



# Summary of Current Surveys and Data Collection Systems

## Vital Records

### National Vital Statistics System

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss.htm>

Data source and methods	Selected data items	Targeted sample size	Disparity variables and data collection	Frequency	FY 2020–2021 plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State vital registration</li> <li>Births</li> <li>Deaths</li> <li>Fetal deaths</li> <li>Linked Birth/Infant Death Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birth and death rates</li> <li>Birthweight</li> <li>Teen and nonmarital births</li> <li>Pregnancy outcomes</li> <li>Method of delivery</li> <li>Preterm delivery/gestational age</li> <li>Multiple births</li> <li>Medicaid payment</li> <li>WIC receipt</li> <li>Prenatal care</li> <li>Breastfeeding</li> <li>Maternal weight and Body Mass Index</li> <li>Infant mortality</li> <li>Life expectancy</li> <li>Causes of death, including fetal causes</li> <li>Occupational mortality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All births: About 4 million records annually</li> <li>All deaths: About 2.7 million records annually</li> <li>Reported fetal deaths of 20 or more weeks gestation: About 26,000 annually</li> <li>Counts of marriages and divorces</li> </ul>	<p>For births, deaths, and fetal deaths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office of Management and Budget (OMB) race categories* (1997)</li> <li>Education</li> </ul> <p>For births and deaths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marital status</li> <li>Primary language information not collected</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue monthly, quarterly, and annual reporting</li> <li>Assist states in automating or re-engineering their IT systems to enhance timeliness and quality of reporting</li> <li>Evaluate quality of birth data items added in 2003; evaluate potential new items for collection</li> <li>Promote e-learning training for birth certificates and fetal death reports; assess impact of training</li> <li>Promote mobile app for cause-of-death certification; complete development of and promote e-learning training for death certificates; assess impact of training</li> <li>Enhance new data access methods and reports</li> <li>Continue to enhance natality and mortality surveillance system</li> <li>Improve timeliness of vital statistics reports and data files</li> <li>Re-engineer or replace the medical coding system</li> <li>Expand cause-of-death coding to include more detailed supplemental codes for specific drugs (i.e., more detail than available in ICD–10)</li> </ul>

### National Death Index (NDI)

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ndi.htm>

Data source and methods	Selected data items	Targeted sample size	Disparity variables and data collection	Frequency	FY 2020–2021 plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State registration areas—death certificates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitates epidemiological follow-up studies from 1979–2019</li> <li>Verifies death for study participants for health and medical research purposes only</li> <li>Optional release of coded causes of death available to users upon request</li> <li>NCHS surveys can be linked to NDI</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All deaths</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semi-annual</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue ongoing operations</li> <li>Continue to improve timeliness of data availability for matching</li> <li>Update NDI website</li> <li>Expand outreach to health and medical research community</li> <li>Pilot new funding model to improve and expand use of NDI for National Institutes of Health-funded projects</li> </ul>

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# Provider surveys

## National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

[https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/about\\_ahcd.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/about_ahcd.htm)

Data source and methods	Selected data items	Targeted sample size	Disparity variables and data collection	Frequency	FY 2020–2021 plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review medical records and abstract patient visit information</li> <li>Interview physicians and community health centers (CHCs) providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patient visit information, including demographics, vital signs, reason for visit, injury, continuity of care, diagnosis, chronic conditions, medical services, medications, and various laboratory test results</li> <li>Physician and CHC provider practice characteristics including: specialty, ownership, tests performed, and revenue</li> <li>Use of electronic medical records</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3,000 physicians in office-based practices</li> <li>104 community health centers with up to 312 community health center providers</li> <li>99,360 patient visits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OMB race and Hispanic origin categories* (1997)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finish 2019 data collection</li> <li>Continue annual survey</li> <li>Additional content to be added to the 2020 physician and CHC interviews to collect data on the effects of COVID-19 on the provision of ambulatory care</li> </ul>

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nehrs/about.htm>

## National Electronic Health Records Survey (formerly National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey—Electronic Health Records)

Data source and methods	Selected data items	Targeted sample size	Disparity variables and data collection	Frequency	FY 2020–2021 plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mixed mode (i.e., web, mail, and telephone) survey of office-based physicians</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provider characteristics</li> <li>Use of electronic medical records and features</li> <li>Specialty, practice size, and ownership</li> <li>Physician attitudes about electronic health records, barriers, benefits, and impact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10,302 physicians in office-based practices in 50 states and Washington, DC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None collected</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue annual survey</li> <li>Additional content to be added to the 2020 interview to collect data on the use of telemedicine during the COVID-19 pandemic</li> </ul>

[https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/about\\_ahcd.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/about_ahcd.htm)

## National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

Data source and methods	Selected data items	Targeted sample size	Disparity variables and data collection	Frequency	FY 2020–2021 plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review medical records for patient visit information</li> <li>Interview hospital administrators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patient demographics and characteristics</li> <li>Length of stay in emergency department</li> <li>Diagnoses, procedures, and treatment</li> <li>Facility characteristics</li> <li>Visit volumes</li> <li>Use of electronic medical records and features</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>410 hospitals with emergency departments</li> <li>65,000 patient visits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OMB race and Hispanic origin categories* (1997)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finish 2019 data collection</li> <li>Continue annual survey</li> <li>Collect data for emergency departments</li> <li>Additional content to be added to the 2021 emergency department interview to collect data on the effects of COVID-19 on the provision of ambulatory care</li> </ul>

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<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhcs.htm>

**National Hospital Care Survey**  
(replaced the National Hospital Discharge Survey, last conducted in 2010)

Data source and methods	Selected data items	Targeted sample size	Disparity variables and data collection	Frequency	FY 2020–2021 plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hospital billing (UB–04) records and electronic health records</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilization of hospital care, inpatient care, and care delivered in emergency departments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>608 hospitals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OMB race and Hispanic-origin categories* (1997) for EHR data collection using the Implementation Guide</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finish 2019 data collection</li> <li>Continue recruitment of hospitals and collection of data in hospitals currently recruited</li> <li>Link NDI and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) data</li> <li>Additional content to be added to the 2020 Annual Hospital Interview to collect data on the effects of COVID-19 on the provision of care, and the number of visits related to the virus</li> </ul>

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/npals/index.htm>

**National National Post-Acute and Long-term Care Study**  
(previously known as the National Study of Long-Term Care Providers that replaced the National Nursing Home Survey, National Home and Hospice Care Survey, and National Survey of Residential Care Facilities)

Data source and methods	Selected data items	Targeted sample size	Disparity variables and data collection	Frequency	FY 2020–2021 plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mail, web, and telephone surveys of directors of adult day care services centers and residential care communities</li> <li>CMS administrative data (claims, assessment, and certification) on nursing homes and residents, home health agencies and patients, and hospices and patients, long-term care hospitals and patients, and inpatient rehabilitation hospitals and patients</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provider geographic and operating characteristics, services, practices, and staffing</li> <li>Services user (residents, participants, and patients) characteristics, including demographics, diagnoses, cognitive and physical functioning, falls, hospital and emergency department use, advance care planning, polypharmacy, antipsychotic medications, and service use</li> <li>Rotating topic modules</li> <li>State-level estimates where feasible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11,600 (approximate) residential care communities</li> <li>5,000 (approximate) adult day services centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OMB race and Hispanic-origin categories* (1997)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare for 2020 survey implementation</li> <li>Additional content to be added to the 2020 wave of the adult day services center and residential care community components to collect data on the number of COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, and deaths among services users and staff; availability of personal protective equipment and testing; use of telemedicine; visitor policies and general infection control policies</li> <li>Create in-house restricted and public-use data files for the 2018 wave</li> </ul>

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<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>

## National Health Interview Survey

Data source and methods	Selected data items	Targeted sample size	Disparity variables and data collection	Frequency	FY 2020–2021 plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal interviews</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chronic conditions</li> <li>Health status</li> <li>Functioning and disability</li> <li>Health insurance</li> <li>Health care access and use</li> <li>Health-related behaviors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30,000 sample adults and 10,000 sample children</li> <li>Address-based sample design</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OMB race and Hispanic-origin categories* (1997)</li> <li>Family income</li> <li>Poverty level</li> <li>Marital status</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Birthplace</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual sustaining sponsored content on cancer control and prevention, immunizations, non-cigarette tobacco product use, food security, and insulin use</li> <li>Emerging content to address health, health care, and well-being issues regarding COVID-19</li> <li>2020 sponsored content on diabetes, asthma, prescription opioid use and pain management, and age of onset of disability</li> <li>Pilot study to test the collection of biomeasures from National Health Interview Survey respondents</li> <li>Pilot study to evaluate the feasibility of follow-up interviews with adolescents</li> </ul>

## National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/index.htm>

Data source and methods	Selected data items	Targeted sample size	Disparity variables and data collection	Frequency	FY 2020–2021 plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal interviews</li> <li>Physical examinations</li> <li>Laboratory tests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selected diseases and conditions, including those undiagnosed or undetected</li> <li>Nutrition monitoring, including birth to 24 months and infant formula</li> <li>Environmental exposures monitoring</li> <li>Children's growth and development</li> <li>Infectious disease monitoring</li> <li>Overweight and diabetes</li> <li>Hypertension and cholesterol</li> <li>Health behaviors</li> <li>Oral health</li> <li>Hearing and balance</li> <li>Cognitive functioning</li> <li>Prescription drug use</li> <li>Dietary supplement use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5,000 persons per year, all ages</li> <li>Oversample persons aged 60 and over</li> <li>Oversample black, Asian, and Hispanic persons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OMB race and Hispanic-origin categories* (1997)</li> <li>Income and poverty index</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Occupation</li> <li>Type of living quarters</li> <li>Social services</li> <li>Birthplace</li> <li>Acculturation questions, including language usually spoken at home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous since 1999, 2-year survey cycles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resume data collection following survey suspension due to corona pandemic</li> <li>Evaluate the inclusion of COVID-19 components when data collection resumes</li> <li>Release data on 2-year cycles</li> <li>Maintain DNA repository</li> <li>Maintain biospecimen repository</li> <li>Infant blood collection pilot</li> </ul>

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# Population surveys (Continued)

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm>

## National Survey of Family Growth

Data source and methods	Selected data items	Targeted sample size	Disparity variables and data collection	Frequency	FY 2020–2021 plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal interviews</li> <li>Men and women aged 15–44 years through September 2015</li> <li>Men and women aged 15–49 years since September 2015</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contraception and sterilization</li> <li>Pregnancy and birth history</li> <li>Teenage sexual activity and pregnancy</li> <li>Family planning and services and other reproductive health care</li> <li>Unintended pregnancy</li> <li>Infertility, adoption, and breastfeeding</li> <li>Marriage, divorce, and cohabitation</li> <li>Fatherhood involvement</li> <li>HIV/STD risk behavior</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5,000 men and women aged 15–49 years per survey year</li> <li>Oversample black and Hispanic persons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OMB race and Hispanic-origin categories* (1997)</li> <li>Family and individual income; percent of poverty level</li> <li>Sources of income</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Marital and cohabitating status</li> <li>Primary language information collection began in Fall 2011</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data collection for 2017–2019 was completed in September 2019 and public-use files will be released in late 2020</li> <li>Expect to award new contract for continued data collection to start in 2022</li> </ul>

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/rands/index.htm>

## Research and Development Survey (RANDS)

Data source and methods	Selected data items	Targeted sample size	Disparity variables and data collection	Frequency	FY 2020–2021 plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primarily web surveys from commercial recruited panels with telephone mode surveys with English-speaking adults aged 18 and over</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RANDS is fielded to support different methodological studies, including question-response patterns, so most content varies among rounds</li> <li>Selected chronic conditions fielded each round</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample size varies by round with target between 2,000 and 5,000 per round</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OMB race and Hispanic-origin categories* (1997)</li> <li>Income (varies by commercial vendor)</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Marital status</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fielded RANDS during COVID in FY 20</li> <li>Release experimental estimates regarding health care access during the pandemic</li> <li>Public-use files for RANDS 1 through 3 released in June 2020, expect to release public-use files for RANDS during COVID-19 and RANDS 4 in January of 2021</li> <li>Field additional round in FY 2021</li> </ul>

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NCHS

For more information about NCHS, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs>.