Are you in your first trimester of pregnancy?
If so, you may be interested in participating in this study being conducted by The University of Western Australia, School of Population Health and WA Centre for Rural Health. Women who are more than 15 weeks pregnant are also welcome to participate.

What is the purpose of the study?
The major aims of the study are: to find out how women experience pregnancy when they or their partner work Fly-In Fly-Out (FIFO) and to better understand stress during pregnancy. Pregnancy is such an important and a vulnerable time for the fetus. Both environmental (“outside”) and psychological (“personal”) events are significant during pregnancy. We would like to better understand how these issues work together to impact the overall health of mothers and babies in Western Australia. Over the coming years we plan to involve as many pregnant women as possible. The more participants we have in this study, from all walks of life, the more we can learn. Our ultimate goal is to gather knowledge that can improve the health and development of our children.

What are we studying?
- FIFO is a significant way of life in Australia, Canada, UK and elsewhere. There are no reports describing pregnancy for women with a partner who works FIFO or for women who work FIFO themselves. Some people find pregnancy easy and others find it difficult. Antenatal care for FIFO women may need improvement but first we need to know what is going well and what is not going well. This study is a world 1st to ask women’s opinions about significant pregnancy events and how they experience stress and cope with FIFO issues.
- We are asking about the environment we live in: daily lifestyle activities, physical health, stress and past pregnancies. The shorter follow-up questionnaire asks about overall wellbeing and other events experienced during the pregnancy.

Who can participate?
We are asking two groups of pregnant women over 18 years old to share their opinions in this survey:
(i) Pregnant women working FIFO
(ii) Pregnant wives and girlfriends of FIFO workers

You are eligible to participate if:
- You are over 18 years old
- You are in the first 15 weeks of your pregnancy (ideally) or any time before end of 26 weeks
- You work FIFO, and/or,
- Your partner works FIFO
- NOTE: please join FIFO Late Pregnancy Study if you are past 26 weeks of pregnancy

What do you have to do to participate in this study?
1) Complete one questionnaire now and a brief follow-up survey will be sent out after 26 weeks.
What are the survey questions about?
Questions are about how you feel about FIFO work and lifestyle, your thoughts about significant pregnancy events and what actions (if any) are needed to improve your experience of pregnancy. There are also some questions about past pregnancies you have had, about FIFO lifestyle and general health.

How long will the survey take? About 30 minutes for this Early Pregnancy Survey and 10 - 15 minutes for the Late Pregnancy Survey

2) Consent to linking the information you provide with your baby’s birth information
Why do we need to do this?
To improve health for mothers and babies we use records linkage to obtain birth weight, gestation and other health information that is routinely collected by hospitals, midwives and the Department of Health. We do not need to contact you again in person.

How will you benefit from participating in this study?
If you participate in this study, you will:
• Enter the draw to win a $500 Coles/Myer voucher
• Contribute to knowledge that may ultimately improve public health

How will your privacy be protected?
Any information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. No personal information will ever be included in published reports of the study. You are free to withdraw from the study at any time and you do not have to explain why. This will not affect your care in any way.

Would you like to participate?
• If you found this Information Sheet on the website please scroll to the bottom
• Follow the instructions to fill out the Consent Form, click AGREE and then click START SURVEY. Thank you in advance for your valuable time.
• If you are ready to do the 1st survey online – START NOW: http://www.sph.uwa.edu.au/research/fifo
• If you want to do the survey using the printed format, please fill in the consent form that is separate to this Information Sheet and return it to Lorili Jacobs who will send you the printed survey question booklet. Thank you in advance for your valuable time.
• If you want a researcher to contact you before you make a decision, please contact us with your e-mail address or phone number so we can get in touch with you.
• More information can be found on the research website: http://www.sph.uwa.edu.au/research/fifo

Contact us

This research is being undertaken by PhD candidate and study coordinator Lorili Jacobs in conjunction with supervisors: Professor Angus Cook, Professor Sandra Thompson and Dr Kimberley McAuley.

If you or anyone else would like more information please contact Lorili (Lori) Jacobs.
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Approval to conduct this research RA/4/1/6953 has been provided by The University of Western Australia, in accordance with its ethics review and approval procedures. Any person considering participation in this research project, or agreeing to participate, may raise any questions or issues with the researchers at any time. In addition, any person not satisfied with the response of researchers may raise ethics issues or concerns, and may make complaints about this research project by contacting the Human Research Ethics Office at The University of Western Australia by calling (08) 6488 3703 during office hours or by emailing to hreo-research@uwa.edu.au. All research participants are entitled to retain a copy of any Participant Information Form and/or Participant Consent Form relating to this research project.