



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Kalamazoo County Chosen for CDC's National Health Survey

KALAMAZOO, MI - The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), the most comprehensive survey of the health and nutritional status of the U.S. population, is opening its Mobile Exam Center to select Kalamazoo County residents this spring.

Beginning in early March, approximately 700 randomly chosen households will receive invitations in the mail to complete a brief online questionnaire regarding the survey. An NHANES representative will then contact eligible residents to set up a phone health interview beginning in early April, followed by a health examination in the Mobile Exam Center, located at the Delta Marriott Hotel, beginning in early May.

"NHANES has been traveling from coast to coast, collecting important health information from all over the U.S., since 1960," said Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Health Officer Jim Rutherford. "We are honored to be one of only fifteen stops nationwide for this year's survey, and we urge everyone selected to participate to help develop and improve health programs and policies."

Conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) as part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the survey yields data that address critical health concerns such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. Public health officials, legislators, and physicians use this information to develop health policies, direct and design health programs, and expand the health knowledge of the nation. NHANES data also help produce national references and standardized growth charts used by pediatricians across the country.

While no medical care is provided directly in the Mobile Exam Center, a report on physical findings is given to each participant, along with an explanation of those findings from the survey medical staff. All information collected in the survey is kept confidential and individual privacy is protected by law. Participants also receive a gift card of up to \$125 for their time.

NHANES is taking all precautions needed, as recommended by the CDC, to keep survey participants and staff safe by following guidelines on social distancing, use of personal protective equipment, handwashing, and sanitation of the mobile examination center and all equipment.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/nhanes or call 1-855-958-0631.

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