

# NHANES Open Space

## September 11-12, 2003

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**Session Title:** Can Community HANES be used for public health surveillance?

### **Session Headlines:**

CHANES seems to be a very attractive mechanism for conducting local public health surveillance, but is it sufficient?

How do you deal with the claim that NCHS refuses to deal with the local data? We maintain that it is a sampling issues – insufficient sample size, not representative, etc – as well as confidentiality issues.

There are populations that are not well covered by NHANES and are those the ones costing the health care system the most amount of money?

What is more appropriate, looking at a community, comparing 2 nearby local communities, or looking at a population like childhood obesity, Asian Pacific Islanders, homeless, etc.

There are collections of data within the counties that NHANES goes to that could be linked to – ex. Olmstead County, Ill has computerized patient records. Could link to the NHANES sample persons' records to see what conditions they've developed since we interviewed them.

When we're talking about public health surveillance we must ask, what is it that we need to know on an ongoing basis and what is it that we can get from a physical exam that is really important?

States often have a mental barrier of we can't do what they do in NHANES at the state of local level so they do nothing. NCCDPHP/DOH has adapted the mobile examination center (MEC) protocol to something that can be done locally and without a dentist.

This would need to be done for dietary recall too.

It's amazing the number of people who are collecting data without checking what's already being done, and/or without a lot of expertise.

**Next Steps/Action Items:**

Convene a workshop with purpose of bringing forward people who are using non-traditional measures of health that they have validated. Or at a minimum establish an interest group and initiate a listserv. Would help to alleviate the full burden on NCHS on re-developing components.

Submit an abstract and proposal for an ancillary session to the Chronic Disease Conference to present NYC HANES

Task collaborators on the National HANES to prioritize their issues, measurements in light of shrinking budget, on what needs to be national vs. one time surveillance vs. CHANES. Does that issue, measure have to be collected in NHANES. Is it collected elsewhere? We've done that with lab tests; need to do it more with questions.