



NCHS International Statistics Programs

Bilateral and Multilateral Collaborations

About NCHS

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is the nation's principal health statistics agency, providing data to identify and address health issues. NCHS compiles statistical information to help guide public health and health policy decisions.

Collaborating with other public and private health partners, NCHS uses a variety of data collection mechanisms to obtain accurate information from multiple sources. This process provides a broad perspective on the population's health, influences on health, and health outcomes.

International activities at NCHS

NCHS collaborates with countries around the world and participates in a wide range of international initiatives. These programs consist of cooperative ventures on analytical and methodological issues, technical assistance, consultation, training, information exchange, and liaison with multinational agencies. Additionally, NCHS sponsors and hosts international meetings and symposia in order to foster the sharing of scientific information. Through these efforts, NCHS seeks to improve the availability and advance the quality and comparability of health data in the United States and other countries.

Three fact sheets describe international statistics activities at NCHS. In addition to this fact sheet on bilateral and multilateral collaborations, fact sheets on "Collaborations with the United Nations and Other International Organizations" and "Washington Group on Disability Statistics" are available from the NCHS website.

Bilateral collaborations

Bilateral activities foster goodwill, strengthen partnerships between collaborating countries, and offer opportunities for comparing data. NCHS' bilateral collaborations include:



Interchange with Statistics Canada

The collaboration between NCHS and Statistics Canada began in 1999. These two agencies have statistical programs with much in common, including the collection of vital statistics and the conduct of national health population surveys. Since the collaboration was formed, the agencies have held an annual 2-day "interchange" to share information about common health-related interests, activities, challenges, and achievements.

Multilateral collaborations

These collaborations, which benefit from the input of a variety of countries, help set standards to improve data collection and analysis. NCHS' multilateral collaborations include:



International Collaborative Effort (ICE) on Injury Statistics and Methodology

An NCHS-initiated collaboration, ICE on Injury Statistics and Methodology provides a forum for injury researchers to exchange ideas and collaborate on the development of standards for injury data collection and analysis to improve international comparability of injury statistics. The organization's goals are to provide high-quality data to better assess the causes and consequences of injury, differences in injury occurrence over time and place, and the most effective means of injury prevention and control. Over the past 20 years, researchers from more than 40 countries have participated in collaborative projects or attended ICE on Injury Statistics and Methodology conferences.





International Collaborative Effort on Automating Mortality Statistics

An NCHS-initiated collaboration, ICE on Injury Statistics and Methodology provides a forum for injury researchers to exchange ideas and collaborate on the development of standards for injury data collection and analysis to improve international comparability of injury statistics. The organization's goals are to provide high-quality data to better assess the causes and consequences of injury, differences in injury occurrence over time and place, and the most effective means of injury prevention and control. Over the past 20 years, researchers from more than 40 countries have participated in collaborative projects or attended ICE on Injury Statistics and Methodology conferences.



International Group for Indigenous Health Measurement (IGIHM)

The United States, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand all have significant indigenous populations with similar health problems, and they share deficiencies in indigenous health data. These issues led health researchers; representatives of national statistical agencies, including NCHS; and representatives of indigenous groups to form an international group in 2005 to improve health status measurement of indigenous populations. Several meetings have brought IGIHM members and other experts together to share findings regarding indigenous health status, propose improvements in measurement methodology, and consider related issues, such as social determinants of indigenous health.



Global Program for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Improvement

The International Statistics Program has initiated a vital registration improvement effort in countries around the world, thereby contributing its expertise to enhance health-related data collections. An example is the Global Program for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Improvement. With funding from the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention's (CDC) Center for Global Health and the CDC Foundation, this program has established country demonstration projects to improve civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) programs in Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Mumbai (India), and Zambia. These projects employ a variety of tools and activities, including recent advances in mobile technology, to address the unique combination of system deficiencies and barriers found in each country. As part of this program, NCHS collaborates with various regional offices of the United Nations and World Health Organization on related CRVS activities.

In addition, the International Statistics Program recently launched a new CRVS global training course that is available online at https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/isp/isp_fetp.htm. This course provides important information on vital statistics data gathered from a national civil registration program. The curriculum combines internationally accepted principles and recommendations for national CRVS systems with a fully customizable framework that allows the course to easily incorporate country-specific civil registration policies, customs, and administrative processes. The customization aspect allows it to be administered anywhere in the world and also serves as the basis for a training program that can be administered to country civil registrars, public health professionals, and policy makers.

