

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

February 25, 2021

Dear Participant,

You are invited to participate in the Birth Outcomes and Water (BOW) study being conducted by researchers at the University of Nebraska. The purpose of the study is to discover how environmental factors and maternal health are related to children's health. Specifically these researchers are enrolling women from Nebraska, age 19 and older, to study how drinking water quality and genetics affect the chances of adverse birth outcomes (preterm birth, birth defects, fetal death, infant death and small for gestational age). The research goal is to help prevent adverse birth outcomes and promote good health for children. Qualified participants will be paid up to \$100 for contributing to the study.

The research team asked the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to help locate women in the state who are interested in being contacted to learn more about the voluntary study and consider assisting with the study as a participant or a surveyed non-participant. Nebraska law protects your privacy, and DHHS will not release your name, or any other personal or medical information to the BOW researchers without your permission.

The enclosed brochure provides information about the study and the types of participants needed. Whether or not you are interested in volunteering, please consider answering the questions on the enclosed form and send it back to DHHS using the postage-paid return envelope provided.


- If you choose to be contacted, DHHS will send your information to the UNL Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR).
- If you choose not to volunteer for the study, you can still choose to be contacted to discuss, by phone or other means of your choice, the barriers that prevent you from participating. You may qualify for a \$25 cash incentive by doing so.
- You may also choose not to be contacted at all, and your answers to the questions will be reported to researchers while maintaining your anonymity.

If you have any questions, please see contact information below:

- For questions about the study, please contact the UNL BOSR 800-480-4549. Information about the study can also be found at <http://www.unl.edu/bow>.
- If you have questions or concerns about your rights, call the UNL Institutional Review Board at 402-472-6965.

We appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Ming Qu, PhD.

Administrator

Division of Public Health

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Enclosed please find the brochure, contact form, and return envelope.
Helping People Live Better Lives



Pete Ricketts, Governor

