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TO: HCHS/SOL Investigators

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DATE: June 11, 2021

RE: HCHS/SOL Closed Investigator Use AFU Files Version 8

The HCHS/SOL Coordinating Center has prepared a selective data release that updates the annual follow-up (AFU) database AFU8 to include the most recent years of AFU year 9 interviews. The codebook for this distribution reflects the cumulative accrual for all AFU related datasets. Not included in this data release are the COVID-19 Psychosocial Check-in Questionnaires administered from March 2020 through May 2021. Those two datasets will be released in a later update.

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, or qualified researchers with a directly related approved manuscript can access the data on the HCHS Secure Workspace data enclave.

The contents for this release include updated SAS datasets AFUINV8 and documentation:

- 1. Investigator Use Database Overview Version 8**
- 2. HCHS/SOL Annual Follow-up Codebook for INV8**
- 3. AFU forms in English and Spanish, QxQs for the ninth year of AFU**
- 4. SAS datasets: “Form name_AFUINV8.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.