

News Release

PENNSTATE



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CENTRAL PA WOMEN ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN HEALTH RESEARCH SURVEY

HERSHEY, PA– Women ages 18 to 45 soon will 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 PA 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. Working with Penn State on the project are Franklin & Marshall College, Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, and the Family Health Council of Central Pennsylvania.

“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.”

Households will be sampled based on telephone numbers and each household will receive a letter describing the survey. An interviewer from the Survey Research Center will then contact each household 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

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women's past and current health, health habits and access to health care.

The central Pennsylvania counties involved in the survey are: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Bradford, Cambria, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Potter, Snyder, Somerset, Sullivan, Tioga, Union and York.

For more information, contact the Central PA Center of Excellence for Research on Pregnancy Outcomes at (717) 531-1074. This research was funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health's share of the national tobacco settlement.

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