

Using NCHS Data in Health Services Research, Policy and Education

**Presentation to the Board of Scientific Counselors
National Center for Health Statistics**

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Examples from the past year

1. **Health Services Research:** journal article on use of mental health services by disabled children
2. **Health Policy:** project with the Kaiser Family Foundation to clarify Medicaid policy issues around moving nursing home residents back to the community
3. **Education:** use of NHIS (and other NCHS data sets) in doctoral advanced research methods class

Using NCHS Data in Health Services Research

- Article in *Health Services Research* (Witt, Kasper & Riley, 2003) used 1994/95 Disability Supplement and linked NHIS data
- Focused on several factors in use of mental health services by disabled children, but strength from HSR perspective was ability to look at “care coordination” – a measure of health care organization/delivery – in addition to child and family characteristics
- Results indicated odds of service use greater with involvement of a health professional in care coordination in contrast to no one or family only; outpatient service use greater with family and health professional involvement than with health professional alone

Using NCHS Data in Health Policy

- Current initiatives to move people out of nursing homes and back to community setting under CMS Nursing Home Transition Grants to states and the proposed Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Initiative in President Bush's 2004 budget
- Project with the Kaiser Family Foundation to examine how state Medicaid LTC policies support or obstruct nursing home to community transitions
- First step is to describe nursing home population using current resident and discharge resident data from 1999 NNHS (most recent available, 2004??)

Using NCHS Data in Education

- Teaching advanced research methods to doctoral students in HSR
- NHIS provides a template for design and analysis of a nationally representative health survey from sampling to public use data files including:
 - o methods reports describing complex sample design and implications for analysis
 - o flow charts of questionnaire administration in the household
 - o user-friendly documentation and public use data files (used as basis for class exercises)

Observations

Opportunities for use of NCHS data in health services research and health policy analysis is underappreciated

Consider more technical assistance and closer ties to HSR (AcademyHealth Workshop?) and policy researchers (develop a listserve to notify re data availability and contents?)

Review surveys to identify unique opportunities to address HSR and health policy issues (e.g. health insurance information in NHANES)