

# Board of Scientific Counselors NCHS Update

September 2008



# Today's Update

- **Welcome!**
- **NCHS Data Users Conference**
- **Other NCHS Activities**
- **Update on Healthiest Nation initiative**
- **Budget Update**

# **New Board Members**

- **Llewellyn Cornelius, PhD, University of Maryland School of Social Work**
- **Holly Hedegaard, MD, MSPH, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment**
- **Jose Escarce, MD, Ph.D., UCLA /RAND**
- **Kathleen Mullan Harris, PhD University of North Carolina Carolina Population Center**

# **2008 NCHS Data Users Conference**

- **August 11-13, Washington , DC**
- **Over 1,100 Attendees**
- **Keynote Address by Peter Orszag, PhD,  
Director of the Congressional Budget Office**

# **CBO's Activities in Analyzing Health Care**

- **New Hires and Expanded Staffing**
  - **New Deputy Assistant Director (Keith Fontenot) in the Budget Analysis Division**
  - **Increase in health staff agency wide from 30 FTEs to 50 FTEs**

# **CBO's Uses of NCHS Data Sets Examples**

- **Comparisons of measured BMI and self-reported BMI (NHANES)**
- **Estimates of Medicaid long term care costs (National Nursing Home Survey)**
- **Analysis of the impact of increases in certain chronic conditions on the receipt of SSDI (NHIS)**

# **Current CBO Projects Using NCHS Data Sets and Administrative Data**

- **Estimating the effects of current and past obesity on Medicare spending**
  - ➔ **NHANES I Epidemiologic Follow-up Study (20-year follow-up) linked to Medicare claims data**
- **Medicare spending with and without health insurance prior to Medicare eligibility**
  - ➔ **NHIS data linked to Medicare claims data**

# **CBO's Wish List for Data**

- **Richer mortality**
- **Increase in longitudinal data**
- **Data on the social environment**
- **Development of a single National Health Indicator**



# Current NCHS Activities

- **Transition Planning**
  - **Meeting the needs of the next Administration**
- **Congressional Briefing**
  - **Briefing of Congressional staffers on NCHS data and resources – September 24<sup>th</sup>**

# NHIS Paradata

- **New management tool:**
  - **Paradata is detailed information tracking the survey process**
- **Potential use: Identifying interviewer falsification by analyzing**
  - **Respondent response time**
  - **Item response rate**
  - **Adherence to protocol, for example, choice of respondent**

# Uses of New NHIS Paradata

- **Studying household member**
  - **Predicting agreement to be interviewed based on initial doorstep response**
- **Productivity of “n” tries to “convert” a refusal**

# ChildStats.Gov Web Page

The screenshot shows the ChildStats.gov website interface. At the top, there is a browser address bar with the URL "Childstats.gov - America's Children in Brief: Key Natio...". Below the address bar is the website logo "ChildStats.gov" and the text "FORUM ON CHILD AND FAMILY STATISTICS". A navigation menu includes "HOME | ABOUT THE FORUM | PUBLICATIONS | DATA SOURCES |". A search bar with a "GO" button is also present. The main content area features the title "AMERICA'S CHILDREN IN BRIEF: KEY NATIONAL INDICATORS OF WELL-BEING, 2008" and a list of navigation links on the left: Introduction, Demographic Background, Family and Social Environment, Economic Circumstances, Health Care, Physical Environment and Safety, Behavior, Education, Health, America's Children at a Glance, and Forum Agencies. The main text describes the report's purpose and mentions Katherine K. Wallman, Chief Statistician. A small image of a child is visible on the right side of the page.

ChildStats.gov  
FORUM ON CHILD AND FAMILY STATISTICS

SEARCH  GO HOME | ABOUT THE FORUM | PUBLICATIONS | DATA SOURCES |

## AMERICA'S CHILDREN IN BRIEF: KEY NATIONAL INDICATORS OF WELL-BEING, 2008

**Introduction**  
For Further Information

**Demographic Background**

**Family and Social Environment**

**Economic Circumstances**

**Health Care**

**Physical Environment and Safety**

**Behavior**

**Education**

**Health**

**America's Children at a Glance**

**Forum Agencies**

This year's *America's Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well-Being* report continues the tradition of cooperation and commitment by agencies across the Federal Government to advance our understanding of children today and indicate what may be needed to bring them a better tomorrow. The Forum is already busy planning its next full report, scheduled for 2009.

*Katherine K. Wallman, Chief Statistician, Office of Management and Budget*

Each year since 1997, the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics has published a report on the well-being of children and families. The Forum alternates publishing a detailed report, *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being*, with a summary version that highlights selected indicators. This year, the Forum is publishing *America's Children in Brief*; it will publish the more detailed report in 2009. The Forum updates all indicators and background data on its website (<http://childstats.gov>) every year.

# New Home in North Carolina in Research Triangle Park



# **Healthiest Nation Initiative**

## **Healthiest Nation Alliance**

- **A new effort**
  - **Focused on improving health through prevention and protection from emerging threats**
  - **Fostering improved health through actions at the “grass roots” or community level by**
    - **Individuals**
    - **Community leaders**
    - **Employers**
    - **States**
  - **Effectively applying current knowledge**
  - **Linking health to all policies**
  - **Valuing health and making it a priority**

# **Healthiest Nation Initiative**

## **Healthiest Nation Alliance**

- **Key Premises**
  - **Health status in the United States can be improved through more effective application of current knowledge**
  - **Measurement of health is a prerequisite to action**
  - **Critical to evaluation**
- **NCHS role**
  - **Expanding the measurement of health**
    - **Community**
    - **Employers**
    - **Individual**

# **FY 2009 Budget**

- **Senate, House Committees have recommended \$11M increase to \$124.7M**
- **Delay expected (no change from FY 2008 is possible)**
- **Actions taken to meet the budget constraints:**
  - **Reducing by half the National Health Interview Survey sample.**
  - **Postponing the Nursing Home Survey**
  - **Not fielding the National Hospital Discharge Survey in calendar year 2009, and suspending work towards the survey redesign**
  - **Postponing NHANES capital expenditures**



# **FY 2009 Budget**

- **Actions taken to meet the budget constraints:**
  - **Vital Statistics, details now under negotiation:**
    - **Purchasing only “core items” of birth and death data from states**
    - **Investing in infrastructure to increase timeliness, quality and consistency of data obtained from vital records**

# **FY 2010 Budget**

- **Continued flat or reduced funding will necessitate further program reductions**
- **Possible program changes:**
  - **NHIS – further reductions to the NHIS sample**
  - **NHANES –**
    - **Reducing the sample size by half**
    - **Eliminating oversampling of minority populations**
    - **Or removing NHANES**
  - **Postponing Home and Hospice Survey (limiting data on long term care)**

# Support for Funding

- **Support from collaborators**
- **Support from Congress**
- **Support from *Friends of NCHS***

# Program Progress

## Examples

- **Increased timeliness in every program**
- **High productivity – more releases and publications**
- **New analysis tools**
- **Expanded Research Data Center Program**
- **New publications: For example, policy-oriented *Data Briefs***