

**National Institute on Aging (NIA)  
Behavioral and Social Research Program**

# **Review of NIA-Funded Activities at the National Center for Health Statistics**

## **Review Committee Report**

**May 2006**

### **Review Committee Members**

**Eileen Crimmins (Chairperson)**

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University of Southern California  
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**National Institute on Aging (NIA)  
Behavioral and Social Research Program**

**Review of NIA-Funded Activities at the  
National Center for Health Statistics**

**I. Background and Charge to the Review Committee**

National Institute on Aging (NIA)-funded activities at both the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and the U.S. Census Bureau began when FY 1987 Senate appropriations language, provided NIA with \$500,000 to launch the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics (\$100,000) and to create “offices” on aging-related statistics at the Census Bureau (\$200,000) and the NCHS (\$200,000). The funds were used to support Forum activities and conduct special analyses for publications and reports on aging issues. In the first 10 years of the interagency agreement (IAG), the average annual funding was approximately \$225,000. In FY 2005, the NIA awarded NCHS \$225,000 towards aging-related activities.<sup>1</sup>

Currently, NIA support to the NCHS, which is coordinated through the NIA Behavioral and Social Research Program, includes funds toward a data warehouse on trends in health and aging, the Research Data Center (RDCs), data linkage activities, the Longitudinal Study of Aging (LSOA), and the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics. These NCHS activities provide valuable data, services, and products to NIA, benefiting NIA by:

- providing research resources to NIA’s behavioral and social research community;
- providing modest research and statistical data support to NIA, e.g., data needed for congressional questions, Director’s presentations, and planning; and
- disseminating information about aging and the elderly in the United States and abroad to policymakers, researchers, and students.

NIA policy requires that proposed interagency agreements (IAGs) undergo concept peer review, which occurs once a year for new proposals. Individual NCHS projects have undergone concept reviews prior to funding, however, the last systematic review of all the NIA-funded activities at the NCHS occurred in 1996. The 1996 review found that the number of aging-related publications and data products had noticeably increased and that the oldest old became visible in the NCHS data for the first time. The review noted that, while the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics had been quite successful in the beginning, activity had slowed in the 1990s. The review also observed that there was little communication between the coordinator of data on aging and other NCHS groups working on aging-related issues.

Among the recommendations presented in the 1996 review were those listed below.

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<sup>1</sup> The FY2005 award includes \$65,000 for Federal Forum activities but does not include substantial carryover funds from prior years.

- Create an Office of Statistics on Aging at NCHS to serve as a coordination point for all aging activities and create an advisory group (including non-Federal members) to guide the Office.
- For future trend reports on the Health of Older Americans, consider including health data from agencies other than NCHS, consider presenting time series data that are age-adjusted for the total aged population and by cohort, and highlight results with helpful interpretation.
- Publish annual journal articles on trends in health and aging.
- Issue a report related to efforts to develop appropriate batteries related to measuring cognitive status of older persons in population-based surveys.

As a result of the 1996 review, funding from NIA for NCHS aging-related activities increased to approximately \$1 million per year over 10 years.

The intention of the 2006 review was to revitalize and focus NIA-funded activities at the NCHS, to identify new goals and objectives, and to recommend improvements in organization and management for the next 5 years. A continuing concern has been that the marginal value of NIA's funding has not always been clear, and whether NIA resources are being used to produce resources that would not exist in the absence of NIA support (such as the Data Warehouse). Reviewers also were alerted to NIA concerns about timeliness of NCHS projects, and the seeming lack of demand for NCHS products by NIA grantees. For example, usage of the second of the Longitudinal Studies on Aging has been much lower than expected (even considering the availability of other competing datasets), and there has been little documented use of the Research Data Center at NCHS by NIA grantees. Ideally, NIA's funding should leverage activities that produce more focus on aging at NCHS or more resources for NIA's research program. NIA sought the Review Committee's recommendations to inform decisions about ongoing and future aging-related activities at the NCHS.

The Review Committee was comprised of seven experts in population research: Eileen Crimmins (Chairperson), William Butz, Joseph Chamie, Arie Kapteyn, Barbara Boyle Torrey, Robert Wallace, and Robert Willis. Additionally, an independent contractor (Rose Li and Associates, Inc.) was retained by the NIA to provide review administration services by assisting in the management of the Review Committee and drafting the Committee Report, acting as a liaison between the NIA and the Review Committee, and ensuring the integrity of the review process.

Each Committee member signed a conflict of interest, bias, confidentiality, nondisclosure, and nonlobbying form prior to carrying out the review. No significant conflicts of interest or biases were articulated by Committee members.

The charge to the Review Committee in reviewing NIA-supported NCHS activities was to consider the following:

- Scope and nature of current interagency activities.
- Overall productivity and return on NIA's investment.
- Balance between data construction, dissemination, and publications.
- Balance between domestic and international activities.

Reviewers were asked to consider the importance of projects completed, underway, and planned and to pay particular attention to management, leadership, and future directions. In considering the latter, reviewers were asked to recommend how NIA could better leverage potential opportunities in the relationship with the NCHS, for instance by identifying publications needed, data gaps that could be addressed with NCHS resources, and potential linkages with administrative records or cross-agency collaborations that could be used to improve the data available to study aging.

## **II. Process Undertaken by the Review Committee**

The Review Committee relied on three main sources of information in its deliberations: (1) background materials assembled by NIA staff, (2) discussions with NIA staff to better understand the activities and issues under consideration, and (3) presentations by and discussions with NCHS staff during a site visit held May 2, 2006. These and other components of the concept peer review process are described below.

### **A. Review of Background Materials**

Prior to the site visit, Committee members received background materials providing an overview of interagency agreements as well as information pertaining to each of the major activities under review: the data warehouse on trends in health and aging, Research Data Centers, data linkage activities, the Longitudinal Study of Aging (LSOA), and the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics. Committee members were also provided review copies of *Older Americans 2000: Key Indicators of Well-Being* and other products of the Forum. A more detailed list of items provided to Committee members in preparation for this concept peer review is presented as Attachment 1.

### **B. Premeeting Planning Teleconference**

The first meeting of the Review Committee was held by teleconference on April 26, 2006, from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. EST. The purpose of the meeting was to allow reviewers to raise specific questions they would like addressed during the site visit. These questions were shared with NCHS staff in advance of the site visit so they could be better prepared to respond to reviewers' concerns. A complete list of the questions provided to NCHS staff is presented as Attachment 2. The teleconference also provided reviewers an opportunity to ask questions of NIA staff to gain a better understanding of the activities and issues under consideration.

### **C. Executive Session**

The Review Committee convened for an Executive Session on April 30, 2006, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Bethesda, Maryland. The purpose of the Executive Session, which included representatives from NIA staff, was to further clarify the scope of NIA support to NCHS activities and the management structure underlying NIA–NCHS activities and interactions. Also during the Executive Session, reviewers identified major themes for further discussion during the site visit and brainstormed about future products and collaborations.

## **D. NCHS Site Visit**

A formal site visit was conducted on May 2, 2006, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the NCHS in Hyattsville, Maryland. Attending the site visit were Review Committee members and staff representing the NCHS and the NIA. A complete list of attendees and the meeting agenda are presented as Attachments 3 and 4. During the site visit, NCHS staff discussed the status of key NIA-funded activities and shared their ideas for future collaborations. A question-and-answer period followed these presentations. Summaries of these presentations and the ensuing discussions appear in Section III of this report. The Review Committee and NIA staff concluded the site visit with a closed executive session with NCHS leadership. Participants present for the closed session are designated with an asterisk in Attachment 4.

## **E. Review Committee Deliberations and Final Report**

Review Committee deliberations took place at NIA offices in Bethesda, Maryland, the afternoon of May 2, 2006, and resulted in the observations and recommendations presented in this report.

NIA staff provided services and support for the review, including overall review management, reimbursement of Committee members for travel expenses associated with the review and honorariums, and providing Committee members with answers to their questions. NIA staff absented themselves from Committee deliberations during the drafting of recommendations.

## **III. Summary of Site Visit Presentations and Issues**

NCHS oversight of NIA-funded activities is conducted by Jennifer Madans, Associate Director for Science, and Linda Bilheimer, Associate Director for Analysis and Epidemiology; the latter is new to the NCHS. They opened the May 2, 2006, site visit by listing active major NCHS data collection efforts, providing an overview of current budget challenges, and describing the organizational structure of the NCHS, now within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Additional introductory comments were made by Richard Suzman, Director of NIA's Behavioral and Social Research Program, who stated the purpose of NIA's collaboration with the NCHS and the purpose of the concept peer review.

Following opening remarks, NCHS staff reported on five key projects. These presentations, along with a discussion about future directions, are summarized below.

### **A. Data Warehouse on Trends in Health and Aging**

Under this IAG, NCHS develops and maintains information on trends in health and aging using data from the NCHS and other Federal sources and disseminates the information to health researchers, academics, policymakers, and practitioners. A number of visits have been made to NIA-sponsored Demography of Aging Centers to introduce this resource. The Trends on Health and Aging Web site, released in fall 1999, contains over 80 national or State tables by age, sex, and race, organized into 18 topic areas. The site was recently redesigned based on analysis of users' experience and expert recommendations in order to:

- improve (downloadable) access to the data;

- expand statistical testing capabilities;
- provide a Spanish-language version of the site; and
- provide teaching modules.

The average number of visits to the Trends on Health and Aging site in 2005 was 6,154 per month.

The Review Committee was presented with a demonstration of the Web site. While visitors cannot access microdata, they can manipulate aggregate data to create Beyond 20/20<sup>®</sup> tables. To ensure that visitors are aware that data are layered, NCHS plans to work with Beyond 20/20<sup>®</sup> to develop drop-down menus and, possibly, a video tutorial.

Plans for 2006 include enhancing the design and usability of the site and producing additional resources for teaching through collaborations with the Johns Hopkins University and the American Society on Aging. Future plans also include furthering efforts to increase usability and visibility, broadening the range of topics to include tables from the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) and the National Long-Term Care Survey, developing Web-based interactive learning modules on aging, and conducting a day-long workshop on aging issues and data.

## **B. NCHS Research Data Center**

The Research Data Center (RDC) houses NCHS data files not released for public use for reasons of confidentiality. Among data files no longer released are, for instance, those linked to mortality information. The RDC, therefore, allows the NCHS to provide users access to data in a secure environment onsite at NCHS offices in Hyattsville, Maryland. In addition to permitting access to confidential data through the RDC, access is available remotely through an e-mail-based system known as ANDRE (ANalytical Data Research by E-mail).

In an attempt to enhance access to data without compromising confidentiality, NCHS is conducting an internal review of the RDC. Under consideration is the creation of remote RDCs, for instance at universities. In addition, NCHS is enhancing remote access to data by upgrading ANDRE so that it has greater capability. The new system, known as ANDREW (ANalytical Data Research by E-mail and Web), will have increased capacity and an Internet interface and will support multiple statistical languages—SAS, Sudaan, and eventually Stata as well. Further, the system will address the problem of confidentiality risks resulting from cumulative data retrieval through multiple requests from the same user.

Currently, the NCHS does not monitor RDC usage by NIA grantees; however, a mechanism to capture and track information on all RDC requesters is under development. Generally, however, use of the NCHS RDC has increased, particularly in the past year, as the availability of public-use files has been increasingly restricted.

## **C. Linkage Activities**

NCHS provides support for administrative record linkage activities for the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)

and data access through the NCHS RDC. Funding from NIA supports linkage of survey participant information to detailed information on mortality, Medicare enrollment and utilization, and Social Security benefit history. Linked files are available through the NCHS RDC. To support use of the files, NCHS has developed Web pages for each linked data file providing data file documentation, analytic guidelines, and methodologic reports. Also in support of this task, NCHS presents workshops at conferences to raise awareness of data linkage activities.

Future plans include linkage to other NCHS surveys and to information on veterans' health and on immigration. There are also plans to develop summary analytic variables and data files, expand linked data accessibility, and enhance efforts to promote NCHS linked data resources.

#### **D. Longitudinal Study of Aging**

There are three IAGs between the NIA and the NCHS. The first IAG, which supports data collection and dissemination efforts of LSOA II Wave 3, is coming to a close. The only task remaining under this IAG is completing a CD-ROM with LSOA II questionnaires, documentation, and the SAS program and data files. The second IAG is underway and will support the final documentation of the LSOA II survey methodologies in an NCHS Plan and Operations manual. The third IAG supports administrative record linkage activities for the LSOA II and data access to restricted NCHS data through the RDC. This IAG is coming to a close as well. Tasks remaining include developing summary analytic variables from linked Medicare and Social Security data, producing summary measures, and developing public-use data summary files.

#### **E. Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics**

The Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, which includes representatives from 13 Federal agencies but is administratively managed at NCHS, has three central tasks to: (1) produce *Older Americans: Key Indicators of Well-Being*, which presents data on the overall status of the U.S. population age 65 and over; (2) explore opportunities to integrate data for research applications; and (3) initiate projects to improve measurement methods and quality data throughout. In a Forum meeting held in June 2005, Forum members agreed that the *Older Americans* chartbook would be produced every 2 years, rather than annually, alternating production of a full chartbook with production of a brief version and thus giving the Forum more time to pursue additional projects.

Among additional projects underway is an effort to describe how residential settings for people age 65 and over are identified, defined, and classified in federally sponsored data collection efforts. The Forum is also working on a brief report that will compare the well-being of near-retirees (ages 55 to 64) in 2004 to previous cohorts of the same age in 1994 and 1984. In addition, Web site maintenance and improvement is planned.

#### **F. Future Directions**

Among activities proposed by NCHS or NIA for future consideration are those listed below.

- Conducting follow up or enhancement studies to the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and NHANES that would enhance the value of these studies for those interested in aging.
- Conducting a nationally representative survey of long-term residential care facilities and their residents.
- Sponsoring workshops for policy researchers to raise their awareness of data available through the RDC.
- Using NCHS resources to produce life tables by cohort and/or education.

New initiatives currently under development within the NCHS Extramural Research Program include a Small Business Innovation Research announcement to encourage research to improve the collection, dissemination, and analysis of survey data; a “Pathway to Independence” program to facilitate receipt of independent research awards earlier in the careers of talented new investigators; and collaborations with the Information Centre for Health and Social Care. These initiatives will be directed by Virginia Cain.

#### **D. Closed Executive Session with NCHS Leadership**

The Review Committee and NIA staff met in closed session with representatives of NCHS leadership: Director (Edward Sondik, by telephone), Associate Director for Science (Jennifer Madans), and Associate Director for Analysis and Epidemiology (Linda Bilheimer). Discussion centered on management of the multiple cooperative agreements between NIA and NCHS, and the need for more detail in the agreements that make explicit expectations, deliverables, and timelines. NCHS staff and reviewers agreed on the usefulness of the Federal Forum and welcomed opportunities to invigorate it. Reviewers urged NCHS staff to continue to update Medicare and NDI linkages for both the LSOA I and II. Participants acknowledged that greater collaboration between the NCHS and NIA is mutually beneficial. Aside from funds, NIA offers entrée to research communities that could contribute to NCHS activities. Reviewers and NIA staff encouraged NCHS staff to consider participating at NIA-supported workshops such as the RAND and NBER Summer Institutes to reach out to researchers. One suggestion was to organize a workshop on NDI and/or Medicare linked files across the Federal and academic research communities.

### **IV. Review Committee Assessment**

#### **A. Overall Strengths and Weaknesses**

NCHS staff seemed interested in and excited about issues important in aging and health and had new ideas to share with the Review Committee at the May 2, 2006, site visit. Individual NCHS staff provided valuable information about their activities and responsibilities. There is leadership at NCHS that should be able to work with NIA to encourage timely delivery of products and services. The Review Committee recognized the Federal Forum on Aging Related Statistics for its role in facilitating communication and collaboration within the federal government. Other major strengths identified by the Review Committee include the complementarity of data products and ongoing research at the NCHS including methodologically important work, with results published in respected peer-review journals.



While collaboration between the two agencies has been productive, it is critical that NIA-funded activities at the NCHS be strengthened through enhanced communication, cooperation, and collaboration between the two agencies. Because population aging will impact—directly or indirectly—all sectors of Government, it is vital that efficient and effective mechanisms for collaboration are clearly in place and operating smoothly.

In general, however, the Review Committee agreed that there are numerous exciting opportunities for aging-related activities within the NCHS.

## **B. General Recommendations**

The Review Committee offered a number of recommendations for consideration by the NIA to improve the productivity of NIA-funded activities at the NCHS and to bolster their effectiveness and potential. General recommendations are presented first, followed by recommendations pertaining to each of the major activities. General recommendations are listed below.

- Enhance communication and cooperation by having regular meetings (at least two times per year) with the NIA to review the status of ongoing projects, clarify expectations about product specifications and delivery, and plan activities for the future.
- Participate in a meeting, to be convened by the NIA and to include members of the research community, to discuss how data from NHANES, NHIS, and other major NCHS surveys could be enhanced for use by the NIA research community. The NHANES is a particularly valuable and unique survey; with even small enhancement it could be even more useful to the NIA program. For instance, collection of additional biomarkers in NHANES can inform this activity in HRS; addition of more demographic and social psychological information can make the NHANES more valuable to the NIA research portfolio. Adding a longitudinal component would be especially valuable.
- Define more carefully the target audiences for all the products and programs.
- Participate in discussions with the NIA and the vital statistics group regarding the value of producing life tables by cohort and education.
- Interact with the research community to develop proposals that make innovative and intellectually exciting use of NCHS data.
- Interact with aging interests elsewhere within CDC to identify opportunities to strengthen this relationship and promote interest in aging and health throughout the agency.

In addition, the Review Committee observed that too much time had passed between the 1996 review and the current review. The Committee therefore recommended that a concept peer review of NIA–NCHS agreements be conducted every 5 years, rather than every 10 years.

## **C. Specific Recommendations**

### **1. Data Warehouse on Trends in Health and Aging**

The recommendation from the 1996 review that has been most successfully implemented has been the Trends in Health and Aging activities, including publishing of journal articles. There has been at least one article per year published in high-visibility journals on specific issues in

health trends; several more articles are in review or in draft form. One aging trend report has been published, and two more are in draft. The Trends in Health and Aging Web site went public in 1999; currently, there are more than 6,000 visits per month. More work is proposed to make it more user-friendly.

While the Review Committee agreed that the Trends in Health and Aging Web site is useful, valuable, and well-developed, they believe that it could now be maintained at a lower cost to NIA and that usership can be expanded. The Committee also suggested that some NIA data warehouse funds be directed toward the development of historic cohort lifetables and lifetables by education. In addition, the more general NCHS Data Warehouse at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/datawh.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/datawh.htm) needs to be clearly distinguished from the Trends in Health and Aging Web site so the Trends data can be efficiently accessed; currently, there is some confusion between the two.

## **2. NCHS Research Data Center**

The Review Committee recommended that NIA funds to the NCHS Research Data Center (RDC) be used to subsidize NIA grantees and graduate students conducting aging-related research, as well as potential applicants for NIA support at the stage of hypothesis generation. By the end of next year, the Committee asked that the NCHS provide the NIA with an accounting on use of RDCs by NIA grants and trainees—including names and institutions—in order to track usership among this audience. This activity will complement the “Pathway to Independence” activity currently in the planning phase. The Review Committee also recommended that the RDC quickly incorporate the ability to use Stata from remote sites.

## **3. Linkage Activities**

NCHS staff members in this area seem knowledgeable, and productivity appears to be good; however, greater use of linked files by the research community is desirable. The Review Committee therefore recommended that the NCHS provide mechanisms for dissemination of information on use of these data by the wider research community, particularly NIA grantees. This might include, for example, conducting workshops on use of the linked files and interacting with the Demography of Aging Centers as well as the RAND Summer Institute. It also seems desirable to have more contact among investigators linking similar files, in other government agencies and in the wider research community.

## **4. Longitudinal Study of Aging**

The LSOA I served as a precedent for the worldwide increase in longitudinal data collection. However, there has been a substantial decrease in published scientific papers based on LSOA II data in recent years, and there is little expectation that this will improve. The data are now older and other sources have become available. There is now little prospect or need for replicating this survey. Many of the original scientific aims of the LSOA have been subsumed by other national surveys, and many of the new questions of interest could not be addressed in the LSOA format.

Based on the above observations, the Review Committee recommended that the NCHS complete LSOA linkage activities and the LSOA operations monograph with no-cost extension funds and that these IAGs then be closed. It is hoped that the NCHS will continue ongoing linkage of LSOA I and LSOA II as part of its general linkage activities.

### **5. Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics**

The Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics was an innovative idea when conceived 20 years ago; it created a mechanism for meeting and coordinating activities among the U.S. statistical agencies that addressed some aspect of aging with data. For the first time definitions of aging were standardized, unrelated surveys were coordinated, and the visibility of aging trends raised. It was so successful that it became a model for a similar forum on children.

The Federal Forum continues to be active, providing meeting agendas and program reviews, and there seems to be clear management and direction, at least with respect to health and economic issues. Other strengths identified by the Review Committee are that the Forum is becoming involved in new areas that represent problems for surveys (e.g., the classification of group residence dwellings) and that the products produced by the Forum, though not as frequent as in previous years, are nevertheless skillfully and carefully done.

One such publication is *Older Americans 2004: Key Indicators of Well-Being*. The update due in 2006 will be recognized as a regular product that people can count on for current information. This is a concrete way to make the Forum productive. Future updates should consider refining the 65 age category, which is so heterogeneous and needs to be disaggregated, and should strive to identify indicators of importance rather than of convenience. It also would be helpful to have international comparisons of key indicators. The Forum's Website at [www.agingstats.gov](http://www.agingstats.gov) is lively and easy to use.

In recent years, the Forum has grown larger with an increasing number of agencies participating and cofunding Forum activities. However, it is not clear how many of these agencies actively participate. It also is not clear how the Forum markets its data products and how its approach differs from that of the data warehouse and other portals from which NCHS data are disseminated. This would be helpful in understanding the use of the budget. Also unclear is the potential constituency of the Forum, other than the participating agencies.

Among weaknesses noted by the Review Committee is the pace at which the Forum is moving into emerging thematic areas important to the health and well-being of America's elders. It could be faster. In addition, there may be a lack of comprehensive public health and other consultative expertise available to the Forum. More interaction with the wider research community would be helpful. If the Forum were to become more proactive on aging issues, topics for discussion might include:

- elder health and health outcomes associated with natural disasters;
- surveying long-term care populations to assure completeness;
- aging outcomes among undocumented immigrants;
- mental health problems among elders (other than depressive symptoms);
- health and social issues of the growing number of elders in the justice system;

- amalgamation of data from the national adult protective service system; and
- biases caused when elders do not participate in household surveys.

The Review Committee also recommended that the Forum:

- increase interaction with a wider community of scholars including international bodies;
- implement a more rigorous review of the chartbook involving a wider review group;
- evaluate the distribution and use of the chartbook;
- seek more publicity for the chartbook when it is released;
- arrange for more substantive presentations by researchers who are users of the data and are actively involved in aging research; and
- consider giving each agency responsibility for developing the meeting agenda to stimulate new ideas and make the meetings more dynamic.

In conclusion, the Review Committee agreed that the Forum is one of the better opportunities to improve the utilization and amalgamation of Federal statistics.

## **V. Conclusions**

In conclusion, the Review Committee commended NIA for initiating the site visit review and recommended that NIA support to aging-related activities at the NCHS continue with refinements as indicated in this report. The potential leverage from even modest amounts of NIA funding at NCHS is enormous. The Committee was confident that, with increased communication and collaboration between the two agencies, the products and services resulting from these IAGs would advance research on and interest in population aging.

Attachment 1: Documents Provided to the Review Committee

Attachment 2: Questions Provided to the NCHS

Attachment 3: Site Visit Agenda

Attachment 4: Participants in NCHS Site Visit

## **Attachment 1 Documents Provided to the Review Committee**

Prior to the May 2, 2006, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) site visit, each Review Committee member received a binder of materials that included the items listed below.

### **1. Interagency Agreement Overview**

- Slides presenting the National Institute on Aging (NIA) contract budget since FY96 and current and recently ended interagency agreements (IAGs) grouped by category type and by Behavioral and Social Research Program (BSR) area of emphasis
- Overview of BSR's IAG program written by Richard Woodbury (2000)

### **2. NCHS Overview** (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/Default.htm>)

- Budget spreadsheet of NCHS funding from 1996 through 2006
- Report from the 1996 site visit

### **3. Trends in Health and Aging** (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/agingact.htm>)

- Progress report provided by James Lubitz (NCHS)
- Historical NIA progress reports

### **4. Data Linkage and Data Access Agreement**

- Progress report provided by Christine Cox (NCHS)
- Bibliography of research using National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) linked mortality data
- Historical NIA progress reports

### **5. Longitudinal Study on Aging (LSOA)** (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/lsoa.htm>)

- Progress report provided by Julie Dawson Weeks (NCHS)
- Citations and references for studies based on the LSOA II, Second Supplement on Aging, LSOA, and Supplement on Aging
- Historical NIA progress reports

### **6. Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics** ([www.agingstats.gov](http://www.agingstats.gov))

- Progress report provided by Kristen Robinson (NCHS and Forum)
- Agendas from the three most recent Forum meetings
- Historical NIA progress reports
- Concept Review Summary Statement for Forum project under consideration for FY06

### **7. NCHS Appendixes**

- Historical NIA progress reports for other NCHS projects
- Agenda and participant list from the meeting sponsored under the IAG titled "Improving the Quality of Data on Economic Status in National Health Surveys"

- Draft meeting summary from the meeting sponsored under the IAG titled “Development of a Typology of Long-Term Care Residences”
- Concept review summary statements for other NCHS projects under consideration for FY06

**8. Logistical Information**

- Site visit agenda
- Review assignments for 2006 concept peer review
- Roster of reviewers
- Pre-meeting information

## **Attachment 2**

### **Questions Provided to the National Center for Health Statistics**

The following questions, generated by reviewers during the April 26, 2006, teleconference, were provided via e-mail to Jennifer Madans, Associate Director for Science, later that same day.

#### Overall Management:

1. Please describe the management structure and point of contact for aging-related activities at the NCHS.
2. How will timeliness of future products be ensured? For example, will resources and priorities be allocated to encourage timely production of products?
3. How will NCHS establish and maintain relationships with outside researchers so that complementary research can be incorporated into NIA sponsored reports?

#### Data Warehouse:

Please be prepared to provide a brief demonstration of the Health Trends database.

#### CDC/NCHS Research Data Center (Data Enclave):

Demand for this service may not be adequately reflected in the progress report. Please provide:

1. A list of Data Enclave users, preferably coded by whether the user is conducting research related to aging and is an NIA grantee;
2. A list of datasets or files that recently have been added to the enclave as new offerings; and
3. A list of datasets or files that previously were publicly available but are now restricted to enclave-only use.

#### Federal Forum:

1. The last sentence on page 2 of the NIA/BSR Interagency Agreement Progress Report submitted by Kristen Robinson, April 6, 2006, states: "In 2005, NIA lead the Forum in developing a five-year strategic plan that reflects the purpose, goals, and mission of the Forum." Please provide a copy of this "strategic plan."
2. Please provide examples of Database News on Aging – e.g., most recent issue.

**Attachment 3**  
**Site Visit Agenda to the National Center for Health Statistics**

**National Institute on Aging**  
**Behavioral and Social Research Program**  
**Review of NIA-Funded Activities at the**  
**National Center for Health Statistics**  
May 2, 2006

**Final Agenda**

**May 2 (Tuesday)**

**NCHS – Room 1707C**

**3311 Toledo Road, Hyattsville, MD**

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**7:15 am**      **Depart from Hyatt Regency Bethesda**

**8:00 am**      **Coffee and Pastries**

**8:20 am**      **Statement of Purpose**  
Richard Suzman, National Institute on Aging

**8:30 am**      **Overview and Introductory Remarks**  
Ed Sondik, Director, NCHS and Acting Director, National Center for Public Health Informatics (by telephone)  
Jennifer Madans, Associate Director for Science  
Linda T. Bilheimer, Associate Director for Analysis and Epidemiology

**8:45 am**      **Project Status Reports**

*This session will feature brief status reports on key NIA-funded activities and ideas for future directions by NCHS staff, followed by an opportunity for reviewers to question presenters.*

**Data Warehouse**

James Lubitz, Acting Chief, Aging and Chronic Disease Statistics Branch

**CDC/NCHS Research Data Center (Data Enclave)**

Wilbur Hadden

**Linkage Activities**

Chris Cox, Special Assistant for Record Linkage

**Longitudinal Study on Aging**

Julie Weeks, Study Director and Lead Statistician (Health), Aging and Chronic Disease Statistics Branch



**Federal Forum on Aging Related Statistics**

Kristen Robinson, Staff Director

- 9:25 am**      **Discussion**
- 10:00 am**      **Future Directions**
- 10:45 am**      **Discussion**
- 11:15 am**      **Closed Executive Session**  
NIA reviewers and staff
- 11:30 am**      **Closed Executive Session with NCHS Leadership**  
Ed Sondik (by phone)  
Jennifer Madans  
Linda T. Bilheimer  
NIA reviewers and staff
- 12:00 pm**      **Depart from NCHS**
- 12:45 pm**      **Executive Session (Working Lunch)**  
*NIA 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room*  
7201 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland
- 3:00 pm**      **Adjourn**

## Attachment 4 Participants in National Center for Health Statistics Site Visit

\* Present for Executive Session with NCHS Leadership

### NCHS Staff

\*Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D. (by telephone)  
Director

\*Jennifer Madans, Ph.D.  
Associate Director for Science

\*Linda Bilheimer, Ph.D.  
Associate Director for Analysis and Epidemiology

Robert Anderson, Ph.D.  
Chief, Mortality Statistics Branch

Christine Cox  
Special Assistant for Record Linkage

Wilbur Hadden, Ph.D.  
Statistician, Research Data Center

Cliff Johnson  
Director, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)

Ellen Kramarow, Ph.D.  
Demographer

James Lubitz  
Acting Chief, Aging and Chronic Disease Statistics Branch

Eve Powell-Griner, Ph.D.  
Data Analysis and Quality Assurance Branch Chief  
Division of Health Interview Statistics

Robin E. Remsburg, Ph.D., APRN, BC  
Deputy Director, Division of Health Care Statistics  
and Acting Chief, Long-Term Care Statistics Branch

Kristen Robinson, Ph.D.  
Staff Director  
Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics

Jane E. Sisk, Ph.D.  
Director, Division of Health Care Statistics

Julie Dawson Weeks, Ph.D.  
Demographer and Project Director  
Longitudinal Studies of Aging

### **Review Committee Members**

\*Eileen Crimmins, Ph.D., Chairperson  
University of Southern California

\*William P. Butz  
Population Reference Bureau

\*Joseph Chamie, Ph.D.  
Center for Migration Research

\*Arie Kapteyn, Ph.D.  
RAND Corporation

\*Robert Wallace, M.D.  
University of Iowa

\*Robert Willis, Ph.D.  
University of Michigan

### **National Institute on Aging Staff**

\*John Haaga, Ph.D.  
Deputy Director  
Behavioral and Social Research Program

\*Elayne Heisler, Ph.D.  
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Behavioral and Social Research Program

\*Amy Iadarola, M.A.  
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Rose Li and Associates, Inc.

\*Rose Maria Li, M.B.A., Ph.D.  
Scientific Review Administrator (Contractor)  
Rose Li and Associates, Inc.

\*Georgeanne Patmios  
Acting Chief, Population and Social Processes Branch  
Behavioral and Social Research Program

\*Richard Suzman, Ph.D.  
Director  
Behavioral and Social Research Program