

## **Some Users and Uses of Statistics from the National Center for Health Statistics**

*The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is the nation's principal health statistics agency.*

- NCHS' National Health Care Surveys of doctors' offices, hospitals, community health care centers, emergency rooms, nursing homes, hospice care facilities and other organizations that deliver health care are used by health care providers to plan staffing and improve service, by communities in planning for facilities that can provide more or more local health care, for examining diffusion of health care technologies, and in measuring differences in health care availability and use across places and time.
- NCHS produces Life Tables that are used to examine trends in life expectancy and distinguish different risk factors for life expectancy. Death data are also important to genealogists in tracking family connections.
- NCHS data are used by actuaries to set premiums for health and life insurance and to gauge the health of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds
- NCHS collects nation-wide birth data electronically as part of the National Vital Statistics. NCHS designed and implemented a campaign for adoption of a standard birth certificate that, only as recently as 2015, was implemented by all U.S. States and territories. Now, consistent measures and comparisons of such things as teen pregnancy rates can guide health policies.
- NCHS data are used to create the pediatric growth charts used by pediatricians and parents to monitor children's growth.
- NCHS' National Health Interview Survey, which monitors trends in wellness measures (such as Body Mass Index), health behaviors (like smoking and exercise), illness, and disability, has been the principal data source for studying demographic, temporal, socioeconomic and behavioral differences in health and mortality outcomes since 1957.
- NCHS provides the most current and complete national and state-specific (for 43 states) data available to track health insurance coverage, including coverage under both traditional and consumer-directed insurance arrangements.
- NCHS data are used to monitor compliance with recommended practices such as the timing of childhood and adolescent immunizations and recommendations for influenza, pneumococcal, shingles, and other vaccinations.
- NCHS data track changes in the use of electronic health records, which have the potential to enhance the efficiency and safety of health care encounters.
- NCHS data demonstrate the extent to which prescription drugs have become a vital component in our health care delivery system, as well as the extent to which emergency rooms and other health care facility visits are related to misuse of opioids or other drugs.
- The Centers for Disease Control and other epidemiologists rely on NCHS data to track disease prevalence over time and across regions and to mitigate health related hazards and emergencies.
- NCHS data are used to seek and identify cancer "hot spots."
- The Census Bureau makes population estimates and projections based in part on what NCHS data reveal about health and longevity trends.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture uses the data from NCHS' National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey to develop nutrition guidelines and nutrition policies that undergird multibillion dollar federal food assistance programs, and to develop its Nutrition Guidelines.
- The Federal Aviation Administration and Coast Guard use NCHS data on average weights per person to calculate safe passenger number limits precluding accidents due to crafts' weight.