

Re-release of 2008 NHIS Sample Adult Public Use file

The 2008 National Health Interview Survey's Sample Adult Public Use file that was released in June 2009 will be re-released in early summer 2010. A processing error created sampling weights for 510 sample adult persons in the 4th quarter (2.3% of the 21,781 persons in the sample adult file) that did not undergo a final weight adjustment step for certain age/sex/race/ethnicity groups (see list below). The processing error affected the sampling weights of 109 Hispanic persons, 118 black non-Hispanic persons, 207 non-Hispanic Asian persons, and 76 persons who are not Hispanic, black, or Asian. Estimates that appear in the 2008 Summary Health Statistics Sample Adult report (Series 10, No. 242) were created using weights that did undergo the proper final weight adjustment step. Reports released by the NHIS Early Release Program were also unaffected.

The Division of Health Interview Statistics (DHIS) at NCHS has reviewed the effects of the processing error and determined that the effect on annual estimates generally does not result in meaningful differences. For example, in Table V of Series 10, No. 242, the estimated percentage of Asians who have ever had asthma is 9.2%, while the Public Use file released in June 2009 produces an estimate of 8.9%.

DHIS decided to re-release the Public Use file released in June 2009 after conducting a review of 2008 4th quarter estimates. Due to a budget shortfall, the 2008 NHIS 4th quarter sample had been reduced to approximately half of its normal size, magnifying the impact of the processing error. The processing error affected the sampling weights of 15.5% of the 3,299 persons in the 4th quarter portion of the sample adult file. DHIS analysts found a number of meaningful differences in 4th quarter estimates.

It is not likely that most analyses using the Public Use file released in June 2009 will need to be repeated after the file is re-released. However, analysts may want to consider rerunning analyses of only 4th quarter data and annual analyses that focused on the affected age/sex/race/ethnicity groups. The affected age/sex/race/ethnicity categories were: Hispanic males and females aged 55+; black non-Hispanic males aged 18-34; black non-Hispanic males aged 55+; Asian non-Hispanic males and females aged 18+; and other (not Hispanic, black, or Asian) males aged 18-24.

The re-release affects only the Sample Adult ASCII data file. No other 2008 NHIS data files or documentation have been changed since the June 2009 release.

To the revised 2008 Sample Adult data file:

http://www.cdc.gov/NCHS/nhis/nhis_2008_data_release.htm