DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[60Day-26-1208; Docket No. CDC-2026-0397]

Proposed Data Collection Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

AGENCY: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice with comment period.

SUMMARY: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as part of its continuing effort to reduce public burden and maximize the utility of government information, invites the opportunity for the public and other federal agencies to comment on a continuing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This notice invites comment on a proposed information collection project titled Developmental/Methodological Projects to Improve the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey and Related Programs. The goal of these projects is to evaluate proposed survey designs, content, methods, and alternative approaches to activities such as outreach, screening, participant recruitment/retention, data collection, or other survey activities for NHANES or NCHS-wide projects.

DATES: CDC must receive written comments on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION DATE IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. CDC-2026-0397 by either of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- Mail: Jeffrey M. Zirger, Information Collection Review Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS H21-8, Atlanta, Georgia 30329.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and Docket Number. CDC will post, without change, all relevant comments to www.regulations.gov.

Please note: Submit all comments through the Federal eRulemaking portal (www.regulations.gov) or by U.S. mail to the address listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the information collection plan and instruments, contact Jeffrey M. Zirger, Information Collection Review Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS H21-8, Atlanta, Georgia 30329; Telephone: 404-639-7570; E-mail: omb@cdc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. In addition, the PRA also requires federal agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the *Federal Register* concerning each proposed collection of information, including each new proposed collection, each proposed extension of an existing collection of information, and each reinstatement of a previously approved information collection before submitting the collection to the OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, we are publishing this notice of a proposed data collection as described below.

The OMB is particularly interested in comments that will help:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

4. Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses; and
5. Assess information collection costs.

Proposed Project

Developmental/Methodological Projects to Improve the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey and Related Programs, (OMB Control No. 0920-1208, Exp. 5/31/2026) – Extension — National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Background and Brief Description

Section 306 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act (42 U.S.C. 242k) authorizes that the Secretary of Health and Human Services (DHHS), acting through National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), collect statistics on subjects in the United States, such as the extent and nature of illness and disability; environmental, social, and other health hazards; determinants of health; health resources; and utilization of healthcare. The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) has been conducted periodically between 1970 and 1994, and continuously since 1999 by the NCHS/CDC.

The mission of NHANES programs is to produce descriptive statistics which measure the health and nutritional status of the general population. The continuous operation of NHANES programs presents unique challenges in testing new survey content and activities, such as outreach or participant screening. This Generic Clearance request covers developmental projects to help evaluate and enhance NHANES existing and proposed data collection activities to increase research capacity and improve data quality. The information collected through this

Generic Clearance will not be used to make generalizable statements about the population of interest or to inform public policy; however, methodological findings from these projects may be reported.

The purpose and use of projects under this NHANES Generic Clearance would include developmental projects necessary for activities such as testing new procedures, equipment, technology and approaches that are going to be folded into NHANES or other NCHS programs; designing and testing examination components or survey questions; creating new studies including biomonitoring and clinical measures; creating new cohorts, including a pregnancy and/or a birth – 24 month cohort; testing of the cognitive and interpretive aspects of survey methodology; feasibility testing of proposed new components or modifications to existing components; testing of human-computer interfaces/usability; assessing the acceptability of proposed NHANES components among likely participants; testing alternative approaches to existing NHANES procedures, including activities related to improving nonresponse; testing the use of, or variations/adjustments in, incentives; testing content of web-based surveys; testing the feasibility of obtaining bodily fluid specimens (blood, urine, semen, saliva, breastmilk) and tissue samples (swabs); testing digital imaging technology and related procedures (e.g., retinal scan, liver ultrasound, dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DEXA)), prescription and over-the-counter dietary supplement bottles; testing the feasibility of, and procedure/processes for, accessing participant's medical records from healthcare settings (e.g., hospitals and physician offices); testing the feasibility and protocols for home examination measurements; testing survey materials and procedures to improve response rates, including changes to advance materials and protocols, changes to the incentive structure, introduction of new and timely outreach and awareness procedures including the use of social media; conducting crossover studies; creating and testing digital survey materials; and conducting customer satisfaction assessments.

The types of participants covered by the NHANES Generic Clearance may include current or past NHANES participants; family or household members of NHANES participants;

individuals eligible to be participants in NHANES, but who did not screen into the actual survey; convenience samples; volunteers; subject matter experts or consultants such as survey methodologists, academic researchers, clinicians or other health care providers; NHANES data or website users; members of the general public or individuals abroad who would be part of a collaborative development project or projects between NCHS and related public health agencies in the U.S. and/or abroad.

The type of participants involved in a given developmental project would be determined by the nature of the project. The details of each project will be included in the specific generic clearance submission.. A three-year Extension for the Generic Clearance is requested. CDC requests OMB approval for an estimated 59,465 annualized burden hours. There is no cost to respondents other than their time

Estimated Annualized Burden Hours

Type of Respondents	Form Name	Number of Respondents	Number of Responses per Respondent	Average Burden per Response (in hours)	Total Burden (in hours)
Individuals or households	Developmental Projects & Focus Group documents	35,000	1	1.5	52,500
Volunteers	Developmental Projects & Focus Group documents	300	1	1.5	450
Individuals or households, Volunteers, NHANES Participants	24-hour developmental projects	200	1	25	5,000
NHANES Participants	Developmental Projects	1,000	1	1.5	1,500
Subject Matter Experts	Focus Group/Developmental Project Documents	15	1	1	15
Total					59,465

Jeffrey M. Zirger,

Lead,

Information Collection Review Office,

Office of Public Health Ethics and Regulations,

Office of Science,

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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