Child maltreatment (CM) is a major public health problem in the United States, causing substantial morbidity and mortality (DHHS, 2010), and the prevalence for any of the three major types of CM (physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect) is estimated at approximately 28% (Hussey et al., 2006). Additionally, the annual incidence of any type of CM among children and adolescents 0–17 has been estimated at nearly 14%, while physical and sexual abuse are estimated at 3.7% and 0.6%, respectively (Finkelhor et al., 2005). CM has been shown to have lifelong adverse physical and mental health consequences for victims (Felitti et al., 1998), including behavioral problems (Felitti et al. 1998; Repetti et al. 2002), mental health conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (Browne and Finkelhor, 1986; Holmes and Sammel, 2005; Moeller and Bachman, 1993), increased trouble with interpersonal relationships (Fang and Corso, 2007), increased risk of chronic diseases (Browne and Finkelhor, 1986), and lasting impacts or disability from physical injury (Dominguez et al. 2001). The consequences of CM have both a direct impact, through reduced health, as well as an indirect impact, through reduced health-related quality of life (HRQoL, or simply QoL), the state of “utility” or satisfaction that a person experiences as a result of their health (Drummond et al. 1997). The CDC requests approval of a survey-based study to measure the Health-Related Quality-of-Life (HRQoL) impacts resulting from child maltreatment (CM) using a quantitative, preference-based approach. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, among many others, has identified child maltreatment as a serious U.S. public health problem with substantial long-term physical and psychological consequences. Despite considerable research on the consequences of CM in adults, few studies have utilized standard HRQoL techniques and none have quantified childhood HRQoL impacts. This gap in the literature means the full burden of CM on HRQoL has not been measured, inhibiting the evaluation and comparison of CM intervention programs. This study will improve public health knowledge and economic evaluation of the HRQoL impacts of CM, including effects specific to juvenile and adolescent victims, through the development and fielding of a preference-based survey instrument.

CDC has developed an exploratory survey instrument to quantify the HRQoL impacts of child maltreatment following standardized HRQoL methods. The survey was developed based on findings from a literature review of CM outcomes, focus groups with adult CM victims, and expert review of outcomes by clinician consultants who work with children and/or adults who were victims of CM or who are researchers in the field of CM. The survey is designed to quantify two types of data. The main objective is the HRQoL decrement attributable to CM, measured as the difference in HRQoL scores by CM victimization history. A secondary objective is a statistical evaluation of these decrements, based on respondent preferences over a series of comparisons that will be shown to survey respondents.

The online survey will be fielded to a nationally-representative sample of 750 adults ages 18–29 and 1100 adults ages 18 and up, for a total of 1850 U.S. adults. The survey will include HRQoL questions to capture the two types of data above, as well as select items on sociodemographics. Past exposure to CM will be measured using the Child Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ), the briefest and most nonintrusive set of scientifically validated questions to identify 5 types of past child abuse and neglect.

Final results will provide an estimate of the HRQoL burden of child maltreatment in the United States. Analysis and results of the survey data may provide suggestive information on the impacts of CM to the scientific and public health communities to help determine whether future studies using similar methods should be conducted after this exploratory study. There is no cost to respondents other than their time. The total estimated annual burden hours are 771.
theorists and researchers agree that for health messages to be as clear and influential as possible, target audience members or representatives must be involved in developing the messages and provisional versions of the messages must be tested with members of the target audience.

However, increasingly there are circumstances when CDC must move swiftly to protect life, prevent disease, or calm public anxiety. Health message testing is even more important in these instances, because of the critical nature of the information need.

CDC receives a mandate from Congress with a tight deadline for communicating with the public about a specific topic. For example, Congress gave CDC 120 days to develop and test messages for a public information campaign about *Helicobacter pylori*, a bacterium that can cause stomach ulcers and increase cancer risk if an infected individual is not treated with antibiotics.

In the interest of timely health message dissemination, many programs forgo the important step of testing messages on dimensions such as clarity, salience, appeal, and persuasiveness (*i.e.*, the ability to influence behavioral intention). Skipping this step avoids the delay involved in the standard OMB review process, but at a high potential cost. Untested messages can waste communication resources and opportunities because the messages can be perceived as unclear or irrelevant. Untested messages can also have unintended consequences, such as jeopardizing the credibility of Federal health officials.

The Health Message Testing System (HMTS), a generic information collection, will enable programs across CDC to collect the information they require in a timely manner to:

- Ensure quality and prevent waste in the dissemination of health information by CDC to the public.
- Refine message concepts and to test draft materials for clarity, salience, appeal, and persuasiveness to target audiences.
- Guide the action of health communication officials who are responding to health emergencies, Congressionally-mandated campaigns with short timeframes, media-generated public concern, time-limited communication opportunities, trends, and the need to refresh materials or dissemination strategies in an ongoing campaign.

Each testing instrument will be based on specific health issues or topics. Although it is not possible to develop one instrument for use in all instances, the same kinds of questions are asked in most message testing. This package includes generic questions and formats that can used to develop health message testing data collection instruments. These include a list of screening questions, comprised of demographic and introductory questions, along with other questions that can be used to create a mix of relevant questions for each proposed message testing data collection method. However, programs may request to use additional questions if needed.

Message testing questions will focus on issues such as comprehension, impressions, personal relevance, content and wording, efficacy of response, channels, and spokesperson/sponsor. Such information will enable message developers to enhance the effectiveness of messages for intended audiences.

Data collection methods proposed for HMTS include intercept interviews, telephone interviews, focus groups, online surveys, and cognitive interviews. In almost all instances, data will be collected by outside organizations under contract with CDC.

There is no cost to the respondents other than their time. The total estimated annualized burden hours are 2,470.

### Background and Brief Description

Before CDC disseminates a health message to the public, the message always undergoes scientific review. However, even though the message is based on sound scientific content, there is no guarantee that the public will understand a health message or that the message will move people to take recommended action. Communication theorists and researchers agree that for health messages to the public, the message always undergoes scientific review.

### Proposed Project


- **Type of respondent**
  - Adults, age 18–29
  - Adults, age 18+
- **Form name**
  - Health Related Quality of Life Survey
  - Health Related Quality of Life Survey
- **Number of respondents**
  - 750
  - 1,100
- **Number responses per respondent**
  - 1
  - 1
- **Average burden per response (in hours)**
  - 25/60
  - 25/60

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

[30Day–11–0572]

**Agency Forms Undergoing Paperwork Reduction Act Review**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes a list of information collection requests under review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35). To request a copy of these requests, call the CDC Reports Clearance Officer at (404) 639–5960 or send an e-mail to omb@cdc.gov. Send written comments to CDC Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC or by fax to (202) 395–6974. Written comments should be received within 30 days of this notice.

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Daniel Holcomb,

Reports Clearance Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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