



The All Our Babies Study

The All Our Babies Study NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3

MAY 2012

Happy Mothers' Day!

The All Our Babies (AOB) Research Team would like to wish all women in the study a very happy Mothers' Day! We thank you for taking the time to share your knowledge and experiences with us, and we are so pleased to celebrate your role as mothers. All women in our study have now delivered their babies and will be celebrating Mother's Day with children from several months to three years old. Congratulations to all of you! And our sincere thanks for continuing to support our research in follow-up studies as we learn more about healthy pregnancies and healthy development.



Some Initial Findings from the AOB Study

We currently have many projects underway using the valuable data you have provided to us through the surveys you have answered. You may have noticed that many of the questions are repeated on each survey. This is to help us analyse changes over time. We thank you for your continued patience and honest responses. Already, seven researchers have used this information to answer research questions on topics such as adequacy of prenatal care and the impact of anxiety during pregnancy. Although we continue to send and collect surveys, we would like to share some of what we have learned so far. With children at various ages in the study, we are learning about a variety of stages of development.



43%
of AOB babies
are the
first born child
in their families

At 4 months old,
56%
of AOB babies were
only being fed
breastmilk

After 1 year, AOB
moms and babies
used these
top 3
community services:
Growing Miracles
Recreation Centres
Moms & Tots
Groups

At 2 years old,
children are often
beginning to use 2+
word
sentences
like "more juice"
and "Mommy eat"

By 3 years old,
toddlers often
have developed a
full set of
baby
teeth

Contact Us: If you have any questions about the study, please contact the All Our Babies Study Team
E-mail: AllOurBabiesStudy@albertaheathservices.ca **Telephone:** (403) 955-7539

Research Assistants with the All Our Babies Study

Ever wonder who is behind that friendly voice on the phone, calling to check in, talk to you about the surveys, and answer any questions? Meet the current Research Assistants working on the study, entering data, contacting our moms and gaining valuable work and study experience!

Gillian Lem

1st year
Health and
Society
student



Lana Swain

4th year
Cellular,
Molecular,
Microbial
Biology
student



Mia Hong

1st year
Biomedical
Sciences
student



Muci Wu

5th year
Statistics
student



"What I enjoy the most about being involved in the All Our Babies Study is working in a very friendly environment. Everyone I have worked with has made me feel welcome and are always willing to help in any way they can."

"What I love most about working with the All Our Babies Study Team is the friendly and open team environment and interacting with all the participants involved in the study. The friendly nature of all the women involved in the All Our Babies Study and research team makes me happy to come to work each week."

"I really enjoy being able to work in a field that I'm interested in, and knowing that what I'm doing is directly contributing to a greater purpose. The work environment is really great and relaxed, and I'm really happy to be working with likeminded people who have the same goals."

"Being a part of the AOB team, I've enjoyed learning how mothers experience parenting differently and how a baby's development [differs] from another. It's definitely good to know for the future!"

Yvonne Brandelli

4th year
Psychology
student



Sarah Lee

2nd year
Biomedical
Sciences
student



Susan Poon

3rd year
Nursing
student



Nikola Yee

3rd year
Biological
Sciences
student



"As a research assistant, the best things about being a part of the AOB team are the passionate people that I get to work with, the dedicated participants that I communicate with, and the fact that I get to learn new things about the process of longitudinal research every day!"

"I love being part of the team and getting to see and become close with all of the co-workers."

"It's very exciting to work in such a diverse and dynamic team on a large scale project that addresses important issues such as maternal health and child development! I absolutely love every aspect about the AOB Study!"

"Working on the AOB team as a research assistant has been a refreshing experience. The nature of the study has allowed me to gain new insights with regard to child development and parenting. I definitely look forward to continuing to work as a member of this project."

Community Support for the All Our Babies Study

The All Our Babies study is a unique and innovative project that has been attracting attention and support from the community. This past December, the study was featured at the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation annual fundraising event. The Candy Cane Gala is a holiday party designed for families complete with red carpet, live band, family portraits and a "kids only" craft and game area. In keeping with the Foundation's mission, the gala raises funds for projects working towards "excellence in child health and family centred care." The evening event raised

over \$800,000, some of which will support ongoing follow-up of the mothers and children in the All Our Babies Study. The Foundation praises the All Our Babies Study as ground-breaking research, "a study never before done in Canada," recognizing the innovative and important research that you are contributing to. In addition to the gala event, other community partners including Shoppers Drug Mart and an anonymous donor have supported our study through donations to the Foundation.



Next Steps: Keep an eye out for our follow-up surveys for 1, 2 and 3 years old! As the study moves ahead, about half of the women we have asked so far support the possibility of offering an online version in addition to the paper version. Tell us what you think at 403.955.7539 or AllOurBabiesStudy@albertahealthservices.ca

More Information: Check out www.ucalgary.ca/stough for result updates and other study information from Dr. Suzanne Tough, principal investigator of the study. For information on child and brain development, go to <http://www.albertafamilywellness.org/>, for new parent resources, go to <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/1823.asp>, and to sign up for weekly parenting emails tailored to the age of your child, go to <https://www.theparentreview.com/parents/signup.jsp?id=71147770&sid=69767029>.

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