



**EMBARGOED UNTIL**  
**Sunday, February 24, 2013**

Contact:

Megan Brown  
[mbrown@aaaai.org](mailto:mbrown@aaaai.org)  
(414) 272-6071 (AAA AI executive office)

(210) 582-7030 (AAA AI Annual Meeting Press room, Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, February 22-26)

**(Note to media: request/see abstract 512)**

**Lower Rates of Allergic Disease Found in Children Born Outside the United States Appear to Reverse After Prolonged U.S. Residence**

SAN ANTONIO, TX – Research presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAA AI) suggests that children born outside of the United States have lower rates of allergic disease, but after prolonged U.S. residence, this reduced prevalence is reversed.

Other studies have demonstrated that allergic disease seems to be less common in certain racial or ethnic groups. Jonathan I. Silverberg, MD, PhD, of St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center and colleagues from the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center and Oregon Health Science Center examined a sample of nearly 92,000 children from the 2007-2008 National Survey of Children's Health to investigate if there was an association between birthplace, length of U.S. residence and rates of asthma, eczema, hay fever and food allergy.

After statistical analysis of the sample, the researchers found that compared with the U.S.-born children, the children born outside the United States indeed had lower rates of these types of allergic disease. When taking into account age, sex, race or ethnicity, household income, residence in urban areas and history of moving to the United States from another country, this was still true.

Dr. Silverberg and colleagues were also interested in the birthplace of the parents and what that would show regarding prevalence rates in the children who were born outside the United States. Their investigation discovered that children who had parents who were also not U.S.-born had lower rates for all of the allergic diseases versus those children whose parents were born here.

“Most interestingly, our research with this sample uncovered that children whose birthplace was outside the United States who then lived here for more than 10 years had higher odds of

developing eczema and hay fever when compared with those who had lived here for up to 2 years,” said Dr. Silverberg. “However, we did not find this was true for asthma or food allergy.”

“What we can take away here is that seeing this loss of childhood protection from eczema and hay fever after extended U.S. residence implies that environmental factors may promote the development of allergic disease,” Dr. Silverberg explained.

The AAAAI represents allergists, asthma specialists, clinical immunologists, allied health professionals and others with a special interest in the research and treatment of allergic disease. Established in 1943, the AAAAI has more than 6,700 members in the United States, Canada and 60 other countries.

*Editor's notes:*

- *This study was presented during the 2013 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) on February 22-26 in San Antonio. However, it does not necessarily reflect the policies or the opinions of the AAAAI.*
- *A link to all abstracts presented at the Annual Meeting is available at [www.annualmeeting.aaaai.org](http://www.annualmeeting.aaaai.org)*