

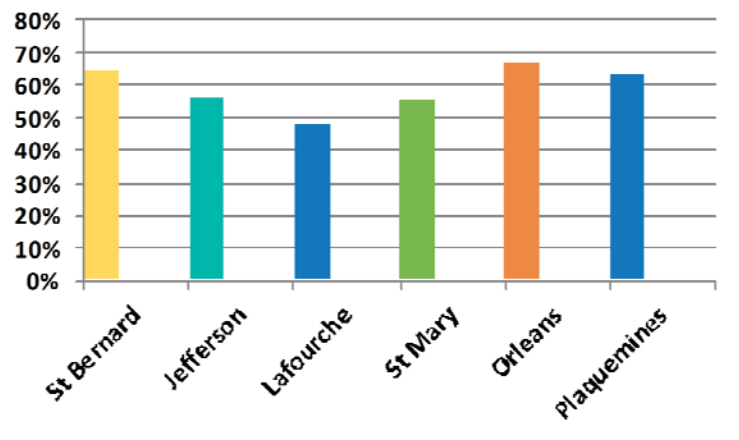
### Thank you for your continued support of the Women and Their Children's Health Study!

Last September, we began to conduct Wave 2 follow up interviews with the women of the WaTCH study. Since then, we have been overwhelmed by the response rate of our participants. Of 2652 participants, more than **1500 women have completed their follow-up interviews**. Of the 633 children and caregivers enrolled in the Child study, 50% have also completed a Wave 2 Follow-Up survey. Thank you so much for responding to our interviewers and continuing to participate in the WaTCH study.

Since the first interview, almost three years ago, WaTCH participants have had the following new diagnoses of illnesses:

- 94 have reported some new respiratory disease other than asthma, bronchitis and emphysema.
- 75 women reported a new diagnosis of hay fever or other seasonal allergies in the last couple of years.
- 73 women have reported a new diagnosis of sinusitis, sinus infection or sinus inflammation.
- 53 have a new diagnosis of high blood pressure.
- 44 women had bronchitis who had never had it before.
- 38 have been diagnosed with diabetes.

**% of Participants who have Completed Wave 2 Follow-Up Interview by Parish**



This chart compares participants who completed the initial interview to those who have completed a follow-up interview. The best follow-up rate is from Orleans parish—Thank you!

### Initial Findings from the WaTCH Child Study

The WaTCH study includes a Child Impact Study, in which we interviewed 633 WaTCH participants and their children ages 10-17 years old to understand how disasters like oil spills affect families. We found that two to four years after the oil spill, 13% of the children remembered smelling oil all or most of the time when the spill first started. A similar number of their mothers and caregivers remembered the smell as well – 17% of the women recalled the strong and persistent odor at the time of the spill.

We also measured potential mental health effects by asking about symptoms children may have had in the previous month or since the oil spill. We found that mothers of the children who smelled this persistent odor were one-and-a-half times as likely to report one of the behavioral health outcomes during the interview. Children were two and a half times as likely to report these feelings of distress and lack of control.

At this point we don't know why there is a strong relationship between the smell of oil and these feelings. As we complete follow-up interviews with the mothers and their children, we will continue to look for potential explanations.

## Has YOUR Phone Number Changed?

We may not have spoken to you in a long time and some of your information may have changed. Help us stay in touch. You can:

- Call us, toll-free, 1-855-455-3170
- Email us at [thewatchstudy@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:thewatchstudy@lsuhsc.edu) or
- Go to our website, [sph.lsuhschool.edu/watch](http://sph.lsuhschool.edu/watch), and click the "Update Address" button to enter your new information.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Time is running out to complete your Wave 2 Follow-Up Interview.

1. The follow-up interview is done completely over the phone.
2. We can set-up a time that is convenient for you, including evenings and Saturdays.
3. We will send you \$40 as a thank you for your time.

Call toll-free, 1-855-455-3170. We look forward to speaking with you again!

**HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY!**

\*Our office will be closed December 23rd until January 3rd.