



August 28, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

We are pleased to write in support of the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) and to relay some of the important ways in which this data serves our work here at the Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). DSTDP has analyzed and used NSFG data extensively over the past several years, specifically focusing on sexual activity patterns to monitor trends in sexual behavior among adolescents and adults. These data allow us to better understand trends in sexually transmitted disease (STD) rates. Additionally, we are currently using NSFG data to exam the social context in which sexual behavior occurs in areas with high STD rates.

More recently, the NSFG was the first national survey to ask questions of adult women and mothers about their own and their daughters' HPV vaccination status. The FDA recently licensed and recommended a vaccine to prevent certain types of Human Papillomavirus (HPV), the most common STD in the U.S. which is associated with a majority of cervical cancers and genital warts. In light of extensive marketing and public health campaigns to implement the HPV vaccine, DSTDP has prioritized the monitoring of issues related to HPV vaccine uptake and any potential unintended changes in sexual or healthcare seeking behavior possibly resulting from availability of an HPV vaccine. Through collaboration with our colleagues at NCHS, we have created, pilot-tested, and implemented questions about HPV vaccination status and reasons for not vaccinating that, in conjunction with existing questions already asked by NSFG, offer an opportunity to gauge these issues.

Our NCHS colleagues have provided constant and timely interactions that were vital in reaching deadlines and implementing our questions into the current cycle of data collection. In particular, they maintain regular email and telephone contact to provide updates on the survey and to suggest potential changes to the questions as necessary. The quarterly email updates of the progress of continuous interviewing are also a welcome piece of information that we use to update our leaders on the project's success and to validate our DSTDP funding decisions.

Thank you,

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