

# **Add Health**

## *Information You Should Know*

*October 14, 2009*

*Mona Lee Ostrowski*

# **A Longitudinal Survey**

- Of adolescents in grades 7 – 12
- Primarily In-home interviews
- A collection of data on respondents social environment, family environment, behaviors and choices, physical health, education, goals and achievements.
- Four waves: 1994-1995, 1996, 2001-2002, 2008
- Two Database types: Public & Restricted

# Add Health Wave 1

**In School  
Questionnaire**  
90,118 students  
132 schools

**Select Core Sample**

**School  
Administrators  
Questionnaire**  
164 Admins

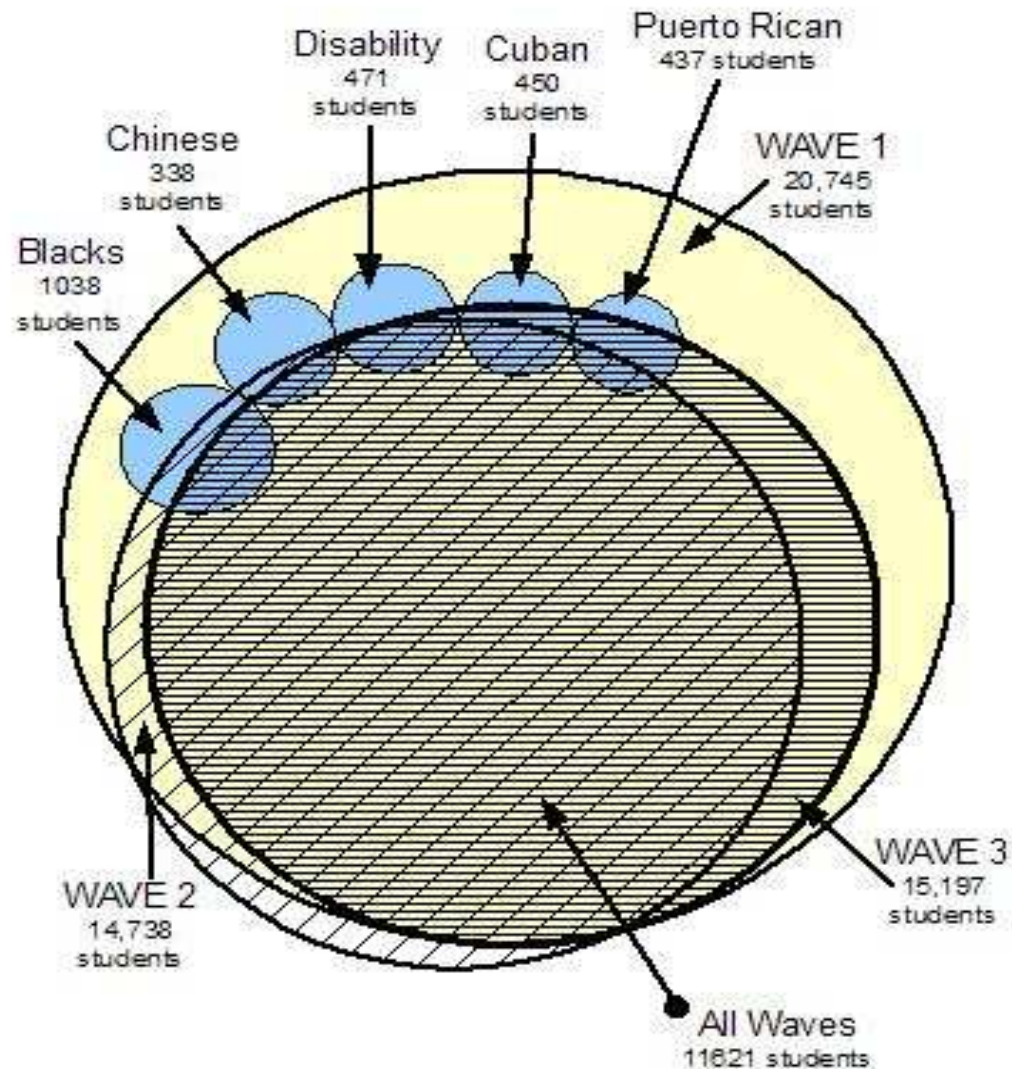
**Students In Home**  
20745 students  
  
**Core Sample**  
12,105 students

**Parents  
Questionnaire**  
1 parent/student

# Wave 1 Over Samples

- **Blacks:** 1,038 students from college educated parent
- **Cuban:** 450 students
- **Puerto Rican:** 437 students
- **Chinese:** 338 students
- **Disability:** 471 students Limb disabled
- **Genetic:** Twins-1981; Full Sibs-1186; Half Sibs-783;  
Non related-415; Sibs of Twins-162;

# Add Health Wave Composition



# Add Health Data Access

- Requirements for access at:  
<http://sodapop.pop.psu.edu/data-collections/addhlth>
- Public Data is a representative subsample of half the core sample, half the black sample ~6,500 students;  
*Available from: Soda Pop, ICPSR, and Sociometrics*
- Restricted data is on own protected server and printer network; Each student is assigned an ID and password.

# **Add Health Wave 2**

- 14,738 students interviewed in 1996
- Most 12 graders from Wave 1 are excluded
- No Disability sample in this wave
- Some students in Wave 2 did not participate in Wave 1
- Essentially the same topics as Wave1 with slight modifications

# **Add Health Wave 3**

- 15,197 students from Wave 1 interviewed in 2001-2002
- 1,507 partners of students interviewed
- High school transcripts released
- Urine samples for STDs
- Saliva sampled for HIV; DNA on twins & full sibs
- Detailed record of hierarchical data based upon the subset sample of relationships and couples

# Strategies for Analysis

- Create a tracker file of students to be followed
- Read the questions in the code book and the questionnaire for exact wording and conditions for the questions
- Be aware of “skip patterns” for your section/questions
- Frequencies are a must use tool.
- Use a lot of comments so you can recall the reasoning for the methods and the counts
- Cross check responses to similar questions
- Become aware of known errors/problems by reading the code book intro and general chapters

# PRI Add Health Server

- Data Archivist authorizes the assignment of the userid and password for access to London
- Files on Desk Top to look over:
  - Data Info and Tools; Watch Out in Data;
  - Add\_Health\_London\_faq;
- Your folder should contain folders for programs, data extracts, documents, etc.
- You can only print to a designated printer
- Data not read/touched in 6 months or beyond 12/1 or 6/1 is deleted
- In the Add Health folder are the data, documentation, additional shared files, program codes and documents

# Helpful Files

- convars1 - defines “famstruc” and several race categories having used Add Health variables
- Pairs - family student pairs with ids the type of relationship, DNA results if any
- Parents – data on the household, income education level of parents, data about the child/children in the study, etc.  
*Wave 1 only*

# Known Errors/Problems

- Incorrect sex reported in Wave 1; corrected in subsequent waves
- Responses about siblings can not be identified to a specific sibling due to survey interviewer training
- Couples flag variable is 0 for all respondents
- A few dates of pregnancy, child's birth, relationships are obviously incorrect
- Parent file has issues where there are multiple children in the survey. Not all interviewed were female

# Design Effects & Weighting

- Weights are provided in the database and can be applied provided there has not been sub setting of the data
- CPC provides articles on how to calculate weights and correct for design effects:

<http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/addhealth/data/using/guides/weight1.pdf>

<http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/addhealth/data/using/guides/pweights.pdf>

<http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/addhealth/data/using/guides/wt-guidelines.pdf>

<http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/addhealth/data/using/guides/weights.pdf>

<http://www.cpc.unc.edu/services/computer/presentations/statatutorial/statasvy.pdf>

- "Design Effects -- What are they and how do they affect your analysis?" by David Johnson

<http://help.pop.psu.edu/help-by-statistical-method/design-effects>

# Add Health Help

- URL for AddHealth:  
<http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/addhealth>
- URL for ICPSR Public data:  
<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/21600>
- In Soda Pop look for “National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health”  
Health page: <http://sodapop.pop.psu.edu/data-collections/addhlth>  
URL for PRI Soda Pop Add Health page:
- URL for Sociometrics Public data:  
<http://www.socio.com/srch/summary/afda2/fam98a3.htm>
- Mona Lee Ostrowski: [monao@pop.psu.edu](mailto:monao@pop.psu.edu)  
*865-4278 or stop by Oswald# 812*