

NHANES Open Space

September 11-12, 2003

Session Title: Sampling Designs for different geographic settings

Session Headlines:

NHANES -- Currently 15 PSUs per yr -- 90 over 6 yrs. All selected at once. Some self-weighting (n=18). Demographic design.

One suggestion for NCHS - Redesign NHANES temporarily? Take 2 yr cycle to try new approach. Vacate sampling design and divide country into geographic segments and sample that way (as opposed to demographic).

If NHANES moves away from demographic approach, then it loses the minority emphasis.

Can NCHS do a sample that allows greater diversity while still being nationally representative?

HHANES was not a representative sample. Went into the south (FLA, SW, NY, etc....), and only enrolled people who screened (+) for Hispanics.

If NCHS wanted to sample Asians, say.....easy to find and collect these groups, but hard to say how representative.

What about over-sampling a geographic area within NHANES, utilizing the economies of scale. Develop area-specific sample for a specific demographic group.

Another possibility is to reduce the national sample in most segments, except in specific communities, where over-sampling occurs - get a

national estimate and a local estimate. Especially if national estimates were obtained on less-than an annual basis.

Post-stratification weighting can be re-configured to assess different estimates.

Are there datasets with environmental data that can be grouped geographically? Yes - but what can you get out of it demographically?

Small area estimation -- If the outcome cannot be cut at the local level, can estimate using exposure levels if you have it. Important to use models that can predict fairly.

Are there options for different geographic settings that are relevant for NHANES?? Yes, but at great tradeoffs. Does this mean Community HANES or other surveys is the way to go? Like a Southern HANES. Perhaps more feasible to alter and cycle demographic groups. Optimally improve sample size (but limited infrastructurally...).

Next Steps/Action Items:

NHANES to meet post-forum to decide - are we right in maintaining a demographic focus? Addressing appropriate demographic groups? Are we fooling ourselves when we think we can monitor environmental exposures if no geographic specificity?