

## National Children's Study

Hawaii is one of 43 states where families will be able to participate in the National Children's Study. A total of 105 study locations, dispersed among 120 counties around the country were chosen (a study location may contain a group of counties). Twenty-six rural and 79 metropolitan areas (urban, suburban, and small cities) are included. The sites were scientifically selected to ensure that participating families represented diversity across ethnic, racial, economic, religious, geographic, and social groups.

The National Children's Study will be the largest, most detailed study focused on children's health and development in our country's history. Its goal is to improve children's health and well-being and gain more of an understanding of how various factors affect health and disease. A long-term study, researchers will follow children from before birth until age 21. Women who are either pregnant or likely to have a child during the recruitment period are eligible to participate in the study.

The research will analyze how factors in living environments interact with each other and what helpful or harmful effects these have on children's health. It will assess differences that exist between various groups of people, such as access to health care, occurrence of disease, and others. Data collected on birth defects, pregnancy-related problems, injuries, asthma, behavior, learning, mental health disorders, and many others, will provide useful information for scientists studying those conditions. Public health officials, health care providers, and researchers will be able to use the data collected to develop prevention strategies, formulate health and safety guidelines, and guide future research. The data will be made available during the study, to help guide policies to address disparities and other issues found.

Hawaii's study center is the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). Kaiser Permanente, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of California at Irvine are signed on to conduct the study in collaboration with JABSOM.