Using National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Survey Data
Linked to Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and Death Certificate Records

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW:

This half-day workshop will focus on datasets from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) that have been linked to administrative records, including Medicare and Medicaid claims, death records, and Social Security records. Linking survey data to data from administrative records for the same individual has several advantages for health economics research. First, it enables studies of the relationship between survey responses and outcomes before and after the survey, thereby providing a longitudinal component to cross-sectional surveys. Second, it has the potential to improve the accuracy of information collected through surveys (e.g., to improve self-reports of participation in public programs). Finally, it can add to survey data more detailed information about the use of health services, health outcomes, and history of application for and receipt of benefits (and benefit amounts) from public programs. Specific topics that will be discussed during the workshop are summarized below.

- **Overview of NCHS Data Systems** - *half hour*

  Edward Sondik

  Overview of NCHS data systems designed to monitor the nation's health and use of health services, including the National Vital Statistics System, the National Health Care Surveys, the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), and the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)

- **Overview of NCHS Data Linked to Administrative Records** – *40 minutes*

  Kimberly Lochner

  Overview of NCHS files that have linked survey data (NHIS, NHANES, the National Nursing Home Survey, and the Longitudinal Study on Aging) and administrative data (Medicare claims, Medicaid claims, death records, and Social Security records)

- **Using NHIS Linked to Death Records** - *half hour*

  Kimberly Lochner

  Analytic issues involved in using the NHIS linked to death records, using as an example an analysis of socioeconomic differences in life expectancy

- **Break** – *15 minutes*

- **Using NHIS-Medicare Linked Files** – *45 minutes*

  Sandra Decker

  Analytic issues involved in using the NHIS-Medicare linked files, using as an example analysis of the effect of insurance status before age 65 on Medicare expenditures and the use of Medicare-covered services among those aged 65 and over

- **Using NHIS-Social Security Linked Files** – *45 minutes*

  Gina Livermore

  Analytic issues involved in using the NHIS-Social Security linked files, using as an example an analysis of the effect of health insurance coverage and health care access before and after entry to the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program

- **Accessing NCHS Data Linked to Administrative Records** - *15 minutes*

  Peter Meyer

  The process for accessing NCHS data linked to administrative records through the NCHS Research Data Center (RDC), including on-site, remote, and staff-assisted access methods, and at U.S. Census Bureau RDCs

- **Questions and Answers** – *20 minutes*

WORKSHOP FACULTY:

Edward Sondik	Director, NCHS
Kimberly Lochner	Epidemiologist, NCHS
Sandra Decker	Senior Service Fellow and Economist, NCHS
Gina Livermore	Senior Researcher, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.
Peter Meyer	RDC Director, NCHS