

# **Secure and Confidential Access to Health Data**

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**<http://www.cdc.gov/rdc/>**

# National Center for Health Statistics

- **Mission and Mandate**
- **Working with the RDC**

# NCHS Mission

- To monitor the nation's health—to collect, analyze and disseminate health data
- To provide statistical information that will guide actions and policies to improve the health of the American people.

# Why can't I just have the data?

- NCHS data confidentiality rules prohibit the release of potentially identifiable data
- Standards of the Federal Statistical System
- Ethics
- Consent
- Laws and laws
  - \$250,000 and 5 years in prison

# NCHS Legislation

Public Health Service Act, 1956 (Sec. 306)

NCHS statistics must be

“...of high quality, timely, comprehensive as well as specific, standardized, and adequately analyzed and indexed, and NCHS shall publish, make available, and disseminate such statistics on as wide a basis as is practicable.”

# Data Confidentiality

- Section 308(d), Public Health Service Act
- Privacy Act
- Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (P.L. 107-347)

# Data Access Modes

- Washington and Atlanta
- Remote access
- Staff assisted
- Census RDC access

# RDC Proposals

- Full research proposal from analytic plan to examples of desired output, eg, table shells
- Proposals are review in the RDC, the program that produces the data, and the Confidentiality officer
- Provide specifications to the RDC staff for creating analytic files
  - Files are only created by RDC staff

# Research Data Centers

- Proposal to NCHS
- Review and Approval
- Special Sworn Status (Census only)
- Disclosure Review
- Publish