

November 29, 2022

Margret R. Cooke J.D.  
Commissioner  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
250 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Commissioner Cooke,

For more than 60 years, the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) has helped to improve the health of all people living in the United States. Congressionally-mandated, NHANES is run by the National Center for Health Statistics, part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is the only nationally representative study of people of all ages that collects information based on interviews and physical examinations.

**Middlesex County has been randomly selected as one of 15 counties in our annual sample.**

The results of the interviews and examinations conducted in counties like yours, combined with data from other counties each year, provide a current picture of the health and nutritional status of people living in the U.S.

We are contacting all selected counties to share our anticipated local dates of operations. We recognize that due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic these data collection timelines may need to change.

Tentatively, we are planning to conduct the survey in Middlesex County from June 5, 2023 through August 21, 2023. A sample of about 900 households will be invited to participate and will receive a letter asking them to complete a short online questionnaire about the members of their household. About 4-6 weeks later, our field interviewers will contact eligible household members to complete a health interview. Examinations at our examination center will be scheduled after completion of the home interview.

Within the next few weeks, our representative, Mr. Omar Bordatto, will contact your agency to request a meeting at a time convenient for you. We understand your time is very limited with the current pandemic, so this meeting should be no more than one hour. Because you know your community best, we would like to request your assistance with:

- Finding a suitable place to set up our mobile examination center;
- Identifying clinics for individuals who do not have a regular source of medical care;
- Identifying other community officials that should be notified; and
- Obtaining publicity and promoting the legitimacy of the survey to encourage invited households to participate.



## National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

We would welcome the inclusion of any of your staff who would assist us in achieving these goals, such as your public information officer and community outreach coordinator.

Understanding the current health of our Nation, especially given the COVID-19 pandemic, is now more important than ever. We need your help to reach the highest level of participation so that we are able to gather the most accurate data possible. We look forward to talking with you and your team about NHANES. If you have any questions about our survey, please feel free to contact me at 301-458-4400.

Sincerely yours,

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Chief Medical Officer  
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Enclosure



Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention  
National Center for  
Health Statistics