

LBN 827
**Women's health
focus of survey**

Women ages 18 to 45 will soon be asked to take part in a survey that will help Penn State researchers and community partners learn about the health problems of central Pennsylvania women, including women in minority and rural populations.

The survey, which will be conducted by interviewers from the Penn State Survey Research Center during the next four or five months, begins the first phase of studies by the Central Pennsylvania Center of Excellence for Research on Pregnancy Outcomes at Penn State College of Medicine. The first of its kind in central Pennsylvania, the survey will estimate the prevalence of risk factors for preterm birth and low birthweight.

"We are interested in surveying women in central Pennsylvania, whether or not they have ever been pregnant or plan any pregnancies," said study principal investigator Carol Weisman, Ph.D., professor of health evaluation sciences and obstetrics and gynecology, Penn State College of Medicine. "This information will help us to develop future programs to improve the health of women and to

improve their pregnancy outcomes."

An interviewer from the Survey Research Center will contact select households by telephone beginning in mid-September to identify an eligible survey respondent. The survey is voluntary and confidential. The questions in the survey will address women's past and current health, health habits and access to health care.

Dauphin, Lancaster and Lebanon are among the counties involved in the project.

For more information, contact the Central Pennsylvania Center of Excellence for Research on Pregnancy Outcomes at 531-1074.