

# DataSpeak—Progress on the Redesign of the National Survey of Children’s Health and the Data Resource Center

September 10, 2015

## Questions and Answers

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**Q1: Can you explain more about your comment that web is not the silver bullet? It looked like the response rate was higher for web than the other modes, but I do not understand what the CASRO response rate is.**

A1: (Reem Ghandour) The interview completion rate and the Council of American Survey Research Organizations (CASRO) response rate reflect different approaches to calculating the response rate. The interview completion rate equals the number of completed interviews divided by number of eligible households. The CASRO response rate also factors in the resolution rate and the screener completion rate in addition to the interview completion rate. The results from the mode effects experiment suggest that while web surveys may have many benefits there is still concern that we may not be able to reach the kind of representative samples that are required for the National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH) using a web approach alone. Both the traditional interview completion rate and CASRO response rate calculations speak to this. We are now learning more from the Pretest, which includes a “web-push” approach and hope to use all of these lessons to maximize the reach and representativeness of the production survey.

**Q2: Please provide a reference for ACS-6.**

A2: (Reem Ghandour) The ACS-6 refers to the American Community Survey-6, a series of items which are used to assess six different types of disability: [Disability - American Community Survey \(ACS\) - People and Households - U.S. Census Bureau](#).

**Q3: For the Data Resource Center (DRC), will we continue to get data specific to children with special health care needs (CSHCN)? Personally it was really helpful in the previous years having the National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs (NS-CSHCN) separate especially is the sub measures like family professional partnerships which were not very clear in the 2011/12 NSCH.**

A3: (Christina Bethell) All survey items and constructed measures will be shown according to CSHCN status wherever the sample size/precision of the data supports calculation. Rules for when sample sizes/precision indicate suppression of data are being considered now and will be made explicit. The DRC will provide constructed data sets and codebooks so data users can assess use of data by CSHCN status in cases where we may otherwise suppress the data online.

**Q4: Is there any possibility of—at some future time—using multiple modes? Any planning in that direction now? To clarify previous questions: possibility of adding in-person or telephone mode if family in sample wants to participate but can't because of mode?**

A4: (Reem Ghandour) We anticipate fielding the production survey as a multimode survey including both web and paper-based options for response. We expect to provide telephone support if respondents have questions or need assistance.

**Q5: Many of the State Surveys are struggling to achieve reasonable response rates, what are some of the discussions at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) towards improving response rates for surveys, specifically, the NSCH?**

A5: (Reem Ghandour) As we are fielding the production NSCH through the Census Bureau now, it is not possible to comment on what specific deliberations may be occurring at CDC. Certainly, there is wide discussion throughout the field regarding the need to move away from telephone-based surveys to those which are based on an address frame, mechanisms that may support more efficient and effective targeting of addresses which are likely to have age-appropriate children, and options for increasing respondent compliance.

**Q6: Will the new NSCH be a continuous survey? Or will it be fielded over a few months every year?**

A6: (Reem Ghandour) We do not have an answer to this yet. We hope to learn more based on our current national pretest.

**Q7: Was there any discussion about providing annual state estimates using rolling averages as done by American Community Survey? Having state data every two years is an improvement, but ideally interested in annual estimates and thus asked question about rolling estimates.**

A7: (Reem Ghandour) Yes, we are likely to provide both rolling averages as well as new estimates when available.

**Q8: Will there be better data available by race and Hispanic Origin with the new survey frame? The way data by race is currently reported is not ideal.**

A8: (Reem Ghandour) Because the survey will be fielded by the Census Bureau, we will be required to follow their rules and regulations related to the collection and reporting of race and ethnicity data. If there are specific subgroups or populations of interest, please let us know and we will explore opportunities to provide data accordingly.

**Q9: Is it possible to obtain somewhere the text of the anticipated questions asked in the new survey instrument? Understanding that it is not finalized, we would be interested in what content exactly is being measured going forward. Our state would like to align children and**

**youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) metrics as much as possible with the language of the NSCH.**

A9: (Reem Ghandour) Draft copies of the pretest instruments are available. Please email: [rghandour@hrsa.gov](mailto:rghandour@hrsa.gov) directly. However, the survey content is expected to change this fall and, as such, it may be advantageous to hold off on developing comparable measures for your state until the survey content is finalized in November.

**Q10: Wisconsin has been exploring multilevel regression modeling to generate county-level estimates for selected National Performance Measures. Currently, it looks like geocoded NSCH datasets can only be analyzed on site in Hyattsville, Maryland. Is it possible this could change in future?**

A10: (Reem Ghandour) Generally, Census maintains as strict if not stricter rules around accessing data at this level as NCHS. However, we will raise this question with Census to assess the feasibility of providing offsite access to these types of data.

(Christina Bethell) The DRC has obtained census data from the Census Bureau to construct synthetic estimates for all counties and cities larger than 70,000 in the US. We are currently working on integrating this information as a new data query on the DRC for the 2011-12 NSCH and hope/expect to replicate this method for the upcoming NSCH data. Please email [info@cahmi.org](mailto:info@cahmi.org) for more information on constructing county/city level synthetic estimates using the NSCH (or the NS-CSHCN, etc.).

**Q11: With the redesign of the NSCH using addresses, will we be able to get jurisdictional data in the near future? Also, does the survey oversample under represented populations?**

A11: (Reem Ghandour) We are exploring the inclusion of oversamples for CYSHCN and children living in poverty. It's not clear what kind of "jurisdictional" data you are interested in specifically.

**Q12: How does the new household sampling frame deal with households that use P.O. boxes? Does your list include physical addresses linked to the mailing address that you can use for actually mailing the survey?**

A12: (Reem Ghandour) No, the Census does not send forms to P.O. Boxes.

**Q13: Could you go over the timeline again. If state level data will be available in spring of 2017 - what year or years will be included?**

A13: (Reem Ghandour) Data will be collected in 2016 for release in 2017.

**Q: With the redesign of the survey, will survey questions be consistent with survey questions from prior survey years? When looking at trends at the State level, it would be great to know this information.**

A: (Reem Ghandour) To every extent possible, however, the change in mode of administration will mean that estimates are not likely to be comparable to previous surveys.

## About DataSpeak

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The Maternal and Child Health Bureau's DataSpeak webinar series is dedicated to the goal of helping MCH practitioners on the Federal, State, and local levels to improve their capacity to gather, analyze, and use data for planning and policymaking.

DataSpeak is funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau's Office of Epidemiology and Research under the supervision of Gopal Singh, PhD.

This question and answer sheet was created by moderator Sarah Lifsey, MPP.

*September 30, 2015*