



NHES Database Training Seminar Announcement

Using the National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES) Database for Research and Policy Analyses

**Wednesday, June 15, through Friday, June 17, 2005
Washington, DC**

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, will sponsor a 3-day advanced studies seminar on the use of the National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES) databases for research and policy analyses. NHES is a series of surveys that is designed to address a wide range of education-related issues. It provides descriptive data on the educational activities of the U.S. population, from early childhood to adult education, and offers policymakers, researchers, and educators a variety of statistics on the condition of education in the United States. These data are collected through telephone interviews with individual parents, youth, and adults.

This seminar is open to institutional researchers and planners, education practitioners, policymakers, association members, faculty, and advanced graduate students.

NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD EDUCATION SURVEYS PROGRAM (NHES)



NHES is a valuable resource for understanding contemporary education issues such as adult education and lifelong learning, early childhood program participation, parent involvement in education, and after-school programs and activities. NHES has been conducted in the springs of 1991, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2005. It is scheduled to go into the field again in the spring of 2007. Currently, the most recent data available are from the 2003 collection. In addition to items directly related to the substantive theme of the collection, extensive individual, family, and household background data are collected in each survey. These background items include questions about parental language and education (for child surveys), income and employment status, receipt of public assistance, and household composition. Surveys conducted as part of NHES include:

Adult Education	School Readiness
Adult Education for Work-Related Reasons	After-School Programs and Activities
Early Childhood Education and Program Participation	Parent and Family Involvement in Education
Parent, Youth, and Adult Civic Involvement	School Safety and Discipline (1993 only)
	Household Public Library Use (1996 only)

Apart from the major themes summarized by each survey's title, other topics also are covered in the data. These topics include school choice, homeschooling, preparations to pay for college, informal adult learning activities, and employer support for adult education.

For further information about NHES and a list of available publications that can be downloaded or ordered, visit the NHES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/nhes>).

SEMINAR OVERVIEW

The 3-day seminar will include both lecture and hands-on instruction. Specifically, the seminar will provide:

- an overview of NHES data;
- an overview of methodological and technological issues associated with use of the NHES, including sample design and coverage;
- instruction on how to analyze NHES data, with hands-on practice;
- help in designing and carrying out a research study; and
- an overview of other NCEES surveys.

The summer data training will focus on use of the most recent data available, which are from the 2003 collection.

QUALIFICATIONS

Participants attending this seminar should have knowledge of statistics, be experienced in using personal computers, and should be proficient in the use of SAS or SPSS statistical software packages. Space is limited for this seminar. Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- interest in conducting research on educational issues;
- a research agenda that is consistent with the data available in NHES;
- potential to successfully relate the results of the research in an applied setting, publish the results of the research, or promote the use of the data in research applications;
- experience in the study of educational issues in applied or academic settings; and
- qualifications in the use of statistical software. (Please see the attached application form for specific questions pertaining to your level of experience.)

EXPECTED OUTCOME

The overall goal of the seminar is to provide participants with an opportunity to use NHES data in substantive research. At the conclusion of the seminar, participants are asked to submit a summary of a preliminary study design that uses NHES data, including a clear specification of study issues, rationale for the study, study approach (specifications of population, variables, etc.), and preliminary analysis results if available. When the study is finalized, a copy of the paper or report should be sent to NCEES.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE SEMINAR

There is no fee to attend this seminar. NCEES will provide training materials, as well as computers for hands-on practice. NCEES will also pay for transportation, hotel accommodations, and a fixed per diem for meals and incidental expenses during the training seminar.

LOCATION

The seminar will be held in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, Wednesday, June 15, 2005, through Friday, June 17, 2005. The exact location has not yet been confirmed. Accepted applicants will be sent information about both the meeting and lodging arrangements.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

If you are interested in attending the seminar, please complete and return the following documents:

1. The enclosed application form.
2. A copy of your current vitae or resume.
3. A 1- to 2-page statement, clearly describing your research study and how the study can be furthered by your participation in the seminar.
4. A letter of recommendation from your faculty advisor if you are a graduate student.

The description of your study should include specifications of the issues to be addressed, rationale for the study, and the study's analytic approach. Space is limited for the seminar. Only complete applications will be considered, and only two applicants from the same organization or institution can be accepted.

NOTE: Applicants are allowed to attend no more than two NCES sponsored seminars within a 6-year period.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applications should be received no later than **May 2, 2005**. Applications will be reviewed and selection will be made by **May 16, 2005**. Selected candidates will receive the seminar agenda and information about travel arrangements.

Applications should be returned to: Joy Butler
Synectics for Management Decisions, Inc.
1901 N. Moore Street, Suite 900
Arlington, VA 22209

Please contact Joy Butler through e-mail at joyb@smdi.com, by telephone at (703) 807-2315, or by fax at (703) 528-2857, if you have any questions regarding this seminar.

