Section C–B, Organization and Functions, is hereby amended as follows:

Delete in its entirety the title and function statements for the Office of Research and Methodology (CPC13).

After the title and the mission and function statements for the Division of Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (CPCG) insert the following:

Division of Research and Methodology (CPCH). (1) Participates in the development of policy, long-range plans, and programs for NCHS; (2) plans, coordinates, stimulates and participates in NCHS' basic and applied research program, including but not limited to research in the fields of mathematical statistics, survey design and methodology, mathematics and operations research; (3) formulates statistical standards regarding survey design, data collection, coding, data analysis, data presentation, disclosure limitation, and statistical computing for all NCHS data systems; (4) consults, collaborates and participates in research projects with HHS, CDC and other Federal organizations, State and local governments, universities, private research organizations, and international agencies and organizations; and (5) provides scientific services and facilities on a reimbursable basis to research and health policy communities, principally through the Center for Questionnaire Design and Evaluation Research and the Research Data Center.

Office of the Division Director (OD) (CPC1H). (1) Participates in the development of policy, long range plans, and programs for NCHS; (2) plans, coordinates, and stimulates the NCHS applied and basic research program which includes the fields of mathematical statistics, survey design and methodology, cognition and survey measurement, and automated statistical and mathematical theory, survey design, and methods research; (7) develops sample design and statistical estimation procedures for NCHS surveys; (8) develops statistical models and innovative survey techniques to extend the analytic potential of NCHS complex sample surveys; and (9) plans for future use of Center data through a continuous research program on statistical theory, survey design, statistical and mathematical methods, statistical computing, and data analysis. Collaborating Center for Questionnaire Design and Evaluation Research (CPCH). (1) Promotes and advances interdisciplinary research on the cognitive aspects of survey methods; (2) conducts basic and applied research on the cognitive aspects of the survey response process in order to improve the efficiency and quality of NCHS’ data systems; (3) develops new methods for investigating the cognitive aspects of survey data collection and presentation; (4) promotes the dissemination and implementation of cognitive research methods through publications and presentations; (5) develops and tests...
NCHS survey data collection instruments using cognitive laboratory methods and related innovative questionnaire evaluation methods; (6) provides consultation and technical assistance to NCHS’ data systems on questionnaire design issues and other related data collection procedures; (7) conducts a program of reimbursable applied and basic research, technical assistance, and consultation on questionnaire design and cognitive aspects of survey methods.

Research Data Center (CPCHD), (1) Facilitates the access of restricted use data to the research community; (2) conducts research in areas related to the development, linkage, analysis, and dissemination of survey data; (3) provides consultation and technical assistance to programs on data collection procedures, confidentiality, disclosure limitation, data linkage, and dissemination; (4) serves as NCHS’ primary venue for disseminating restricted use data to the research community; (5) supports scientific research on disclosure limitation of surveys using micro-data files.

James Seligman,
Acting Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 2015–14808 Filed 6–16–15; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4160–18–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[30-Day—15–0222]

Agency Forms Undergoing Paperwork Reduction Act Review

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has submitted the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The notice for the proposed information collection is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies.

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information are encouraged. Your comments should address any of the following: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses; and (e) Assess information collection costs.

To request additional information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the information collection plan and instruments, call (404) 639–7570 or send an email to om@cdc.gov. Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the items contained in this notice should be directed to the Attention: CDC Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 or by fax to (202) 395–5806. Written comments should be received within 30 days of this notice.

Proposed Project

Questionnaire Design Research Laboratory (QDRL)—(OMB No. 0920–0222, expires 6/30/2015)—Revision—National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Background and Brief Description

The Questionnaire Design Research Laboratory (QDRL) is the focal point within NCHS for questionnaire development, pre-testing, and evaluation activities for CDC surveys (such as the NCHS National Health Interview Survey, OMB No. 0920–0214) and other federally sponsored surveys; however, question development and evaluation activities are conducted throughout NCHS. NCHS is requesting 3 years of OMB Clearance for this generic submission. This revision is a request for additional burden hours due to anticipated increase in the number and size of projects being undertaken in the next three years.

The QDRL and other NCHS programs conduct cognitive interviews, focus groups, in-depth or ethnographic interviews, usability tests, field tests/pilot interviews, and experimental research in laboratory and field settings, both for applied questionnaire development and evaluation as well as more basic research on response errors in surveys.

Various techniques to evaluate interviewer administered, self-administered, telephone, Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI), Computer Assisted Self-Interviewing (CASI), Audio Computer-Assisted Self-Interviewing (ACASI), and web-based questionnaires are used.

The most common questionnaire evaluation method is the cognitive interview. These evaluations are conducted by the QDRL. The interview structure consists of respondents first answering a draft survey question and then providing textual information to reveal the processes involved in answering the test question. Specifically, cognitive interview respondents are asked to describe how and why they answered the question as they did. Through the interviewing process, various types of question-response problems that would not normally be identified in a traditional survey interview, such as interpretive errors and recall accuracy, are uncovered. By conducting a comparative analysis of cognitive interviews, it is also possible to determine whether particular interpretive patterns occur within particular sub-groups of the population. Interviews are generally conducted in small rounds of 20–30 interviews; ideally, the questionnaire is re-worked between rounds, and revisions are tested iteratively until interviews yield relatively few new insights.

Cognitive interviewing is inexpensive and provides useful data on questionnaire performance while minimizing respondent burden. Cognitive interviewing offers a detailed depiction of meanings and processes used by respondents to answer questions—processes that ultimately produce the survey data. As such, the method offers an insight that can transform understanding of question validity and response error. Documented findings from these studies represent tangible evidence of how the question performs. Such documentation also serves CDC data users, allowing them to be critical users in their approach and application of the data.

In addition to cognitive interviewing, a number of other qualitative and quantitative methods are used to investigate and research survey response errors and the survey response process. These methods include conducting focus groups, usability tests, in-depth or ethnographic interviews, and the administration and analysis of questions in both representative and non-representative field tests. Focus groups are conducted by the NCHS QDRL. They are group interviews whose primary purpose is to elicit the basic sociocultural understandings and terminology that form the basis of questionnaire design. Each group