

All comments will become a matter of public record.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Ruth A. Celtnieks, AHCPH Reports Clearance Officer, (301) 594-1406, ext. 1497.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Proposed Project**

“Medical Expenditure Panel Survey—Insurance Component (MEPS-IC) for 1998 and 1999.”

The AHCPH plans to continue collection of the MEPS-IC. This survey collects information from employers (including public and private sectors) and other health insurance providers. The survey was first conducted in 1997.

The MEPS-IC is the integration of two previous surveys which collected similar information from two different samples. The two surveys were:

1. The 1994 National Employer Health Insurance Survey (NEHIS) sponsored by AHCPH, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA). The NEHIS had a sample drawn from (1) a list of private sector establishments, the Dunn Market Identifiers, provided by Dunn and Bradstreet, a major supplier of business information, (2) a list of all government entities, Federal, State and local, provided by the Census Bureau, and (3) a list of self-employed individuals provided by the NCHS; and
2. The 1987 Health Insurance Plans Survey (HIPS) sponsored by AHCPH's predecessor, the National Center for Health Statistics Research. The HIPS sample of employers and other health insurance providers generated from the 1987 National Medical Expenditure Survey, a household survey similar to the MEPS-HC.

As a result, the sample for the MEPS-IC is made up of two components:

1. A list sample of employers selected from three sample frames, private sector, government entities and self-employed individuals, available from the Bureau of the Census; and
2. A sample of employers and other health insurance providers identified by respondents to the MEPS-Household Component (MEPS-HC). The MEPS-HC is an annual household survey designed to collect medical expenditures and ancillary information for individuals.

Data will be produced in two forms: (1) files containing employer information from the list sample of selected employers; and (2) files containing calendar years 1997 and 1998 insurance data collected in 1998 and 1999 from employers and linked to information from the household respondents of the 1997 and 1998 MEPS-HC surveys.

The data are intended to be used for purposes such as:

- Generating national and State estimates of employer health care offerings;
- Producing aggregate data on national and State estimates of spending on employer-sponsored health insurance for analyzing results of national and State health care policy and providing information to guide future policy;
- Supply data to model the demand for health insurance; and
- Providing a valuable source of information concerning household responses regarding choices of health plans and costs and benefits of these plans, when pooled with data from the MEPS-HC.

These data provide the basis for researchers to address significant questions for employers and policymakers alike.

**Method of Collection**

The data will be collected using a combination of modes. AHCPH intends to first contact the employers by telephone. This contact will provide information on the availability of health insurance from the employer and essential persons to contact. Based upon this information, AHCPH will send a mail questionnaire to employers and others identified by employers. In order to assure high response rates, AHCPH will follow-up with a second mailing at an acceptable time interval, followed by a telephone call to collect data from those who have not responded by mail.

Data collected from each employer will include a description of the business (e.g., size, industry) and descriptions of health insurance plans available, plan enrollments, total plan costs and costs to employees.

For employers that can be matched to the MEPS-HC respondents, data will also be collected indicating the actual plan selected by the MEPS-HC respondent and the plan costs.

As part of the process, for larger employers with high burdens, such as State employers and large firms, AHCPH will, if needed, perform personal visits and do customized collection, such as, acceptance of data in computerized formats. Annual burden estimates follow:

*Initial Number of Respondents:* 40,000.

*Number of Surveys per Respondent:* 1.

*Average Burden per Respondent:* .5 hour.

*Estimated Annual Burden Total:* 20,000 hours.

**Request for Comments**

Comments are invited on: (a) the necessity of the proposed collection; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information upon the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection.

Copies of these proposed collection plans and instruments can be obtained from the AHCPH Reports Clearance Officer (see above).

Dated: September 29, 1997.

**John M. Eisenberg,**  
Administrator.

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Administration for Children and Families**

**Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

*Title:* Early Head Start Evaluation Father Study.

*OMB No.:* New Request.

*Description:* The Head Start Reauthorization Act of 1994 established a special initiative creating funding for services for families with infants and toddlers. In response the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) designed the Early Head Start (EHS) program. In September 1995, ACYF awarded grants to 68 local programs to serve families with infants and toddlers. ACYF awarded grants to an additional 75 local programs in September 1996.

EHS programs are designed to produce outcomes in four domains: (1) child development, (2) family development, (3) staff development, and (4) community development. The Reauthorization required that this new initiative be evaluated. To study the effect of the initiative, ACYF awarded a contract through a competitive procurement to Mathematics Policy Research, Inc. (MPR) with a subcontract to Columbia University's Center for Young Children and Families. The evaluation will be carried out from October 1, 1995 through September 30, 2000. Data collection activities that are

the subject of this **Federal Register** notice are intended for the second phase of the EHS evaluation.

The sample for the assessments will be approximately 1,360 fathers from the 3,400 EHS sample families, whose mothers and infants/toddlers are participating in the study (see OMB #0970-0143) in 17 EHS study sites. Each family will be randomly assigned to a

treatment group or a control group. The assessments will be conducted through personal interviewing, structured observations and videotaping. All data collection instruments have been designed to minimize the burden on respondents by minimizing interviewing and assessment time. Participation in the study is voluntary and confidential.

The information will be used by government managers, Congress and others to better understand the roles of fathers and father-figures with their children and in the EHS program.

*Respondents:* Fathers or father-figures of children whose families are in the EHS national evaluation sample (both program and control group families).

#### ANNUAL BURDEN ESTIMATES

Instrument	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	average burden hours per response	Total burden hours
24-Month Father Interview .....	635	1	10	635
Father-Child Videotaping Protocol .....	168	1	0.3	50
Estimated Total Annual Burden .....				685

*Additional Information:* Copies of the proposed collection may be obtained by writing to The Administration for Children and Families, Office of Information Services, Division of Information Resource Management Services, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20447, Attn: ACF Reports Clearance Officer.

*OMB Comment:* OMB is required to make a decision concerning the collection of information between 30 to 60 days after publication of this document in the **Federal Register**. Therefore, a comment is best assured of having it full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent directly to the following: Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project, 725 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20503, Attn: Desk Officer for the Administration for Children Families.

Dated: September 29, 1997.

**Bob Sargis,**

*Acting Reports Clearance Officer.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

##### Administration for Children and Families

##### Statement of Organization, Functions and Delegations of Authority

Notice is hereby given that I delegate to the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, with authority to redelegate, the following authorities vested in the Secretary under the

Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, P.L. 104-193, as amended now and hereafter.

(a) Authorities Delegated:

(1) Authority to administer the provisions of Title I, Block Grants for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) under Sections 101-103, 106-110, 112, 115 and 116 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 1305 note, 42 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, and as amended now and hereafter. In addition, in exercising authority under Section 103, "Section 413, Research, Evaluations, and National Studies," of the Social Security Act, the Administration for Children and Families is expected to consult with the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

(2) Authority to administer the provisions of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Amendments of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 9801 note, under Sections 601-615 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 1305 note, 42 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, and as amended now and hereafter.

(b) Effect on existing delegations. None.

These delegations shall be exercised under the Department's existing delegation of authority and policy on regulations. These delegations of authority are effective upon date of signature. In addition, I hereby, affirm and ratify any actions taken by the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families or any other Administration for Children and Families official which, in effect, involved the exercise of these authorities prior to the effective date of these delegations.

Dated: September 16, 1997.

**Donna E. Shalala,**

*Secretary.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

##### Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 97N-0397]

##### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (the PRA), Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed reinstatement of an existing collection of information, and to allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on recordkeeping requirements for manufacturers, importers, distributors, and retailers of impact-resistant lenses, including eyeglasses and sunglasses.

**DATES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information by December 5, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration,