

Abstract for Session Title: Record Linkage for Epidemiologic Research:
New Opportunities and New Challenges

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Title #2: Occupational Studies Using the New Restricted-Access NHIS Linked Mortality Files

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Session Title #2 Abstract

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) is a multipurpose household survey of the U.S. civilian non-institutionalized population conducted yearly since 1957 by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Periodic linkage with the National Death Index allows for the longitudinal analysis of mortality data as a retrospective cohort study. Given its large size and sample representativeness, the NHIS is a critical resource for studying the health of the US population. In previous years the NCHS would release to outside investigators a de-identified cause-specific mortality data file for mortality studies. However, because of confidentiality concerns, access to these data (and other data) are now available only through the NCHS Research Data Center (RDC).

The purpose of this presentation is to describe some of the opportunities and challenges that investigators from outside of the government face when conducting NHIS mortality analyses and other restricted-access analyses through the RDC. Examples of these challenges and opportunities will be drawn from a series of analyses we have completed in the past 24 months using the new linked NHIS mortality file and other restricted-access data. Specially, cause-specific, comparative mortality analyses in US worker groups will be presented along with morbidity analyses using other restricted-access data from the NHIS. Recommendations will be provided for other investigators seeking efficient access to linked mortality data and other restricted-access data through the RDC for the NHIS and other NCHS surveys.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the strengths and limitations of using National Health Interview Survey to study survival and cause-specific mortality outcomes
- Describe the options, procedures, and challenges for accessing and completing analyses using linked National Health Interview Survey mortality and other data available through the National Center for Health Statistics Research Data Center.

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Additional Information available at the Study Website:

<http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/groups/niehs/niosh/>