

National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) Data Release

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Presentation outline

Brief overview of the NHIS

NHIS products (data files, etc.)

Some NHIS data release history

**Future directions of NHIS data
release**

The purpose of NHIS

To collect data on the health status and health services utilization of the U.S. civilian non-institutionalized population

To collect data on specific topics of current public health concern

To provide official national health data to the public

NHIS questionnaire modules

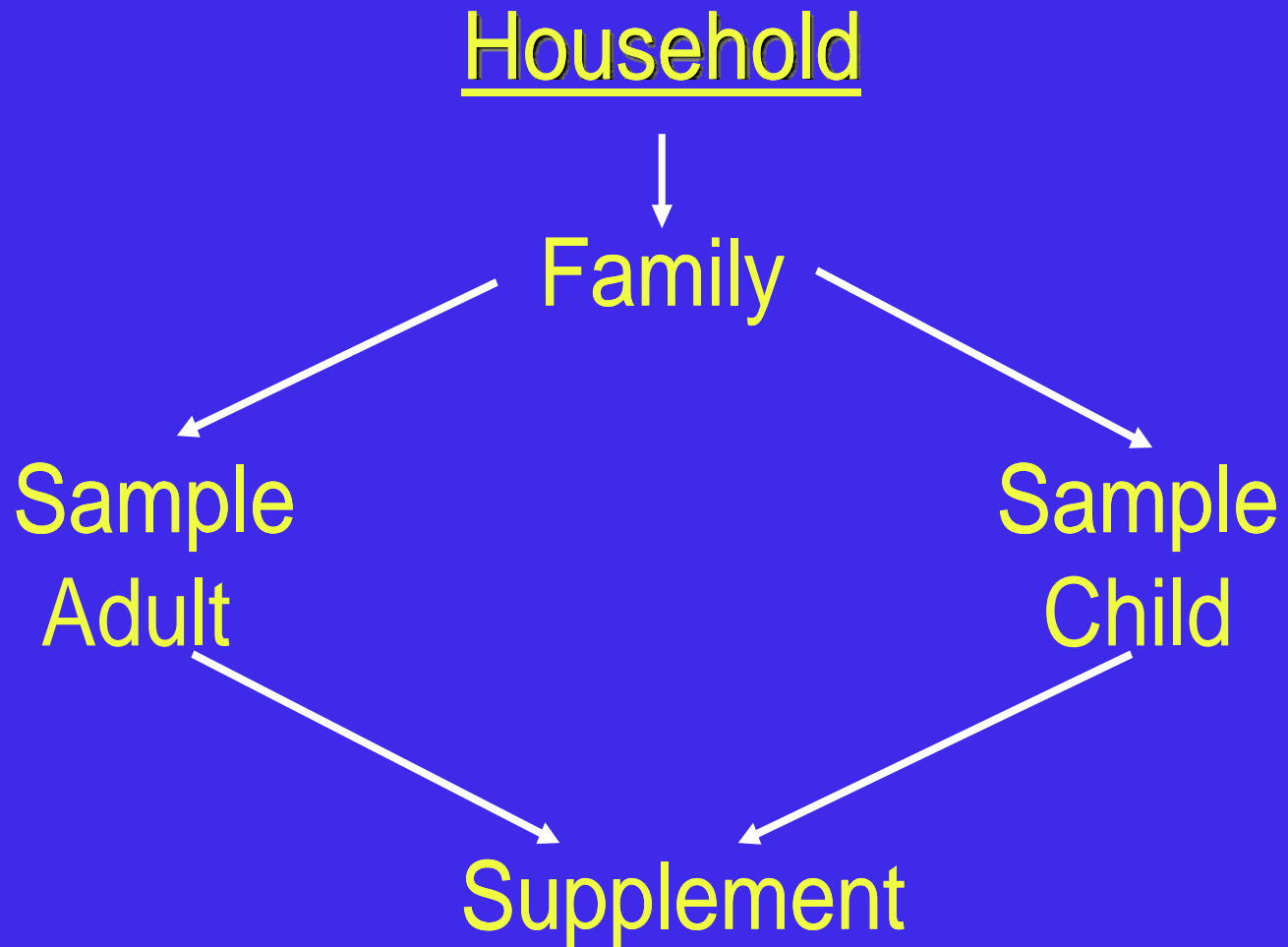
Basic Module or Core
Fielded each year

Supplemental Modules

**New topics or more detail on Core
topics**

Different each year

NHIS Data Files



NHIS products

Annual microdata files

Annual reports

Population

Children

Adults

Reports on specific topics

FastStats

Early Release

Healthy E-Stats

NHIS Early Release Program (started 2001)

**Quarterly (four times per year):
Selected Estimates, Health
Insurance Coverage reports**

**Twice per year: Wireless
Substitution reports**

**Three times per year: preliminary
microdata files in NCHS RDC**

Guidance, support, communication

**Survey Description Document: part
of annual NHIS microdata release**

**Data requests team - responds to
data user questions**

**NHIS listserv - announces releases
of data, reports**

Extensive online documentation

Data release software support

Example programs in several software languages (e.g., SAS, Stata) for reading microdata files

Example computer code in several languages (e.g., SAS survey procedures, Stata, R survey package) for complex survey variance estimation

Brief data release history

NHIS began in July 1957 (fiscal year 1958) - only printed reports available from first 5 years

Microdata files retained beginning with fiscal year 1963 NHIS

Mainframe computer tapes for sale - ordered by phone or mail

NHIS website - late 1990's

NHIS website evolution

No new staff hired to create website content

A new dissemination medium - a learning process to utilize effectively

Public use microdata added incrementally as resources were available - all existing NHIS public use microdata online in 2009

Some future directions

**Less printed reports, more
electronic releases**

**Online analytic system currently
being developed**

**Continue to enhance existing
content as resources are available**

Maintain quality and timeliness

Summary

NHIS data release began as printed reports

NHIS microdata distribution has evolved: mainframe computer tapes (\$), CD-ROMs (free), Internet download (free)

Future data release focus is primarily electronic

NHIS home

page:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>