

**Steve Bullock, Governor**

**Richard H. Opper, Director**

## Frequently Asked Questions About *The Health Survey of Montana's Mothers and Babies*

- **What is *The Health Survey of Montana's Mothers and Babies*?**
  - It is a public health survey conducted by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The purpose of the survey is to better understand why some babies are born healthier than others. To do this, we are asking randomly selected mothers each year to answer questions about their experiences with their pregnancies.
  - Each year in Montana, about 1,000 babies are born prematurely, about 1,000 are of low birth weight, and about 350 have very serious health problems. Sadly, about 65 babies die each year. We need your help to better understand why this happens and how these problems might be prevented. No matter how your pregnancy went, your answers will help us learn how to improve the health of mothers and babies in Montana.
- **Why was I chosen to participate in the survey?**
  - Your name was picked at random from all the women who gave birth in the same month that you did.
- **Will my answers be kept private?**
  - Yes. All answers are kept completely private. No one working with the survey will know your name. Your survey will be identified only by a number to help us keep track of surveys as they are returned. Reports about the results of the survey will combine answers from all the mothers so no one can guess how any individual person answered.
- **Is it really important that I answer these questions?**
  - Yes. Because of the small number of mothers chosen to participate, it is important to have everyone's answers. Every pregnancy is different. To get a good picture of the health of mothers and babies in Montana, we need each mother selected to return her questionnaire. From the information you give us, we hope to be able to improve health care for women and babies in Montana. We need to learn what goes right in pregnancies, and what can sometimes go wrong. Your help is important to the success of our programs.
- **Some questions do not seem related to health care. Why are they asked?**
  - Many things in your life may affect your pregnancy. These questions will give us a complete picture of things that happened that may have had an effect on your health or your baby's health.
- **What if I have questions about the survey? What if I want help to do the survey?**
  - If you have questions about the survey, please call our toll-free number at 1-800-762-9891, option 2.
  - If you would prefer to complete the survey as a confidential telephone interview, please call our toll-free interview number at 1-844-230-1800 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, or noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday.

