

Dear Participant,

We want to thank you and your child for participating in the Child Study portion of the LSU Women and Their Children's Health study. The Child Study is a collaboration with researchers of Louisiana State University and its university partners. Very few studies have been done to understand how children react to environmental disasters. Your participation in this study is so important because, in the past 10 years, our region has had more disasters than anywhere else. With your help, we can better understand:

1. How were children exposed to the oil spill and in what ways did this exposure occur?
2. How did the oil spill effect the physical and mental well-being of children and young adults?
3. What other factors play a role in children's behavioral health?

We thank you so much for your time and effort. You make our research possible!

WAVE 2 Follow Up

The WaTCH Child Study is a long-term health study. We would again like to talk with you and your child.

1. The follow up will be done over the phone only. There is **no** home visit.
2. You and your child's interview each takes about 15 minutes. We can call any time that is convenient for you, including nights or weekends.
3. You and your child will each receive a \$25 check as a small thank you for your time.
4. Participation is completely voluntary.

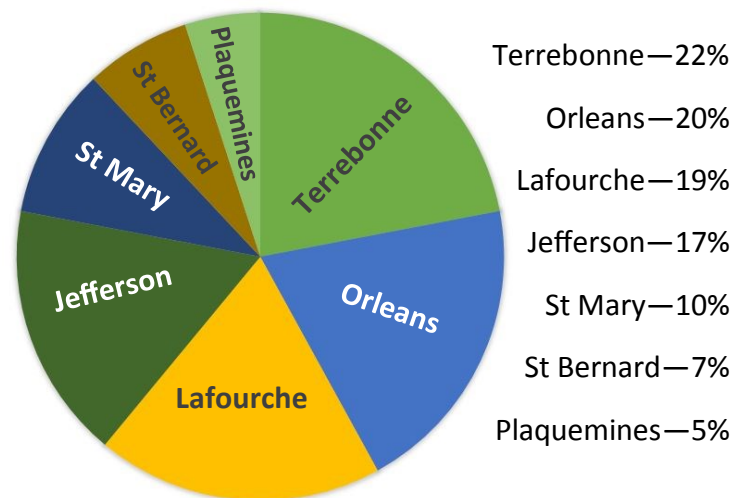
We look forward to speaking with you again!

We appreciate your continued support. To schedule your follow up interview, call us, toll free at **1-855-455-3170**.

CHILD STUDY UPDATES

- 633 children and their mothers or caregivers are participants in the Child Study.
- The average age of children/young adults is 13.4 years old.
- Over 50% of mothers said their households were affected by the spill in some way with damaged property, lost income, or disrupted commercial and recreational fishing.
- Less than 10% of children & young adults reported that they came in to direct contact with the oil, dispersants, or tar balls.
- 50% of children/young adults were female and 50% were male.

Where do Child Study Participants Live?



The race of our WaTCH child and young adult population is:

- 51% White/Caucasian
- 42% Black/African Am.
- 5% Multi-Racial
- 2% Other

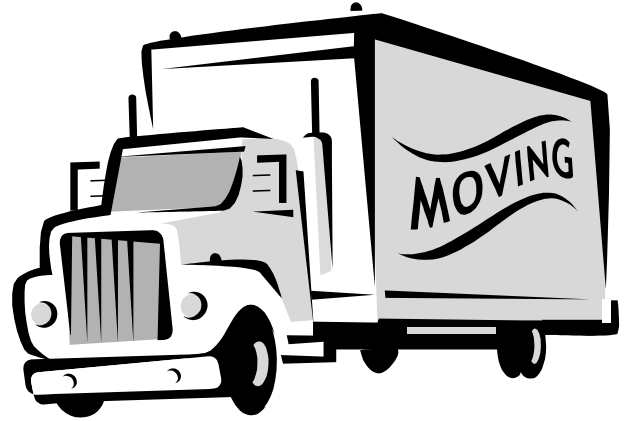
HAVE YOU RECENTLY MOVED?

Help us stay in touch with you. Go to our website and click on the "Update Address" button. You can also call or email us.

Email: thewatchstudy@lsuhsc.edu

Website: sph.lsuhschool.edu/watch

Phone: 1-855-455-3170



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Differing Perspectives

We asked mothers if their children were showing stress behaviors and then asked the children/young adults the same questions. Not surprisingly, mothers and their children did not always agree on this! 27% of the time, mothers reported that their children exhibited mental health distress, such as being sad, anxious, or depressed yet the children themselves reported fairly low levels of stress in their lives. A much smaller percentage reported the opposite, 7% of children reported high levels of stress behavior, but their mothers did not.

Meet the Child Study Team

The Child Study Team is led by Dr. David Abramson at New York University's Global Institute of Public Health. He is a former magazine journalist and paramedic who has spent the past 25 years studying public health issues. He is joined by Dr. Lori Peek, a Colorado State University sociologist who is a co-author of the forthcoming book, *Children of Katrina*, and by Drs. Virginia Rauh and Robin Whyatt, who are co-deputy directors of Columbia University's Center for Children and Environmental Health. They also are working with several staff and graduate students at NYU and Colorado State University.