IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEY UNDERWAY IN WINNEBAGO COUNTY

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), the most comprehensive survey of the health and nutritional status of the U.S. population is coming to Winnebago County, IL beginning on June 13, 2015. Why Winnebago County?

All counties in the United States have a chance to be selected for the NHANES and this year, Winnebago County is one of 15 counties that was selected to be part of this initiative. NHANES provides important data on public health problems from a national perspective.

Each year, 5,000 lucky residents across the nation have the chance to participate in the latest National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Why Should Every Eligible Resident Participate in NHANES?

• Your participation can help develop and evolve national health programs and policies.

• If you are selected, You will help make a difference in our nation’s health!

• If you agree to participate you will receive compensation for your time and travel expenses of up to $125.

• You will also receive a free and confidential health and nutrition evaluation.
“Winnebago County represents the rich diversity of the state of Illinois and the nation with our urban, suburban, and rural populations. The selection of Winnebago County for the NHANES provides our community with the opportunity to provide data on the health of the nation,” said Sandra Martell, RN, DNP, Public Health Administrator for the Winnebago County Health Department. “We are pleased to have been selected as a 2015 site and I encourage residents of Winnebago County to participate in this important NHANES survey.”

“NHANES serves as the nation’s ‘health check-up,’ going into communities to collect health information throughout the country,” said CDC Director Thomas Frieden. “The survey is a unique resource for health information, and without it we would lack important knowledge about major health conditions.”

For the past 55 years, NHANES has had a prominent role in improving the health of all people living in the U.S. Public health officials, legislators, and physicians use the information gathered in NHANES to develop sound health policies, direct and design health programs and services, and expand the health knowledge for the nation. NHANES findings provide critical health-related information on a number of issues such as obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. In addition, NHANES data are used to produce national references and are used to create standardized growth charts for pediatricians across the country.

“I am delighted that NHANES is coming to Winnebago County and will be based at the College of Medicine. Over the years, NHANES has had significant impact on health policy in the U.S. On a personal level, NHANES has been integral to my research in thyroid disease in pregnancy.” said Alex Stagnaro-Green, MD, MHPE.
Everyone in the U.S., from babies yet to be born to the elderly, has benefited from the information gathered by NHANES. The comprehensive data collected by NHANES has a far-reaching and significant impact on everything from the quality of the air we breathe, to the vaccinations you get from your doctor, to the emergence of low-fat and “light” foods on the shelves of your grocery store. Now, a NHANES team of health professionals, nutritionists and health technicians is heading toward Winnebago County and wants everyone who is lucky enough to be selected for the survey to agree to participate.

Residents will have an invitation-only opportunity to participate in NHANES. Individuals have been selected at random (in a process similar to taking names out of a hat) for NHANES, and include all ages, races, and ethnicities in order to represent the U.S. population as a whole. Respondents first participate in a health interview conducted in the respondent’s home followed by a health examination that takes place in one of three mobile examination centers.

While no medical care is provided directly in the mobile examination center, a report on physical findings is given to each participant along with an explanation from survey medical staff. All information collected in the survey is kept strictly confidential and privacy is protected by law.

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