

# National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) Data Release

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# **Presentation outline**

**Brief overview of the NHIS**

**NHIS products (data files, etc.)**

**Some NHIS data release history**

**Future directions of NHIS data  
release**

# **The purpose of NHIS**

**To collect data on the health status and health services utilization of the U.S. civilian non-institutionalized population**

**To collect data on specific topics of current public health concern**

**To provide official national health data to the public**

# **NHIS questionnaire modules**

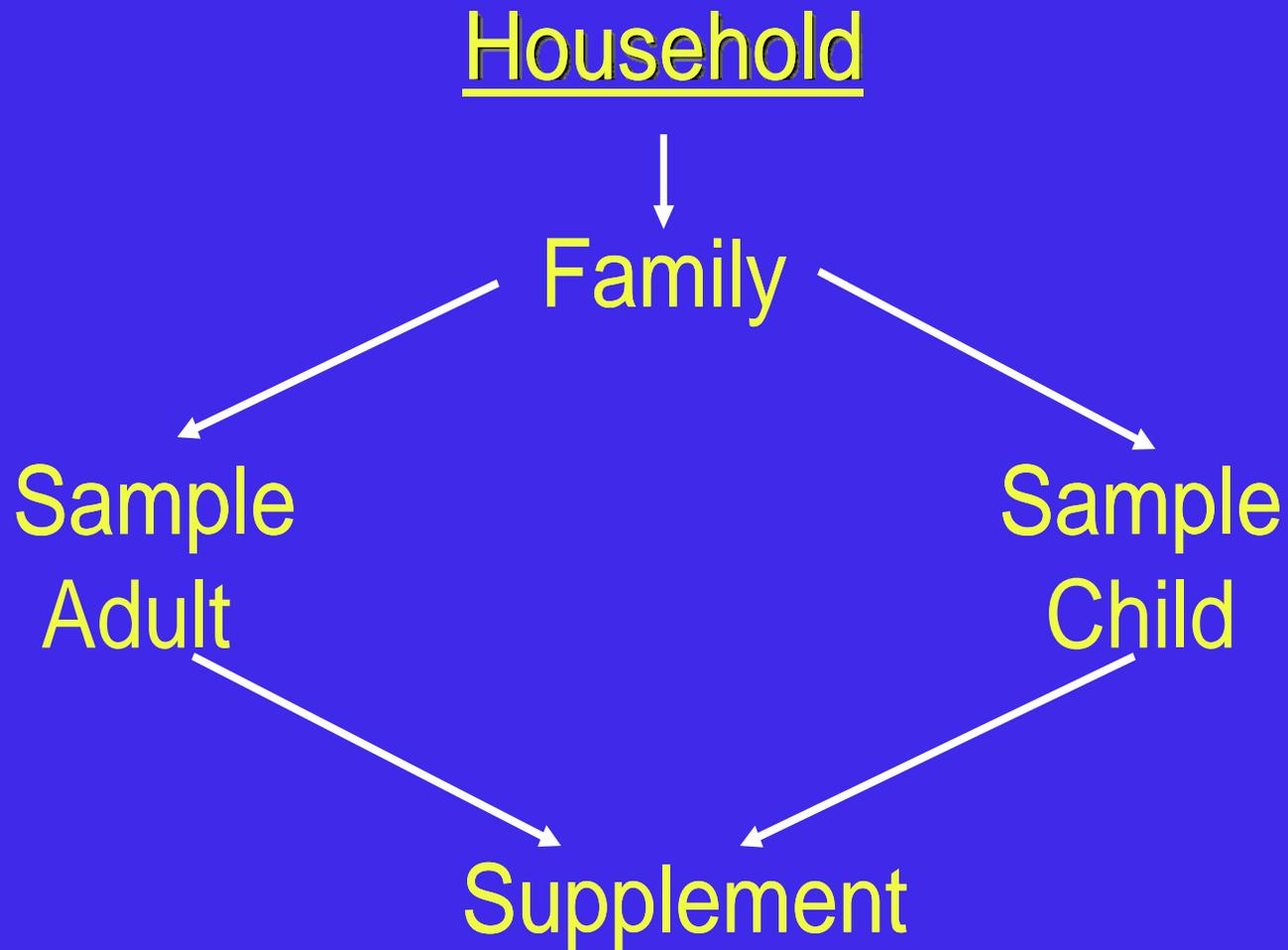
**Basic Module or Core**  
**Fielded each year**

**Supplemental Modules**

**New topics or more detail on Core  
topics**

**Different each year**

# NHIS Data Files



# **NHIS products**

**Annual microdata files**

**Annual reports**

**Population**

**Children**

**Adults**

**Reports on specific topics**

**FastStats**

**Early Release**

**Healthy E-Stats**

# **NHIS Early Release Program (started 2001)**

**Quarterly (four times per year):  
Selected Estimates, Health  
Insurance Coverage reports**

**Twice per year: Wireless  
Substitution reports**

**Three times per year: preliminary  
microdata files in NCHS RDC**

# **Guidance, support, communication**

**Survey Description Document: part  
of annual NHIS microdata release**

**Data requests team - responds to  
data user questions**

**NHIS listserv - announces releases  
of data, reports**

**Extensive online documentation**

# **Data release software support**

**Example programs in several software languages (e.g., SAS, Stata) for reading microdata files**

**Example computer code in several languages (e.g., SAS survey procedures, Stata, R survey package) for complex survey variance estimation**

# **Brief data release history**

**NHIS began in July 1957 (fiscal year 1958) - only printed reports available from first 5 years**

**Microdata files retained beginning with fiscal year 1963 NHIS**

**Mainframe computer tapes for sale - ordered by phone or mail**

**NHIS website - late 1990's**

# **NHIS website evolution**

**No new staff hired to create website content**

**A new dissemination medium - a learning process to utilize effectively**

**Public use microdata added incrementally as resources were available - all existing NHIS public use microdata online in 2009**

# **Some future directions**

**Less printed reports, more  
electronic releases**

**Online analytic system currently  
being developed**

**Continue to enhance existing  
content as resources are available**

**Maintain quality and timeliness**

# Summary

**NHIS data release began as printed reports**

**NHIS microdata distribution has evolved: mainframe computer tapes (\$), CD-ROMs (free), Internet download (free)**

**Future data release focus is primarily electronic**

**NHIS home**

**page:**

**<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>**