

Health Information Collected by the National Center for Education Statistics and Utility of Administrative Health Records

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Data Collection at NCES

- The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) collects data that measure educational participation, processes and outcomes
- Collections that sample students collect data about disabilities and sometimes about health more generally
- Collections that sample schools collect data about program participation for disabled students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP)
- Disability and health data are collected from multiple sources depending on the collection
 - Parents
 - Students
 - School records

Collections with Health and Disability Data

- **Early Childhood Longitudinal Study – Birth Cohort (ECLS-B)**
 - Panel of children born in 2001
 - Information from birth certificates about difficulty of birth and birth weight
 - Direct measures of height, weight, cognitive growth, and motor skills development
 - Parent reports of diagnosed disabilities and overall health
- **Early Childhood Longitudinal Study – Kindergarten Cohort (ECLS-K)**
 - Panel of students entering kindergarten in fall 1998
 - Similar to Birth Cohort, but without birth certificate data
 - Information about disabilities from school records
 - Information about Individualized Education Programs

Collections with Health and Disability Data

- **National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES)**
 - Cross-sectional samples of preschoolers, students in K-12, and adults
 - Parent reports of overall health, health problems that affect ability to learn, and diagnosed disabilities
 - Parent reports of IEP involvement
 - Adult self reports on health issues affecting ability to learn
- **Education Longitudinal Study of 2002 (ELS)**
 - Panel of 10th grade students
 - Data from school about IEP status and programs
 - Parent reports of health and diagnosed disabilities like NHES
 - In college, data from students about health problems affecting ability to learn

Collections with Health and Disability Data

- **National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS)**
 - Cross-sectional sample of college students
 - Students are asked about long term health conditions and to identify specific health conditions if they exist
- **Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS)**
 - Panel of incoming freshmen
 - Data similar to NPSAS but without follow-up questions detailing health conditions
- **Baccalaureate and Beyond (B&B)**
 - Panel of college students who graduated from college
 - Data similar to BPS

Experience Using Health and Human Service Health Data

- Used birth certificate database maintained by the National Center for Health Statistics to develop sample for ECLS-B
- Collected health data from birth certificates as part of the ECLS-B study
- NCES has not used other health related databases maintained by HHS to date

Considerations when Using Health and Human Service Health Data

- The ECLS-B study could not have been developed efficiently without access to the birth certificate data
- To protect confidentiality of children and their families, NCES is not generally releasing longitudinal data from ECLS-B
- Full data are available through restricted-use license agreements only
- Some basic data will be released through on-line data tool

Potential Advantage of Linking NCES Data to Administrative Health Data

- Facilitates further verification studies of parent reports of diagnosed health issues with children
- Linking could would facilitate research into new student questions that could improve accuracy of self reports
- School reports about students in IEP programs are verified
 - Linking would allow research into health problems that might affect learning, but that would not result in IEP or be formally assessed only later

Linking Questions

- Need to be able collect information from parents, students, and schools sufficient to link to health databases
- Need to consider how to interpret data from health databases
 - Primary consideration is relationship between health insurance coverage gaps and health records