

Call for Abstracts: The 2004 Wave of National Long Term Care Survey: New Research Directions

This solicitation requests abstracts that use the recently released 2004 Wave of the National Long Term Care Survey for original research. The NLTCs is a nationally-representative sample both of the community and of institutional populations and is longitudinal in that sample person's age in once they reach 65 years of age and stay in the survey until they either die or are lost to follow-up. The National Long-Term Care Survey (NLTCs) has been collected approximately every five years, and consists of six waves (1982, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, and 2004). Dr. Kenneth Manton of Duke University has led the collection effort for the NLTCs and he and his collaborators have generated a body of research that has significantly contributed to our understanding of disability and the aging life course. The 2004 wave of the NLTCs was released in February of 2007 and offers new and exciting opportunities for original research. With generous funding from the National Institute on Aging (NIA) the National Archive of Computerized Data on Aging (NACDA) is sponsoring a research conference that will showcase original research that used the 2004 Wave of the NLTCs.

We are requesting the submission of short abstracts no more than 500 words long that describe the goals of the proposed paper, the research design and the expected outcomes. An extended abstract that outlines the paper in more detail can be included with the submission of the short abstract though this is not a requirement only an aid in evaluating the proposed research. The use of the 2004 Wave of the NLTCs is required as part of the research design. The study can be used alone or in combination with other data collections or earlier waves of the NLTCs, but the purpose of the proposed paper must focus upon a research application of the 2004 Wave.

Accepted presenters are expected to present completed analysis and results that develop new and innovative research strategies on health, disability, and the socio-economic characteristics of the elderly population using the 2004 NLTCs. As the weights for the 2004 NLTCs* and its earlier waves are currently being evaluated and revised participants will be given sufficient time to incorporate the updated weights into their analysis prior to presenting their work and submitting a final version of the paper.

Abstracts are due by July 30th, 2008 and invited speakers will be contacted by September 30th, 2008. Travel support and a small honorarium will be available for authors of papers included in the program though additional papers may be considered if the authors can fund their travel though other sources. The latest version of the 2004 Wave of the NLTCs along with the earlier waves can be obtained from the National Archive of Computerized Data on Aging (NACDA) located at the University of Michigan. Abstracts should be submitted to James McNally at NACDA@icpsr.umich.edu as attachments in either Microsoft Word files or in pdf format.

The conference is supported by funding from the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and is expected to be held in March of 2009 at the NIH Campus in Bethesda, Maryland.

For questions and additional details please contact James W. McNally, Director of the NACDA Program on Aging at jmcnally@umich.edu or 734-615-9520.

*Some researchers have reported a problem with the cross-sectional weights on the 2004 NLTCs public use file. In response, the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation/Department of Health and Human Services and the National Institute on Aging/National Institutes of Health/Department of Health and Human Services are currently sponsoring an examination of the cross-sectional sample weights in the 2004 and earlier waves of the NLTCs for accuracy of weighting procedures and their implementation, and for consistency across waves. This effort will result in the construction of an accurate and consistent set of cross-sectional sample weights for all waves of NLTCs except the 1982 wave, including the development of new detailed documentation. The new weights and documentation are expected to be ready for use between September and October 2008.