

# Topic: Working with NHANES Data

 , **sas**, & More!



# Welcome to Today's Lecture!

## Today's Lecture

- What are the NHANES data?
- What's good about them?
- What's the problem with them?

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## NHANES Data

- National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)
- United States
- Started in the late 1960s
- Went door-to-door, examined respondents in the “mobile examination clinic” (MEC)
- Same surveillance questions as in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) – but that is on the phone

## Resources

Blog post with explanation and code:  
<https://dethwench.com/nhanes-datasets-for-use-in-data-analysis/>

Links to curated datasets for portfolio projects (including NHANES):  
<https://dethwench.com/curated-datasets-for-data-science-portfolio-projects/>

Ideas for portfolio projects:  
<https://dethwench.com/portfolio-project-examples-for-data-science/>



# What are available in NHANES data?



Diet data



Co-morbidities



Leisure activities



Exercise data



Alcohol consumption



Reproductive information



Lab values



Medications

**AND MORE!**



# NHANES Data

## Documentation

- Available online here:  
<https://wwwn.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/continuousnhanes/default.aspx?Cycle=2017-2020>
- I will explain how to use the documentation because it rather challenging
- Lacks important information

## Primary Issues

- NHANES is cross-sectional, like BRFSS
- However, it is not served up in “one big flat table”
- Instead, tables are “federated” – join on *SEQN*
- Missing data that is hard to explain



## Questions?

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