

## Using U.S. Data on Health and Medical Care

The session will present an overview of the portfolio of data sets from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the Federal health statistics agency in the United States. These data include patient and provider information from surveys of health care providers, information on health and medical care use obtained from surveys of the general population, and vital statistics data. The session will begin with an overview of these datasets, including survey design, content, analytic considerations, and examples of data findings. Health economics researchers will then present examples of the use of NCHS data sets. One presentation will specify a particular analytic issue, identify appropriate NCHS data sets for analyzing the issue, describe appropriate analytic tools, and describe steps in the process of using NCHS data in the analysis. The presentation will cover issues of sampling, weighting, and appropriate statistical software for analysis with specific data sets.

This year, the session will also include discussion of NCHS data sources that are linked with mortality information (from the National Death Index), information on the use of health services and health care costs (from Medicare claims records), and information about work history, retirement and disability from Social Security Administration records. This part of the session will discuss some of the research questions that can be addressed with this data, as well as questions about how to access and use the data.

The workshop will include presentation on how to use the NCHS website to access data and documentation for topics of interest, as well as the process for accessing data available through the NCHS Research Data Center (RDC) as well as U.S. Census Bureau RDCs. Upon completion of the workshop, participants will be able to: (1) identify major data systems of NCHS and describe data collection methods and survey content; (2) describe examples of analytic uses of data sets; (3) understand the complexities of data sets and assess appropriate statistical methods for analysis of data; and (4) identify how to access data and documentation from NCHS.

### Outline of Session

- (1) Using Large Public Health Data Sets in Health Economics Research  
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
- (2) Analyses of NCHS Data – What Have Others Done?  
2 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.
- 15 minute break*
- (3) Using the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey  
2.45 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.
- (4) Accessing and Using NCHS Data Linked to Administrative Records  
3.45 p.m. – 5 p.m.

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(Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York)