

VII. Data Preparation, Analysis, and Dissemination

As data collection comes to a close it will be important to think through how and when findings will be released to programs within the agency, the scientific community and the public. Just as a timeline was developed to plan and implement the main study, a timeline should be developed to guide the data preparation and analysis efforts.

The first step of data preparation will involve assessing the quality of the data collected and checking the household and participant level response rate information. This data will be critical in the development of sample weights if a multi-stage sampling design is used. Once the preliminary data checks are complete and the sample weights have been developed, further data cleaning will need to be conducted on the interview and examination data. Determining what data will be released, both internally and externally, is an important consideration, in terms of ensuring the integrity and confidentiality of the data. Finally, the creation of a data codebook and analytic guidance documentation will be necessary to assist potential data users.

As study planners think through reporting, it is important to identify key analyses that will be conducted and how and when those findings will be disseminated. The first priority may be to provide internal reports to agency staff, other health and health care organizations, and the local community. Researchers may also wish to present results at scientific conferences and submit papers for publication in peer-reviewed journals. There are likely to be people in the agency who have the expertise to organize and analyze the data and to write research papers and manuscripts. Additionally, people within and outside of the agency may be interested in the development of a public-use data set. The analysis plan should provide a mechanism to prioritize analyses, identify lead authors, and set deadlines for dissemination.

Reporting Findings to the Public and the Scientific Community

NYC HANES plans to report study findings to the public in a number of ways including:

- Press releases to the local media
- Presentations for community groups, elected officials and others
- Creating a public-use data set available to outside researchers and interested community members

For the scientific community, NYC HANES will be the basis of several papers to be submitted to peer-reviewed journals. Planned analyses include:

- Abdominal adiposity and prevalence of obesity in NYC adults
- Cardiovascular disease risk among NYC adults
- Prevalence and control of hypertension and hypercholesterolemia
- Diabetes, impaired fasting glucose and metabolic syndrome
- Exposure to pesticides among New York City adults

VIII. Summary/Conclusion

Designing and implementing a community HANES survey, whether done with existing resources or contracted externally, is a huge undertaking. The goals and objectives of such a survey require careful consideration.

The NYC HANES project produced some unexpected organizational benefits for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Mobilizing the staff of several agency divisions created camaraderie, helped staff learn about other departments, and built an infrastructure in the agency capable of performing other large-scale surveys. On an individual level, staff members benefited tremendously from the acquisition of new skills and leadership roles.

The data provided by the NYC HANES effort are likely to influence planning decisions for public health in New York City for years to come. As we begin to disseminate our findings, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene hopes that the benefits will carry over to other cities and states throughout the country.

Suggested citation

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