

# Overcoming Challenges in Housing-Based Research: Insights from a Longitudinal Study

The *Healthy Home, Happy Kids* research study was designed to evaluate the impact of green building practices on the respiratory health of residents of affordable housing. This multiyear, multisite study faced many challenges as it balanced the need for scientific rigor with the realities of the affordable housing industry, residents' lives and changing communities. Below is a summary of key insights and recommendations to guide future housing-based research.



**INSIGHT 1:**

**Identify key stakeholders and include them in the study design planning process.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Designate time and funding to allow for a planning process
- Assemble and engage an advisory council
- Engage representative stakeholders



**INSIGHT 2:**

**Create a strong team and the project infrastructure needed for a complex study.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Create a project team that includes experienced staff familiar with the community or population of focus
- Include members of the advisory council on the project team
- Incorporate resident participation on the project team and provide training and support



**INSIGHT 3:**

**Pilot test the study design.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Designate enough time and funding to pilot test data collection methods
- Identify target properties and test feasibility
- Confirm the skills and experience needed for the research team



**INSIGHT 4:**

**Build strong relationships with developers, property managers and residents.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Anticipate liability concerns and consult with advisors and legal experts
- Incorporate sufficient time for relationship building
- Create property-specific recruitment plans



**INSIGHT 5:**

**Pursue flexibility and creativity in adapting to implementation challenges with strong support from funders and advisors.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Create regular feedback loops
- Acknowledge the need for flexibility and the unpredictability of housing-based research
- Engage a diverse set of perspectives to identify creative solutions




**Learn more!**

Download the full report for background on the *Healthy Home, Happy Kids* research study and detailed discussion of each of the report's insights on housing-based research.

<https://bit.ly/38PrYcL>