



Dear Participant:

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics, will soon be coming to your area to recruit participants. The Administration on Aging (AoA) strongly endorses this essential survey of the health of the American people.

NHANES is a continuation of a 30-year series of surveys to obtain national health data on the United States population of all ages. This information is obtained through interviews, physical examinations, and biochemical tests and measurements. The current survey will interview and examine some 5,000 individuals per year.

The participation rate for certain population groups, especially the elderly population, has been a real concern to those administering the survey. Without adequate participation levels of older persons, there will not be reliable national information available about the health status of this special age group. At the AoA, we use the survey data to help us understand the health, functional and nutrition status of older persons as well as help us plan to meet the social, health and nutrition needs of growing numbers of older persons living in the United States.

Therefore, I strongly urge you to participate in this important national health study. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Dr. Kathryn Porter, NHANES Medical Officer, at 1-800-452-6115, extension 143.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeanette C. Takamura". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jeanette C. Takamura
Assistant Secretary for Aging