

**National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS) and  
National Study of Caregiving (NSOC)**

**Call for Abstracts: Research on Caregiving to Older Adults with Dementia**

**RELEASE DATE: November 1, 2023**

**DEADLINE: January 15, 2024**

**CONFERENCE DATES: June 19-20, 2024**

**Purpose**

The National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS) and the National Study of Caregiving (NSOC), with support from the National Institute on Aging, announce a call for abstracts for conference papers and posters. The goal of this conference is to bring together scholars working with NHATS and/or NSOC who are interested in family, unpaid, and paid care for older adults living with dementia. The conference will be held **June 19-20, 2024** in Ann Arbor. We expect to accept approximately 8-10 papers and 8-10 posters and are making plans to invite presenters to submit papers to a special issue. Early career researchers are especially encouraged to apply.

**Focus of Conference**

We welcome abstracts from a variety of disciplines and perspectives. Papers may compare care for older adults with and without dementia or focus on care for recipients living with dementia. Topics may include, for instance, the effect of care on older adult's or caregiver's health and wellbeing, interactions between family and paid caregiving, inequities in access to dementia care, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on caregiving, or the economics of dementia care. Papers that highlight dual perspectives (e.g., using NHATS and NSOC), multiple caregivers (e.g., network focused), the longitudinal features of the data (e.g., using multiple rounds), or contextual linkages to NHATS and/or NSOC are of particular interest.

**Background on NHATS and NSOC**

Begun in 2011, the National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS) conducts annual in-person interviews with a nationally representative sample of Medicare beneficiaries ages 65 or older. Designed as a platform for scientific study of late-life disability trends and trajectories, NHATS fosters research to maximize independent functioning and enhance quality of life at older ages. In 2015 and 2022 the sample was refreshed to represent the 65 and older population. In 2020, a supplement on experiences during the

COVID-19 pandemic was administered to participants and to family and friends who helped participants.

The supplemental National Study of Caregiving (NSOC) is conducted periodically to provide the perspective of family and friends who help older adults experiencing limitations in daily life. NSOC has been conducted five times in conjunction with the NHATS at periodic intervals (2011, 2015, 2017, and annually beginning in 2021). Interviews are conducted with family and unpaid caregivers to NHATS participants who were receiving assistance with self-care, mobility, or household activities (the latter, for health or functioning related reasons). The 30-minute interview includes questions about activities for which help was provided, duration and intensity of help, effects on helpers of providing assistance, support services used, and basic demographic information. In 2017, a longitudinal follow-up was added and a supplemental time diary interview was administered. Starting in 2017, end of life caregivers were eligible to participate. In 2020, NHATS participants and family members and friends who helped NHATS participants during the COVID-19 pandemic were asked to complete a supplemental mail questionnaire.

Together NHATS and NSOC are the only national study providing both care recipient and caregiver perspectives on late-life care. Rather than identify a single primary caregiver to participate, interviews are attempted with all eligible helpers for whom contact information is obtained. This design yields a caregiver sample that is representative of all eligible caregivers and allows insights into how caregiving responsibilities are distributed.

Approved researchers may link contextual data to NHATS and NSOC by accessing the study's restricted geographic files in the Michigan Center for the Demography of Aging secure data enclave. For instructions on how to apply for access see "*Obtaining NHATS Restricted Data From the NHATS Restricted Data Repository*" available from the restricted data tab on data access page on the [NHATS website](#). Applications require IRB approval and a signed Data Use Agreement and may take several months to complete.

## **Funding**

The conference is supported by the National Study of Caregiving (NSOC) and two NIA-funded Centers, the Michigan Center on the Demography of Aging (MiCDA) and the Hopkins Economics of Alzheimer's Disease & Services (HEADS) Center.

An honorarium will be provided of \$5,000 per paper and \$1,500 per poster. The honorarium may be split among multiple authors at the direction of the applicant. In

addition, one author per paper/poster will be reimbursed for travel expenses to the conference, including travel, hotel, and per diem.

Articles that result from the conference must acknowledge support from the National Institute on Aging (R01AG054004; P30AG012846; P30AG066587) and be submitted to the NIH Manuscript Submission (NIHMS) website at <https://www.nihms.nih.gov/> in order to obtain a PMCID.

### **Selection Criteria**

Abstracts should propose original research not submitted or accepted for publication. Submissions will be evaluated by senior scholars affiliated with NSOC, MiCDA and the HEADS Center. Preference will be given to submissions that are consistent with the conference theme and highlight dyadic, network, longitudinal or geospatial features of NHATS and/or NSOC. The selection committee will also evaluate the significance of the proposed analyses, the proposed methodology, the feasibility of the analyses to be completed in time for the conference, and the likelihood that findings will generate a peer-reviewed publication. The final program will be designed to represent a balance of topics and scientific perspectives.

### **Application Instructions**

Abstracts will be submitted through the [Michigan Center for the Demography of Aging website](#).

Applicants will be asked to submit the following information:

1. The applicant's name, title and institutional affiliation with mailing address, email address, and phone.
2. Coauthors names and institutional affiliations.
3. A 1-2 page abstract describing the specific aims and data and methods of the proposed study. Please make clear what years you plan to use and whether you plan to use NHATS and/or NSOC and/or the COVID-19 supplements and/or contextual data.
4. An indication of whether paper and/or poster presentation should be considered and a statement that the proposed work is original research not submitted or accepted for publication

**Timeline and important dates:**

a. Abstract deadline	January 15, 2024
b. Notification of acceptance	Week of February 1, 2024
c. Paper/poster due	June 15, 2024
d. Present paper/poster at workshop in Ann Arbor	June 19-20, 2024

**Contact information:**

Please contact Jana Deatrck ([jlbruce@umich.edu](mailto:jlbruce@umich.edu)) with questions.

For more information on NSOC and NHATS, please visit [www.nhats.org](http://www.nhats.org).

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