

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

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# Overview of Presentation

- 1) Define what an ancillary study is and the types of ancillary studies that are possible with Add Health
- 2) Provide examples of previously- and currently-funded ancillary studies to best illustrate the kinds of projects that have added and continue to add so much value to Add Health
- 3) Provide tips for submitting a (successful) ancillary study proposal

# 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., neighborhood characteristics) 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



# Examples of Completed Ancillary Studies

1. Waves I, III, and IV Obesity and Neighborhood Environment Study (Gordon-Larsen et al.)
2. Wave III High School Transcript Study (Muller et al.)
3. Waves I, II, & III Political Context Data (Fowler et al.)
4. Wave III County Level Sex Ratio Data (Falcon et al.)
5. Sexual Minority Policy Database for Waves III and IV of Add Health (Joyner and Manning)

# Examples of In-Progress Ancillary Studies

- 1) SES and Sexual Minorities Study (Halpern et al)
- 2) Microbiome and Obesity-Related Traits in Wave V (McQueen, et al.)
- 3) Children of Add Health Birth Records Study (Harris, Kane, Hussey, Hummer)
- 4) The role of persistent infections and inflammation in cognition (Aiello, Yang, Belsky, Harris)
- 5) The Geography of Health Inequalities (Gaydos, Belsky, Hargrove, Harris)
- 6) **Understanding the Hidden Costs of Social Mobility (Hargrove, Gaydos, Harris, Aiello)**



# 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](mailto: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

... the key is to start a conversation with us!

# Rewards of Ancillary Studies

- Develop and run a major project without starting from (anywhere close to) 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

# 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](mailto:addhealth_ancillary@unc.edu) and/or talk with Sarah Dean, Robert Hummer, Kathleen Mullan Harris, or Carolyn Halpern to begin a conversation

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