

The Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

A Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (Hispanic HANES) will be conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services from July 1982 to late 1984 on a sample of the Hispanic population living in the United States.

This program of the National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Public Health Service, will represent the first large-scale health survey of Hispanics and will be a unique program in several ways:

- Hispanic HANES will produce the first data on a large sample of the Hispanic population living in the United States on illness, disability, need for treatment or care, and nutritional status, as well as data on patterns of growth and development and on measures of health and well-being.
- Hispanic HANES will obtain data through questionnaires and direct physical examinations of a sample of the Hispanic civilian noninstitutionalized population.
- Hispanic HANES will operate out of mobile health examination centers traveling across the country and staying for a month or more in selected locations to identify sample persons and conduct examinations.

Background

Hispanics represent more than 6 percent of the U.S. population, and their proportion continues to increase. However, few studies have been made of their health and nutritional status. Those studies that have been done indicate that, for the most part, the health and nutritional status of Hispanics is different from and often poorer than that of the general population. These differences may be related to problems of accessibility, availability, or acceptability of medical services, and possibly to the generally lower socioeconomic status of

many Hispanics when compared to non-Hispanics.

Although in recent years health data have been collected on Hispanics in national surveys, Hispanics were sampled according to their proportion of the total population. Because that proportion is relatively small, the number of Hispanics included in these surveys has been insufficient to permit reliable estimates of various health parameters. Additionally, earlier studies did not include sufficient numbers of people of Mexican, Cuban, and Puerto Rican background to make detailed estimates of health characteristics for each of these groups.

The Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey will provide much of this needed health data. It is planned as a supplement to the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). NHANES programs are an expansion of the National Health Examination Survey authorized under the National Health Survey Act of 1956 and first fielded in 1960. Data are collected by direct physical examinations, coupled with laboratory and clinical tests and measurements. Direct examinations are the best source for standardized clinical, physical, and physiological data, and the only source of diagnostic data regarding unrecognized and untreated health conditions.

The examinations are conducted in specially equipped mobile examination centers, consisting of three trailers each, which are drawn by detachable truck tractors when moving from one sample location to another. At the examination sites, the three trailers are set up side by side and connected by enclosed passageways. These mobile examination centers provide a standardized environment in which highly trained teams of health personnel conduct the examinations using carefully calibrated equipment.

The first three programs of the National Health Examination Survey, which were conducted for selected periods between 1960 and 1970, focused on different aspects of sickness and health for specific age groups.

Information was also collected on height and weight, other body measurements, dental health, and vision and hearing levels. Then in 1971, responsibility for monitoring the nutritional status of the population was added and the National Health Examination Survey became the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

NHANES I, conducted from 1971 to 1975, was designed to assess certain aspects of health status, with particular emphasis on dental health, skin problems, eye conditions, and the nutritional status of the population 1-74 years of age. For adults 25-74 years of age, detailed examination components for determining the prevalence of chronic lung disease, disabling arthritis of the hip or knee, and cardiovascular disease were included. In addition, information on health care needs and general well-being were obtained.

NHANES II, which was conducted between 1976 and 1980, assessed many of the same conditions as did NHANES I. In addition, measurements of the population's exposure to pesticides were made along with determinations of blood levels of certain trace elements in an effort to study some of the relationships between the environment and health. A detailed diabetes component was also included. A comparison of NHANES II data with the earlier survey will provide the first look at change over time in measures of the health and nutritional status of the population.

Survey content

Recommendations concerning the content of the Hispanic HANES have been made by the National Academy of Public Administration, other Federal agencies, national Hispanic and

professional organizations, universities and research institutions, medical societies, several task forces, and many individual consultants.

Since a major purpose of the survey is to provide information on the health and nutritional status of Hispanics comparable to that obtained for the general U.S. population in previous NHANES, many of the operational procedures, questionnaire data, and examination components of the Hispanic HANES were planned to be as similar as possible to those included in NHANES I and II.

During household interviews, interviewers will administer questionnaires to obtain the following information from selected sample persons: socioeconomic data, medical history, medication and vitamin usage, and health care needs and use of services.

The examination components for all examinees will include:

- A medical history and a screening examination by a physician.
- A dental examination by a dentist.
- Body measurements, including height, weight, and skinfolds, made by trained technicians.
- A dietary interview, conducted by experienced nutritionists, covering food consumption and dietary habits.
- Tuberculin skin testing.
- Numerous laboratory tests on blood and urine specimens.

Depending on the age of the participant, the rest of the 3-hour examination will include the following:

- Diagnostic ultrasound for detection of gallstones.
- Glucose tolerance test.
- Electrocardiogram.
- Tests for hearing and vision.
- Tests for liver disease.
- Questionnaires on mental health, alcohol consumption, and drug abuse.
- Tests for venereal disease.
- Urine and blood tests to check for the presence of lead, carbon monoxide, and pesticide body burdens.
- Fecal tests for parasites.
- Chest X-rays.

Survey operation

During the course of the survey, the mobile examination centers will travel to approximately 35 locations and examine more than 12,000 people 6 months through 74 years of age. Unlike the previous NHANES programs, the Hispanic HANES will not be a national sample.

In a national probability sample, each county in the United States has a probability of being selected for sampling. For the Hispanic HANES, only about 220 counties that contain approximately 80 percent of the national Hispanic population have a probability of selection. The other counties have been excluded because the costs of conducting the survey in areas with small eligible populations would be prohibitive.

Although survey locations have not yet been identified, examinations will most probably be conducted in Texas, California, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico. In addition, New York City, Chicago, Miami, and Tampa-St. Petersburg will probably be visited.

As in previous programs, survey personnel will:

- Assure privacy and confidentiality to all participants.
- Provide transportation to and from examination centers.
- Remunerate each participant.
- Report medical findings to each person's source of medical care.

Special efforts will be made to gain the cooperation of the Hispanic population and to assure cross-cultural validity of the survey instruments. These include:

- Employing bicultural and bilingual staff to conduct interviews and examinations.
- Developing an outreach methodology to be used when approaching a selected community.

- Translating all questionnaires into idiomatic Spanish appropriate for each group as necessary.

Uses of the data

The major need for a Hispanic HANES was identified by the National Academy of Public Administration who also made many recommendations as to the survey's content and operation. At the same time, the Department of Health and Human Services was working to create a Hispanic Initiative to meet the needs of Hispanics throughout the United States. In preparation for this initiative, a set of goals was identified. A Hispanic HANES is specifically indicated in the goals of the initiative and will serve to collect and publish health data for use in evaluating the social, health, and economic conditions of Americans of Spanish origin or descent.

The wide range of statistics produced on the health of the Hispanic population will be valuable for:

- Estimating the prevalence of selected diseases and conditions.
- Assessing health and nutritional status.
- Determining needs for health care.
- Analyzing relationships between health measures and risk factors.
- Evaluating aspects of health and nutrition programs.

Beginning in 1986, basic data reports from the Hispanic HANES will be available. Requests for further information about the Hispanic survey should be addressed to:

Survey Planning and Development Branch
Division of Health Examination Statistics
National Center for Health Statistics
Center Building, Room 2-58
3700 East-West Highway
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

HHANES UNIVERSE
IMPORTANT STATISTICS

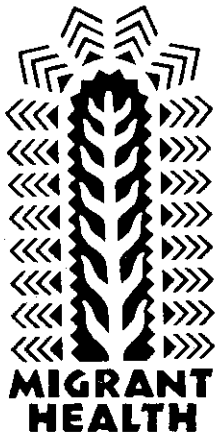
1. The HHANES universe of 231 counties or 212 PSUs accounts for 79.7 percent of all Hispanics living in the United States (based on 1980 Census data).
2. The HHANES universe is expected to cover 81.2 percent of all Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans living in the U.S.
3. The HHANES universe is expected to cover 84.4 percent of all Mexicans living in the U.S.
4. The HHANES universe is expected to cover 70.2 percent of all Puerto Ricans living in the U.S.
5. The HHANES universe is expected to cover 77.5 percent of all Cubans living in the U.S.
6. Of all Hispanics in HHANES 73 percent are expected to be in the 5 Southwest States, 5 percent in Chicago, 5 percent in Miami, and 17 percent in New York.
7. Of all Hispanics in HHANES 65 percent are expected to be Mexican, 13 percent Puerto Rican, 7 percent Cuban, and 15 percent other Spanish origin (to be screened out).
8. Of all Mexicans in HHANES 97.1 percent are expected to be in the Southwest, 2.6 percent in Chicago, 0.1 percent in Miami, and 0.3 percent in New York.
9. Of all Puerto Ricans in HHANES 5.5 percent are expected to be in the Southwest, 10.4 percent in Chicago,, 2.3 percent in Miami, and 81.9 percent in New York.

10. Of all Cubans in HHANES 10.7 percent are expected to be in the Southwest, 4.3 percent in Chicago, 57.2 percent in Miami, and 27.8 percent in New York.
11. Of all persons of "other" Spanish origins (which will be screened out from the survey) 57.0 percent are expected to be in the Southwest, 10.2 percent in Chicago, 4.9 percent in Miami, and 28.0 percent in New York.
12. Of all Hispanics in the Southwest 86 percent are expected to be Mexicans, 1.0 percent Puerto Ricans, 1 percent Cubans, and 12 percent other Spanish.
13. Of all Hispanics in Chicago 34 percent are expected to be Mexicans, 28 percent Puerto Ricans, 6 percent Cuban, and 32 percent other Spanish.
14. Of all Hispanics in Miami less than 1 percent are expected to be Mexicans, 6 percent Puerto Ricans, 78 percent Cubans, and 16 percent other Spanish.
15. Of all Hispanics in New York 1 percent are expected to be Mexicans, 63 percent Puerto Ricans, 11 percent Cubans, and 25 percent other.

August 24, 1981

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE FOR THE HISPANIC HANES

<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Completed</u>
OMB Preliminary Clearance Submitted	5/30/80	x
OMB Preliminary Clearance Received	9/30/80	x
OMB Pilot Test Clearance Submitted	6/17/81	x
OMB Pilot Test Clearance Received	9/04/81	
Puerto Rican Pilot Test Bronx, New York	9/28-10/23/81	
Cuban-American Pilot Test Miami, Florida	11/16-12/11/81	
Mexican-American Pilot Test El Paso, Texas	1/4-3/19/82	
Pilot Test Review	2/23-3/12/82	
OMB Final Clearance Submitted	3/22/82	
OMB Final Clearance Received	5/21/82	
Dress Rehearsal San Antonio, Texas	6/7-7/23/82	
Final Forms Printed	5/25-7/16/82	
Hispanic HANES begins	7/26/82	

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Rio Grande Federation/Texas State Health Coalition Members
FROM: Dan Cárdenas
SUBJECT: Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (HHANES)
DATE: September 23, 1981

The National Center for Health Statistics, DHHS, is conducting the first large-scale health survey of Hispanics in the U.S. Two weeks ago when many of us attended the NACHC Convention in Washington, D.C., we were able to meet with Dr. Fernando Treviño, NCHS/DHHS, who gave us a presentation on the purpose and scope of HHANES. We also discussed possible areas of coordination and participation with the HHANES Survey Team, especially while they work in Region VI and/or with Migrant Health.

Attached is basic information about HHANES. Further information can be obtained by Dr. Fernando Treviño, NCHS/DHHS, Hyattsville, Maryland, (301) 436-7080.