Welcome to Version 5 of the National Longitudinal Mortality Study (NLMS) Public-use File. This latest version of the file is actually five separate files. The file identified as, File 11 on the CD, consists of records from the NLMS that are eligible for a maximum follow-up of 11 years. The total weighted value on the file represents the U.S. non-institutionalized population on April 1, of 1990. There are three files on the CD, representing the 1980, 1990 and 2000 decades, that have a maximum follow-up of 6 years. The file identified as, File 6a, has a maximum follow-up of 6 years from a set of NLMS records centered around, April 1 of 1983. The file identified as, File 6b has a maximum follow-up of 6 years for a set of records centered around, April 1 of 1993. File 6c has a maximum follow-up of 6 years for a set of records centered around April 1 of 2002. The fifth file included on the CD, identified as file tu, the tobacco-use file, has a maximum follow-up time of 5 years and consists of data centered around the year 2000.

The files on this CD are, flat, ASCII files in fixed format. Each file on the CD contains at least 36 variables. The tobacco-use file contains an additional 6 variables dealing with tobacco-use. The record length of the tobacco-use file is 91 characters. The record length of the other files on the CD is 75 characters. We have included on this CD a prepared format coding for users that is designed to read the variables on each file and assign NLMS variable names as described in the public-use file Reference Manual, Version 5. This format code is identified as, “read\_pubfile5.dat,” on the CD.

NOTE: Variable 36, INDALG, found on all public-use files of this CD allows users to do sensitivity studies comparing the impact of identifying mortality determined without manual review with the impact of identifying mortality with a manual review. In order to make these public-use files available in a timely manner, the most recent match of the NLMS to the National Death Index to determine mortality was used without the usual second phase, manual review, of the NLMS NDI match adjudication process. This phase would consist of a manual review leading to a decision on matches that are difficult to resolve through computer match techniques only.

NOTE: The record identification variable, RECORD, is assigned values sequentially from 1 to the size of the file. Although some records may exist in several of the five files, in order to protect the confidentiality of study participants, the assignment of a value for the record identifying variable, RECORD, is made with no intention for agreement between the value of RECORD for the same person in multiple files.

Also included on this CD is the NLMS Reference Manual or, “dictionary,” for these files. An electronic version of this file may also be found on the official NLMS website, [www.census.gov/nlms](http://www.census.gov/nlms).