

(9) provides technical advice and consultation to academic, international, federal, and state entities regarding nutritional and health examination statistics data.

Informatics Branch (CS83). (1) Conducts applied computer and informatics research on the development of new and novel approaches in integrated survey information systems, database technology, imaging and telemedicine, data transmission, geographical information systems, and metadata registries; (2) conducts research on the design, development, and administration of computer systems for more timely and accurate health and nutrition examination statistics data; (3) develops, implements, and supports technologies, data architectures, networks, security infrastructure, and database management for the Division's data collection and analytic programs consistent with state of the art trends in computer and informatics research; (4) implements appropriate technologies to prevent unauthorized access to internal and field data resources including authentication, data encryption, data security, system scanning/probing, and implementation and development of systems security and policies consistent with Presidential Decision Directives and other Government wide initiatives; (5) performs systems analysis, computer programming, and quality assurance/quality control of health and nutrition examination data; (6) develops and implements standards for the Division's data collection programs and provides support for telecommunications, data access, and high-speed network technologies (e.g., data dissemination, telemedicine applications); (7) performs special projects related to data on health and nutrition and produces a wide variety of reports and tabulations in multiple formats; and (8) provides advice, policy guidance, and expert technical consultation NCHS-wide and to academic, federal, state, local and international governments, and researchers regarding health and nutrition examination survey information technologies and informatics research.

Operations Branch (CS84). (1) Develops and administers contracts for data collection, engineering, acquisition and maintenance of mobile examination centers (MEC) and medical and computer equipment and receipt and control systems; (2) develops and implements systems for reporting of medical findings, professional readings, and laboratory processing for health and nutrition examination and special studies; (3) develops and conducts

engineering and logistical support for survey data collection; (4) designs and conducts research studies on response rates, quality control and quality assurance of health and nutrition examination statistics data; (5) designs and develops comprehensive outreach programs and survey participant recruitment materials; and (6) prepares and publishes reports and analyses of field operations and performs special projects related to health and nutrition examination statistics survey implementation.

Planning Branch (CS85). (1) Establishes the research agenda for health and nutrition statistics data in response to public health priorities; (2) converts identified data needs into research, development, and evaluation activities and related public health information; (93) directs the planning phase of contractual activities, including pilot testing and workshop development, in support of the Division's data collection programs; (4) plans and develops a statistical program to obtain, evaluate, analyze and disseminate health and a nutrition examination statistics to meet these needs; (5) prepares and publishes descriptive analyses as well as sophisticated multivariate analyses that integrate data across multiple surveys or data sets; (6) performs theoretical and experimental research to improve the content of the health and nutrition examination statistics data collection effort and improve the timeliness, availability, and quality of the nutritional and health examination statistics data; (7) participates in the design and development of integrated, automated data collection systems and data file release programs as well as conducts statistical methods research; (8) provides technical oversight of all laboratory aspects of health and nutrition examination studies; and (9) provides consultation and technical assistance to a wide range of researchers and institutions at the state, national, and international levels addressing the definitions, needs, and uses of nutrition and health nutrition examination statistics.

Dated: February 2, 2003.

William H. Gimson,

Acting Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

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Emergency Clearance: Public Information Collection Requirements Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) (formerly known as the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA)), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

We are, however, requesting an emergency review of the information collection referenced below. In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we have submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the following requirements for emergency review. We are requesting an emergency review because the collection of this information is needed before the expiration of the normal time limits under OMB's regulations at 5 CFR part 1320. We cannot reasonably comply with the normal clearance procedures because public harm is likely to result if the normal clearance process followed. Waiting for the normal clearance process to be completed might mean that vulnerable, elderly or disabled Medicare beneficiaries in affected areas would have limited or no access to physician services for prolonged periods.

CMS is requesting OMB review and approval of this collection by March 1, 2003, with a 180-day approval period. Written comments and