NHANES

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey is a population-based survey designed to collect information on the health and nutrition of the U.S. household population. There are two parts to this survey: the home interview and the health examination. During the in-home interview participants are asked questions about health status, disease history, and diet. The examination component consists of medical and dental examinations, physiological measurements, and laboratory tests administered by highly trained medical personnel. The questionnaires and list of health examinations are available on the NHANES website.

To access survey and examination/laboratory data or the survey for a particular year:

1. Log on to the NHANES homepage at www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm
   *On this page there are tutorials on how to use NHANES data sets, access to data sets and linked files, links to the survey questionnaire and results from the data.
2. Then select Data Sets and Related Documentation
3. Select the year frame you are interested in
4. Under the heading ‘Content in Detail’ select Survey Questionnaire, Examination Components and Laboratory Components to view the different survey sections. They are organized by topic.
5. Or if you want to access the data files, under the heading ‘Data, Documentation, Codebooks, SAS Code’ select the data set you are interested in viewing.

HHANES

The Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (HHANES) was a nationwide probability sample of approximately 16,000 persons, 6 months-74 years of age conducted from July 1982-December 1984. The population for this study consisted of Mexican-Americans living in the five southwestern States (Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and California); Cuban-Americans living in Dade County, Florida; and Puerto Ricans living in portions of New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey. Data from this study are only available on tape and can only be purchased through the National Technical Information Service (NTIS).

To access the survey:

2. Under the heading ‘Related Reports’ select Series 1, No. 19.
3. Under No 19. Click on View PDF. This is a long document which contains information on the planning, operation and analysis of the survey. The survey questionnaire is included in the appendix.

NHIS

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) is one of the principal sources of information on the health of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States and is one of the major data collection programs of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). A major strength of this survey lies in the ability to display these health characteristics by many demographic and socioeconomic characteristics. The NHIS has three parts or modules: a Basic
module; a Periodic module; and a Topical module. The Basic module functions as the Core questionnaire. It remains largely unchanged from year to year and allows for trends analysis. The purpose of the Periodic module is to collect more detailed information on some of the topics included in the Basic module from the sample persons. This will provide greater depth in certain areas while retaining key measures in all areas for cross analysis. The Topical module is a supplement section and will be used to respond to new public health data needs as they arise.

To access the NHIS data sets and surveys:

1. Log on to [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm)
2. In the menu at the top select the **Questionnaires, Datasets, and Related Documentation** Option
3. Select the **Data and Related Documentation** link for the date range you are interested in.
4. Select the survey or dataset for the year you are interested in.
5. Select the individual questionnaire or dataset you are interested in (family, adult, child, etc).

**CHIS**

The California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) is the largest state health survey and one of the largest health surveys in the United States. CHIS surveys adults, adolescents, and children from all parts of California utilizing a computer assisted telephone interview (CATI) survey and a geographically stratified random-digit-dial (RDD) sample. The survey's objectives are to produce statistically reliable estimates for local areas as well as for different racial and ethnic populations in the state of California. The survey utilizes multi-language interviews to collect information on the state's diverse ethnic groups.

To access the CHIS survey questionnaires:

1. Log onto [www.chis.ucla.edu/](http://www.chis.ucla.edu/)
2. Select **Methodology**
3. Select **Topics and Questionnaires**
4. Under 'Survey Questionnaires' select the year and survey you are interested in.

CHIS also allows you to run some basic data analysis on the data sets using the AskCHIS feature of the website. This feature requires that you register (a free service) and log in each time. To use Ask CHIS, select the **Data and Findings** heading from the main CHIS homepage. Then select **AskCHIS**. Select the **Register Now** link and follow the instructions.

**BRFSS**

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a large, on-going telephone health survey system, tracking health conditions and risk behaviors in the United States yearly since 1984. The questionnaire has three parts: 1) the core component, 2) optional modules, and 3) state-added questions. The core component is a standard set of questions asked by all states. It includes queries about current behaviors that affect health (e.g., tobacco use, women's health) and questions on demographic characteristics. Optional CDC modules are sets of
Instructions for Accessing Questionnaires from Several National and Statewide Health Surveys

questions on specific topics (e.g., smokeless tobacco) that states elect to use on their questionnaires. Although the modules are optional, CDC standards require that, if they are used, they must be used without modification. Module topics have included survey items on smokeless tobacco, oral health, cardiovascular disease, and firearms.

To access the survey and available data files:

1. Log onto the BRFSS website at [www.cdc.gov/brfss/](http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/)
2. Under the ‘Technical Information, Data, and Questionnaires’ heading select Questionnaires.
3. Choose English or Spanish for the language version you are interested in and then select the questionnaire from the desired year.
4. You may also search by state and year for which questionnaire modules were used by each state.
5. To access data sets, under the ‘Technical Information, Data and Questionnaires’ heading on the main homepage, Select Annual Survey Data and Documentation
6. Select the year of data you are interested in.
7. Scroll down to the ‘Data Files’ heading and select the data in the format you want (SAS, ASCII)

HINTS

The HINTS data collection program was created to monitor changes in the rapidly evolving field of health communication. Survey researchers are using the data to understand how adults 18 years and older use different communication channels, including the Internet, to obtain vital health information for themselves and their loved ones. Program planners are using the data to overcome barriers to health information usage across populations, and obtaining the data they need to create more effective communication strategies. Finally, social scientists are using the data to refine their theories of health communication in the information age and to offer new and better recommendations for reducing the burden of cancer throughout the population. Hints data are available for public use.

To access the HINTS questionnaire and data sets:

2. Under the ‘Conduct HINTS Research’ heading select Survey Instruments
3. Choose to view the questionnaire in English or Spanish.
4. A public use dataset is available for download from the main homepage. Under the ‘Conduct HINTS Research’ heading select Public Use Dataset. Once you register you will be directed to the download site.

*Note: Description of measures adapted from text on agency websites.*