



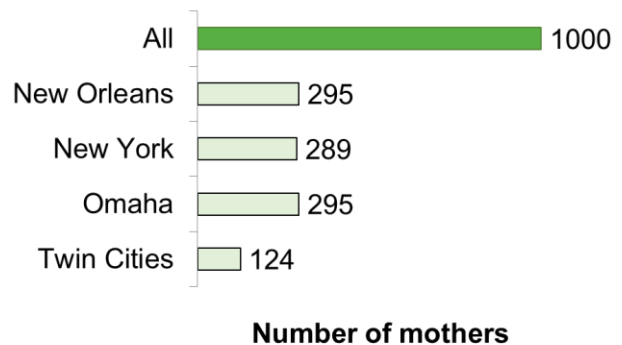
Baby's First Years research team completes recruitment

The Baby's First Years (BFY) research team is pleased to announce the successful completion of participant enrollment. In this inaugural BFY bulletin, we describe a few of the study sample characteristics and upcoming plans.

One thousand mothers were recruited in New Orleans, New York, Omaha and the Twin Cities.

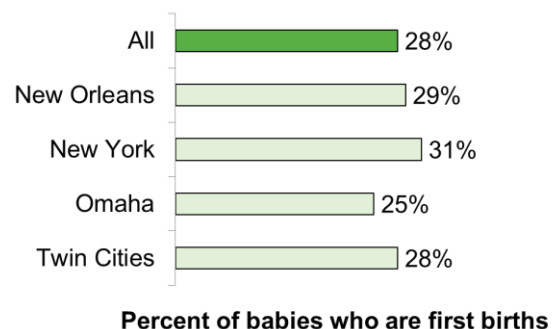
Our initial plan was to recruit 250 mother-baby dyads per metropolitan area over the course of 12 months. We experienced challenges in meeting this goal, largely because of the complications of gaining access to potential participants and coordinating interviewers across four sites and 12 different hospitals to recruit patients on a common timeline. Recruitment was particularly challenging in the Twin Cities, which led to a smaller study participant sample there than at the other three sites.

The good news is that a slight discrepancy in the numbers at the various sites does not jeopardize the scientific integrity of the study. As planned, at each site 40% of mothers and babies are receiving a high monthly cash gift of \$333 and 60% of mothers and babies are receiving a lower monthly cash gift of \$20. This means that exactly 400 mother-baby dyads are in the high cash gift group. The timely completion of recruitment over 13 months also keeps us well on track for our annual data collection follow-ups. Special thanks go to the Survey Research Center for their skillful execution of the recruitment efforts and data collection.

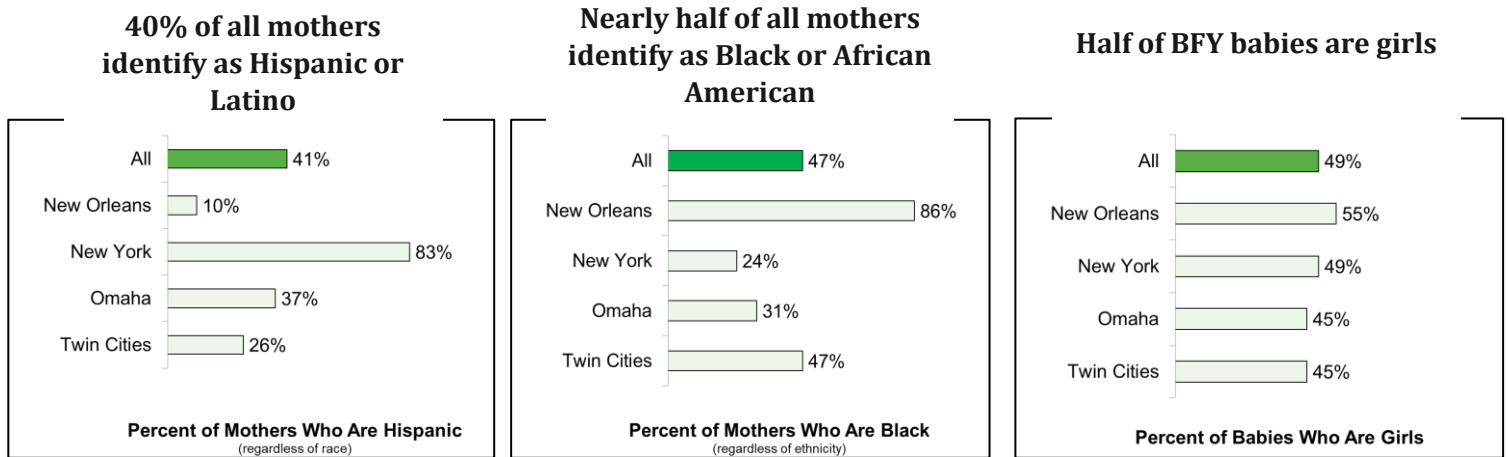


Between one-quarter and one-third of the study's infants are first-born children.

Approximately 28% of the sample is made up of first-born infants. This is somewhat less than the national average of 40% because the poverty threshold measure used to screen eligible mothers into the study increases with family size. This meant that mothers with more children who reported somewhat higher incomes still fell below the official poverty threshold and were screened into the study.



The study sample has an equal number of infant girls and boys, and mothers are racially and ethnically diverse across the four study sites.



Other Baby's First Years news

- Mothers have had good experiences with the debit cards. Our hotline remains busy with mothers calling in with questions about using their cards, but it appears that we have been able to resolve all of their problems.
- A small number of mothers had second thoughts: Five mothers chose to withdraw from both the research and the cash gift. Because they opted not to receive the cash gift, they are not part of our n=1,000 sample.
- One mother elected to receive the cash gift but chose to withdraw from the research. She is a part of the n=1,000 sample.
- We are pleased that community engagement and stakeholder groups are now in place at all four sites.
- We are very excited to announce that BFY has raised funding to cover an in-depth qualitative study that will enable us to incorporate the voices of the mothers receiving the cash gifts. Sarah Halpern-Meehin will lead this study. A random sample of 30 mothers from the Twin Cities and 50 mothers from New Orleans will be asked to participate in this component of the study. The first round of in-person, in-depth interviews will start in late summer 2019.
- We are committed to open science. Details about the study and its hypotheses are preregistered with clinicaltrials.gov, the Registry of Effectiveness Studies, and the American Economic Association's RCT Registry. Details about the study design, measures and analysis plan will soon be posted on our study's website.

What's next for Baby's First Years?

- The second wave of data collection will be starting in July. We will be visiting the homes of the families around the children's first birthday to conduct a survey with the mother, record a video of the mother playing with the infant, collect a hair sample from mothers to measure maternal stress (based on the stress hormone cortisol), and assess the infant's brain functioning using electroencephalography [EEG].
- BFY will use a new portable device that permits EEG data collection in the infant's home. This system, called Enobio, was developed by Neuroelectronics, Inc., and allows for safe and easy measurement of infant brain activity in that setting. What do parents think about EEGs? We questioned three focus groups to find out. Mothers had a lot of questions, but remained interested in participating after they learned more about EEG technology and how it could be valuable to the study.

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- BFY's next annual meeting with its eight-member scientific advisory board will take place in Omaha, Nebraska on September 27th.
- The fundraising continues: We hope to hire a number of postdoctoral analysts, include additional child outcome measures at upcoming follow-up visits with families, and extend our study follow-up of participants beyond the children's third birthdays.

Responsibilities for project direction are shared across six principal investigators, listed here in alphabetical order: Greg Duncan (University of California, Irvine); Nathan Fox (University of Maryland); Lisa Gennetian (Duke University); Katherine Magnuson (University of Wisconsin, Madison); Kimberly Noble (Teachers College, Columbia University); and Hirokazu Yoshikawa (New York University).

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