

# Newsletter

Summer 2025



## What to Expect With HBCD Interactive Assessments

### What are interactive assessments?

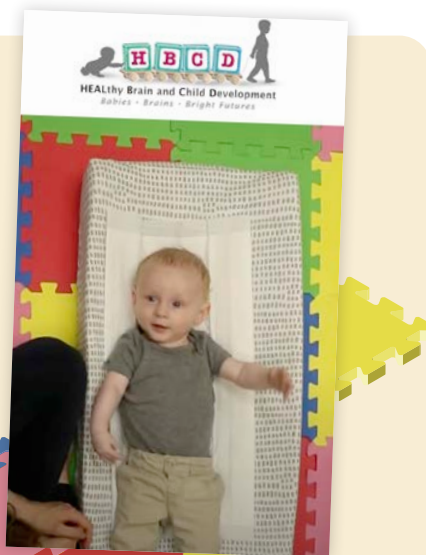
Beginning at age three months, you and your child will participate in numerous interactive games and activities designed to measure behavior and development. These include everyday activities like coloring or playing with toys, interacting with virtual assessments on a tablet, and playing with a researcher. These assessments are meant to help us understand how your baby naturally interacts with the world around them.

### What will you learn about your child?

At your fourth visit, roughly around the time your child turns one year old, you will have the exciting opportunity to receive some results about your child's development. HBCD teams will send a summary following the Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development assessment, giving you more insight into how your infant is learning and growing!



## Watch a Video About HBCD Interactive Assessments



## We are on social media!

Follow us to keep up with all things HBCD!



@HBCDStudy



## Announcing the First HBCD Data Release!

We're thrilled to share a major milestone with you: The first release of data from the HBCD Study is now available—and it's all thanks to you.

Because of your time, trust, and commitment, the HBCD Study is able to provide researchers protected access to an incredibly rich source of information that will help answer important questions about early life development. Your participation is already helping shape the future of research, policy, and programs that affect lives across the country.

### What is a data release?

A *data release* is when researchers share the information they've collected during a study, in a safe, anonymous way, so it can be used to answer important questions.

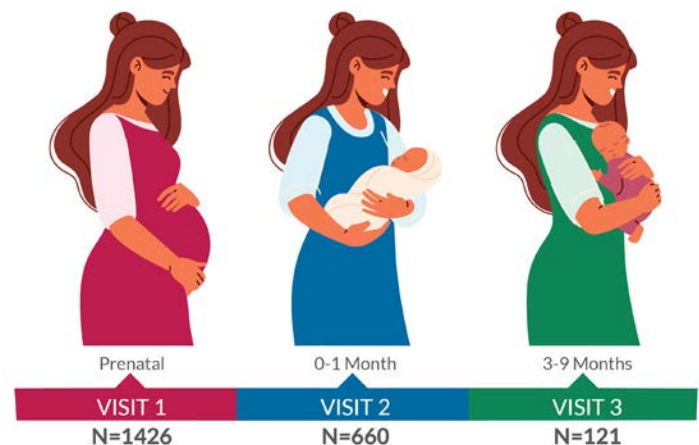
Think of it like opening a treasure chest of knowledge. The data you've helped provide get carefully prepared and then shared with other scientists, health experts, and decision-makers. It's a way of turning your participation into scientific discoveries—and this is just the beginning.

### What will these data be used for?

These data aren't just numbers: They're the foundation for discoveries that could shape the future of child health and development for years to come. Approved researchers around the world will now be able to explore important topics like prenatal health, environmental and social factors, brain activity, learning, behavior, and how kids grow and develop over time.

### Who is included?

Thanks to the dedication of our HBCD team, data from all 27 sites across the country are now available. This is a true coast-to-coast effort to support groundbreaking research. The first data release includes more than 1,300 pregnant participants, 600 infants aged 0–1 month, and 100 infants aged 3–9 months.



### How do people access the data?

Researchers can now apply for access to the information you have provided so far. They must complete a thorough training and agree to all data privacy rules before they are approved to access the data. These data, as well as more information about the process, can be found at the [NIH Brain Development Cohorts Data Hub](#).

### What's next?

This is just the beginning! Each year, information from even more participants and study visits will be added to future data releases, building on the incredible foundation you've helped create.

Thank you for being such a vital part of this journey!



## How will participants' information be kept private?

All personal information—like name, birthday, address, or anything else that could identify you—is completely private and will never be shared. The information being released is de-identified, which means there's no way to trace it back to you or your family. Most importantly, your information is protected by a special legal safeguard called an [NIH Certificate of Confidentiality](#).

In short: Your trust means everything to us, and we're taking all the necessary steps to keep your information safe and secure.



## Site Spotlights

### Penn State College of Medicine



The HBCD Study team at [Penn State College of Medicine](#) in Hershey, Pennsylvania, is excited to welcome south central Pennsylvania families and their children.

Led by Dr. Aleksandra Zgierska, the HBCD Study team has more than 20 years of experience in many fields, including family and community medicine, obstetrics, neonatology, neuroimaging, pediatrics, child development, and psychology.

The families who join the HBCD Study are our partners. We create a welcoming experience that meets each family's needs in a safe and friendly space, and we welcome people from all backgrounds. Our clinicians, research staff, and study navigators guide families through HBCD research activities and help them find the community resources they need. Families who participate in the HBCD Study are helping us make important discoveries about child development. Every person's perspective and experience can improve the lives of others for generations to come.

### Children's Hospital Los Angeles



[The Children's Hospital Los Angeles \(CHLA\)](#) site for the HBCD Study, located in the heart of Los Angeles, is

deeply committed to providing families from all backgrounds with an opportunity to participate in and contribute to meaningful research on infant and child development.

Our CHLA team is dedicated to providing a safe, supportive, and friendly research space for our HBCD families. Working closely with local health care systems and organizations, we create a strong support network for the families who participate in our research, which fosters positive relationships and makes our communities stronger.

Our HBCD Study team guides families through research activities and helps them find the community resources they need. We are grateful to all the families who join the HBCD Study and support this research with their time and participation!

### Washington University in St. Louis



[Washington University in St. Louis](#) is excited to be a part of the nationwide HBCD Study. Dr. Cynthia Rogers and Dr. Ryan Bogdan have worked with parents and their infants and children for almost two decades. We create a safe and friendly space that welcomes people from all backgrounds.

Our HBCD Study team guides families through research activities and helps them find the community resources they need. Our team is passionate about learning how neonatal brain development can be affected by the environment and what this means for long-term developmental outcomes. Our research team is grateful to all the families who join the HBCD Study and contribute to this research—it would not be possible without them!



For more information, please visit [HBCDStudy.org](https://HBCDStudy.org)  
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