

Updates on NCHS injury-related activities

by Lois Fingerhut

We have begun work on the project to produce a glossary of injury and related health care terminology. Catherine Rennert, MD, working with other staff in the Morbidity Classification group at NCHS, started the project and will continue working on it during the coming year. She will be in touch with Wim Rogmans and Claude Romer for their suggested input. A form will be mailed to ICE participants to be completed and returned to Dr. Rennert. NCHS will take responsibility for compiling country reports.

The core questions of the National Health Interview Survey have been redesigned and they include a significant injury component (under the leadership of Lois Fingerhut). These questions [see below] will be administered through a Computer Assisted Personal Interview in a national sample of households in the United States beginning in August, 1996. Questions about injuries requiring medical attention (including a phone call) in the 3 months up to the date of interview will be asked of all family members. Detail is being obtained on the type of injury and the circumstances surrounding the event causing the injury. This is the first time this level of detail is being obtained in a national household survey in the United States. Preliminary results will be analyzed and changes made to questions as appropriate during the first 6 months of data collection.

A comprehensive Injury Chartbook is being prepared (by Lois Fingerhut with the assistance of Margaret Warner) to be included with the annual NCHS publication, Health, United States, 1996. This will be released some time in the Spring of 1997.