



\$162 Million for NCHS in FY 2011

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is the nation's principal health statistics agency. Housed within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NCHS provides critical data on chronic disease prevalence, health care disparities, emergency room use, teen pregnancy, infant mortality, causes of death, and rates of insurance to name a few. The Friends of NCHS endorses the President's FY 2011 budget request of \$162 million to build on previous investments and put the agency on track to become a fully-functioning, 21st Century, national statistical agency.

Building a 21st Century Health Statistical Agency

Congress has provided steady and sustained funding increases for NCHS over the last three fiscal years, helping the agency rebuild after years of underinvestment. With the President's budget request, NCHS will further modernize its data collection efforts to produce higher quality, more timely data. Specifically, this funding will allow the agency to:

- Expand the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)—the nation's largest health survey—to allow for state and community estimates about the uninsured, barriers to care, and risk factors across racial and ethnic populations.
- Increase the sample size of physician and patient records in the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey to improve our ability to track providers' practice patterns, including the adoption and meaningful use of HIT.
- Stabilize the National Vital Statistics System by collecting at least a full 12 months of birth and death data from vital records jurisdictions and support states and territories in adopting the 2003 standard birth certificate, implementing Web-based electronic birth records, and phasing in electronic death records.
- Continue to conduct the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) on a nationally representative sample, providing the only national source of data on nutrition, behaviors, environment, and conditions such as obesity, diabetes, and high cholesterol.

"[NCHS's] data provide the basis for understanding and identifying disparities in health and allowing us to target culturally specific, effective, and appropriate public health interventions."

*--The Honorable Al Green
U.S. Congress*

\$162 Million Is Needed!

The Friends of NCHS recommends an FY 2011 budget allocation of \$162 million, consistent with the President's request, to restore and implement new data collection and analysis initiatives and modernize its systems to increase efficiency, interoperability, and security.

The Friends of NCHS is a coalition of more than 200 organizations dedicated to ensuring the agency's continued vital role tracking our nation's health. For more information, contact Emily Holubowich at 202.484.1100 or eholubowich@dc-crd.com.

Why Does NCHS Need \$137.5 Million Base and \$15 Million Bolus in FY 2010?

| Policy Priority | NCHS Activity | With funding... | Without funding... |
|---|--|--|---|
| National Security & Healthy People | National Vital Statistics System tracks the registration of vital events—births, deaths, marriages, divorces, and fetal deaths across the country. | NCHS can continue systematic collection of birth and mortality data and move forward in modernizing the vital statistics system by getting all states collecting the same data and putting all records in electronic format. | We stand to lose data that are routinely used to monitor maternal and infant health and understand causes of death. Our ability to monitor and track select <i>Healthy People</i> objectives will be compromised. |
| Insurance Coverage | National Health Interview Survey has monitored, for 50 years, trends in illness and disability and tracks progress on national health objectives. | This survey will continue to provide Congress and other public and private decision makers with a complete picture of Americans' health, including rates of insurance. | We will lose information on who's covered and who's not (particularly minority populations), how people are covered and why they're not. Without these data, formulating solutions and evaluating coverage initiatives is more difficult. |
| Obesity | National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) studies major nutrition, infection, environmental, and chronic health conditions. | NIH and CDC will continue to receive large-scale, population-based data to track health conditions and identify correlations between risk factors and disease outcomes. | We will limit our ability to monitor obesity rates, especially among children and minority populations, and the performance of preventive interventions, such as nutrition education and fitness programs for youth. |
| Health Care Costs | National Health Care Study measures the use of health care resources, the quality of health care, and disparities in health case services provided. | Congress can continue to monitor what drives costs, including utilization, the diffusion of new technology, and medical errors. | We will limit our ability to track cost data according to various sites of service—physician offices, hospital emergency, outpatient, and inpatient departments, ambulatory surgery centers, nursing homes, and home and hospice care. |

Thanks to NCHS, we know that too many Americans are overweight and obese, cancer deaths have decreased, average life expectancy has increased, and emergency rooms are over-crowded. We know how many people are uninsured, how many children are immunized, how many Americans are living with HIV/AIDS, and how many teens gave birth. For more information on the important work of this agency and the health of our nation, please visit www.cdc.gov/nchs.