

Overview of Ancillary Study Applications: Adding Supplemental Data to Add Health

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What is an Ancillary Study?

- Any study that derives support from independent funds outside the Add Health Program Project, and does one or more of the following:
 - 1) Collects new, original questionnaire data on Add Health respondents
 - 2) Merges secondary data sources (e.g., geocodes) onto Add Health respondent files using personal identifiers
 - 3) Collects new bio-specimens from Add Health respondents
 - 4) Uses archived bio-specimens collected by the Add Health study to develop new measures

Overview of Presentation

- 1) Provide examples of previously- and currently-funded ancillary studies to best illustrate the kinds of projects that have added and continues to add so much value to Add Health
- 2) Provide general tips for submitting a (successful) ancillary study proposal

Examples of Completed Ancillary Study Projects

- 1) Waves I, III, and IV Obesity and Neighborhood Environment (ONE) Study (Penny Gordon-Larsen and colleagues)
- 2) Wave III High School Transcript Study (Chandra Muller and colleagues)
- 3) Waves I, II, & III Political Context Data (James Fowler and colleagues)
- 4) Wave III County Level Sex Ratio Data (Maja F. Falcon, Michael J. Rosenfeld, and colleagues)

Examples of Ancillary Study Projects That Are Currently in Progress

- 1) Sexual Minority Policy Database for Waves III and IV of Add Health (Joyner and Manning)
- 2) Microbiome and Obesity-Related Traits in Wave V of Add Health (McQueen, Krauter, Harris, Boardman, Knight)
- 3) Children of Add Health Birth Records Study (Harris, Kane, Hussey, Hummer)

Thinking About an Ancillary Study???

- Familiarize yourself with available Add Health datasets by viewing the dataset descriptions and codebooks:

<http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/addhealth/documentation/restricteduse/datasets/index.html>

- Please email us at addhealth_ancillary@unc.edu and/or talk with Sarah Dean, Robert Hummer, Kathie Harris, or Carolyn Halpern to begin a conversation

Who Can Lead an Ancillary Study?

- Must have a PhD, MD, or other terminal degree, and
- Hold a faculty appointment or research position at her/his institution

*** Previous experience with the Add Health Study usually important, but not necessary. ***

Preparing an Ancillary Study Proposal

- Request instructions and forms by emailing: addhealth_ancillary@unc.edu
- Ancillary study proposals take time:
 - * Develop the science (i.e., Specific Aims, Significance, Innovation, Approach)
 - * Answer questions about use of confidential data, use of stored samples, collection of new data, production of new data/measures, security, etc.
 - * Collect info on research team (e.g., bios, etc.)
 - * Send to Add Health **>6 months** prior to planned NIH, NSF, or Foundation submission date!!!

Our Review of Ancillary Study Proposals

- Takes up to 3 months
- (Very Valuable) Written reviews provided to the investigator, along with: approval, revise & resubmit, or disapproval
- R&R's are reviewed more quickly
- Review based on: 1) scientific merit; 2) the extent to which the proposed study addresses Add Health priorities and policies; 3) responsiveness (for R&R's)
- We want these to succeed and to further build Add Health...but we also need time and good ideas

Costs of Ancillary Studies

- An Ancillary Study must be approved by Add Health before a proposal to support it is submitted for funding!!!
- Ancillary studies most often take significant UNC staff and/or investigator time; sub-contract
- Cost estimates provided once Add Health receives, reviews, and approves the Ancillary Study proposal

Rewards of Ancillary Studies

- Develop and run a major project without starting from square one
- Use your new data or set of measures while linked to one of the best nationally-representative, longitudinal, multi-level data sets ever produced
- Tap into the expertise of and work with research staff and investigators who have many years of Add Health experience
- Add to the public good of Add Health

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