "I loved the fact that I was helping others because of the insights gained from my pregnancy." The National Children's Study combines two things Julie is passionate about—her city, Yorba Linda, and helping others. Julie knows things that only a Yorba Linda resident would know: where residents gather; who residents listen to; how residents get information; and how Yorba Linda is similar to or different from other Orange County communities. Julie is helping the Outreach and Engagement team with building a Yorba Linda Local Advisory Group—something we will be doing in each of the 15 study segments. "More people need to be educated on issues that affect children," Julie says. "I believe this study will be a catalyst for significant change in our communities. Count me in."

What's New?

Study Approved by OMB

The National Children's Study (NCS) protocol was approved by the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB). OMB evaluates the burden a study puts on its participants. This approval is a major milestone because it means that we can start to contact families and enroll pregnant women. The schedule has been set and we now know that field activities in Orange County will begin in spring 2009. After years of planning, we are excited to find out when the actual study will begin.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I enroll in the National Children's Study?

Only women who live in one of the 15 selected segments (neighborhoods) and become pregnant can enroll in the study. These segments were randomly selected from over 1,800 Orange County communities with similar numbers of births to ensure representation of diverse ethnic and socioeconomic groups.

Segment "Listing" Complete

The Orange County Vanguard Center completed "listing" of the 15 segments (neighborhoods) chosen to be in the study. After being trained on requirements for listing, our staff visited every street in every neighborhood to create a detailed list of nearly 11,000 residences that will be included in the study. We will use this address list when we start the field activities to track our contacts with households in the segments. The address list is important since the original neighborhood boundaries were created through census data from 2000 and satellite maps—a good start, but nothing can take the place of a good old-fashioned visit. For this listing, our staff did not knock on doors or intentionally contact residents. (Contact with neighborhood residents will begin in spring 2009). We informed staff from city halls, police departments, and property management companies that we would be in the neighborhoods, and we made first connections with our selected communities.

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. For Orange County information please contact Ofelia Sandoval at 949-824-4672 or ofelia.sandoval@uci.edu.