



The Future of NCHS: How We Will Get to Where We Need to Be

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NCHS at a Glance

- ▶ Provides timely, accurate, and relevant public health data for key policymakers and leadership to make decisions and policies to improve the health and health outcomes of Americans
- ▶ Brings decades of experience transforming data into objective, credible, and relevant health statistics to support research and public policy
- ▶ Understands the tradeoffs between timeliness, cost, and quality
- ▶ Is committed to quality standards and transparency to report data strengths and limitations
- ▶ Prioritizes protecting privacy and confidentiality while providing data to support evolving customer demands

Where We Are

- ▶ **Monitor the nation's health by collecting, analyzing, and disseminating health data to:**
 - Compare across time, populations, providers, & geographic areas
 - Identify health problems, risk factors, & disease patterns
 - Inform actions & policies to improve the health of the American people
 - Administer cross-cutting, comprehensive, & foundational data collections that address the full range of public health issues including emerging concerns
- ▶ **As the designated Federal statistical agency for health, NCHS provides data that are unavailable elsewhere for informed decision-making**

NCHS is already on the path to modernize and upgrade

- ▶ We are
 - ▶ releasing our data faster
 - ▶ relevant to current policy interests (health insurance coverage, prescription drug costs, opioids, survey redesigns)
 - ▶ pivoting to greater use of electronic health records
 - ▶ linking data across sectors - a key to CDC's strategy for streamlining public health information needs
- ▶ BUT, we need to continue to support our core mission and push forward with data modernization

Modernizing Initiatives

1. Next Generation Survey and Data Systems
2. Data Integration, Linkage, and Data Science
3. Upgrade Computing Technology and Capacity
4. Improve Accessibility and Usability of Data

1. Next Generation Surveys and Data Systems

- ▶ Utilizing electronic health records for healthcare statistics: EHR-based platform for populations estimates; creation of a single data repository
- ▶ Next generation population health surveys: better combine assets of NHIS and NHANES; address response bias; address growing requests for more detailed data
- ▶ Vital Statistics - quality to match improved speed: new electronic system development; upgrade state-level birth and death registration systems; incorporate ability to modify electronic systems to collect new data and identify erroneous or missing information

2. Data Integration, Linkage, and Data Science

- ▶ Expand the NCHS Data Linkage and Integration Program: reduce burden to access linked files; explore broader use of synthetic data
- ▶ Data science methods for health statistics: develop new data analytic approaches; lead in evidence-based policymaking efforts; improve methods for incorporating web-based electronic panel surveys

3. Upgrading Computing Technology and Capacity

- ▶ Explore use of cloud computing, recognizing confidentiality and security requirements
- ▶ Increase secure storage, computing capacity, and skills in health IT
- ▶ Upgrade data processing for speed and quality
- ▶ Further expand upon machine learning and use of artificial intelligence

4. Improve Accessibility and Usability of Data

- ▶ NCHS website redesign for data access, usability, and visualizations
- ▶ Expand access for research data centers, including development of remote access technology

NCHS will continue to preserve its core mission in a dynamic, changing environment, while continuing to:

- ▶ Provide timely, accurate, and relevant public health data for key policymakers and leadership to make decisions and policies to improve the health and health outcomes of Americans
- ▶ Ensure objective, credible, and relevant health statistics to support research and public policy
- ▶ Understand the tradeoffs between timeliness, cost, and quality
- ▶ Commit to quality standards and transparency to report data strengths and limitations
- ▶ Prioritize protecting privacy and confidentiality while providing data to support evolving customer demands

NCHS Priorities for the Future

- ▶ How should NCHS prioritize data modernization activities moving forward?