Together we can find answers to questions that you and many other parents might ask, such as:

How do genes and experiences influence development and behavior?

How does early exposure to opioids, tobacco, and other substances affect development?

Are there key experiences early in development that impact later health and well-being of a child?

Are there windows during the early developmental period that present opportunities to intervene that will help children be healthier and happier?

How do parent or caretaker interactions with their children impact health?

Let's Connect and Learn Together!

As parents, health care providers, and researchers, we share a common goal: helping our children grow to be healthy and happy. We invite you to connect with the nation's leading researchers and participate in a study that can help uncover the experiences of early childhood development that shape an individual's future.

For more information, please visit HBCDStudy.org

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HEALthy Brain and Child Development
Babies · Brains · Bright Futures

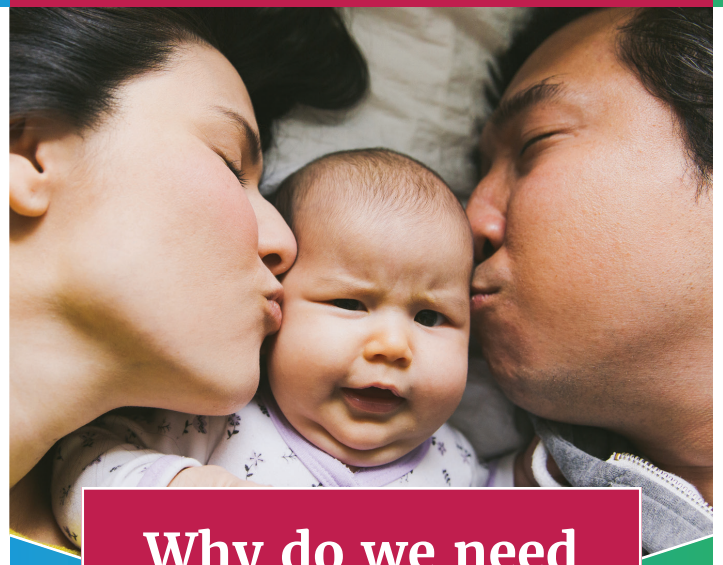
The HEALthy Brain and Child Development (HBCD) Study

The HBCD Study, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, is being conducted by researchers across the country. You may be eligible to participate at a Study Site in your area. This study will help us understand how to support healthy futures for children for generations to come.

What is the HBCD Study?

The HBCD Study will enroll a large cohort of participating families from across the U.S. and follow them and their children through early childhood. The researchers want to better understand how the brain develops and is affected by exposure to substances and other environmental conditions during pregnancy and after birth. Researchers will collect information during pregnancy and through early childhood, including:

- Pictures of the brain
- Growth measurements
- Samples of blood and saliva (biosamples)
- Medical and family history surveys
- Information about their social, emotional, and cognitive development



Why do we need the HBCD Study?

The first few years of life are a period of rapid growth and brain development. There are many factors that can influence how children develop, yet little is known about how these factors influence health and other outcomes. The HBCD Study will help us better understand how child development may be affected by exposures to various experiences and conditions including exposure to substances (such as opioids, alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis) during pregnancy and social and environmental experiences that are involved in a child's development.

Results from the HBCD Study will provide information that parents and health professionals can use to enhance the well-being of children.

Who can participate?

Participating families will be individuals in the 2nd or 3rd trimester of pregnancy or who have recently given birth and their children.

It is important that people who join the study are from diverse backgrounds, with varied income levels, education, and living environments.

What will study participants be expected to do?

The HBCD Study begins with 3-4 visits in the first year with only 1-2 visits in subsequent years. During these visits, you will be asked to complete interviews and questionnaires.

In addition, you and/or your child will be asked to:

- Provide samples, such as blood and saliva
- Participate in behavioral assessments
- Wear activity and/or heart rate trackers for brief periods of time
- Undergo safe, non-invasive methods that provide pictures of your child's brain and measure the brain activity of your child.

What about costs?

All study assessments and procedures will be provided to you free of charge. You will be compensated for the time spent participating in the study.

Will personal information be protected?

- All identifying information from or about you will be kept private and confidential, as required by law.
- Your family's information and samples will be stored without personally identifiable information, along with that of others in the study. Researchers will learn from your contributions for many years to come.