



Director's Corner

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



Caption: Dr. Porter

Several months have passed since I updated you on the latest from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). We have good news and not-so-good news for you. The first bit of good news is that we had an overwhelming response from our Federal partners and research community to our solicitations for the next cycle of NHANES. The interest ranges from oversampling special populations to adding new and novel examination content. We also received a number of proposals to cycle previously conducted components back into the next survey. We are in the process of evaluating letters of intent and crafting responses to proposers. We thank everyone who took the time to propose content or sample design enhancements to NHANES 2019-2020. The other piece of good news is that the first wave of data from NHANES 2015-16 is being prepared for release on September 29, 2017. We just finished certifying the sample weights and hope to release 60-day Q/A datasets to many collaborators for review soon.

The not-so-good news is that we are operating in a time of uncertainty. The hiring freeze has presented a challenge and we have not been able to backfill positions vacated in the past few months. Our excellent staff have been assuming more duties and working tirelessly to keep the NHANES 2015-16 data release on schedule, as well as monitor the field operations for the NHANES Longitudinal Study - Feasibility Component (see below) which was launched in mid-April of this year. With two

health examination surveys being fielded simultaneously, and limited staff resources, we are making tough decisions on new and returning content so we can assure the successful implementation of the next cycle of NHANES.

The other piece of not-so-good news is that the participation rates for the survey continue to decline. Improving response rates is a priority for us, and we are working to modify survey operation protocols on many levels. We are addressing screening nonresponse by gathering more timely and relevant data on gated communities and locked buildings through electronic notes from field listers. We are working on a protocol for multi-mode screening to allow for self-rostering of households online. Lastly we are collaborating with CDC's Office of the Associate Director for Communications to develop a marketing campaign to improve respondent cooperation by designing new videos, press kits, updated printed material, and targeted messaging. Other federal surveys are experiencing similar challenges, and we are all putting our utmost energy into doing what we can to produce data which is truly based on a nationally representative sample. These are challenging times and we appreciate your continued support as we work to identify new ways to reach the public and convince them to take part in this valuable public health resource that is NHANES.



NHANES Longitudinal Study

DHANES is excited to announce that the feasibility study for the NHANES Longitudinal Study (LS) has begun, Phase I data collection began in April 2017 and Phase II will begin in July 2017. The study will test survey procedures along with contact, interview, and examination rates for a sample of previously examined NHANES participants.

A total of 800 adults (20 years and older) were selected from the 2007-2014 NHANES participants. Data collection is conducted during a home visit by our health representatives and includes an in-person interview and a health examination. The interview includes questions about health status and medical conditions, health care services, health behaviors, and

sociodemographic characteristics. The health exam includes measurements of weight, waist circumference, and blood pressure, a monofilament assessment on the toes for neuropathy, and collection of blood and urine samples. We are also asking for consent to obtain hospitalization records. Proxy interviews will be conducted for sampled participants who passed away prior to the re-contact. Information on medical conditions and overnight hospital stays since baseline and permission to obtain hospitalization records will be collected.

For more information on the longitudinal study, visit our website at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes-ls/>.

NCHS Data Detectives Camp

From July 31st through August 4th, NCHS will host the second Data Detectives Camp for rising 6th and 7th graders. This is a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) camp focusing on teaching kids to explore statistics and become data detectives using hands on interactive experiences.

The camp will take place at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD and will be a one-week commuter day camp, free to 30 students interested in becoming data detectives! This camp was a huge hit last year. The students enjoyed their week and the volunteers loved working with the kids. This year, the camp is again being run by Ryne Paulose-Ram of

DHANES with volunteers from numerous Divisions in the Center as well as partnerships with other organizations, including ASA and the UMD.



For more information, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data-detectives-camp/>.



NHANES Personnel Changes

DHANES has had several personnel changes so far this year. Steven Frenk is currently on detail from the Office of the Director (OD) to the Planning Branch. Jennifer Parker is currently on detail from the OD to the Division of Research and Methodology. Tala Fakhouri continues her part-time detail from the Analysis Branch to the Office of the Director to lead our non-response efforts. George Zipf, Operations

Branch Chief, returned from long-term training at the Joint Program for Survey Methodology.

We also said a sad farewell to several staff, including Ivey Miller, Jaime Gahche, Dr. Brian Kit, Anne Looker, and Kasey Diebold.

We wish them well in their new endeavors.

NHANES Publications

DHANES staff have authored/co-authored several publications since the beginning of 2017. The most recent NCHS publications are:

- National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey: California and Los Angeles County, Estimation Methods and Analytic Considerations, 1999-2006 and 2007-2014.
- Characteristics of U.S. Adults With Hypertension Who Are Unaware of Their Hypertension, 2011-2014.
- Prevalence of HPV in Adults Aged 18–69: United States, 2011–2014.
- FRAX-based Estimates of 10-year Probability of Hip and Major Osteoporotic Fracture Among Adults Aged 40 and Over: United States, 2013 and 2014.

- Prevalence of Low High-density Lipoprotein Cholesterol Among Adults, by Physical Activity: United States, 2011–2014.

- Sugar-sweetened Beverage Consumption Among U.S. Youth, 2011-2014.

- Sugar-sweetened Beverage Consumption Among U.S. Adults, 2011-2014.

For a full list of our current publications, visit the NCHS website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/index.htm> and search for NHANES.