The National Children’s Study (NCS) Vanguard Data Archive and Access System (“NCS Archive”) is available for public use at https://ncsarchive.s-3.net. The NCS Archive is a federally funded data resource that provides research opportunities at no cost to users.

The NCS Vanguard was a pilot for a planned cohort study of environmental influences on child health and development. Starting in 2009, recruitment strategies were tested in 43 counties across 31 states throughout the U.S. The study enrolled over 5,600 birth families and followed them through 2014. At protocol-specified study visits, questionnaires and interviews, neuro-psychosocial and cognitive assessments, and physical examination data were collected, along with nearly 19,000 biological and 5,500 environmental primary samples from which a sample repository of over 250,000 items was created. That information and material is now available through the NCS Archive for approved research projects by qualified investigators. Available data includes study visit data from preconception to 42 months post birth. The purpose of the Vanguard Study was to test procedures for use in the larger study, and due to its pilot nature, identical evaluations were not conducted on all participants.

**Ages for NCS Children**

5,608 children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age at the end of the Study</th>
<th>1 and under</th>
<th>2 years old</th>
<th>3 years old</th>
<th>4 years old</th>
<th>5 years old</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>744</td>
<td>622</td>
<td>105</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How to submit a request**

Before you can submit a data or data and sample request, you must register for an online account with the Archive (https://ncsarchive.s-3.net).

**Steps to submit a Research Request:**

- Go to the Research Request Tab.
- Fill in all the required fields.
- Enter the name and email addresses of any Approved Users who will help with your research.
- Enter any comments about your application.
- Review the Upload checklist to ensure that you have provided the necessary documentation.
- IRB Letter.
- Proof of funding.
- Your CV (if necessary).
- Attach Files.
- Submit Request or Save for later.
- Be sure to also complete and submit the Research Materials Distribution Agreement (RMDA).

**Steps to submit a Sample Request:**

- Use the sample explorer to select the appropriate samples. The Data and Sample Request form will open.
- Complete required fields as above (see Steps to submit a Research Request).
- Complete the Specimen Shipping Address. Be sure to enter your FedEx Account #.
- Complete the Request Details section of the form.
- Research Plan: Summary of your rationale, hypothesis, and proposed research aims.
- Scientific Background and Rationale: Research protocol background and additional information.
- About hypotheses and objectives.
- Analyte(s) or parameter(s) to be tested: The assay(s) to be performed and include any test volume requirements.
- Type of assay(s)/platform(s) to be used, if applicable.
- Rationale for number of biospecimens requested, including power calculations, and describe the use of covariates, if applicable.
- Enter any comments about your application.
Become an NCS Archive Registered User

Register at [https://ncsarchive.s-3.net](https://ncsarchive.s-3.net) and

Learn about when, where, and what types of NCS data were collected.

View high-level public-use data collected under all NCS protocols.

Download data user manuals, historical study documents, and more.

Access protocol procedures.

Review a listing of primary NCS publications.

Search for sample types available for conducting your own analyses.

Explore the research tools to learn more specific information about the NCS Vanguard Study:

- **Protocol Browser**
  Interactive visual summary of all study events with the ability to drill down to data collection activities that link to datasets.

- **Variable Locator**
  Search tool for over 14,000 variables available in the NCS Archive. Explore the number of participants who responded to each question.

- **Instrument and Dataset Inventories**
  Provides the list of all datasets available in the NCS Archive, along with the number of variables and records in each dataset. Hyperlinks to PDFs of the instruments.

- **Sample Explorer**
  Search the inventory of biological and environmental samples setting demographic criteria.

- **Participant Explorer**
  View and manipulate the NCS operational data including demographics variables and visit indication flags for all NCS children.

Submit Research requests and track and manage your request to participant-level NCS data and biological and environmental specimens with our online submission process.

Gain access to NCS collected data:

- **Women Interviews**—pre-conception, pregnancy, birth visit, and post natal visits covering topics such as:
  - reproductive and pregnancy history
  - medical conditions and history
  - health behaviors
  - mental health
  - occupation
  - hobbies
  - environmental exposures
  - social support

- **Children Interviews**—Birth visit, 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 30, 36, and 42 months covering topics such as:
  - Infant feeding, crying patterns, and sleep
  - Well baby care, immunizations, medical conditions
  - Child care arrangements
  - Child development
  - Pets and in-home exposures
  - Physical measures

- **Neuro-psychosocial and cognitive assessments**:
  - Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test, 2nd Edition (K-BIT2)
  - Ages & Stages Questionnaires®, Third Edition (ASQ-3™)
  - Brief Infant Toddler Social Emotional Assessment (BITSEA)
  - Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI)
  - Infant & Toddler Sensory Profile (ITSP)
  - Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT)
  - Strengths and Weaknesses of Attention-Deficit/ Hyperactivity-symptoms and Normal-behaviors (SWAN)
  - Major Life Event

Become an NCS Archive Approved Researcher

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  - Major Life Event

Biological and Environmental Samples

You can request access to samples collected:

- **Biological Samples available**:
  - Blood
  - Urine
  - Vaginal Swabs
  - Hair
  - Nails
  - Saliva
  - Placenta
  - Umbilical Cord
  - Cord Blood
  - Breast Milk
  - Meconium

- **Environmental Samples available**:
  - Formula–infant
  - Air
  - Water–Pesticides
  - Water–Pharmaceuticals
  - Dust–Plates
  - Dust–Vacuum
  - Dust–Wipes

You can request access to analyzed sample results:

- blood, urine, saliva, breastmilk, vaginal swab
  samples
- air, surface dust wipes, vacuum bag dust, and water samples

NIH

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development