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Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP)
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TRIP REPORT

MEXICO CITY AND SOLIS, MEXICO

Dr. Lindsay H. Allen - January 8 - February 1, 1987
Dr. Gretel H. Pelto - January 8 - January 23, 1987

Principal Investigators - University of Connecticut
Mexico Nutrition CRSP

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MEXICO PROJECT: TRIP REPORT

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University of Connecticut

DATES: L.H. Allen -- January 8 - February 1, 1987
G.H. Pelto -- January 8 - January 23, 1987

PLACE: Mexico City and Solis

PERSONS CONTACTED:

Dr. Adolfo Chavez
Dr. Homero Martinez
Dr. Mirna Vara
Dr. Alfredo Bustos
Mr. Ramon Lira
Ms. Elsa Molina
Ms. Eulalia Martinez
Ms. LuzMaria Meneses
Ms. Alba Sosa
Ms. Eudwiges Tellez

PURPOSE

1. To translate the methodology manuals at INN from Spanish to English in the areas of: morbidity, clinical history, physical exams, mortality, and laboratory exams.
2. To review all project manuals (including all those drafts already sent to Berkeley) with the Jefas de Areas
3. To review the status of data entry and cleaning at INN
4. To plan the analyses that INN is planning for the final report
5. To assure that "analysis data files" used by INN and UConn are identical in so far as possible
6. To review the budget and personnel requirements for INN up to the end of the project.

STATE OF DATA CLEANING AND CAPTURE

One of the main purposes of this trip was to review the stage of data capture and correction in Mexico, and to carry back to Connecticut as many of the outstanding data sets as possible. The following provides a summary of the current situation:

1. Data Sets Not Completely Captured: (a) Individual Items on Psychological Tests, (b) Productivity;

2. Data Sets Not Yet Captured: (a) Laboratory Analyses of Blood and Milk Samples; (b) Weekly Food Prices, and (c) Temperature and Rainfall.

Plans were made to assure capture of all remaining data by the end of February. All other data sets have been captured and visually checked in the field against the original interview forms for errors in data capture. All identified errors had been corrected.

The following data sets were copied onto computer tape and carried by us to Connecticut at the end of this trip: (a) Clinical History, (b) Physical Examinations, (c) Reproduction, (d) Items on the Bayley Exam at Thirty Months, (e) Mother - Preschooler Observations, (f) Comparison of Morbidity Methods, and (g) Productivity. With the exception of productivity, these data sets are now complete at UConn.

Work on the food intake data set demanded a great deal of our time and will be described below.

FOOD INTAKE DATA

UConn has been in possession of the complete dietary data set since last Fall, and has written a comprehensive set of programs for error - checking this complex data set. As a result of these programs, complete information on several types of errors were detected and sent to Mexico. However, the group at INN has only now had the time and resources to address these errors. During our visit the following strategy was developed to deal with this issue in a systematic way:

1) The entire food intake data set was sorted at IBM Scientific Center and permanent line numbers were assigned to each record. (The entire, line-numbered data set was copied onto tape and carried back to UConn.)

2) The UConn and INN programs that convert foods into nutrients were compared and combined into a single system.

3) Programs were written that identified errors in the data set. These were largely modifications of the programs previously written at UConn. They included printouts of out of range values for the consumption of individual foods and nutrients, detection of errors in food codes, and mismatches of the character string that describes foods consumed by an individual against the description of the corresponding recipe.

4) The printout of errors generated in this way was taken back to the field, (where the raw data are stored), and compared

against the original interviews. A group of six, former fieldstaff was rehired for this purpose.

5) After a few days in the field, it became apparent that most of the errors were not due to data capture, but rather were problems of inconsistent assignment of recipe numbers to individual consumption records. Since there was a nominal description of both the recipe and the foods consumed by each individual, our error program allows us to both detect and correct all such errors. Almost all of this work can now be completed by using the printouts at INN in Mexico City, with field-checking against original interviews only necessary in a few cases.

6) Changes in the data detected by this system are being listed by permanent line number in the data set. The changes and line numbers will be entered at IBM in the form of a program that will make the corrections. This same program will be sent, on diskette, to UConn, in order to assure that the same corrections are made on the UConn data set.

7) We have requested that INN make this work top priority, and that it should be completed by February 15, 1987.

METHODOLOGY MANUALS

The Mexico project is somewhat unique in that all of the field manuals were written in Spanish. This also applies to laboratory analyses, data management documentation, etc. Drs. Allen and Pelto have therefore had to invest a great deal of time in producing translated, and condensed versions of these manuals.

During the present visit, the following manuals were translated in their entirety: clinical histories, physical exams, all lab analyses, and mortality. These translations were then discussed with the persons responsible for the conduct of the corresponding research areas, to ensure their correctness and to fill in all missing details. Questions were also answered concerning issues that resulted from the previously prepared drafts of manuals already submitted to Berkeley on RMR, food intake and anthropometry.

It is our hope that the fact that since these manuals are now entered on diskettes this will assist us greatly in producing the methodology section of our Final Report.

PLANS FOR ANALYSES OF PREGNANCY OUTCOME FOR THE FINAL REPORT

It has been agreed that our Mexican colleagues will be responsible for analysis of the pregnancy outcome model proposed for the final report. Therefore, a substantial amount of time was spent, during this trip, discussing the nature of this model, and detailed definition of variables was completed. The model and

variable definitions will be shared with our SCB colleagues, in order to promote identical analyses in so far as possible.

The analyses will be supervised by Drs. Chavez and Martinez. We are fortunate to have free statistical consulting services of Dr. Alfredo Bustos, of UNAM, who is on sabbatic leave at IBM. Dr. Bustos is an experienced econometrician, trained at the London School of Economics. His major responsibility for 1987 is to provide statistical advice to this project.

PERSONNEL AND BUDGET

INN is continuing to work on preparation of final data sets. After March, when the data cleaning is completed, it is our hope that the data analysis unit at INN will be maintained as a skeletal staff to assist with analysis of pregnancy outcome data. The Area Chiefs will move to other INN projects over the next weeks, although their input is very valuable in the development of variables for the pregnancy outcome model.

CONCLUDING COMMENT

This was a very positive trip that accomplished a great deal including: acquisition of almost all outstanding data, final agreement as to all remaining work in error corrections (especially in the area of diet), and agreement on work distribution on the final report. Our colleagues at INN are very excited to be starting analytical work at last. The rapport between INN and UConn personnel remains very strong, and future collaborative work is in all of our plans. In this context, we are delighted to report that in early January, 1987 the State of Mexico agreed to a transfer of the Solis facilities to INN for the purpose of establishing a permanent research and training site.

Lindsay H. Allen