PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
(Primary) Jacque DeMatteis (800) 210-3413
(Secondary) Sherwin Bates (713) 977-0361

NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEY UNDERWAY IN PICKENS 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 Pickens County beginning on February 25, 2017. Why Pickens County?

All counties in the United States have a chance to be selected for the NHANES and this year, Pickens 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.

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.
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).

“NHANES serves as the nation’s ‘health check-up,’ going into communities to collect health information throughout the country,” said Charles J. Rothwell, MBA, MS., Director of the National Center for Health Statistics, part of CDC. “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.

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 Pickens County and wants everyone who is lucky enough to be selected for the survey to agree to participate.

"The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey for more than 55 years has provided important information on major diseases, risk factors for diseases, and the relationship between nutrition and overall health of all people living in the United States," said Matt Petrofes, Health Director for the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Upstate Region. "More than 5,000 people across the country will participate this year, and approximately 550 of them will be from Pickens County. I encourage community members to participate in this survey if they are selected because they will learn valuable information about their own health while contributing to national research."

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 confidential and privacy is protected by law.

###