

NATIONAL HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE REDESIGN UPDATE

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NCHS Board of Scientific Counselors Meeting

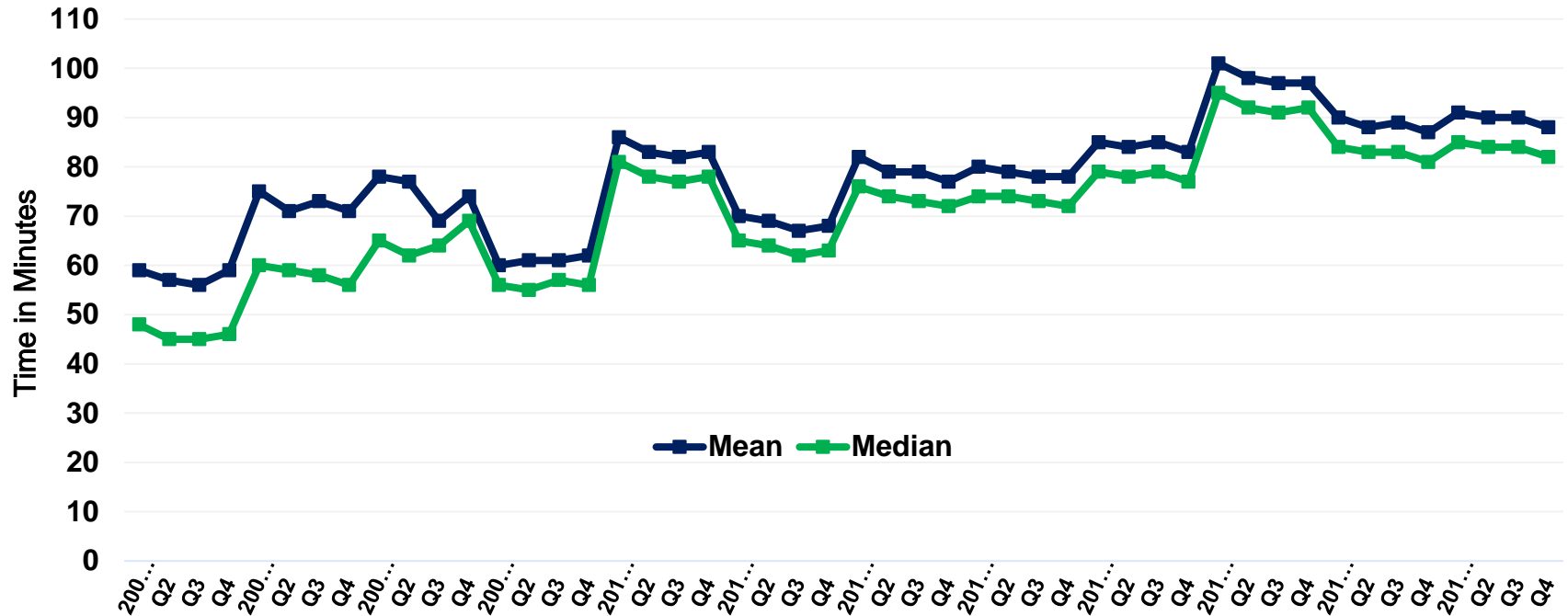
May 9, 2019

Why Redesign the Questionnaire?

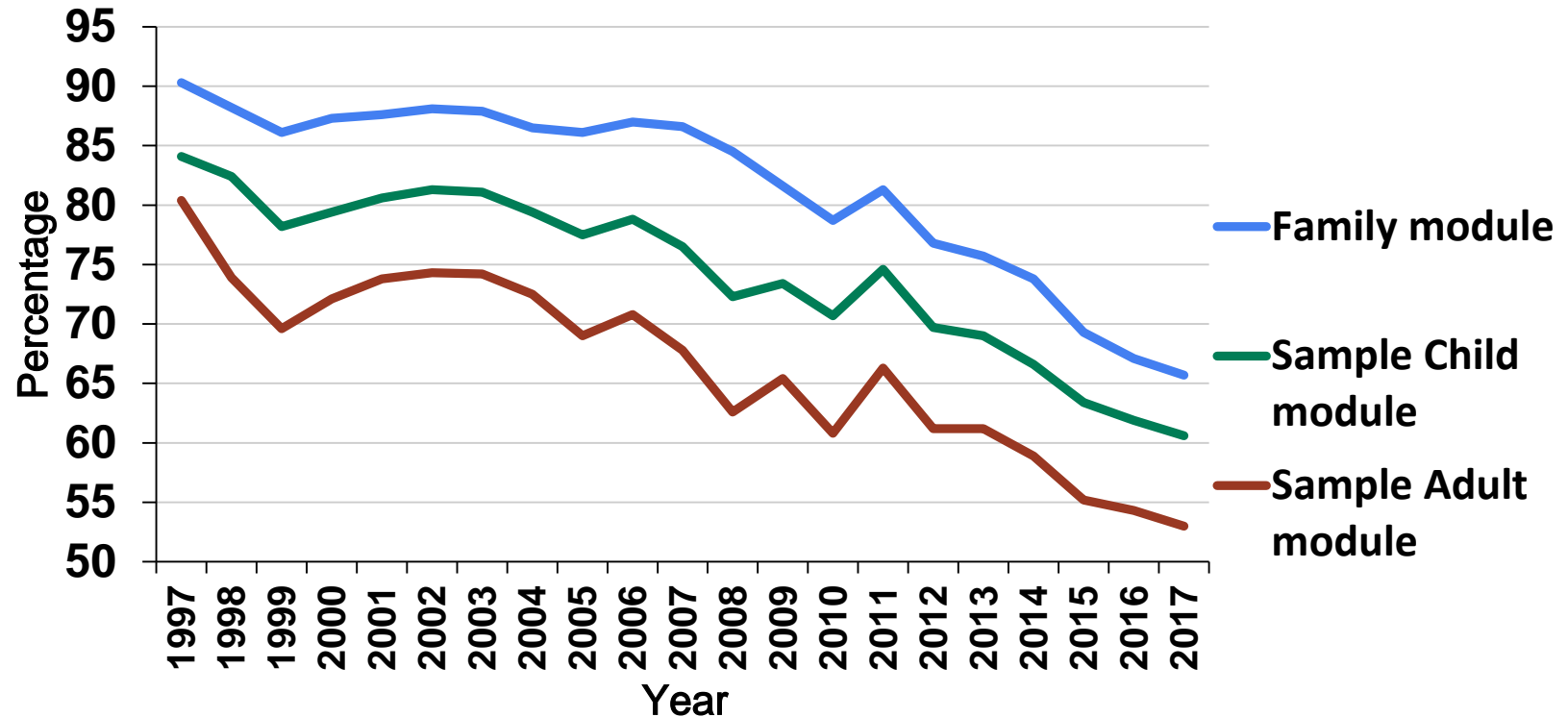
- Most recent major content redesign was 1997
- Respondent burden increasing and response rates decreasing



Length of Completed Interviews, by Quarter: NHIS, 2006, Q1 -- 2018, Q4 (October)



NHIS Family, Child, and Adult Response Rates, NHIS 1997-2017



Goals of the 2019 Content Redesign

- Improve the relevance of covered health topics, better meeting the needs of the Department of Health and Human Services and other data users
- Harmonize overlapping content with other federal health surveys
- Reduce respondent burden and improve data quality
- Shorten questionnaire and reduce variation in interview times
- Eliminate or reduce content better covered by other methods

Annual Content Plan 2019-2027

- **Annual core**

- Key measures
- Sociodemographics

- **Rotating core**

- Newer topic areas
- Expanded detail
- Varying periodicity

- **Sponsored supplements**

- “Sustaining” sponsors
- 1- or 2-year modules
- 5 min or less

- **One adult and one child randomly selected from each household**

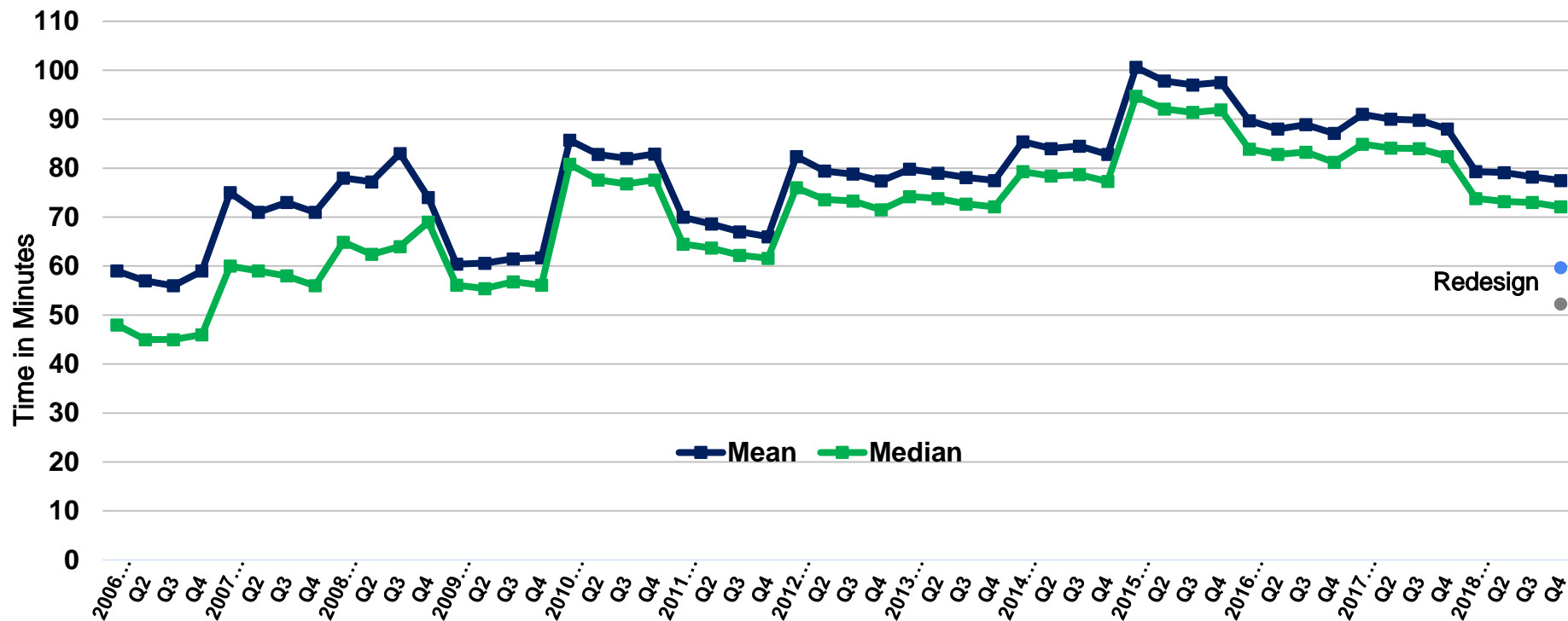
- Demographics for all HH members
- Family info collected from sample adult and parent of sample child

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
	Household Roster - Selection of Sample Adult - Informed Consent								
Annual core	Chronic Conditions: Hypertension; High Cholesterol; Cardiovascular Conditions; Asthma; Cancer; Diabetes; Other Chronic Conditions; Height and Weight								
	Functioning and Disability: Vision; Hearing; Mobility; Communication; Cognition; Self-Care and Upper Body Limitations; Anxiety; Depression; Social Functioning								
	Health Insurance: Coverage Status; Sources of Coverage; Characteristics of Coverage; Continuity of Coverage; Reasons for No Health Insurance								
	Health Care Access and Use: Primary and Urgent Care; Financial Barriers to Care; Prescription Medication; Flu and Pneumonia Immunization								
	Health-Related Behaviors: Cigarettes and E-cigarettes								
	Demographics: Marital Status; Sexual Orientation; Veterans Status; Nativity; Schooling; Employment; Family Income; Food-Related Program Participation; Housing; Telephone Use								
Rotating core	Service Utilization: Dental Care; Mental Health Care; Other Services		Allegies and Other Conditions	Service Utilization: Dental Care; Mental Health Care; Other Services		Allegies and Other Conditions	Service Utilization: Dental Care; Mental Health Care; Other Services		Allegies and Other Conditions
			Psychological Distress			Psychological Distress			Psychological Distress
	Mental Health Assessment¹	Industry and Occupation		Mental Health Assessment¹	Industry and Occupation		Mental Health Assessment¹	Industry and Occupation	
		Injuries			Injuries			Injuries	
		Chronic Pain: Severity and Impact; Locations	Health-Related Behaviors: Physical Activity; Walking; Sleep; Fatigue;		Chronic Pain: Severity and Impact; Locations	Health-Related Behaviors: Physical Activity; Walking; Sleep; Fatigue;		Chronic Pain: Severity and Impact; Locations	Health-Related Behaviors: Physical Activity; Walking; Sleep; Fatigue;
		Preventive Services: Screening Tests; Aspirin Use	Smoking History and Cessation; Alcohol Use		Preventive Services: Screening Tests; Aspirin Use	Smoking History and Cessation; Alcohol Use		Preventive Services: Screening Tests; Aspirin Use	Smoking History and Cessation; Alcohol Use
Sustaining sponsors* add content every year. Annual sponsored content will include cancer control and prevention (NCI and NCCDPHP), immunizations (NCIRD), non-cigarette tobacco product use (FDA), and food security (USDA).									
Sponsored content	Other sponsors* add content in selected years. Anticipated sponsorships include expanded content on arthritis in 2019 (NCCDPHP and NIAMS), insulin use in 2019 (NIDDK and NCCDPHP), diabetes in 2020 (NCCDPHP), and complementary and integrative health in 2022 (NCCIH).								
Emerging topics	New topics of growing interest may be added by NCHS, generally for one year. In 2019, the topics are prescription opioid use and pain management.								

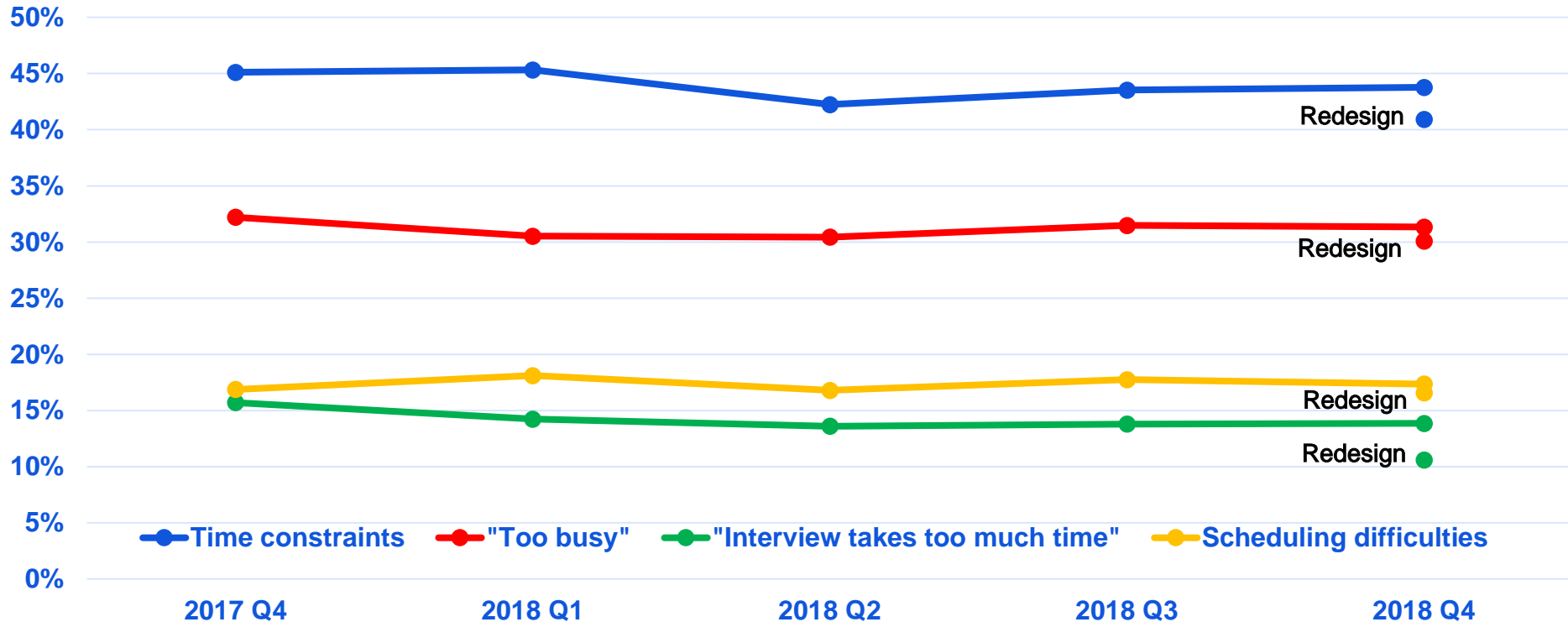
Progress on the Redesign

- Continued analysis of the impact of the redesign on the data collection process
- Data collection with the redesigned instrument began in January of 2019
- Advance letter experiment in quarter 2
- Beginning to plan for documentation of the redesign

Length of Completed Interviews, by Quarter: NHIS, 2006--2018



Householder Expressions of Time Constraints, by Production versus Redesign Instruments

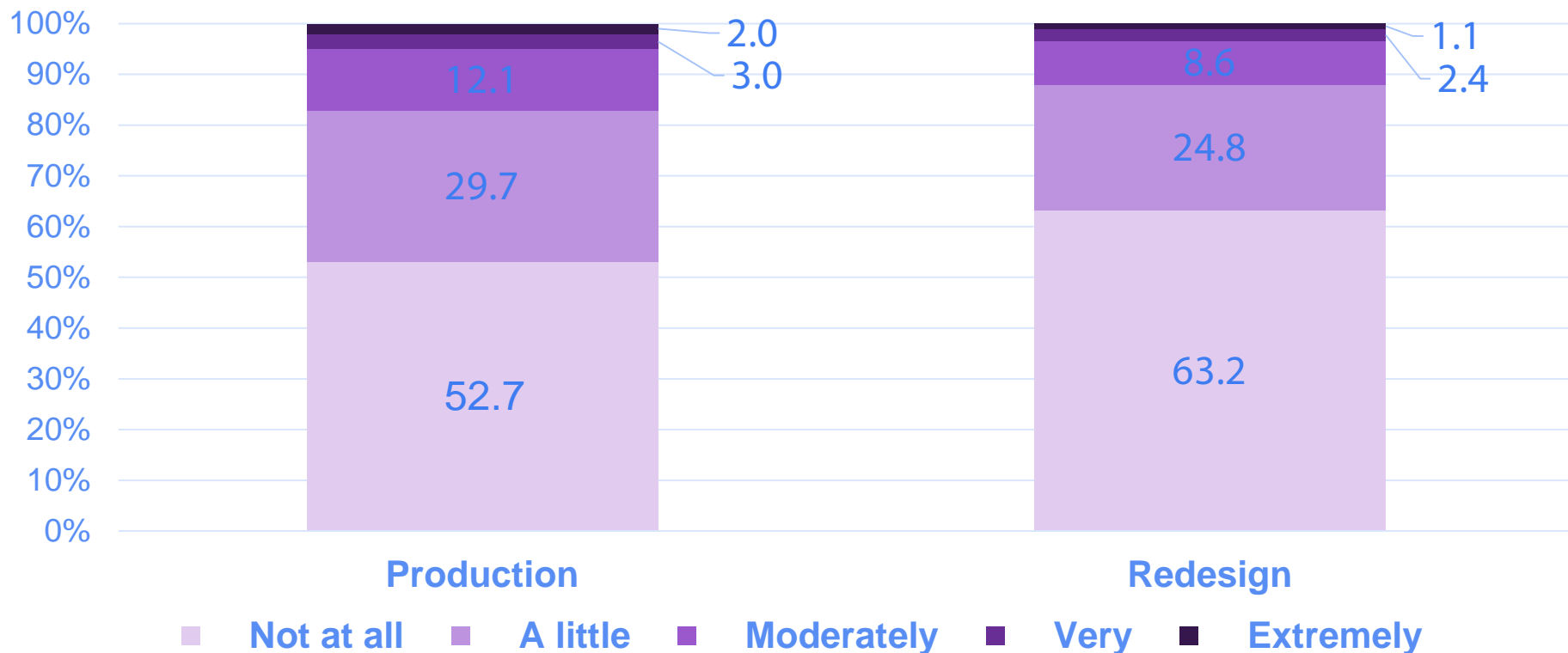


Subjective Perceptions of Burden

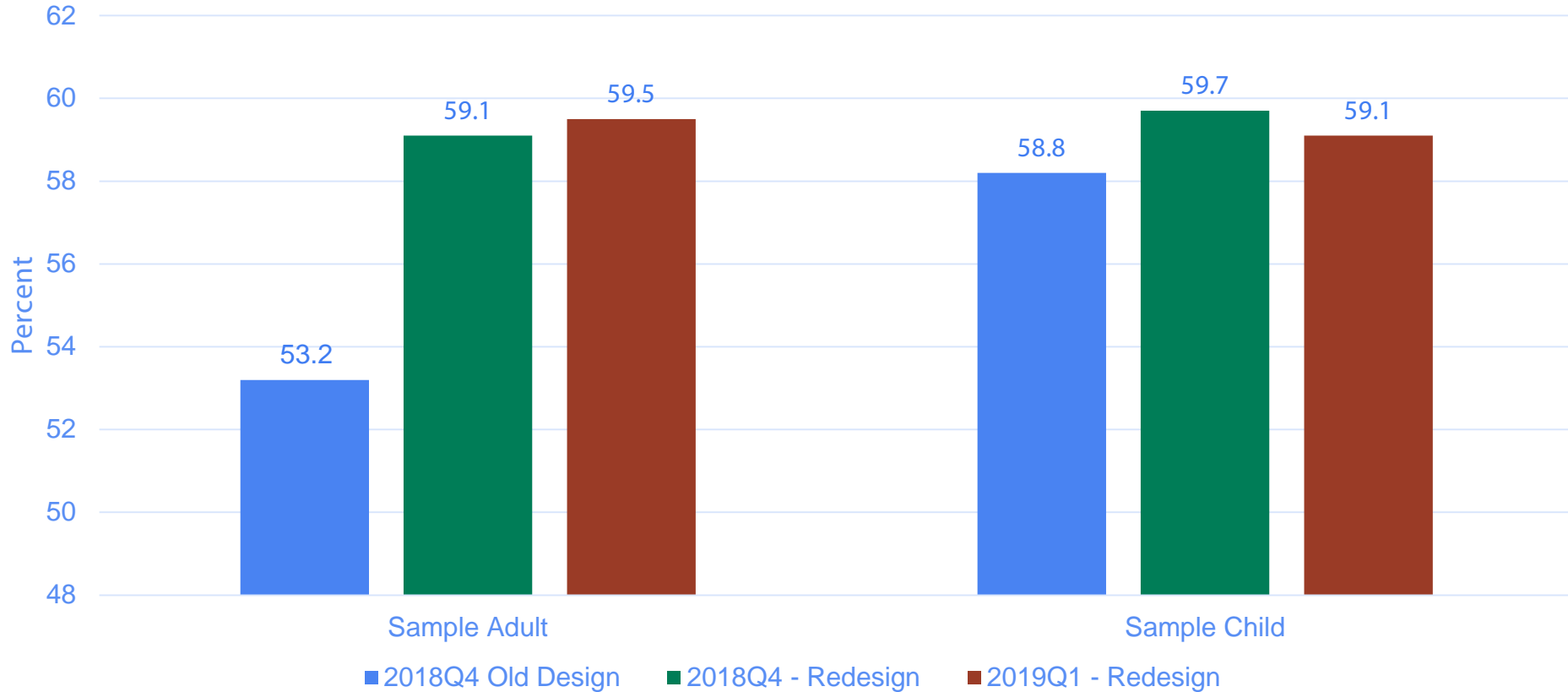
- Was there a difference in perceived burden between the old design and the redesign?
- Subjective measures of burden capture the respondents' perceptions of how burdensome the survey was to them.
 - How burdensome was this survey to you? Would you say not at all burdensome, a little burdensome, moderately burdensome, very burdensome, or extremely burdensome?
 - How easy or difficult was it for you to answer the questions in this survey? Would you say very easy, somewhat easy, somewhat difficult, or very difficult?
 - How sensitive were the questions in this survey? Would you say not at all sensitive, a little sensitive, moderately sensitive, very sensitive, or extremely sensitive?

How burdensome was this survey to you?,


Production versus Redesigned Instrument: NHIS, 2018, Q4



Sample Adult and Sample Child Response Rates: Quarter 4 of 2018 and Quarter 1 of 2019



Current Advance Letter

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

HIS-600T(L) LOS ANGELES
(2-2019)

National Center for Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road
Hyattsville, MD 20782

My name is Jennifer Madans. I am the Acting Director of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). We are a part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Our job is to collect information that can be used to better understand the health of Americans.

Every year we ask people questions about their health for a survey called the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). The survey started in 1957. Information from this survey tells us if the health of Americans is getting better or worse. We can also tell which groups of people in the United States are more likely to have certain health problems. This helps CDC and others develop programs to keep America healthy.

Our goal is to make sure that the survey represents the whole United States. The only way the survey can represent the whole country is if a computer picks addresses randomly. People who live at these addresses get to take part in the NHIS. This year, your address was picked!

We want to hear from you!

An interviewer from the U.S. Census Bureau will come to your home in the next few days. He or she will show you their Census Bureau ID. Then he or she will ask you a few questions to find out who lives at your address. Next, a computer will randomly pick one or more people for the health interview. The interviewer will talk with the adults about their own health. The interviewer will talk with a member of the family about the children's health. For most households, the interview will take less than an hour.

We need your help!

You are getting a special chance to make a difference in the health of the nation. You can choose whether or not you want to take the survey, and you do not have to answer every question. There are no penalties for refusing to answer questions. However, the information we collect is very important. We need your help to ensure that the survey results are complete and correct.


We will protect your information!

Everything you tell us is confidential. Your information is ONLY used for statistical research. We will remove any information that might be used to identify you from the data. After that, we will make the data available to anyone who wants to use it for research or to guide public health decisions. Question 7 on the back of this letter describes the laws that protect your privacy.


We hope you will take part in this survey.

If you have questions about the survey, please contact the Census Bureau Regional Office, toll-free, at 1-800-992-3530, press 5. You can also call this number to schedule the interview. You can learn more about the survey at our website: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>

I know your time is valuable. Thank you for your cooperation.


Sincerely,


REGIONAL OFFICE
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
3311 STE 400
HYATTSVILLE, MD 20782
1-800-992-3530
press 5



Jennifer Madans
Acting Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention


Redesigned Advance Letter

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention


National Center for Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road
Hyattsville, MD 20782

Dear [County name] Resident,


Your address has been selected to participate in the 2019 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).

**What is the NHIS?**


The NHIS is the oldest household health survey in the United States. It is conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics, a part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Census Bureau is contracted to collect the data. Since 1957, NHIS data has shown whether Americans' health is getting better or worse and which groups of people are more likely to have health problems. This helps the CDC and other organizations develop programs to keep America healthy. To learn more, see <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>.

**What to do now**

Call 1-800-992-3530, then press 5 to schedule your appointment at a time that is convenient for you including days, evenings, and weekends. For most households, the interview will take less than an hour.

**Why should I participate?**

- **Help kids.** Public health workers use NHIS data to improve programs that keep kids and families healthy.
- **Help adults.** Doctors use NHIS data to identify factors that help adults live longer, healthier lives.
- **Help veterans.** Veterans groups use NHIS data to track veterans' health and advocate for better programs.
- **Help your family members, friends, and community.** NHIS data helps researchers understand how we can achieve and sustain the good health we all want for ourselves and for the people we love.


**What to expect**

1. A U.S. Census Bureau interviewer (with Census Bureau ID) will come to your home.
2. He/she will ask you a few questions about the persons living at this address.
3. A computer will randomly pick one adult and one child (if present) for the health interview.
4. The interviewer will ask an adult about his/her own health and a family member about the health of a child.

You Cannot be Replaced. We want the survey to represent the whole United States. The only way to do this is to randomly select addresses. Only people who live at these addresses take part. We rely on you to make the survey results as accurate as possible. We cannot replace you with another person.

Confidentiality Ensured. Everything you tell us is confidential. Your information is ONLY used for statistical research. We remove all personally-identifying information from the data. After that, the data is posted on the NHIS website for future research or to guide public health decisions.

Thank you for participating in this important survey.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Madans
Acting Director, National Center for Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

HIS-600T(L) (2-2019)
U.S. Census Bureau
Los Angeles Regional Office

Results
Next
Time!

Next Steps

- Continuing analysis of the bridge to look at differences in health estimates from the old design and the redesign
- Redesign documentation
 1. Documentation of the process of redesigning the NHIS
 - What were the different sources of input?
 - How were decisions made about the content that was included? (e.g., what is annual core? rotating core?)
 - How was the redesign developed and tested?
 2. What was the impact of the redesign on the NHIS?
 - a) How did the redesign impact the data collection process?
 - b) What was the impact of the redesign on health estimates?
- We welcome any ideas for bridging analyses and documentation of the redesign!

Other Redesign Activities

- Implementing new technologies to manage data and metadata
- Identifying recodes and composite variables for inclusion on the data files
- Determining ways to reduce the number of data files and simplify analyses for users
- Evaluating disclosure risk and tradeoffs regarding the level of detail on public use data files
- Building a data visualization system for summary health statistics
- Redesigning the next early release (ER) reports

For More Information

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/2019_quest_redesign.htm