



National Children's Study Benton County

Did you know in Arkansas:

- Every 14 minutes, a baby is born.
- Every five hours, a baby is born with a birth defect.
- Every four days, a baby will die because of a birth defect.

Have you ever wondered if the following affect growth, health, and development?

- The environment, such as air, soil and water
- Diet, nutrition and physical activity
- Genetics and family history
- Social and family interactions

What is the National Children's Study?

- The NCS will examine the effects of the environment on the growth, health and development of children across the US.
- Participants will be followed from before birth through age 21.
- Collaborating providers—including local physicians, clinics and hospitals—will recruit the study participants.
- The NCS is an observational research study, so participants will be asked to answer questionnaires, not to change what they normally do.
- Study staff will collect data through questionnaires, biological samples and environmental samples.
- The difference in the NCS and other studies is the scientific scope, size and duration—this is the broadest shape of any longitudinal observational study ever undertaken.
- The Study is funded by a designated appropriation from the U.S. Congress.

Do you ever wonder why so many children today have health problems such as asthma, obesity, or diabetes? Why do some pregnancies end in miscarriage or premature birth? Is there something about the way we live – in our homes, our neighborhoods, and our communities – that helps some children grow up healthy and keeps others from enjoying healthy lives?

Benton County, along with 104 other counties across the United States, has been selected to be part of the National Children's Study, the largest study of children's health and development ever conducted in the United States. It is an observational study that will follow more than 100,000 children from the time they are born until they are young adults to examine how their environment affects their health and well-being. The Arkansas Study Center is funded in whole through a federal contract awarded to the Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute and led by a team of researchers from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

The Study team is enrolling women who are pregnant or may become pregnant in the next couple of years. You may be eligible to participate in this landmark Study of children's health and development. If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, please call us at (479) 286-2620 or 1-877-KID-STDY to find out more information about the National Children's Study, or visit our website at <http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov>.

Sincerely,

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