
Major Data Systems of the National Center for Health Statistics

Vital Statistics System

- Data on births, deaths, fetal deaths, induced abortions, marriages, and divorces
- Based on vital records filed in State vital statistics offices
- Produces annual data for the United States and for States, counties, and other local areas

National Survey of Family Growth

- Data on family planning practices and attitudes, factors influencing trends and differentials in fertility, and aspects of maternal and child health
- Based on interviews with ever-married women ages 15–44
- Conducted in 1973 and 1976

National Natality Survey

- Data on socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of mothers, prenatal care, pregnancy history, occupational background, health status of mother and infant, and types and sources of medical care received

Tearsheet requests to Sandra Surber Smith, Chief, Scientific and Technical Information Branch, National Center for Health Statistics, Rm. 1-57, Center Bldg., 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

•Based on questionnaires mailed to a sample of mothers with live births during a given year and to physicians, hospitals, and other medical care providers associated with those births

- Conducted in 1963, 1964–66, 1968–69, 1972, and 1980. National Fetal Mortality Survey was done in conjunction with the 1980 natality survey

National Health Interview Survey

- Data on the incidence of illness and accidental injuries, the prevalence of chronic diseases and impairments, the extent of disability, physician and dental visits, hospitalizations, and other health topics
- Focuses on health conditions and factors about their health that people are willing and able to relate and on the correlation between demographic and socioeconomic characteristics and health
- Based on household interviews conducted in about 42,000 households representative of the civilian noninstitutionalized population
- Conducted annually since 1957

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

- Data on the prevalence of specific conditions or chronic diseases; norma-

tive data on such measurements as blood pressure, serum cholesterol, and visual acuity; and nutritional status and deficiencies

- Based on direct health examinations including laboratory procedures, medical history, and standardized tests administered to a sample of 30,000 people, ages 1–74
- Conducted in 2- to 4-year cycles in mobile examination centers
- Began in 1959 as the Health Examination Survey, expanded in 1970 when a nutritional component was added

National Hospital Discharge Survey

- Data on the use of non-Federal short-stay hospitals; on diagnoses, surgical procedures, and characteristics of inpatients; and size, location, and ownership of hospitals
- Based on data abstracted from a sample of approximately 200,000 records from a sample of 500 hospitals
- Conducted annually since 1965

National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

- Data on visits to physicians, including patients' symptoms and physicians' diagnoses
- Based on a sample of 50,000 visits to

a sample of approximately 3,000 office-based, private physicians

- Conducted annually since 1974

National Nursing Home Survey

- Data on nursing homes, their services, and staff and on residents' personal and health characteristics
- Based on self-administered questionnaires and interviews with administrators and staff in a sample of 1,700 nursing homes
- Conducted periodically since 1963; latest survey was in 1977

National Medical Care Utilization and Expenditures Survey

- Data on use of and expenditures for health services during 1980
- Based on household interviews with a sample of civilian noninstitutionalized population. Respondents in 10,000 households provide data throughout the year in five interview sessions
- Began in 1980

National Master Facility Inventory

- A listing of inpatient health facilities in the United States, including hospitals, nursing homes, and other facilities, such as those for the mentally retarded or physically disabled. Data on services, location, staff, and other characteristics of the facilities

- Based on data collected in questionnaires sent to facilities or through associations or State agencies.
- Conducted periodically since 1967

National Mortality Survey

- Data on socioeconomic characteristics of decedents, use of and payment for hospital and institutional care during the patient's last year of life, and factors related to health status, such as smoking habits
- Based on questionnaire sent to the person who provided information for the death certificate. If death occurred in a hospital or institution, a questionnaire was also sent to those facilities
- Conducted annually from 1961 through 1968

Health Professions Surveys

- Data on the number, location, training, and specialization of a wide variety of primary and allied health occupations. Also for selected occupations, data on demographic and professional characteristics and on health services provided
- Based on data from professional societies, Federal and State agencies, inventories, and sample surveys
- Secondary data on health professions compiled biennially since 1965. In-

ventories maintained and surveys conducted periodically

National Reporting System for Family Planning Services

- Data on the characteristics of persons receiving medical family planning services and the type of services received at family planning clinics throughout the United States
- Based on clinic visit records completed for patients at federally supported family planning programs and those of other public and private organizations
- Conducted annually as a reporting system from 1968 through June 1977 and from July 1977 through 1980 as a sample survey covering approximately 2,000 service sites

National Inventory of Family Planning Service Sites

- A listing of all clinics that provide family planning services and information for each service site on location, ownership, funding sources, patients' characteristics, services offered, and staffing
- Based on data collected in questionnaires to facilities
- Conducted in 1974, 1975-76, and 1978