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TO: HCHS/SOL Investigators

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RE: HCHS/SOL Closed Investigator Use AFU Files Years 1 through 8 (data release INV7)

The HCHS/SOL Coordinating Center has prepared a selective data release that updates the annual follow-up (AFU) database for the first four waves of interviews and food frequency data from the diet recall interview performed at the AFU-1 time point. The files in this data release replace any earlier ones for AFU years 1-8 as it extends the data to the eighth year of interviews. Accompanying these files is a revised database overview describing the context of the closed AFU interview files and updated codebook to display the variables contained in these additional main study datasets. A cross-sectional administration of a “general AFU interview” (GEE) form during this period is also included to this database.

We have excluded one data file from this distribution due to the sensitivity of that information. The short instrument (CBE/CBS) capturing the participant country of birth and specific state and city of birth which was administered only during AFU-3 is not being released at this time. The Coordinating Center can provide coded summary tabulations of this information on request for approved analyses.

The contents for this release include updated SAS datasets AFUINV7 and documentation:

- 1. Investigator Use Database Overview**
- 2. HCHS/SOL Annual Follow-up Codebook**
- 3. AFU forms in English and Spanish, QxQs for the eighth year of AFU**
- 4. SAS datasets: “Form name_AFUINV7.sas7bdat”**

As a reminder, investigator use data contain potentially identifying information and should be handled in a manner that ensures 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. Each study PI is responsible for recording and tracking 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.