



Director's Corner

Kathryn Porter, M.D., M.S.



Caption: Dr. Porter

April 1, 2015 marked my two year anniversary as Director, and I have learned that the success of NHANES results from the amazing hard work of dedicated staff here at NCHS and the numerous collaborations with our federal partners across government. The Division of Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (DHANES) staff are focused on producing high-quality health information based on direct physical measures. We have stability moving forward as 2015 marked the first year of a multi-year data collection contract with Westat, Inc. We are working diligently to fill vacancies within our Division and recently welcomed Jennifer Parker, Ph.D. as our Senior Statistician in the Office of the Director. Dr. Parker was formerly the Chief of the Special Studies Branch in the Office of Analysis and Epidemiology at NCHS, and has a wealth of experience linking national health survey data to administrative datasets. The vacancy

for the Chief of the Planning Branch in our Division has been announced and we encourage persons who may be up for this exciting opportunity to apply.

We are also pleased to announce the first wave of NHANES 2013-14 data are scheduled for public release on October 30, 2015. While our staff prepare datasets, we are simultaneously monitoring current field operations and meticulously planning for the NHANES 2017-18 data cycle. Thanks to those who have submitted proposals for new content. As a reminder, the deadlines for new content for 2017-18 are approaching (http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhanes/NHANES_Content_Deadlines_2017_18.pdf); new laboratory content deadline is June 1, 2015.

NHANES Mobile Examination Center (MEC)

Special Tours

During the third week in April, over 180 CDC staff working at headquarters in Atlanta were given the opportunity to visit the NHANES MEC. DHANES staff gave 45-minute guided tours to small groups throughout the week. In addition to CDC staff, students from Emory University visited the MEC as well as CDC Foundation board members and staff.

Check out Dr. Kathryn Porter demonstrating the stadiometer used to measure standing height.

Mr. Dikembe Mutombo, laughs because his 7' 2" height exceeds the capacity of the device.



Caption: Dr. Porter and Mr. Mutombo

Content Changes for NHANES

2015-2016

What's In:

- Audiometry and laboratory tests for ferritin, transferrin receptor, and C-reactive protein;
- Six new questions on depression and anxiety;
- Whole blood chromium and cobalt, two smoking biomarkers, urine fluoride, one new volatile organic compound, ten diisocyanate metabolites, and urinary amines; and
- Piloting a follow-up oral rinse specimen collection in the home, for HPV, 6 months after the first collection.

What's Out:

- Physical Activity Monitor, taste and smell, cognitive function, and upper body muscle strength (grip test);
- Laboratory tests for celiac disease, pentachlorophenol, caffeine metabolites, omega-3-fatty acids, vitamin B12, methylmalonic acid, and hemoglobin adducts tobacco markers; and
- Questions related to taste and smell, celiac disease, psoriasis, creatine kinase and memory.

NHANES Home Office

On February 2nd, 2015 DHANES moved into new (temporary) space at 3700 East West Highway in Hyattsville, Maryland. This move was necessary due to renovations taking place on the second through fifth

floors of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) building located at 3311 Toledo Rd, Hyattsville MD. Phone numbers and the mailing address for DHANES staff remain the same.

NHANES Out And About Ebola Deployments

Several members of the DHANES staff were or are deployed to assist in CDC's ongoing Ebola response efforts.

LCDR Joe Woodring deployed to Liberia from October to November 2014 to assist with CDC's county-level Ebola response. Working alongside other international organizations, as part of the Nimba and Sinoe county health teams, Dr. Woodring provided technical expertise in surveillance and epidemiology, assisting with active case findings, contact investigations to identify known and suspected exposures to Ebola patients, and data management. During his month-long assignment, he helped train more than 100 healthcare workers in remote clinics on Ebola transmission, infection prevention and control, and how to perform contact investigations and triage patients suspected of having Ebola.

Debra Brody was deployed to Conakry, the capital of Guinea, in mid-December 2014. Initially assigned to work with the Health Promotion team, she was quickly reassigned to work in Data Management and Epi Surveillance, after the Guinea Team leader realized that she was from NCHS. At the time of her deployment, there was a visible shift in the epi-center of the Ebola outbreak in Guinea from the isolated and remote forest areas, to Conakry. Consequently, one of Debra's roles was to examine the data, in-depth, to better understand the nature of the Ebola epidemic in Conakry, and in the prefectures surrounding the capital.



Caption: Debbie Brody on deployment.

LCDR Tony Nguyen deployed to Dulles Airport from October to November 2014, as a Quarantine Medical Officer, to perform Ebola risk assessments on passengers coming from affected countries. These risk assessments helped determine the appropriate level of monitoring for all passengers for 21 days after arrival. In December 2014, Dr. Nguyen deployed to Sierra Leone as a member of the Infection Prevention and Control team where his main responsibility was to coordinate and perform investigations of healthcare workers that were infected with Ebola. During his month-long deployment, he traveled around the country to perform assessments at non-Ebola treatment facilities to ensure that they had

proper training and equipment for Ebola prevention, and conducted a rapid needs assessment on a district that had just become a hot spot.

Brenda Baker was deployed to Liberia for the Ebola response from February to April 2015. In her two months there she assisted the Infection Prevention and Control team. In addition to working 3 weeks in the capital city of Monrovia, for 5 weeks she lead 3 field teams up into the border counties to assist the county health teams. She visited over 60 health facilities, worked with healthcare workers to strengthen case detection, response capability, and infection prevention and control.

NHANES Vacancy Announcements

A vacancy announcement has been posted for 1 Interdisciplinary position within DHANES:

Supervisory Medical Officer – DHANES Planning Branch Chief, Hyattsville, MD; OR

Supervisory Health Scientist/Supervisory Statistician (Health) – DHANES Planning Branch Chief, Hyattsville, MD.

These announcements opened May 4, 2015 and close June 2, 2015. All interested and qualified individuals are encouraged to apply.

Point of Contact: Luigia Franks (301) 458-4217

The internal and external vacancy numbers for the Supervisory Medical Officer – DHANES Planning Branch Chief are **HHS-CDC-M2-15-1385716** and **HHS-CDC-DH-15-1385520**, respectively and can be found at:

MP-INTERNAL TO GOVERNMENT –
<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/401545500>

DE-EXTERNAL TO GOVERNMENT –
<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/401547300>.

The vacancy numbers for the Supervisory Health Scientist/Supervisory Statistician (Health) – DHANES Planning Branch Chief are **HHS-CDC-M2-15-1338246** and **HHS-CDC-D2-15-1338307** and can be found at:

MP-INTERNAL TO GOVERNMENT –
<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/395656300>

DE-EXTERNAL TO GOVERNMENT –
<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/395658000>

Tales from the Field...Did You Know?

In NHANES 2014 there were...

- 739 gallons of urine collected
- 25.7 liters of blood collected
- Most urine collected at a single go: 452 ml (That's about 15.3 ounces or almost 2 cups)



Mobile Examination Center (MEC)

Caption: NHANES Mobile Examination Center (MEC)

NHANES Publications

DHANES staff have authored/co-authored several publication in 2015. Check them out on our website: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/new_nhanes.htm