

**The best health decisions  
are based on the best  
health information.**

*“CDC’s National Survey of Family Growth is critical to help ensure that policies and programs address the health needs of all Americans. The survey provides important statistical information on family growth, health, and health care that can be used to help people live stronger and healthier lives. I urge you to take part in this important survey to help us build a foundation for a healthier America.”*

**Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.**  
Director, National Center for Health Statistics

Your household has been chosen to take part in the NATIONAL SURVEY OF FAMILY GROWTH. The NSFG is an important research study of men, women and families. In this brochure, we answer some of the questions people ask about the study.



## Questions & Answers



# The National Survey of Family Growth

### WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF FAMILY GROWTH?

The National Survey of Family Growth gathers information on family life, marriage and divorce, pregnancy, infertility, use of birth control, sexual experience, and men’s and women’s health. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services uses the survey results. This information is used to plan health services and educational programs.

The survey is authorized by a federal law, Section 306(b)1(H) of the Public Health Service Act (42 USC 242k), which asks us to collect “statistics on family formation, growth, and dissolution.”

The survey provides accurate national statistics on critical issues like:

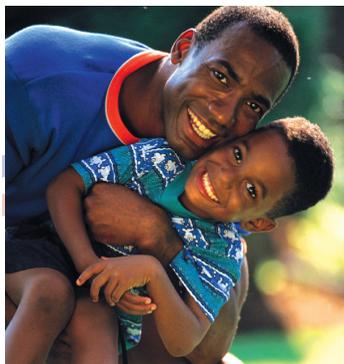
- People making choices about school, work and having a family
- Women looking for a safe and effective way to space their children
- The health care that men and women get, including family planning and reproductive health
- Risk for sexually transmitted infections
- Child care services used by working parents
- How programs for families and children are working

### WHO IS DOING THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF FAMILY GROWTH?

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, does the survey. You can find out more about NCHS at [www.cdc.gov/nchs](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs). NCHS has asked the University of Michigan to do the interviews. A professional, female interviewer from the University of Michigan’s Survey Research Center will come to your home and find out if you are eligible for the study. The interviewer who comes to your home will have a University of Michigan identification badge with her picture on it and a Letter of Authorization from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She will ask you questions and type your answers into a laptop computer. You will also get to answer some questions by putting answers into the computer yourself.

### HOW WAS I CHOSEN?

*We do not know who lives at your house or what your name is. We take a sample of households from all across the United States. When your interviewer arrives, she will find out if there is someone in your household we need to include in our study.*



### WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE? WHY NOT INTERVIEW ACROSS THE STREET?

We cannot talk to all of the millions of men and women in this country - that would cost too much and take too long. So we scientifically select a “sample” of households. We then choose one person from some of those households to be in the survey. Choosing the sample scientifically lets us take the information we learn and use it to better understand the whole population. Once participants have been chosen they cannot be replaced.

### ARE THESE INTERVIEWS JUST FOR FAMILIES, OR THOSE WITH CHILDREN?

**No.** If you do not have children, or live alone, your responses are just as important to the study as anyone else’s. You will be asked only those questions that apply to you. For example, we need to have accurate information about topics such as:



- How many people are choosing not to have children or to have them later in life
- How long marriages and other relationships last
- How often divorced fathers see their children
- The need for infertility services

### WILL MY ANSWERS BE KEPT PRIVATE?

**Yes.** Federal law protects the confidentiality of all the information you provide [Section 308(d) the Public Health Service Act (42 USC 242m(d)), the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a), and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (PL 107-347)]. Each research staff member has signed a legal confidentiality pledge. The answers you give will be combined with answers from many other people. The data will be reported as percentages, totals, and averages. By law we cannot release information that could identify you or your family to anyone else. Anyone who breaks the law can be fined up to \$250,000, lose their job, and/or be sent to prison.

### DO I HAVE TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS?

Your help with this study is voluntary. Saying yes or no to being in the study will not change any benefits you get now or in the future.

Most people find the interview interesting and enjoyable. Your participation is very important because each person interviewed represents thousands of others. Some of the questions may be sensitive for some people. You may choose not to answer any question for any reason and may stop the interview at any time.

### Who is The UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN?

The University of Michigan was one of the first public universities in the United States. Today, the University is one of the largest research universities in the world. This study is only one of many important surveys done by the University’s Survey Research Center. Other studies’ topics include families, health, retirement and other important issues.



### HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

Interviews take about 60-80 minutes for most adults. Interviews for teenagers take about 60 minutes. A few interviews take a little less or a little more time. We will do the interview at the time that works best for you. Also, for your help in being part of this study, you will receive \$40 as a token of our appreciation.

### WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

#### For study information:

- Ask your interviewer
- Visit the survey’s website at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm)
- Call Dr. Bill Mosher or Dr. Gladys Martinez at NCHS (toll-free): 1-866-227-8347

#### For information about your rights as a participant:

- Call the office set up to oversee research (toll-free): 1-800-223-8118

#### To schedule an interview:

- Call the University of Michigan (toll-free): 1-855-891-8891



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Health Statistics



A Research Study for the National Center for Health Statistics, conducted by  
**The University of Michigan**