National Health Interview Survey

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National Health Interview Survey

- **Purpose:** To monitor the health of the US population through the collection and analysis of data on a broad range of health topics.

- **Sample:** Address based, multi-stage, clustered national sample of housing units from every state, to be representative of the civilian noninstitutionalized US population.

- **Mode:** In-person interviews by Census interviewers, some phone follow-up.

- **Data collection:** Continuous, with quarterly and annual data files.

- **Base Target:** Complete interviews for 35,000+ households.
Basic Content and Structure of the NHIS Questionnaire, 1997-2017

- **Family Core**
  - Demographic, general health, and insurance coverage
  - For all family members
  - Proxy responses allowed

- **Sample Adult Core**
  - Health conditions, risk behaviors, and health care utilization data
  - For one randomly selected adult in each family
  - Self-response only

- **Sample Child Core**
  - Health conditions and health care utilization data
  - For one randomly selected child in each family
  - Knowledgeable adult responds for child
2018 NHIS Questionnaire Redesign

☐ **Goals of the redesign:**
  - Improve the measurement of covered health topics
  - Reduce respondent burden by shortening the questionnaire – 30%
  - Harmonize overlapping content with other federal health surveys
  - Establish a long term structure of ongoing and periodic topics
  - Incorporate advances in survey methodology and measurement

☐ **Timeline**
  - 2014 – 2015: Stakeholder engagement, outreach
  - 2015 – 2016: Qualitative and quantitative assessments
  - Summer 2016 – Spring 2017: OMB review and public comment
  - Late Spring 2017: Revised questionnaire programmed
  - January 2018: Revised questionnaire fielded
Proposed Content and Structure of the NHIS Questionnaire, 2018 and beyond

- **Family-all persons**
  - Age, sex, race, total income/benefits/FPL, active duty military, family size/structure, any employment, home ownership/subsidies
  - Proxy responses allowed

- **Sample Adult Core**
  - Health insurance, protective and risk factors, health care utilization, disability, marital status, education, employment, work limitations, injuries,
  - For one randomly selected adult in each household
  - Self-response only

- **Sample Child Core**
  - Scope of content under development
  - For one randomly selected child in each family
  - Knowledgeable adult responds for child
Additional Features of the Redesign

- **Core Modules**
  - Essential annual content

- **Rotating Core Modules**
  - Not needed every year

- **Supplemental Modules**
  - Sponsored content—one question or up to 5 minutes per topic per year
Content Areas with Relevance to Monitoring Public Health

• Leading causes of morbidity/mortality
• Health insurance coverage
• Health care access and utilization
• Targets of major federal health promotion initiatives
• Behavioral risk or protective factors for the above relevant content areas
• Other factors that identify populations most at risk for or protected from the above relevant content areas (e.g., family income)
• Intermediate health outcomes for the above relevant content areas
Contact Us


Suggestions?
E-mail healthsurveys@cdc.gov