

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**EDGE HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AWARDED RESEARCH INITIATIVE  
BY TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

(NASHVILLE, TN – March 31, 2009) Edge Healthcare Research, Inc. has been selected to conduct a statewide Food Usage Survey for the State of Tennessee, Department of Health.

According to James Toth, President of Edge Healthcare, “We will conduct focus groups, in-depth personal interviews, and a statewide telephone survey to determine food usage habits of the diverse customer types that participate in the WIC program.” The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, known as the WIC Program, is funded by an agency of the USDA. It is administered by the state to safeguard the health of lower income women, infants, and children at nutritional risk by providing nutritious food supplements, healthcare referrals, and information on healthy eating.

New federal guidelines to take effect October 2009 have modified the current supplemental food packages offered through the WIC Program, and the Tennessee Department of Health wants to ensure that WIC recipients have access to the foods they use which are covered under the new food package guidelines.

“We are very pleased to have this opportunity to team with the state to develop this important information, which will provide strategic input to food supplement strategies for the more than 150,000 participants across the state,” Toth said.

Edge Healthcare Research, Inc., formed in 1986, is a full-service marketing research firm that concentrates solely on the healthcare industry. The Nashville-based company provides a complete range of research services, including telephone and mail surveys, online studies, focus groups, business development research, and a range of custom studies. The company has a growing national reputation, serving hospitals, health plans, governments, and healthcare companies throughout the U.S.

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