Why is the NHPI NHIS important?

Since the NHIS is nationally representative, it usually includes about 100 households each year with Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander residents. However, to protect the privacy of these households, the health data of NHPI people have to be combined with the health data of Asian people when NHIS statistics are shown by race.

NHPI community leaders, as well as policy makers, researchers, and service providers, agree we need better data on the health of NHPI people. The NHPI NHIS helps to meet the goal of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) of improving the collection and reporting of data on NHPI populations and increasing the capacity to conduct more reliable statistical research for NHPI populations.

The NHPI NHIS is a rare opportunity to collect rich and accurate health information about the health of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

Your help is greatly appreciated.
What is the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)?
The NHIS is the nation's largest in-person household health survey. It is conducted annually by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), which is a part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Census Bureau.

What is the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) National Health Interview Survey?
The NHPI NHIS is a special version of the National Health Interview Survey.

How can the information be used?
With the data collected, it will be possible to:
• Plan policies to help improve NHPI health and well-being.
• Develop effective interventions to improve NHPI health.
• Improve medical services for NHPI people.
• Understand NHPI health problems, strengths, and needs.

Anyone can use the information gathered in the NHPI NHIS—policymakers, researchers, and community members such as pastors, health care providers, community service providers, teachers, students, and the general public.

The data, stripped of all identifying information, will be available to everyone on the NCHS NHIS Web site: www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm.
The 2014 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) Fact Sheet

WHAT

• In 2014, about 4,000 extra households containing one or more NHPI residents will be added to the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). The NHIS is the nation’s largest in-person household health survey. It has been conducted annually since 1957 by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), which is a part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Interviewing is done by the U.S. Census Bureau’s field staff.

• The survey collects information on health status and conditions, disability, access to and use of health services, health insurance coverage, immunizations, risk factors, and health-related behaviors.

• More information about the NHIS can be found at CDC’s website: [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm)

WHY

• The NHPI population is a distinct racial group that comprises 0.4% of the total U.S. population. This makes it a difficult group to include in sufficient numbers in most national surveys. To protect the privacy of NHPI survey participants, NHPI data has historically been combined with Asian data when statistics are shown by race. As a result, there is little nationally representative data on NHPI health.

• This project does not replace state and local level NHPI health data collection efforts. However, this project is important for different reasons. This survey will include all Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander groups in all 50 states (and the District of Columbia). In addition, because this survey is nationally representative, it will be possible to compare the results to national estimates on other groups. Results from the survey will be publically available for statistical purposes, after being thoroughly processed to ensure that the data records cannot be linked to individual persons or households. NCHS and the Census Bureau have over 50 years of experience conducting the NHIS, and the NHIS is one of the nation’s primary sources for high-quality population health data.

• The NHPI NHIS is an unprecedented opportunity to collect rich and accurate information about the health of NHPI people in all 50 states. With the information collected, it will be possible for policymakers, researchers, health professionals, and NHPI organizations, leaders, and community members to understand NHPI health problems, strengths, and needs and to plan policies and programs to improve NHPI health and well-being.

• NHPI community leaders, as well as policy makers, researchers, and service providers, agree we need better data on the health of NHPI people. The NHPI NHIS helps to meet the goal of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) of improving the collection and reporting of data on NHPI populations and increasing the capacity to conduct more reliable statistical research for NHPI populations.
The 2014 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) Fact Sheet (continued)

WHERE

- The NHPI NHIS will be conducted in all 50 states including Alaska and Hawaii as well as the District of Columbia. The NHPI NHIS will not be conducted in Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia or Palau. The NHPI NHIS will be conducted throughout the U.S. with more interviews occurring where there are more NHPI households.

HOW

- The Census Bureau will send an invitation letter to the households selected for the survey.

- Professional Census Bureau interviewers will visit the selected households to conduct the survey. Each interviewer has an identification badge that identifies him or her as a representative of the Census Bureau and of CDC. The interviewer will attempt to complete the survey at this first meeting. If that is not possible, repeated attempts either in person or over the phone are made to complete the interview. Interviewers are flexible about where and when interviews are conducted. Interviews can be conducted any day of the week and any time of day.

- All interviewers will be trained on NHPI cultural sensitivity and awareness.

WHO

- This survey uses a preselected scientific sample. *Due to the scientific methods used to pick addresses, no address can be exchanged for another.* Each selected household represents many others across the country. If the project were to use a volunteer, non-scientifically-selected sample, the survey results would not represent the entire country. Furthermore, *a high response rate is important to ensure high data quality.* By participating, respondents have the opportunity to represent their communities and ensure the success of this unprecedented NHPI health survey.

- The NHPI NHIS will collect health information about everyone in the household even if only one person is NHPI.

- Participation is voluntary and greatly appreciated. No payment is being offered for participation.

- All data collected for this survey are used for statistical purposes only and are guaranteed by law to be held in the strictest of confidence.
January 16, 2014

Dear Community Leader or Service Provider,

I am writing to let you know about an important survey that will take place in 2014: The Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).

The NHIS is the nation’s largest in-person household health survey and is a primary tool for monitoring the health of the nation. It has been conducted annually, since 1957, by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), which is a part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), with field work conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The NHIS collects information on health, healthcare, health insurance, and health-related behaviors.

In a typical year, few NHPI households are in the survey sample but in 2014, about 4,000 additional households containing one or more NHPI residents will be added to the NHIS. It is possible that some residents in your community may be asked to participate. For this project to be a success, it is important for selected households to complete the interview.

As one way to inform the public about the survey, we are distributing posters to community gathering places across the country. We would be grateful if you would hang the enclosed poster in your center or office’s waiting room, or in some other prominent place.

We have included some brochures about the survey, which you are welcome to duplicate, distribute, or simply make available to your community.

For more information about the survey, please see the enclosed document “Fact Sheet about the NHPI NHIS”. If you have any questions, send them to us at healthsurveys@cdc.gov. You can also visit the NHIS website at http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm.

Thank you for your help with this important survey.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Rothwell
Director
National Center for Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Enclosures
Letter w/attachments
What is the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)?

The NHIS is the nation’s largest in-person household health survey. It is conducted annually by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), which is a part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Census Bureau.

In 2014, about 4,000 extra households containing one or more NHPI residents will be added to the NHIS. If you are selected, the Census Bureau will contact you.

Why is the NHPI NHIS important to you, your family, and your community?

The NHPI NHIS is an unprecedented opportunity to collect rich and accurate information about the health of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in all 50 states. With the information collected, it will be possible for policymakers, community leaders, researchers and health professionals to understand NHPI health problems, strengths, and needs and to plan policies and programs to improve NHPI health and well-being.

Your information will always be kept confidential.

The data, stripped of all identifying information, will be available to everyone for statistical purposes.