Revised
February 2, 2010

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NSFG REVIEW PANEL
Additional NSFG Specific Review Questions
Requests for Additional Information

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Capacity /Resources

1. The NSFG seeks more secure funding in the future. How secure are current funding sources?

2. What is NSFG's assessment of the level of staffing for the survey? Is it appropriate for the range of functions performed now and projected for the future?

3. NSFG describes a longitudinal component as cost-prohibitive. What are the cost estimates for a longitudinal component? How many additional staff members would be needed if the survey were to become longitudinal?

How much, if at all, does the staff believe that lack of a longitudinal component discourages people from using these data? Is not having a longitudinal component going to hurt the viability of the survey in the future? Does a longitudinal component offer the opportunity to collect new kinds of data, such as data on couples?

What methods of conducting a longitudinal study have been considered and evaluated? Has the NSFG considered conducting a longitudinal study on a subset of the sample, piggybacking with other sponsors for a specific longitudinal component, employing innovative methods of data collection, and using methods other than personal interviewing?

Continuous Operations

4. How would NSFG staff evaluate the impact of continuous operations on their own work? Has it changed their jobs in some way—good or bad? Has the impact of continuous operations been experienced primarily by the contractors with responsibility for survey operations or by NSFG staff also?

5. What was the motivation for developing and implementing continuous operations? Was it primarily to flatten out the budget, have more efficient operations, improve data quality or provide the framework for producing data on a more regular and current basis, or were there other motivating factors?

6. What is the impact of the continuous survey on data quality? How has continuous interviewing influenced potential data inconsistencies?

7. How does the survey accommodate question changes and stay flexible to meet changing data needs and respond to environmental and technological changes? Describe the process of adding or changing data items in the survey.

8. How is success measured in the continuous operations? How does NSFG assess data quality under the new operational scheme? Has it affected efforts to improve data dissemination? Is the need for data imputation and the magnitude of data inconsistencies been affected in any way by the continuous survey?

9. What has been the effect of the continuous operations on survey costs? With more efficient operations, have there been cost savings?

Information Products

10. What is the relationship between the release of the NSFG data files and publication of basic NSFG reports? Is the release of data tied to publication of findings?

11. What are the main or key NSFG data products? Data appear in the various NCHS publication series. What is the strategy for deciding what to present in each type of publication?

12. Has the difference in quality of imputed data values with those reported directly been assessed? How are imputed data items selected? Users should have upfront information on imputed data items before beginning analysis. Are there plans to make this information more readily available to users? Can the NSFG describe the process of informing users of critical information that affects analytical plans?

13. What guidance is provided to the user working across multiple survey cycles? For example, is guidance provided to users on how weighting and complex survey variables should be handled?

14. Please provide more information on users working with restricted data files. How many are working on-site and off-site? What has been the user reaction to the cost of using these files? How well is the RDC working in terms of providing access and assisting users? Are there ways to improve data access, such as making data available with software which features data manipulation and analytical tools? Will the RDC merge user-provided information with the NSFG files? What options have been explored regarding other software to use in releasing data? Could more and better outreach to users increase the number of prospective RDC users?

15. Describe the process of releasing NSFG data by the ICPSR. What is the coordination with NSFG staff? Does the ICPSR offer data files with different configurations or analytical software?

Efforts to improve

16. Describe how methodological work for the NSFG is conducted. Are there staff members dedicated to methodological issues? Is methodological work primarily the responsibility of the

contractor? If so, how is it coordinated or integrated into survey design or operations by NSFG staff. Are there research collaborations between NSFG and contractor staff? What on-going or periodic methodological research addresses such issues as assessing non-response bias and evaluating the impact of the continuous operations on data quality?

17. How can timeliness be improved? NSFG projects improvements in data release time. How will that be achieved?

18. Describe how well the ACASI system is working for data collection on sensitive topics? Has the inclusion of abortion questions on the ACASI system improved the abortion reporting? If not, are there other methods and approaches which will be explored?

19. How does NSFG prioritize data items for the survey? How does it allocate the survey minutes among topics and questions? How are new questions evaluated in light of survey length and respondent burden? What is the maximum length that can be fielded? Has NSFG considered a core survey with topical supplements? How are questions refined over time to capture the changes in nuance while minimizing the effect on data comparability?

20. While overall survey response rates are good, what are the response rates for various age/race/ethnicity groups? Are there lower response rates in certain groups that could introduce bias? If so, what plans can be put in place to overcome the nonresponse.

21. Is NSFG exploring the use of languages other than English and Spanish in the survey? If so, what are the ones being considered and why?   What are the cost implications of adding more languages? Are we missing a substantial number of people whom we should be interviewing because of language barriers?

22. How feasible would it be to link to the birth record? What analytical opportunities would that present? What difficulties would linkage entail? What are cost estimates for the linkage?

23. What are the pros and cons of the current age restrictions? Can the age range be extended, adding younger and older respondents? Why is 15 the lower limit?

Outreach to User Community

24. As data release becomes more current and regular, will that increase and expand the number and type of data users?   While it is difficult to compare usage across surveys due to differing content, etc. how does the use of the NSFG seem to compare to other surveys?

25. Have the RDCs made it possible to more easily use the confidential data?

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26. Are there other outreach efforts (other than the conferences currently attended by the staff) planned to help disseminate the data?

27. Describe on-going efforts to assess user needs and satisfaction with the NSFG. To what extent has the NSFG responded to user feedback? How does NSFG incorporate feedback from users to improve NSFG data products or services?

General

28. What do you consider to be the greatest challenges and/or threats to the NSFG?

29. What do you consider to be the greatest strengths and opportunities for the NSFG?