

August 2008 E-Update A periodic publication on the progress of the Salt Lake County Children's Study.

LISTING HAS BEGUN!!

The Salt Lake County Children's Study has begun its preliminary field work throughout 15 neighborhoods in the Salt Lake Valley. The first phase of the study is called "listing" and consists of staff members walking through the different neighborhoods in Salt Lake County to record the address of all the dwellings in each neighborhood. At this point in the study, field staff will not be recruiting study participants, but will be happy to provide identification and answer any questions community members have.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF LISTING?

We will use the addresses recorded during listing to send the advance letters to each household selected for the study. The advance letters will inform residents about the study before study staff knock on their doors

CHILDREN'S STUDY CHAMPION!

Each issue of the e-update will feature a community stakeholder who is helping make the Salt Lake County Children's Study a success in Salt Lake County. This month meet the Mayor of Midvale, JoAnn Seghini, who sits on our Community Advisory Board.

I grew up in Midvale and remember the trains that traveled to and from the mines, stopping for water in the center of town. Midvale had a mill and a smelter, whose tailings were so toxic that nothing grew near them. Many residents used the fine sand from the smelter for their gardens. In the 1990's this sand was found to be full of heavy metals and hazardous to our health. The smelter filled the air with smoke and I remember the taste of arsenic on my tongue. Fortunately, both sites have since been cleaned up. Midvale is now the center of the freeway connector between I-15 and I-215 and many of us are concerned that this is a health risk for the present and the future. This history shows that it is very important for our residents to be part of the Salt Lake County Children's Study. It is time to ask questions that will lead to healthy children and families. As Midvale City Mayor, I am happy that part of our city will be in the Salt Lake County Children's Study.



WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE SALT LAKE COUNTY CHILDREN'S STUDY?

In the spring of 2009, we will begin enumeration. During enumeration we will be contacting potential study participants door-to-door in the various communities and invite them to join the study. Prior to this we will do a media and public outreach campaign to educate the Salt Lake County community at large and the residents of the study neighborhoods about the Salt Lake County Children's Study. If you know of a community organization that would like to learn about the study contact Pam Silberman whose information appears below.

DID YOU KNOW?

An estimated 22.5% of elementary school students in Utah are overweight or at risk of becoming overweight. The Salt Lake County Children's Study wants to know if lack of exercise and poor diet are the only reasons many children are overweight. Even though the study will span more than 20 years, we won't have to wait until after 2025 for results. Salt Lake County Children's Study researchers will begin to analyze information as soon as it is collected. As the children enrolled in the Study reach certain developmental milestones, the Salt Lake County Children's Study will release its findings on these milestones. These results may lead to new questions about children's health and the environment that can be answered later in the course of the Study.

For more information contact our Community Relations Director, Pamela Silberman.

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