

Our Community, Our Health

Dear Participant,

Thank you for being part of the Women and Their Children's Health (WaTCH) Study at the Louisiana State University School of Public Health. The 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill is the largest marine oil spill to date. LSU's School of Public Health is committed to understanding the many ways the oil spill may have affected communities in South Louisiana. To understand the full impact, we must talk to as many people with as many different backgrounds as possible. Even if you feel you were not affected, your experiences provide valuable information.

At the end of your telephone interview, you may have been asked to submit a blood and urine specimen during a home visit. Biospecimens are used to understand how genes and the environment work together to affect our long term health.

Another goal of our study is to understand the impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on children's development and well-being. Most information collected about the effects of the oil spill come from adults, but children may perceive or experience the oil spill differently. That is why we ask moms with a child ages 10 to 17 years old some additional questions.

- **2,650 women have enrolled in the study and completed a telephone interview.**
- **1,190 women have completed a home visit.**
- **500 women and their eligible child have completed the Child Study questions**

Thanks to you, we are more than halfway to our goal of recruiting 5,000 women and 800 children into the Women and Their Children's Health study.

Ages of WaTCH Participants

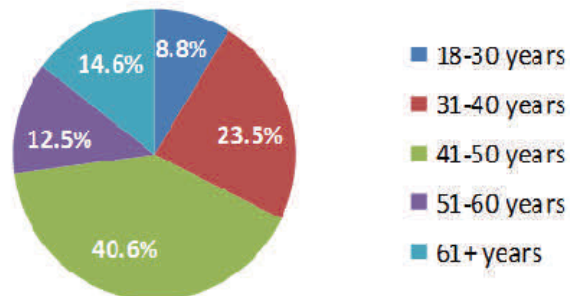


Fig. 1 The pie graph above indicates the percentage of women's ages at the time of the phone interview.

Which parish did participants live in at the time of the 2010 Oil Spill?

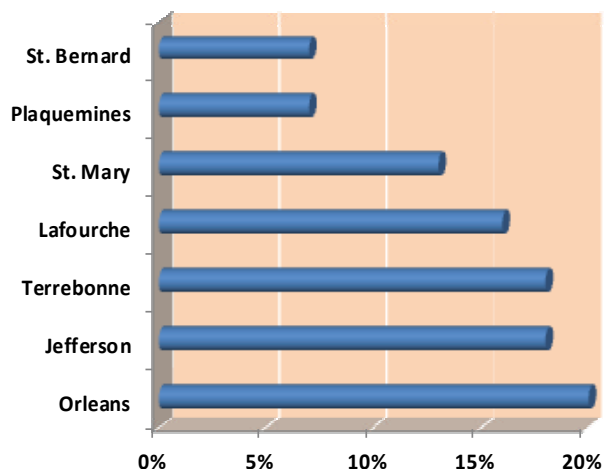


Fig. 2 This bar graph indicates where participants lived at the time of the oil spill. Only women who lived in one of these parishes during the 2010 oil spill were eligible to participate in the WaTCH study.



Staff Spotlight

Originally from Lafayette, Louisiana, Tammy moved to New York City, NY, as a young woman. She and her husband owned and operated an Italian restaurant for many years. In 2008, Tammy returned to South Louisiana. She earned her phlebotomist license and worked at the Blood Center, Children's Hospital and now here at the LSU School of Public Health as a Medical Research Assistant.

Tammy has conducted home visits for the LSU WaTCH study since April 2013. She loves meeting participants for the first time and has a lot of gratitude for all of you who have opened your homes to her.

Tammy lives by her motto, "actions speak louder than words" and is dedicated to her job. She hopes this research will help Louisiana better manage future disasters.

Tammy is most proud of her two children.

Next Up, Wave 2: This year, we will begin Wave II of the Women and Their Children's Health study. The first phone interview asked about your health right after the spill. In this next phase, we will call to ask you about your health now, including questions about your community and how you cope with traumatic events. Your continued participation is very important to the success of our study.

No geographic area or population is exempt from disasters, but Louisiana and the Gulf coast have had more than their fair share. In addition to the vast amount of oil in the gulf, large amounts of dispersants were used to break up the oil. Dispersants have never before been used in such high quantities. Before the BP oil spill, the effects of oil spills on people had been studied less than ten times. We are keeping track of people's health now and into the future. By participating in the WaTCH study, you have armed us with data. Should some health effect arise in the future, the data you have provided over the last two years will help us understand what may have happened.

Thank You for Your Participation,



Dr. Edward Trapido
Principal Investigator



Dr. Edward Peters
Co- Principal Investigator

WATCH STUDY
LSUHSC- NEW ORLEANS
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
2020 GRAVIER STREET, LEC 330
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Do you have:

- Comments, questions, concerns or suggestions for future newsletters?
- A new address?

Do you need to complete your home visit or Child Study interview?

We're only a phone call away.

Women and Their Children's Health Study
Louisiana State University
Health Sciences Center—New Orleans
School of Public Health

Toll free - 1-855-455-3170

Email: thewatchstudy@lsuhsc.edu

<http://sph.lsuhschool.edu/watch>