



## **NHES Database Training Seminar Announcement**

### **Using the National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES) Database for Research and Policy Analyses**

**Tuesday, August 12, 2008 through Thursday, August 14, 2008  
Washington, DC**

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), in the U.S Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences, will sponsor a 3-day advanced studies seminar on the use of the National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES) databases for research and policy analyses. NHES is a series of surveys designed to address a wide range of education-related issues. It provides descriptive data on the educational activities of the U.S. population, from early childhood to adult education, and offers policymakers, researchers, and educators a variety of statistics on the condition of education in the United States. Data are collected through telephone interviews with parents and adults.

This seminar is open to institutional researchers and planners, education practitioners, policymakers, and association members, as well as faculty and advanced graduate students from colleges and universities nationwide.

#### **OVERVIEW**



NHES is a valuable resource for understanding contemporary education issues such as adult education and lifelong learning, early childhood program participation, parent involvement in education, and after-school programs and activities. NHES has been conducted in the springs of 1991, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, and 2007. Extensive individual, family, and household background data are collected in each survey. These background items include questions about language

background and education level, income and employment status, receipt of public assistance, and household composition. Surveys conducted as part of NHES include:

- Adult Education;
- Adult Education for Work-Related Reasons;
- Early Childhood Education and Program Participation;
- Parent, Youth, and Adult Civic Involvement (1996 and 1999 only);
- School Readiness;
- After-School Programs and Activities;
- Parent and Family Involvement in Education;
- School Safety and Discipline (1993 only);
- Household Public Library Use (1996 only).

Apart from the major themes summarized by each survey's title, other topics also are covered in the data. These topics include school choice, homeschooling, home learning activities, preparations to pay for college, informal adult learning activities, and employer support for adult education.

For more information about NHES and a list of available publications that can be downloaded or ordered, visit the survey website (<http://nces.ed.gov/nhes>).

## **PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTCOME**

The overall goal of the seminar is to provide participants with an opportunity to use NHES data in substantive research. The seminar will include both lecture and hands-on instruction. Specifically, the seminar will cover the following topics and activities:

- an overview of NHES data;
- an overview of methodological and technological issues associated with use of the NHES, including sample design and coverage;
- detail about the content of recent NHES surveys;
- instruction on how to analyze NHES data, with hands-on practice; and
- help in developing and analyzing a research question.

The data training will focus on use of the most recent data available, which are from the 2007 collection. The surveys fielded in 2007 were the School Readiness Survey and the Parent and Family Involvement in Education Survey. Adult education surveys fielded in previous years also will be discussed.

It should be noted that this seminar does not provide formal instruction on advanced statistical methods and analyses.

At the conclusion of the seminar, participants are asked to present a summary of a preliminary research question that uses NHES data, including a clear specification of study issues, rationale for the research, the research approach (specifications of population, variables, etc.), and preliminary analysis results if available. When the study is finalized, a copy of the finished paper or report should be sent to NCES.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

Participants attending this seminar should have knowledge of statistics, be experienced in using personal computers, and should be proficient in the use of SPSS, SAS, or Stata statistical software packages. Participants will be expected to know how to perform basic SPSS, SAS, or Stata procedures, including recoding data and running descriptive analyses (e.g., frequency distributions, cross-tabulations, means). Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- interest in conducting research on educational issues;
- familiarity with the topics covered in NHES surveys;
- a research agenda that is consistent with the data available in NHES;
- potential to successfully relate the results of the research in an applied setting, publish the results of the research, or promote the use of the data in research applications;
- experience in the study of educational issues in applied or academic settings; and
- qualifications in the use of statistical software (see the attached application form for specific questions pertaining to your level of experience).

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

There is no fee to attend this seminar. NCES will provide training materials, as well as computers for hands-on practice. NCES will also pay for transportation, hotel accommodations, and a fixed per diem for meals and incidental expenses during the training seminar.

## LOCATION

The seminar will be held in Washington, DC, Tuesday, August 12, 2008 through Thursday, August, 14, 2008. Accepted applicants will be sent information about both the meeting and lodging arrangements.

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

If you are interested in attending the seminar, please complete and return the following documents:

1. The enclosed application form.
2. A copy of your current curriculum vitae or resume.
3. A 1- to 2-page statement, clearly describing your research study and how the study can be furthered by your participation in the seminar.
4. A letter of recommendation from your faculty advisor if you are a graduate student.

The description of your study should include specifications of the issues to be addressed, rationale for the study, why the NHES data are well-suited for your study, and the study's analytic approach. Space is limited for the seminar. Only complete applications will be considered, and only two applicants from the same organization or institution can be accepted.

All applications should be received no later than **June 23, 2008**. Applications will be reviewed and selections will be made by **July 9, 2008**. Selected candidates will receive the seminar agenda and information about travel arrangements.

Applications should be returned to:      Gordana Vukovic  
Synergy Enterprises, Inc.  
8757 Georgia Avenue, Suite 450  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Please contact Gordana Vukovic through e-mail at [gvukovic@sei2003.com](mailto:gvukovic@sei2003.com), by telephone at (240) 485-1982, or by fax at (240) 485-1982, if you have any questions regarding this seminar.

**NOTE: Applicants are allowed to attend no more than two NCES sponsored training seminars within a 6-year period.**



**APPLICATION**  
**NHES Database Training Seminar**  
**National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)**  
**U.S. Department of Education**  
**August 12-14, 2008**  
**Washington, DC**

Dr.     Mr.     Ms.

NAME:

(please type or print clearly)

AFFILIATION:

TITLE/POSITION:

MAILING ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP CODE:

TELEPHONE:

FAX:

E-MAIL:

**Computer Statistical Software Experience:**

**All participants must have at least 1 year of SPSS, SAS, or Stata experience.**

Software	Level of experience			
	Extensive (i.e., proficient in aggregating, merging, recoding, weighting, and analysis)	Some (i.e., familiar with recoding and many analysis procedures)	Very little (i.e., simple descriptive procedures and recoding)	None
SPSS				
SAS				
Stata				
Other (specify)				

**Please answer the following:**

1. Do you have experience merging files in SPSS, SAS, or Stata?     yes     no
2. Do you have experience recoding variable values in SPSS, SAS, or Stata?     yes     no
3. Have you used weights in your analysis using SPSS, SAS, or Stata?     yes     no
4. Have you run statistical analyses using SPSS, SAS, or Stata?     yes     no

**Area of Research Interest:**

Please attach a clearly written description of your research interest and how that can be furthered through the use of NHES data (1-2 typewritten pages). Be as specific as possible. If you are a graduate student, a letter of recommendation from your faculty advisor must be included with your application.

Complete applications should be submitted no later than **June 23, 2008**. Space is limited for this seminar. Applications will be reviewed and selected candidates will be notified by **July 9, 2008**.

**Applications should be returned to:**

Gordana Vukovic  
 Synergy Enterprises, Inc.  
 8757 Georgia Avenue, Suite 450  
 Silver Spring, MD 20910  
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 E-mail: [gvukovic@sei2003.com](mailto:gvukovic@sei2003.com)