

Staff Introductions

Maria Blum. Before coming to work with the Early Growth and Development Study, I earned a Master of Social Work degree from Portland State University and worked on projects involving reducing adolescent tobacco use through community-based programs and other methods. My roles included assessor in school settings to middle and high school students, telephone interviewer, and recruitment coordinator for various studies. Prior to coming to work at the Oregon Social Learning Center, I lived in the United Kingdom for several years, where I worked in the Therapeutic Community Service as a senior therapist in social work. This specialist service provided long-term inpatient and outpatient treatment for people with severe personality disorders. In addition to therapeutic work with clients, I worked on the outreach team to provide training and consultation on the subject of personality disorder and its treatment. For the Early Growth and Development Study, I work with participants to maintain contact and complete interviews. My favorite part of my job is hearing from participants about the things they most enjoy (and often things they find very useful) about being part of the study. I also really enjoy being part of a study that should help improve the experiences of those involved in adoptions.



Tracy VanVlack. I have been working with the Early Growth and Development Study for over 2 years as a recruiter and scheduler. I make contact with and explain the study goals and commitments to prospective participants, conduct phone interviews, and schedule in-home interviews. Part of my role is to be available to answer questions about the study and serve as a contact person for participants. I hold degrees in Sociology and Early Childhood Education, and my work experience has consistently been centered on families. I am excited for the next phase of the Early Growth and Development Study and look forward to continuing to work with the terrific people involved in the study!

Holly Chedester. My name is Holly, and one of my jobs is to contact participants to see if they would be willing to participate in the study again. The information that we have collected from you so far is incredibly valuable. I cannot possibly express how much I appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedules to contribute again to this important research! Another part of my job is to supervise the interviewers who visit you. They're outstanding! Outside of work, I love to spend time with my 13-year-old son, see live music, spend time outdoors, travel to new places, and get together with friends!



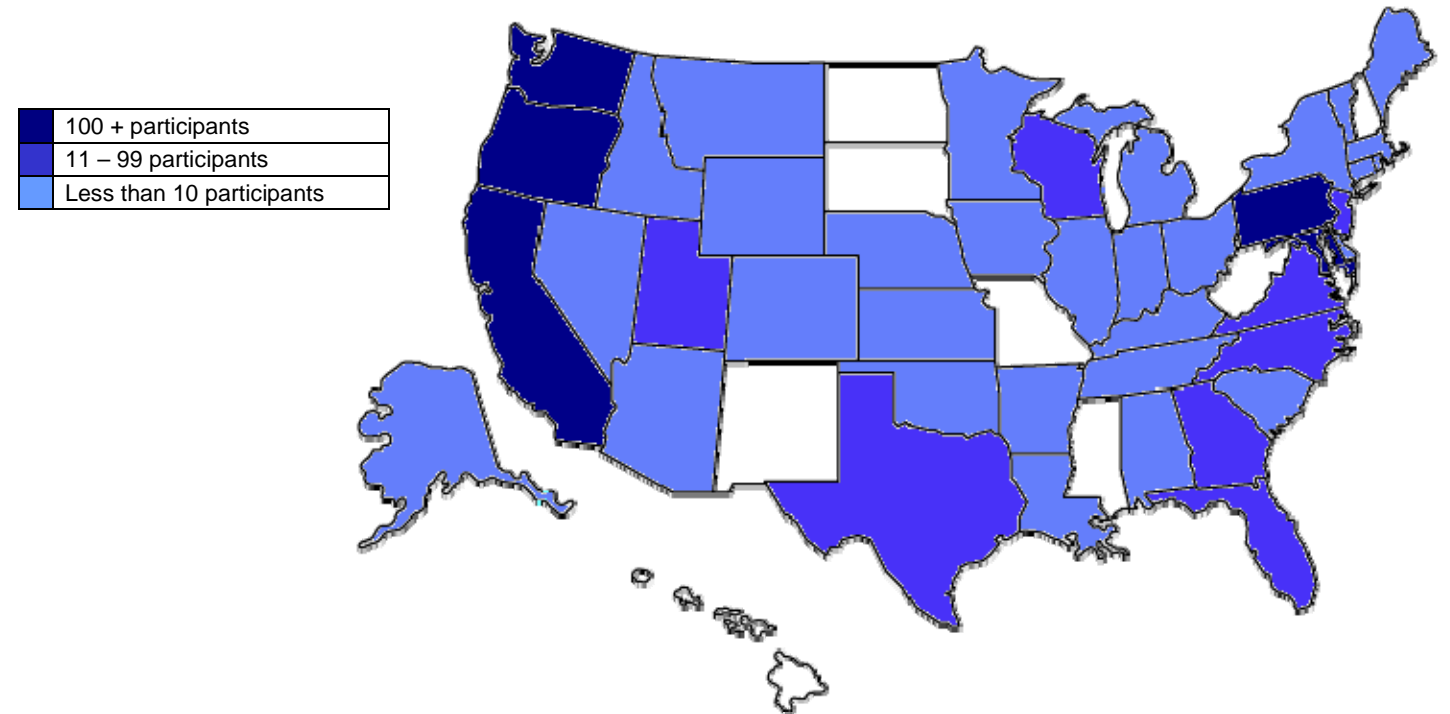
Diana Crom. I began working for the Survey Research Center at The Pennsylvania State University in June of 2005. During my time here, I have assisted in the management of a large project and have managed a longitudinal project that focuses on parent-child interaction. I keep very busy scheduling families for in-home interviews and interacting with field interviewers. I recently began working with the Early Growth and Development Study and enjoyed a few days of training with the West Coast team. I am excited to be on board!



Who Are You?

We have people taking part in the project from all over the United States and the world. Here are a few interesting things about you:

- Most participants in the study are located in Oregon, Washington, California, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, but we have participants in all but 8 of the United States. We even have participants in France, Guam, and the Virgin Islands!
- At your last phone interview, we asked you about the most important accomplishments in your life right now: 21.1% of you cited work or a work-related experience as your number one accomplishment, 19.3% of you cited your children as your number one accomplishment, and 15.8% of you cited your education as your number one accomplishment.



Fun Facts About the States Where Some of You Live

Oregon. The state motto is "She Flies With Her Own Wings." The state insect is the Oregon Swallowtail. Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the United States. at 1,932 feet deep. Oregon's deepest gorge is Hell's Canyon at 7,900 feet deep.

Pennsylvania. The state motto is "Virtue, Liberty, and Independence." The state insect is the firefly. The constitution of the United States, the American Declaration of Independence, and the Gettysburg Address were all written in Pennsylvania.

Minnesota. The state motto is "The Star of the North." The state insect is the Monarch Butterfly. The state is nicknamed "The Land of 10,000 Lakes" and actually has 11,842 lakes over 10 acres in size.

California. The state motto is "Eureka! (I've found it!)." The state insect is the California Dogface Butterfly. Mount Whitney is the highest point in the contiguous United States. Death Valley is the lowest and hottest place in North America.

Washington, DC. The motto of the district is "Justitia Omnibus (Justice for all)." Washington, DC, operates as a city, county, and state combined. It is the site of numerous national landmarks and monuments, including the Washington Monument, the Jefferson Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial, and the world's largest museum complex, the Smithsonian Institution.



Early Growth and Development Study

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Early Growth and Development Study

2008 Newsletter

Greetings!

We hope that you have been doing well since we last spoke with you. We are excited to let you know that we have been awarded additional funding by the National Institutes of Health to continue our important research with individuals and families. The funding agencies believe that we are conducting a unique and valuable study and that the questions we are asking will continue to educate us about what influences behaviors such as school success and social skills. We hope that you have enjoyed your experience in the study so far. Knowing how busy everyone can be, we are very appreciative of the time that you have given to our research. We hope that you will be interested in continuing with us so that we can learn more about the kinds of events and life experiences that influence people's lives.

The Early Growth and Development Study originally started in 2002. During the initial phase of the project, you were interviewed in person by a member of our research team. We interviewed participants again about 1 year later and conducted four telephone interviews. If you have not heard from us yet or still need to complete the phone interviews, we would love to hear from you! Also, feel free to give us a call toll-free at (866) 203-5165 to let us know if you have moved or changed your phone number. We will send you an extra \$15 for providing us with that information. The most important part of the continued success of the project is having as many people continue to participate as possible! We have another opportunity for you to participate in an in-person interview. We will be in touch sometime in the next couple of years to tell you about it and to invite you to participate.

Who Are We?

Oversight for the study is now based out of Oregon through the Oregon Social Learning Center. The Oregon Social Learning Center (in Eugene) has been conducting research since 1977 and currently has about 20 ongoing projects. One of these is the Early Growth and Development Study. You can contact us toll-free at (866) 203-5165, or by mail at Oregon Social Learning Center, The Early Growth and Development Study, 10 Shelton McMurphey Blvd, Eugene, OR 97401. We also have a website that describes our center and some of the work we have done (www.oslc.org).



We Appreciate Your Participation!

Thank you for continuing to participate in the project. As always, be sure to call us if you move or change your phone number and we will send you a \$15 bonus. You can reach us toll-free at (866) 203-5165. We look forward to working with you again in the next phase of interviews. Best wishes to you in 2008!

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We also want to tell you a little information about our research team. Our two investigators at George Washington University have moved! Dr. David Reiss accepted a position at Yale University and Dr. Jenae Neiderhiser is now a professor at The Pennsylvania State University, although both continue to maintain close ties with George Washington University. Also, Dr. Xiaojia Ge moved from the University of California, Davis, to the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. These changes strengthen our project because these universities all have very strong programs of research in human development that will help make our study even more useful. Additionally, our interview staff members are now located in a wide variety of locations throughout the United States, including Oregon, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, California, and Washington, DC.