

Worried about my medical details being shared?

All information is strictly confidential and held safe in UCD. UCD **DO NOT** share any details with anyone including social welfare, Gardaí or hospitals. The results of the study will not identify any individuals. You should not be worried about your medical records being shared as this will not happen. It is most important that an accurate record of the number of Traveller births is gathered if we are to ensure that this health study is well informed. Remember the last Traveller health study took place in 1986 and we want to make sure that proper health policy is developed through the information gathered on how Travellers are getting on health wise in Ireland today. This could be informing Traveller health policy for the next 20 years!

How Travellers/Traveller Organisations can support the Birth Cohort:

Please let all Travellers know about the Birth Cohort Study through distributing this leaflet; discuss it in your groups or on training courses; write articles in your local newsletters or papers; explain the significance of the Birth Cohort Study and encourage Traveller parents to participate in it if they have given birth to a child since last October 14th or have a child due to be born before October 13th 2009.

Even if parents refuse to take part in the Birth Cohort it would be useful if you could keep a record of any Traveller children born 14th October 2008-13th October 2009 (there is a form available from UCD for this) as this will ensure we have an accurate count of Traveller births during the year. These children will not be followed for one year like the other ones who will take part in the Study.



Further Information:

For more information about Our Geels please contact your local Traveller organisation, Primary Health Care Project, training centre or public health nurse. They can let you know who the Study coordinator in your area is. If you have access to the internet you can also get information on: www.pavee.ie/ourgeels

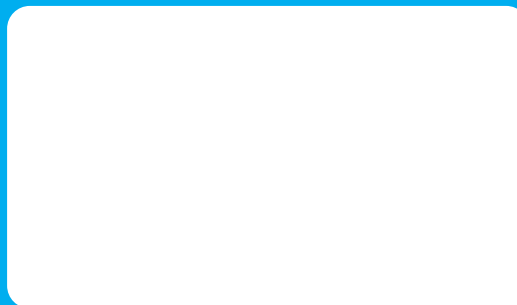
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T: 01 878 0255 E: ourgeels.aiiths@pavee.ie
www.paveepoint.ie

UCD School of Population and Health Science
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Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland,
T: 01 716 3472 E: nooraman.hamid@ucd.ie
www.ucd.ie/phps/research/trav.htm

HSE, Social Inclusion Office of the CEO
Mill Lane, Palmerstown, Dublin 20.
E: leonie.oneill@hse.ie

Or your Local Health Office in the HSE.

Your local Study Team/coordinator is:



PAVEE POINT
TRAVELLERS CENTRE



For, With and By Travellers Traveller Galya's - the Birth Cohort



Information for Traveller Parents/Traveller Organisations

What is the All Ireland Traveller Health Study?

Our Geels - The All Ireland Traveller Health Study, is the first study of Travellers' Health Status and Health Needs that involves all Travellers living on the island of Ireland, North and South.

The purpose of the Study is to examine the health status of Travellers, to assess the impact of the health services currently being provided and to identify the factors, which influence mortality and health status. It will provide a framework for policy development and practice in relation to Travellers. The AITHS was formally launched on July 10th 2007 and is being undertaken by UCD. It will be completed by June 2010.

There are four sub studies involved in the *Our Geels-AITHS*. The Traveller Census started last October 14th. As part of the Census every Traveller on the island had the opportunity of giving their personal details to a community health worker who recorded them on a laptop. Information on age, sex, family size, type of accommodation and facilities and access to services etc. was all gathered and given to UCD. Hopefully the Census results will be available this November.

A second part of *Our Geels* is the study on Traveller children born since October 14th, it is called the Birth Cohort Study.



What is the Birth Cohort Study?

A cohort is where a group of the population, in this case babies, are selected and examined in great detail. For *Our Geels*, any Traveller child born on the island of Ireland from October 14th 2008 until October 13th 2009 is encouraged to become part of this birth cohort study.



Details of their birth, health development and sickness records are kept by the mother for one year up to their first birthday. This will provide important information on how Traveller children are getting on in Ireland today. The Birth Cohort Study is a special study looking at the health and circumstances leading to health outcomes of Traveller babies. The information gathered will be used to inform health policy and services for Travellers. The Traveller information will also be compared with the Longitudinal Study of children in Ireland which is already underway. It will show how Traveller children's health compares to that of the general Irish population.

How will it happen?

If you are the mother of a baby, you will be asked to take part in the birth cohort study through keeping a record of the health details of your child for a year. You will be given a small booklet or diary called a Parent Held Child Record and asked to write (or get someone else who you are comfortable with to write) any health information about your child until you celebrate their first birthday.

It would be important to write the details down as soon as possible after something happens -for example a visit to the doctor/hospital/nurse as otherwise you might forget the details.

This diary will record whether your baby was breast or bottle fed; when they got their needles; whether and when the baby got their health checks from the public health nurse; and any times the baby had to go to the doctor, a hospital or for hearing or any other health checks or visits they may have to get during their first year of life.

Once these details are recorded a picture of the types of health problems of Traveller children will be clear.

What children can be included?

Babies born to a Traveller parent (either the mother or father has to be a Traveller) between 14th October 2008-13th October 2009 and on the Island of Ireland.

These babies will be followed up for one year from when they were born.

Why take part in the Birth Cohort Study?

It is essential that we can get every single Traveller mother and babies who qualify to participate in the birth cohort as then only the result will give a true picture of Traveller baby health status and infant death rate. The information gathered will be used by Travellers, Traveller organisations and the health authorities to work together to make sure that Travellers health status is improved.

How Can I Join in this Study?

You can let your local Traveller Primary Health Care Project, Public Health Nurse or Traveller organisation know that you are interested in taking part. Traveller mothers can also contact UCD directly if they wish.