

NHANES Open Space

September 11-12, 2003

Session Title: International Collaboration

Session Headlines:

Need for international collaboration

Criteria for measurement inclusion

Standardization and international comparability

Role of NHANES – both as leader and follower

Cost effectiveness and cost sharing

Standardized data reduction, processing and analysis procedures

Collaborating with resource-poor countries and organizations

Replicating NHANES in other countries

Global mandate

Existing collaboration models

Specific role of NCHS/DHANES

Possible consortium for potential collaborators

Next Steps/Action Items:

- Expand current NHANES standards and measurement inclusion criteria to encourage international collaboration.

- Strive toward international standardization – NHANES/NIH should try to be flexible to adopt international (e.g., European) standards.
- While NHANES should have a “lead” role, it could also become a “follower” on certain aspects (e.g., adoption of oral health measures from the U.K./Ireland survey).
- Work toward cost sharing on instruments, emerging technology, and data reduction procedures.
- For initiating collaborations in developing countries, follow a “step” method similar to WHO’s low, medium and high complexity model (e.g., from questionnaires to capacity building to physical exams to biomarker investigation).
- Share resources between collaborators (e.g., lending/borrowing of MEC, equipment, specialty software, and technical know how).
- Encourage replication of HANES in other countries, especially those undergoing rapid nutritional and epidemiologic transition.
- Create opportunities to compare health patterns across transition phases.
- Try reviving the NCHS “WHO collaborative center for health examination surveys.”
- Create an informal consortium of potential international collaborators.
- Use Stats/Health Canada-NCHS collaboration as a model for long term planning of international collaboration.