INVESTIGATORS: The Office for Research Compliance approves certain public datasets for use without application to IRB, provided that the circumstances described in Policy #39, Research Using Publicly Available Datasets (Secondary Analysis) (on website) are met. This policy also describes how investigators may propose additional datasets for this list. If you have questions about use of a dataset, you are welcome and encouraged to discuss your plans with a Research Compliance Specialist or the Director of Research Compliance.

The following datasets are approved for use by investigators without seeking IRB approval:


- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS, public data only)
- California Health Interview Survey (CHIS)
- Collaborative Psychiatric Epidemiology Surveys (CPES)
- Established Populations for Epidemiologic Studies of the Elderly (EPESE)

- Health And Retirement Survey (HRS), University of Michigan
- Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS) (US Government)
- Hispanic Established Populations for Epidemiologic Studies of the Elderly (H-EPESE)

- Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR--public data only)
- Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)
- Midlife in the United States (MIDUS)

- National Center for Education Statistics
- National Center for Health Statistics
- National Election Studies
- National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) –Public data only
National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)
National Long Term Care Survey
National Mortality Follow-Back Survey (NMFA) 1993
National Nursing Home Survey (NNHS)
National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2002-2010
National Youth Survey, Wave I to Wave VII
Survey of Older Americans—Commonwealth Fund, 2004
U.S. Bureau of the Census

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