# The National Health Survey - Pesquisa Nacional de Saúde (PNS)

As of 1988, once every five years, a Health Supplement Questionnaire has been added to the PNAD, which has greatly contributed to monitor, formulate and assess public health policies in Brazil.

The National Health Survey (PNS) is an independent survey from PNAD, and part of the Integrated System of Household Surveys, which benefited from the Master Sample of the continuous PNAD, having thus greater geographical coverage.

Having its own sampling design geared towards collecting health information, PNS was conceived to estimate various health indicators with the desired precision, and to assure the continuity of most of the indicators in the PNAD Health Supplement Questionnaire.

PNS aimed at assessing three fundamental points: the performance of the national health system; the health conditions of the Brazilian population; the surveillance of not transmissible chronic diseases, and their associated risk factors such as smoking, high alcohol consumption, obesity, high cholesterol, low consumption of fruits and vegetables and a sedentary lifestyle.

PNS approached new thematic modules, especially those related to chronic diseases, making it possible to assess both the diagnosis and assistance especially given to hypertension, diabetes and depression.

The information collected by the PNS allows estimating population health characteristics disaggregated by gender, age groups, level of instruction and color or race for the following geographical groups: Brazil, Regions and States.

The PNS is an invaluable source of knowledge of the health status of the Brazilian population that will help to study and plan public policies for the country.