

# NHANES Open Space

## September 11-12, 2003

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**Session Title:** Survey Analysis Centers

**Session Headlines:**

Model in NCI where there are centers for excellence on a particular topic. Brings in multi disciplinary researchers. Various expertise surrounding the topic. Several meetings per year. Complexity of the NHANES data, have centers with expertise in the data. Core set of folks with expertise that could run the data analyses or be consultants to researchers.

Technical advice, subject matter and statistical expertise. Co-authorship question.

Research data center where confidentiality is *raison de etre*.

Example, CHIS knowledgeable about health care and surveys. Serve as data distribution centers. Sensitive data elements potential but not formalized yet.

Should NCI be doing more to fund centers to assist in utilizing national data?

Another example is SEER Medicare database link. Not creating centers, but on web creating info on analytic issues.

Web-based tutorials in planning/potential and look into funding options.

BRFSS wanting to establish similar options, more to state assistance for analyzing data. Complimentary /cooperative roles? How much talking across data systems has occurred?

No single individual or statistician who can be the focus of answering these questions. This is the reason for centers. May be subject matter centers, e.g. nutrition center for analysis.

Identify centers based on top 10 topics. Send out program announcement.

Certify centers already expert in areas – so don't impinge on entrepreneurial aspects of the possibilities for analysis centers. Would this carry weight with journal editors. How would centers be certified? Onus on NCHS to certify based on our review/overview. They may also be able to advance fields in analytic methods.

May need an IOM study.

Some universal truths on how not to analyze the data; however, may not be absolute truths on how to correctly analyze it (which statistical philosophy when several any be appropriate).

Some role in editorial function to request for NHANES review. Educate editors and editorial boards. Or writing letter to editor/editorial.

Certified also for keeping data confidential. Another purpose for analysis centers.

Where these might reside – probably don't want to develop de novo. Centers that already have some expertise, may build on this expertise, and serve as resource to states on analysis issues (e.g. North Carolina, Michigan, etc).

Teach the teachers of academic institutions who utilize NHANES data in their course work.

### **Action Items/Next Steps:**

Identify different levels/options: web distributions of principles all the way to creating survey analysis centers

NCHS sponsors workshop of these already functioning centers, fed committee on statistical methodology, data council, etc. Need for integrated, cooperative efforts to establish these. Get dialogue going. Identify incentives.

Editorial boards – NCHS develop communication with major journals publishing our data. Deal with their association; and set up workshop to sensitize and disseminate this info. Place the ‘major truths’ on website for reference. Example: teaching the teacher model.