



THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S STUDY is Coming to Laguna Beach!

The National Children's Study is a federally funded 25 year study designed to follow 100,000 children in 105 communities throughout the country from before birth to age 21 in order to better understand how children's genes and their environments interact to affect their health and development. In this study, "environment" includes such factors as air, water, and pollutants; what children eat; how they are cared for; the safety of their neighborhoods; and how often they see a doctor. By tracking children through infancy, childhood, and early adulthood, the study hopes to determine the causes of many diseases including birth defects and pregnancy related problems; injuries; asthma; obesity; diabetes; and learning and mental health disorders. Findings from the study will benefit all Americans by providing researchers, health care providers, and public health officials with information to develop prevention strategies, health and safety guidelines, and possibly new treatments and cures for diseases. A conservative estimate of the effect of the National Children's Study on ten adverse health outcomes made by an independent, government-funded analysis found that the return for each dollar invested could be as much as \$30 by 2030.

Orange County, a Vanguard center for the nationwide study, will recruit 1,250 study participants from 15 neighborhoods with equal birth rates and diverse ethnic, socioeconomic status and family structures. Some neighborhoods from Laguna Beach have been selected to participate in the study. If your neighborhood is one of them, you will receive a knock on your door soon. The interview will only take a few minutes. One of the primary goals of the National Children's Study in Orange County is to work closely and to share information with local medical, social and public health practitioners to ensure that results from the study, which are expected to be found as early as a few years after the start date of Spring 2009, are shared with the community. Please visit the National Children's Study at <http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

LOCAL CONTACTS:

Dean B. Baker, MD, MPH
Co-Principal Investigator
(949)824-8690
dbaker@uci.edu

Mary Coggins
Outreach and Engagement Coordinator
(949) 824-4672 / (714) 362-1442 cell
mcoggins@uci.edu

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