

# Introduction to NCHS

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## Workshop Objectives

*Participants will be able to:*

- 1) identify major data systems of NCHS and describe data collection methods and survey content;
- 2) describe examples of analytic uses of data sets;
- 3) understand the complexities of data sets and assess appropriate statistical methods for analysis of data; and
- 4) identify how to access data and documentation from NCHS.

# National Center for Health Statistics

## What We Do:

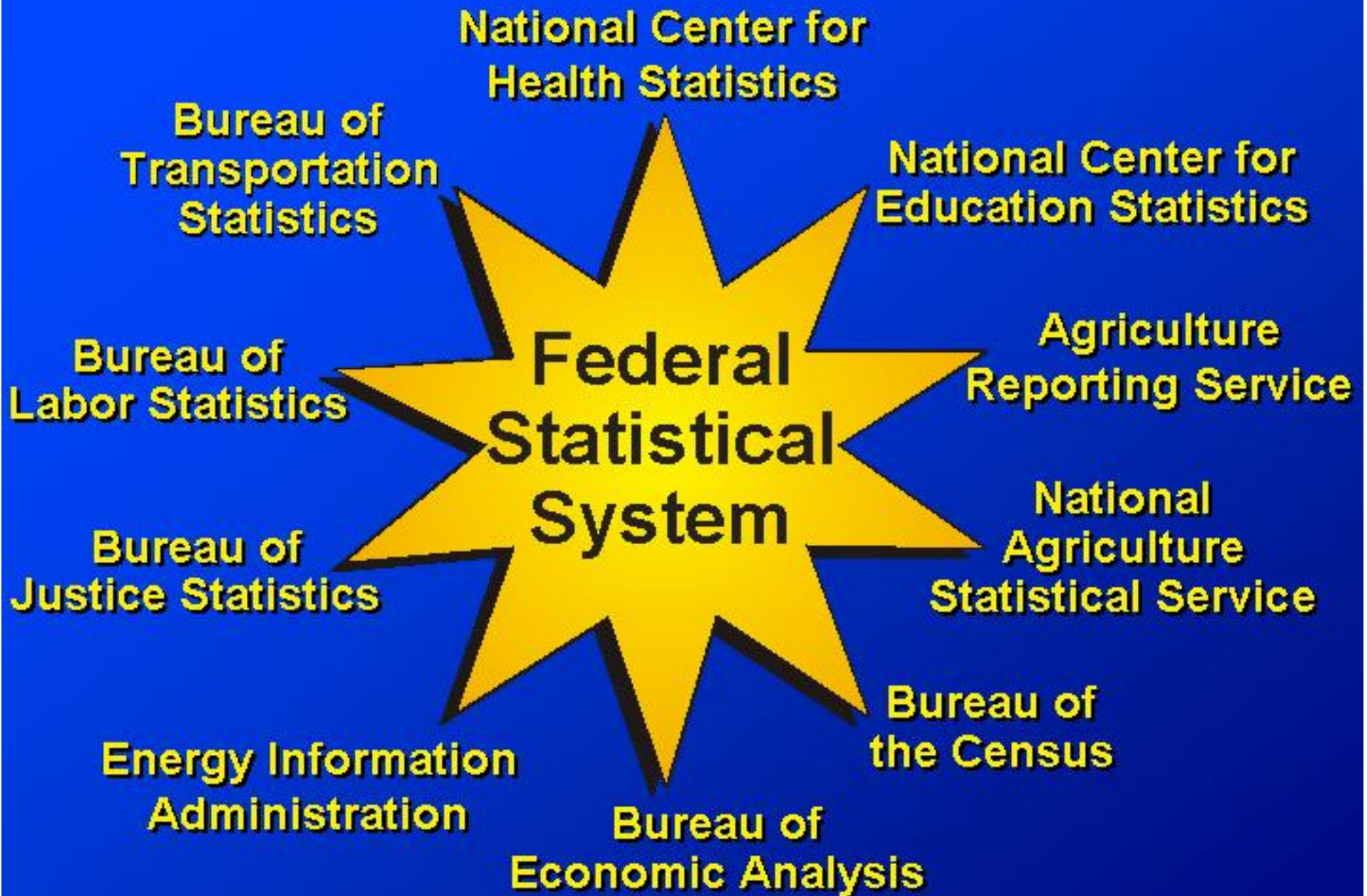
- Monitor the nation's health
  - We collect, analyze and disseminate health data
- Provide information
  - To guide actions and policies to improve the health of the American people.

# NCHS:

- **Monitors trends and disparities in:**
  - **Health status**
  - **Health care utilization**
  - **Health behaviors**
  - **Risk factors**

# NCHS:

- Pioneers the development of new methodologies for:
  - Data collection
  - Data analysis
  - Evaluation of data quality
  - Information dissemination



## **NCHS Data Are Used For**

- **Comparisons across time, populations, providers, and geographic areas**
- **Planning/assessing public health programs**
- **Identifying health problems, risk factors, and disease patterns**

# Some Questions...

- How healthy are Americans?
- What are the dimensions of health—  
Quality of life, morbidity, mortality?
- Have we reduced risk factors?
- Hospital, nursing home, home care,  
hospice use?
- Gaps in health insurance?
- Disparities in health and health care?



# NCHS Surveys Differ in ...

- **Mode of data collection (In-person, telephone)**
- **Source and Settings: From whom and where the data is collected**
- **Sample design, size, response rates**

# NCHS Data Systems

- National Vital Statistics System and surveys
- National Health Interview Survey
- National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey
- National Health Care Surveys

# NCHS Data Systems Use These Sources ...

- Birth and death records through partnership with states
- Medical records in hospitals, nursing homes, emergency rooms, doctors' offices
- Interviews with staff in hospice and home care agencies
- Physical examinations and laboratory testing in mobile exam centers
- Personal interviews in the home and via phone

# Data Confidentiality

- **Section 308(d), Public Health Service Act**
- **Privacy Act**
- **Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (P.L. 107-347)**

# Research Data Center

- Provides a mechanism for researchers to access:
  - Data usually not released to the public because of nondisclosure or confidentiality reasons
  - Small area or micro data
  - Matches to external data files

# Dissemination

- Web site ([www.cdc.gov/nchs](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs))
- NCHS Publications
- CDC Publications/MMWR
- Journal articles
- Research Data Center
- Users conferences and workshops
- Media

Visit our Web site at:

[www.cdc.gov/nchs/](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/)

