

Integrated Health Interview Series

The Integrated Health Interview Series (IHIS) is a harmonized set of data covering more than 50 years (1963-present) of the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). The NHIS is the principal source of information on the health of the U.S. population, covering such topics as general health status, the distribution of acute and chronic illness, functional limitations, access to and use of medical services, insurance coverage, and health behaviors (such as exercise, diet, and tobacco and alcohol consumption). On average, the survey covers 100,000 persons in 45,000 households each year.

The IHIS facilitates cross-time comparisons of these invaluable survey data by coding variables identically across time. With IHIS microdata (information about individual persons and households), researchers can use their desired set of variables to create tabulations and multivariate analyses tailored to their particular questions.

The IHIS also provides detailed documentation covering comparability issues for harmonized variables and an interactive data extraction system. IHIS data are distributed for free over the Internet to any person who agrees to follow the responsible use guidelines set by the National Center for Health Statistics.

Current IHIS Data

The IHIS currently contains over 15,000 integrated variables from 1963 to present. Accompanying web-based documentation provides variable-specific information about:

- Years available
- Variable universe
- Interpretation of the variable
- Comparability issues
- Codes and frequencies for each year
- Guidance on which weights to use

Other useful features include:

- Online user notes discussing such topics as sample designs, weights, and variance estimation
- A data extraction system enabling users to create extracts with only the years and variables they require
- Online questionnaire text linked to corresponding variable descriptions
- Crosswalk between IHIS and NHIS variables
- Variable search tool
- Online tabulator
- User support to help users encountering problems

**E-mail questions to
ipums@umn.edu**

Recent IHIS developments

Variable groups recently made available or substantially expanded include:

- Variables to monitor the ACA
- Food security
- Linked mortality data
- Injuries
- AIDS testing
- Asthma
- Cancer screening
- Heart disease and stroke prevention
- Tobacco use and cessation
- Hepatitis
- Immunization
- Immunosuppression
- Epilepsy
- Internet access and email usage
- Imputed income
- Complementary and alternative medicine
- Mental health treatment for children

Educational Use

IHIS data are well-suited to classroom use, on topics ranging from statistics to public health, even at the undergraduate level. Using the online tabulator, researchers or students can create weighted frequencies, tables, and means for IHIS variables quickly and without use of a statistical package.

SHADAC Staff

Co-Principal Investigator Lynn Blewett

MPC Staff

Co-Principal Investigator Julia Rivera Drew
Project Manager Julia Rivera Drew

Research Staff Katie Genadek
Miriam King
Matt Sobek
Kari Williams
Risa Griffin

Research Assistants Aaron Berger
Duy Do
Dongjuan Xu
Yufeng Lai

Information Technology
IT Director Fran Fabrizio

IT Supervisor Marcus Peterson

Software Engineers Daniel Elbert
Colin Davis

Web Developers Jason Goray

Benefits of the IHIS

- Reduces costs of research by minimizing initial investments in data preparation
- Simplifies access to data across multiple years and data files (core survey and supplements)
- Facilitates consistent comparisons across almost five decades of dramatic change in public health
- Documents changes in concepts and comparability issues

IHIS Collaborators

State Health Access

Data Assistance Center

University of Minnesota

School of Public Health

2221 University Avenue SE, Suite 345

Minneapolis, MN 55414

shadac.org

Minnesota Population Center

University of Minnesota

50 Willey Hall

225 19th Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55455

pop.umn.edu

Last Updated: March 2016

**Major funding provided by the
Eunice Kennedy Shriver National
Institute of Child Health
and Human Development.**