



July 29, 2008

Dear ACHA-NCHA Surveyor:

Thank you for your continued participation in the American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment (ACHA-NCHA). We appreciate and commend your institution's commitment to understanding the health status and health needs of your students.

As is the case with many large scale surveying efforts, the ACHA-NCHA has recently been revised to update indicators of student health, enhance its measurement quality, and better address issues of diversity. ACHA staff, along with esteemed members of the college health professional community, have been working for more than two years to revise and pilot test the survey instrument. We are pleased to announce that the ACHA-NCHA II is ready for implementation in fall 2008. From this point forward, all ACHA-NCHA customers will use ACHA-NCHA II and data from the revised survey will be used to form the Reference Group Data Report and Executive Summary. Existing customers with ongoing research or program evaluation needs may continue to use the original ACHA-NCHA; however, the Reference Group Data Report and Executive Summary will not be produced for the original survey.

The general categories of information for which data are collected remain the same between the surveys—health education and safety; alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use; sexual health; mental and physical health; impediments to academic performance; and demographics. However, a number of the original survey questions have been modified and new questions have been added to monitor a variety of health constructs. Specific revisions include updated lists of illegal drugs, contraceptive methods, and vaccines. New items have been added to capture sleep behaviors, self-injury, and the use/abuse of prescription drugs. Finally, while the current ACHA-NCHA has been useful in helping us to measure depression among college students, the ACHA-NCHA II has been expanded to capture a number of other mental health issues.

Many of our customers participate in repeated survey efforts and therefore often enjoy expedited review or continuations from their school's Institutional Review Board (IRB) or administrative offices. Since the survey has been revised and collects information on newly added constructs, we recommend you discuss these revisions with your IRB or administrative office and share a copy of this letter and the ACHA-NCHA II before continuing data collection efforts on your campus. The survey methodology and methods of protecting student privacy will remain unchanged.

We are most excited about the wealth of information that the ACHA-NCHA II will be able to collect from students around the country. Should you have any questions about the survey revisions, please do not hesitate to contact Mary Hoban in the ACHA-NCHA Program Office.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Mary T. Hoban in black ink.

Mary T. Hoban, PhD, CHES
Director, ACHA-NCHA Program Office

Handwritten signature of Alejandro M. Martinez in black ink.

Alejandro M. Martinez, PhD
Stanford University
Chair, ACHA-NCHA Advisory Committee

Handwritten signature of Doyle E. Randol in black ink.

Doyle E. Randol, MS, Col. USA (Ret.)
Executive Director
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