Appendix H

IRB Exemption Memo

WESTAT
AN EMPLOYEE-OWNED
RESEARCH CORPORATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Susan Crystal-Mansour
Project Director

April 26, 2006

FROM: Thomas W. McKenna
Chairman, Institutional Review Board

SUBJECT: IRB Review and Approval
Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS) III (HINTS 2007)
Contract No. N02-PC-61300
Project 8137.04
FWA 5551

As Chairman of the Westat Institutional Review Board (IRB), I have reviewed the materials submitted for the following: **Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS) III (HINTS 2007)**, Contract No. N02-PC-61300, Project 8137.04. Pursuant to 45 CFR pt. 46, the IRB reviews all studies involving human research. This study is funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

HINTS created the first administration of an ongoing, cross-sectional survey to provide estimates of the prevalence of cancer-relevant knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors in the U.S. adult population. HINTS collects nationally representative data about the American public's use of cancer-related information. The survey provides updates on changing patterns, needs, and information opportunities in health; identifies changing communications trends and practices; assesses cancer information access and usage; provides information about how cancer risks are perceived; and offers a test bed to researchers to test new theories in health communication. HINTS was first conducted in 2003 and was a purely telephone study. HINTS was conducted again in 2005 and collected information from both a phone and web-based survey.

The priorities for HINTS 2007 are to preserve the methodological integrity of the survey and to experiment with alternative and combinations of modes of questionnaire administration. Westat is planning a mixed-mode data collection design employing dual sampling frames, providing a nationally representative sample in each. We are planning to use a random digit dialing (RDD) telephone survey and a mail questionnaire. No identifying information is retained on individual participants. Adults 18 years or older who either comprehend English or Spanish are eligible to participate.

IRB regulations permit expedited review of certain activities involving minimal risk [45 CFR pt. 46.110 (b)(1)]. This study can be considered minimal risk.

I am therefore approving the study under expedited authority. However, you must send copies of the finalized study questionnaire(s) and consent materials to the IRB before beginning to contact study participants. Completion of the questionnaire provides implied consent, and I am therefore waiving the requirement of documentation of informed consent. You are required to submit the study for an annual review on or before April 26, 2007. In the interim, you are responsible for notifying the Office of Research Administration as soon as possible if there are any injuries to the subjects, problems with the study, or changes to the study design that relate to human subjects.

Cc: Institutional Review Board
Paul Hurwitz
Jeanne Rosenthal