

# BABY'S FIRST YEARS NEWS

ISSUE 1, FEBRUARY 2020

## LETTER FROM THE STUDY TEAM

Shortly after giving birth, you agreed to take part in the Baby's First Years study. You have been joined by nearly 1,000 other mothers in four U.S. cities: New Orleans, LA; New York City, NY; Omaha, NE; and the Twin Cities, MN.

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*On behalf of the entire Baby's First Years' research team, thank you for participating in this landmark research. The findings of this study may help mothers like yourself in the future.*

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This is the first of a series of annual newsletters in which we will share information about the study with you. Thank you for your participation in the study.

Warm Wishes,

Baby's First Years team of researchers

## INTRODUCING YOU

All of you joined the study shortly after giving birth in 12 different hospitals. For nearly one-third of you, this was your first baby; the rest of you already had at least one older child. The findings from the hospital survey show that about half of the babies are male and half are female.

About half of you consider yourselves to be Black or African-American, and 4 in 10 of you report being Hispanic or Latino. All of you are older than 18 years, and half of you are 26 years or older.

When we spoke to you in the hospital, about 44% of you said that you planned to work within 3 months and another 16% within one year. Our follow-up visits with those of you who agree to our future requests for interviews will help us learn what these work patterns turned out to be.

This is a small fraction of the information you have told us. The newsletter is designed to share information about the study and its current status, and will continue to share information with you as it becomes available.

## WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT

Starting last summer and through June 2020, you and your families will be celebrating your baby's first birthday! If we have not done so already, we will be reaching out to schedule a visit to your home to take place around your

baby's birthday! We know that having a baby means that you need flexibility – your interviewer will work with you to find a time that works for your schedule. We look forward to seeing you and your child when your child turns 1, 2, and 3.

Here is the kind of communication you can expect:

- Six months before your baby's birthday, you will get a call or letter from Baby's First Years' University of Michigan staff to check that your phone number, email, and address is up to date. **If your phone number or address has changed since your baby's birth, please call the University of Michigan's toll-free numbers:**
  - English: (877) 647-2122
  - Spanish: (800) 643-7605

Since we know that phone numbers and addresses can change, an interviewer may also get in touch at other times throughout the year. This study could not happen without you, and we want to make sure to stay in touch!

- About a month before your baby's birthday, you will receive a letter that explains what to expect on your next visit
- After that, an interviewer will reach out to schedule a visit. The interview can happen in your home or somewhere else that is easy and comfortable for you and your baby
- *MN and LA participants only:* You also may get a call from a *Baby's First Years: Mothers' Voices* interviewer, for an additional opportunity to tell us about your experiences. This is separate from the main study – both are optional to you, but we hope that you will consider participating.
- For those of you who have already hosted the first birthday visit, thank you!

Baby's First Years' researchers: Kimberly Noble (Lead PI, neuroscience, Teachers College, Columbia University); Katherine Magnuson (Lead PI, social and behavioral science, University of Wisconsin, Madison); Greg Duncan (University of California, Irvine); Nathan Fox (University of Maryland); Lisa Gennetian (Duke University); and Hirokazu Yoshikawa (New York University). Special thanks to our partners at the University of Michigan's Survey Research Center.

**For more information: [info@babysfirstyears.com](mailto:info@babysfirstyears.com)**

## 4MYBABY DEBIT CARD

### DID YOU KNOW...

#### **You can use your 4MyBaby card gift money in any way you want.**

There are no restrictions on how to use the money.

**Your 4MyBaby card money is a gift.** For this reason, the gift will not be counted as income when you apply/reapply for many public support programs (visit [4MyBabyCard.com](http://4MyBabyCard.com) for more specific information).

#### **You can get a FREE replacement card.**

Replacements through MasterCard cost \$7, but by calling the 4MyBaby card hotline (608-291-7359), you can get a FREE replacement card if your card is missing. Realizing your card is gone can be disappointing, but it doesn't have to cost you!

#### **You can get a proof of gift payment letter.**

Do you need a letter to show that your payments will come regularly for the first forty months of your child's life? We will gladly write a personalized letter for you if needed – call or email us to make the request.

#### **You can sign-up for text or email alerts to tell you when your monthly payment is deposited.**

If you want reminders about your gift payments, you can opt to get a text or email notification. To sign up, call or email the 4MyBaby card hotline, or visit [www.myclincard.com](http://www.myclincard.com).



### **NEED HELP WITH YOUR 4MYBABY DEBIT CARD? THE 4MYBABY HOTLINE IS HERE TO HELP!**

609-291-7359 | [4mybabycard@gmail.com](mailto:4mybabycard@gmail.com)  
[www.4MyBabyCard.com](http://www.4MyBabyCard.com)