



TO: HCHS/SOL Investigators, NHLBI Project Office

FROM: Marston Youngblood HCHS Coordinating Center

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RE: Update to HCHS/SOL Baseline Examination Datasets for Investigator Use

We have an important limited update to the HCHS/SOL baseline examination investigator use datasets to provide the study investigators with additional clinical laboratory results, new and corrected derived variables in the participant derived variable file, and additional predicted nutrients computed for new manuscripts that have been initiated recently. The accompanying codebooks for the baseline examination and the nutrient files have been updated to reflect these new additions to the data file. The new data files in this release include the following:

- LABA - three new analytes are being provided: Ferritin, GGT, and Cystatin-C
- PRED_NUTR_DERV - more computed nutrients based on foods consumed using the NCI algorithms have been added since the last release in June 2013
- PART_DERV – newly derived variables for eGFR using Cystatin-C and with and without serum Creatinine have been computed based on recommendations from the HCHS renal function working group. Significant recodes and corrections have been applied to the GPAQ series of derived variables. See page 112 of the updated HCHS Derived Variable Dictionary for a summary of these changes.

As a reminder, investigator use data contain potentially identifying information and should be handled in such a way as to ensure data security and confidentiality. These datasets must be stored on a secure server, so that authorized study team members access the data directly from either a local area network or remotely via a virtual private network in a secure fashion. At no time should investigator use datasets or subsets of the data be stored on laptop computers or portable data storage devices (e.g., memory sticks), nor should copies be distributed via email attachments. Making multiple copies for storage on stand-alone workstations is also prohibited, as the likelihood of data being hacked into is increased as a result. It is the responsibility of the study PI to keep careful record of where the data are stored and who has access to the data at all times. Access to investigator use data should be granted to co-investigators or other study personnel at a PI's institution only for approved HCHS/SOL activities.

Please contact us at the Coordinating Center if you have any questions about the contents of this data distribution for exclusive use by the HCHS/SOL investigators and NIH.