

# Board of Scientific Counselors NCHS Update

April 2008



# Today's Update

- **Steve Solomon, Coordinating Center Director, on the agenda**
  - **Update on CCHIS Strategic Aims**
  - **Update on CDC Goals and Healthiest Nation initiative**
  - **Joint BSC meeting in Atlanta**
- **Follow-up on several topics**
- **NCHS Program Highlights**
- **Budget and continuing topics from recent BSC meetings**

# **Data Users Conference**

## **August 11-13**

- **Peter Orszag, Director, Congressional Budget Office, Plenary Speaker**
- **Hands-on sessions retrieving and analyzing NCHS data**
- **Updates on new content and innovations**



# **CCHIS/CDC Activities**

- **Cross-cutting Strategic Aims**
- **NCHS Aims**
  - **Timeliness of data release**
  - **User satisfaction**
  - **Web-based tools for user needs**
- **CDC Initiatives**
  - **Goals Process Update**
  - **Healthiest Nation Initiative**

# Follow-up

- **BSC Letters to the Secretary and Dr. Gerberding**
- **Budget**
- **Oversampling**
- **“Pounding the Pavement”**
- **Status of the Programs**
- **NHANES DNA release issues**
- **Joint BSC meeting in Atlanta**
  - **Purpose**
  - **Expected outcomes**
- **CNSTAT meeting on Vital Statistics**

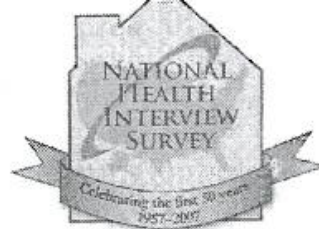
# **Vital Statistics News**

- **Births: New report with expanded data on new birth certificate—released end of February**
- **Pregnancies: New Report—pregnancy rate drops for US women Under Age 25 – abortions fell 24 percent between 1990 and 2004**
- **DVS/NAPHSIS evaluate DC Health Dept. Vital Statistics Division**
- **Delton Atkinson consultation on vital statistics in US Territories**

# National Health Interview Survey

- **Release of NHIS *Paradata***
- **Early Release Jan – Sept 2007**
- **Detail on health insurance**

# NHIS Paradata Released to Public



In January 2008, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) released the first annual file of paradata data about the survey collection process from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). The NHIS is an ongoing, cross-sectional, in-person survey of the U.S. noninstitutionalized civilian population. A new year of regular NHIS microdata is publicly released every June, fewer than six months after the end of the survey year. This first publicly released paradata file derives from the 2006 NHIS.

Paradata can be used to study the survey process and assess and improve survey quality. Three sources of NHIS paradata are audit trails from the Blaise instrument used to administer the questionnaire, the NHIS Contact History Instrument (CHI), and a section at the back of the survey instrument reserved for questions asked of the interviewers.

NHIS audit trails have been used by NCHS researchers to identify occasional

inappropriate, inaccurate entries of responses by interviewers. The CHI is a stand-alone, Blaise-based instrument that first went into production with the 2004 NHIS. Interviewers are instructed to make a CHI entry each time an attempt is made to contact a household. CHI data have been used by NCHS researchers to explore survey contact, cooperation, and nonresponse bias. Questions asked of the interviewers after the interview include queries about whether any main sections of the interview were administered primarily by telephone. (Interviewers are permitted to use the telephone when necessary to complete the initial in-person interview.) NCHS researchers have used this information to monitor the use of the telephone and to explore the impact of mode of survey administration on key health estimates.

Note that NHIS paradata include records for nonresponding households (i.e., NHIS paradata contain information about

cases in which the interviewer was unable to make personal contact with anyone in the household, as well as cases where the interview was refused).

The publicly released NHIS paradata file contains a subset of the paradata collected by the NHIS. The newly released 2006 paradata file contains data on mode of interview, assessed cooperativeness of the respondent, reasons for partial interviews, strategies used to gain participation, etc. It may be used as a stand-alone data file or linked to the regular public use NHIS 2006 health data files (which were released in June 2007).

Now, researchers outside NCHS have the opportunity to analyze these valuable paradata. The 2006 public use paradata file and supporting documentation can be found at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/nhis/2006paradata.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/nhis/2006paradata.htm). ■



(Released 3/2008)



# Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, January – September 2007

by Robin A. Cohen, Ph.D.; Michael E. Martinez, M.P.H.; and Heather L. Free, M.P.H., Division of Health Interview Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics

## Highlights

New for this release are estimates for enrollment in high deductible health plans (HDHPs) and consumer-directed health plans (CDHPs) that combine an HDHP with a health savings account, as well as estimates of participation in flexible spending account (FSA) arrangements for medical expenses.

releasing selected estimates of health insurance coverage for the civilian noninstitutionalized U.S. population based on data from the January – September 2007 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), along with comparable estimates from the 1997–2006 NHIS. Three types of measures of lack of health insurance coverage are provided: *current* (uninsured at the time of the interview), *intermittent*

insurance are generally 0.1–0.3 percentage points lower than those based on the editing procedures used for the final data files. Occasionally, due to decisions made for the final data editing and weighting, estimates based on preliminary editing procedures may differ by more than 0.3 percentage points.

Due to small sample sizes, estimates based on less than a year of

# Consumer Directed Health Care

- **High Deductible Health Plans**
- **Health Savings Accounts (HSAs)**
- **Flexible Spending Accounts for medical expenses (FSAs)**

# NHANES

- **Continued release of additional data sets from the NHANES 2005-2006 survey period.**
- **Release of the body composition data (DXA data) from NHANES 1999-2004.**
- **Two new additions to the NHANES Web Tutorial.**
  - **Added NHANES I and NHANES II modules to NHANES III and NHANES "Continuous" modules.**
- **Later in this meeting ...**
  - **Budget**
  - **Community HANES and**
  - **Genetics**

# Health Care Surveys

- **Redesigned NHDS pilot now in the field**
- **Supplement to NAMCS on use of EMR systems.**
- **National Survey of Residential Care Facilities (NSRCF) Pilot Study Begins!** The pilot study is underway for the first ever National Survey of Residential Care Facilities. Pilot to be completed this spring.
- **Data collection for the re-designed 2007 National Home and Hospice Care Survey (NHHCS) closed out on Friday, February 29.** By the end of fielding, 1,034 agencies had completed interviews for a 71 percent response rate.

# Office of Research and Methodology

- **Upcoming Meetings**
  - **Meeting on Bayesian approaches to survey design (with UMD's Statistics Consortium) April 30-May 1**
  - **Meeting on directions in confidentiality research (with NISS) May 1-2**
- **Research Data Center: Developing an Atlanta RDC**
  - **Progress in GWAS analysis thru remote access to NHANES data**
- **Questionnaire Design Research Laboratory (QDRL)**
  - **Q-Bank: Federal Gov't survey questions**
  - **Data base on question evaluation, linking questions to evaluation findings**
  - **Roll out in June under multiple co-sponsorship**

# Office of Analysis and Epidemiology

- **Presentation on NCHS Data Linkage Activities**
- **Injury:**
  - **New Chartbook on Injury in the United States**
  - **Recommendations to improve E-coding in hospital discharge and emergency data systems (Received award from STIPDA)**

# New Data Releases and Program Highlights



## Injury in the United States: 2007 Chartbook

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Health Statistics



# Budget

- **Impact of reducing oversampling**
- **Optimal periodicity**
- **Coordination in collaboration**
- **Discussion of budget options**



## Program Deficits by Year Based on Constant NCHS Appropriation

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Health Care		1.6	4.8	6.0	5.3
NHANES		3.6	4.7	5.0	5.4
NHIS		0.9	4.8	6.6	8.5
Vital Statistics	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.2	5.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>24.6</b>

Notes: All figures in millions.

# Health Care Options to Reduce Costs

## Program Deficits Based on Constant NCHS Appropriation

	2008	2009
<b>Health Care</b>		1.6
<b>NHANES</b>		3.6
<b>NHIS</b>		0.9
<b>Vital Statistics</b>	4.9	4.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>11.0</b>

Notes: All figures in millions.

- **Delay Nursing Home Survey**
  - Savings: \$2 million FY 2009, 2.5 million FY 2010
- **Delay Updating Ambulatory Survey Samples**
  - Savings: \$2 million FY 10, \$4 million FY 11
- **Delay Home and Hospice Care Survey**
  - Savings: \$1 million FY 11, \$4 million FY 12
- **Suspend Hospital and/or Ambulatory Care Surveys**
  - Savings: \$2 to \$10.5 million

# Vital Statistics Options to Reduce Costs

## Program Deficits Based on Constant NCHS Appropriation

	2008	2009
Health Care		1.6
NHANES		3.6
NHIS		0.9
<b>Vital Statistics</b>	4.9	4.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>11.0</b>

Notes: All figures in millions.

- **Postpone Deaths: CY09 – NDI & linked files incomplete**
- **Postpone Births: CY09 – linked files incomplete**
- **Delay Purchase - 2009 data year paid for in 2010**
- **Adequate Funding – States must agree to new budget ceiling**
- **Reduce core content to meet budget constraints**

# NHANES Options to Reduce Costs

## Program Deficits Based on Constant NCHS Appropriation

	2008	2009
Health Care		1.6
<b>NHANES</b>		3.6
NHIS		0.9
Vital Statistics	4.9	4.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>11.0</b>

Notes: All figures in millions.

- Eliminate over-sampling
  - Cost Savings: \$1M over 2 years
- Reduce the number of PSUs
  - Cost Savings: \$1M - \$2M over 2 years
- Flexible sample size
  - Cost Savings: \$4M - \$6M in year 2
- Reduction in sample size
  - Cost Savings: \$8M - \$12M over 2 years

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# NHIS Options to Reduce Costs

## Program Deficits Based on Constant NCHS Appropriation

	2008	2009
Health Care		1.6
NHANES		3.6
<b>NHIS</b>		0.9
Vital Statistics	4.9	4.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>11.0</b>

Notes: All figures in millions.

- Reduction in sample size  
2009 savings:
  - Reduce by 12.5%: \$1.0 M
  - Reduce by 50%: \$3.8 M
  - Reduce by 75%: \$8.3 M
- Training: \$900 K for 2009
- Oversampling( screening)
  - 2009 cost savings  
(keeping total sample size the same) = \$1.4M
- Content reduction
  - Savings not determined
- 2013: Redesign options

# Vital Statistics Options to Reduce Costs

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# Conclusions

- **\$11M increase (FY 2009) requested by the President**
- **FY 09 Decisions re: NHIS and NHANES needed by June**
- **Insufficient funds to support four programs in 2010**
- **BSC guidance on options and priorities needed**
- **NCHS recommendation on 2010 Program to be forwarded to CDC/Department by May 23**