The National Center for Health Statistics

- The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), a division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is the nation’s principal source for health statistics and a unique public resource for health information. NCHS collects and disseminates the nation’s official vital statistics.

- The agency administers key surveys critical to PAA and APC members, such as the National Health Interview Survey, the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, and the National Survey of Family Growth. In 2007, NCHS celebrated 50 years of the National Health Interview Survey.

- In addition to data collection, NCHS documents the health status of the nation’s population, identifies health problems, evaluates health programs and policies, and detects disparities in health status and use of health care by race/ethnicity, socioeconomic, region, and other population characteristics.

- The House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Subcommittees have jurisdiction over NCHS. NCHS received $109 million in Fiscal Year 2007. The administration requested $110 million for FY 2008. Supporters of NCHS are encouraging Congress to provide NCHS with $117 million in FY 2008.

- PAA and APC participate in the Friends of the National Center for Health Statistics to raise awareness and encourage additional support for this important statistical agency. http://www.chsr.org/friendsofnchs.htm.

- For additional information about NCHS, go to http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/.

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