

**If your contact information
changes, please let us know.**

Thank you!

★ **Where will examinations be
held?**

Examinations take place at 130 Warren Street, Beaver Dam. Free parking is located in front of the Warren Street building at entrance A.

After you schedule an appointment, we will send you a confirmation letter along with a map and directions to the study offices.



Measuring visual acuity.

★ **Contact Information**

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**You are invited for a
5-year follow-up
examination**



*Better health for
future generations*

★ What is the Beaver Dam Offspring Study?

Funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Beaver Dam Offspring Study is a landmark research study to investigate hearing, vision, and olfaction (sense of smell) in children of participants in the Beaver Dam Eye Study and the Beaver Dam Epidemiology of Hearing Loss Study.

Worldwide, researchers hold the results from the Beaver Dam Studies in high regard. We are grateful to your parents, whose dedication to the studies exceeded our highest expectations. From them, we have learned a great deal about factors related to health in the pre-World War II generation.

Now, we ask that you continue this legacy as we work to build on our knowledge of how family history and changes in everyday life impact our health.

★ Who is eligible to participate?

Adult children of participants in the Epidemiology of Hearing Loss Study.

★ Didn't I already do this?

Most of the eligible adult children participated the first time around. The National Institutes of Health have now funded 5-year follow-up examinations to study why sensory health changes. Even if you did not participate last time, your participation this time around is important!

★ What does participation involve?

Our study staff will contact you to invite you to schedule an examination. The examination will include the following:

Testing your:

- ★ hearing
- ★ vision
- ★ smell

Assessing your cardiovascular health by:

- ★ blood pressure measures
- ★ carotid artery ultrasound scan
- ★ measuring arterial stiffness

Collecting blood samples for:

- ★ cholesterol
- ★ diabetes
- ★ genetic studies



Measuring olfaction (smell).

★ Why do we need everyone?

Participation by all eligible offspring is important for the success of the study. When some people do not participate, we miss information that helps us determine how common these conditions are and what causes them. Depending on which people are missing, we may come to slightly different conclusions. When almost everyone participates, our findings are more precise and meaningful.

★ How will my participation help?

Your participation will provide information to help:

- ★ identify changes in lifestyle and environmental factors that lead to better health;
- ★ understand how cardiovascular disease affects eye disease and hearing loss;
- ★ identify genes important in hearing loss;
- ★ compare your generation and your parents' to see how they differ;
- ★ predict future health care needs in the United States.

★ Why is a second visit needed if I did it last time?

If you participate again we can determine how your health has changed in the past five years. We can then compare people who developed sensory disorders with those who did not and begin to understand what exposures, behaviors, and health conditions may make people more likely to develop health problems. We can also learn what factors contribute to diseases and impairments getting worse.

Similar studies of heart disease discovered that high cholesterol was associated with heart attacks and that led to the development of treatments for high cholesterol. With your help, we can learn more about how to preserve good sensory health as people get older.