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# Using SAS® to Analyze U.S. Federal Healthcare Data

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## ABSTRACT

Each year the U.S. government releases a goldmine of information on healthcare utilization and expenditures in the form of public-use data files and associated documentation. This information is usually released in SAS® transport format or as ascii files with SAS code for creating datasets. This puts SAS programmers and researchers with SAS programming skills in a great position for accessing this information and putting it to use for a wide variety of healthcare research topics.

This paper will use three particular data sources as examples of the wealth of information available: The CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), AHRQ's Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS), and NHIS' National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). The goal of the paper is to give participants a solid foundation for working with U.S. national healthcare sample and survey data, as well as the resources to build on this foundation for their particular research or programming needs.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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