

# National Survey of Family Growth Post-Review Update

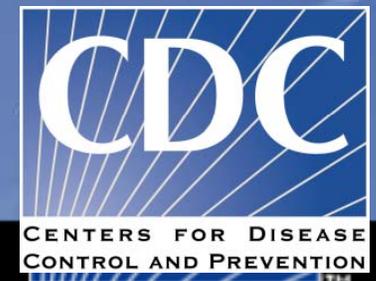
nsfg@cdc.gov

September 13, 2012

[www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm)



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## A status report, 2 years after BSC review

- ▶ Board completed its review of the NSFG in April of 2010. At that time, we had to:
  1. Award the new contract for the 2010–2020 survey  
*Done in Sept 2010. Awarded to the Univ. of Michigan Survey Research Center.*
  2. Get the survey back into the field again  
*Done in Sept 2011; 5,200 interviews completed, exceeding our goal of 5,000 in the first year.*
  3. Get the 2006–2010 data files released  
*Done. Data files & first report released in Oct 2011.*

# How the NSFG is conducted

- Face-to-face interviewing with laptop computers.
- Sensitive data collected with ACASI
- Household screeners to locate eligible 15–44 year olds  
*(55% of households)*
- Only one person 15–44 is selected per household
- Representative of men & women 15–44 in U.S. household population  
*(123 million in 2006–2010)*

## ***June 2006: Moved from Periodic Surveys to Continuous Interviewing***

- Larger samples
- more frequent data releases
- 80% more interviews in 2006–10 than in 2002
- cost per interview was one third lower than in 2002

# NSFG history in brief

Cycle	Year	Scope (15-44)	N	Over-Samples	Average Length	Contractor
1	1973	Ever-Married Women	9,797	Black women	60 Min	NORC
2	1976	Ever-Married Women	8,611	Black women	60 Min	Westat
3	1982	All Women	7,969	Black women & teens 15-19	60 Min	Westat
4	1988	Women	8,450	Black women	70 Min	Westat
5	1995	Women	10,847	Blacks & Hispanics	100 Min	RTI
6	2002	Women & Men	12,571 W = 7,643 M = 4,928	Blacks, Hispanics, & Teens	W= 85 M= 60	U of Michigan
	2006-2010	Women & Men	22,682 W=12,279 M=10,403	Blacks, Hispanics, & Teens	W=80 M=60	U of Michigan
	2011-2019	Women & Men	[40,000]	Blacks, Hispanics, & Teens	W=80 M=60	U of Michigan

# NSFG Sample Sizes and Response Rates

## Sample sizes

	2002	2006-2010
<b>TOTAL N</b>	<b>12,571</b>	<b>22,682</b>
Male	4,928	10,403
Female	7,643	12,279
Age 15-19	2,271	4,662
Black	2,460	4,411
Hispanic	2,712	4,889

## Response rates

2006-2010	Males	Females
<b>Total</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>Age 15-19</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>77%</b>
<b>Black</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>White &amp; other</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>75%</b>

# Update on fieldwork-1

## 2011-15 NSFG

- ▶ New contract to the University of Michigan in Sept 2010.
- ▶ Oct 2010-Aug 2011: Questionnaire revisions, programming, testing, IRB & OMB review, interviewer recruitment & training.
- ▶ Interviewing began again in September 2011.
- ▶ About 40 interviewers are working 30 hours per week for 48 weeks per year. (57,000 hours of interviewer work, plus managers & support staff, per year)  
( We call this “continuous interviewing”)
- ▶ Funding permitting, interviewing will continue like this until 2019.

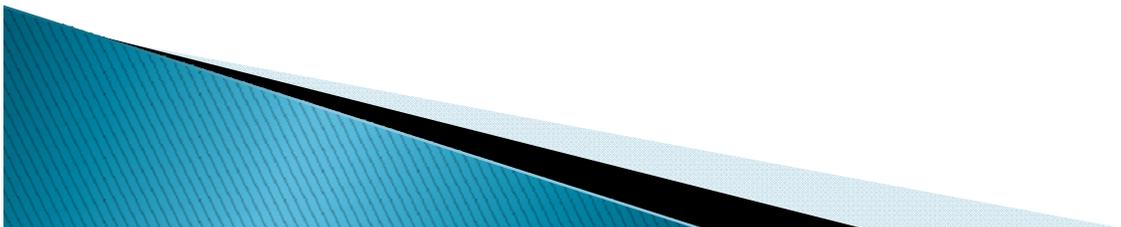
# Update on fieldwork-2

## 2011-15 NSFG

- ▶ Interviewing has been underway for about 12 months.
- ▶ Our interviewers have faced more obstacles than before  
*(Locked buildings and gated communities are increasingly common. This year, they also faced record heat, floods, horrific thunderstorms, tornadoes this Spring, dust storms, fires, recent hurricane, and some communities coping with crime and violence)*
- ▶ Our interviewers have produced about 5,200 interviews – which exceeds the goal of 5,000 per year.
- ▶ Interviewing is going well and is within budget and fulfilling expectations.
- ▶ This way of doing the NSFG works- it produces big samples at an affordable cost, with a survey that's always in the field interviewing.

## DHHS programs contributing funds for the NSFG

- National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
- NICHD/Center for Population Research
- Office of Population Affairs (OPA)
  
- CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention
- CDC's Division of STD Prevention
- CDC's Division of Reproductive Health
- CDC's Division Cancer Prevention & Control
- CDC's Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities
  
- ACF's Office of Planning, Research, & Evaluation
- ACF's Children's Bureau



# 2006–2010 NSFG Reports

## Based on 2006–08 data:

- ✓ Series 1 (plan & operation)
- ✓ Use of contraception, 1982–2008
- ✓ Teenagers, 2006–08
- ✓ Series 2 (sample design)
- ✓ Sex education
- ✓ Sexual behavior, attraction, identity

## Based on 2006–10 data:

- ✓ Teenagers, 2006–10
- ✓ HIV risk-related behaviors
- ✓ First marriages
- ✓ Fertility of men & women
- ✓ Intendedness of births, 1982–2010
- ✓ Oral sex among 15–24 year olds

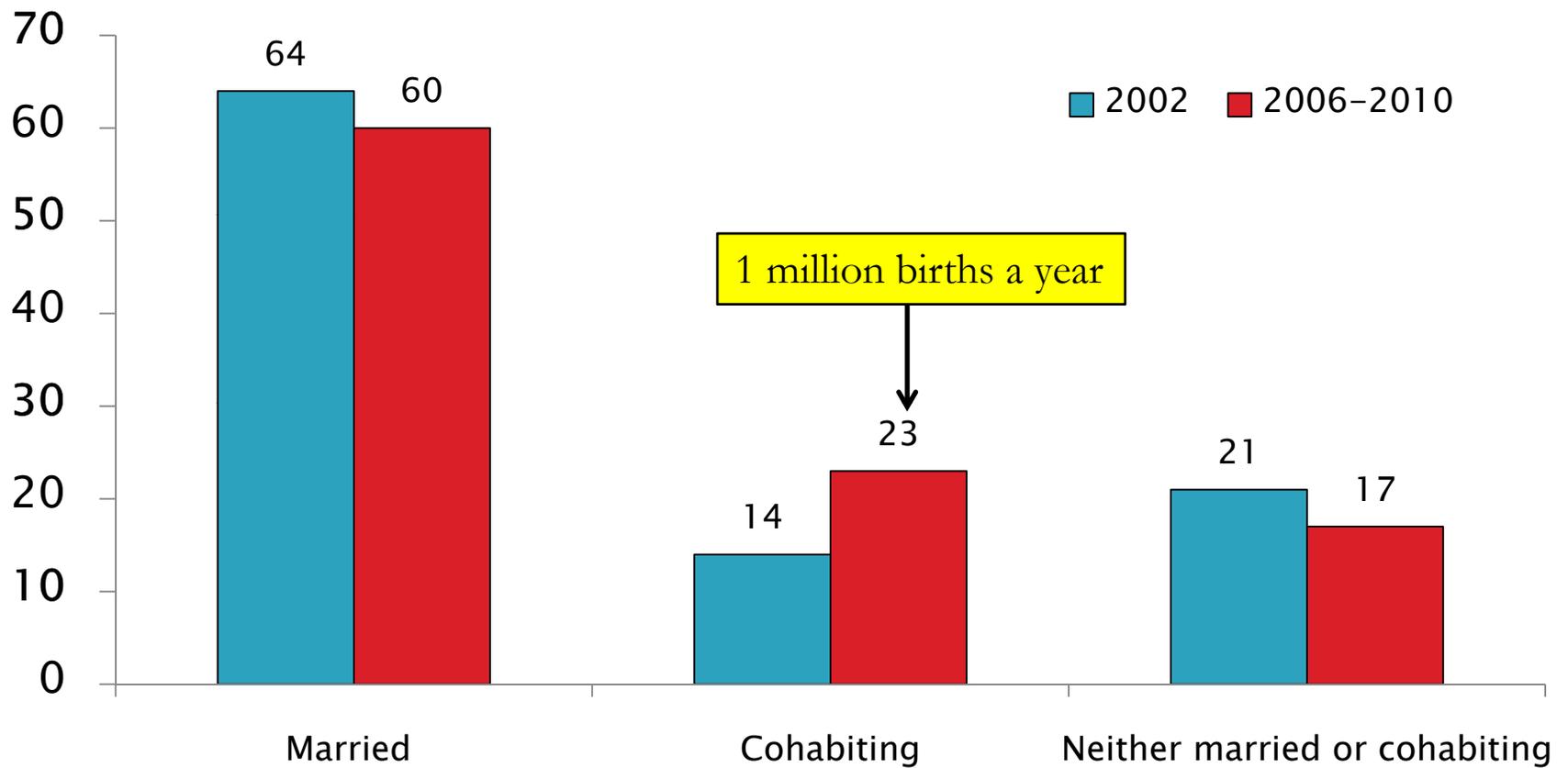
## Coming Soon:

- HIV testing
- Contraception
- Cohabitation
- Family planning services
- Infertility
- Breastfeeding

❖ *See NSFG website for direct links to published reports.*

❖ *Join NSFG Announcements listserv to be notified of new reports.*

# Marital or cohabitation status at time of delivery of births in the last 5 years to women 15-44 years of age: U.S., 2002 & 2006-10



Source: CDC/NCHS, NSFG, 2006-2010, Table 12 in NHR

#F1

# Ever use of contraception

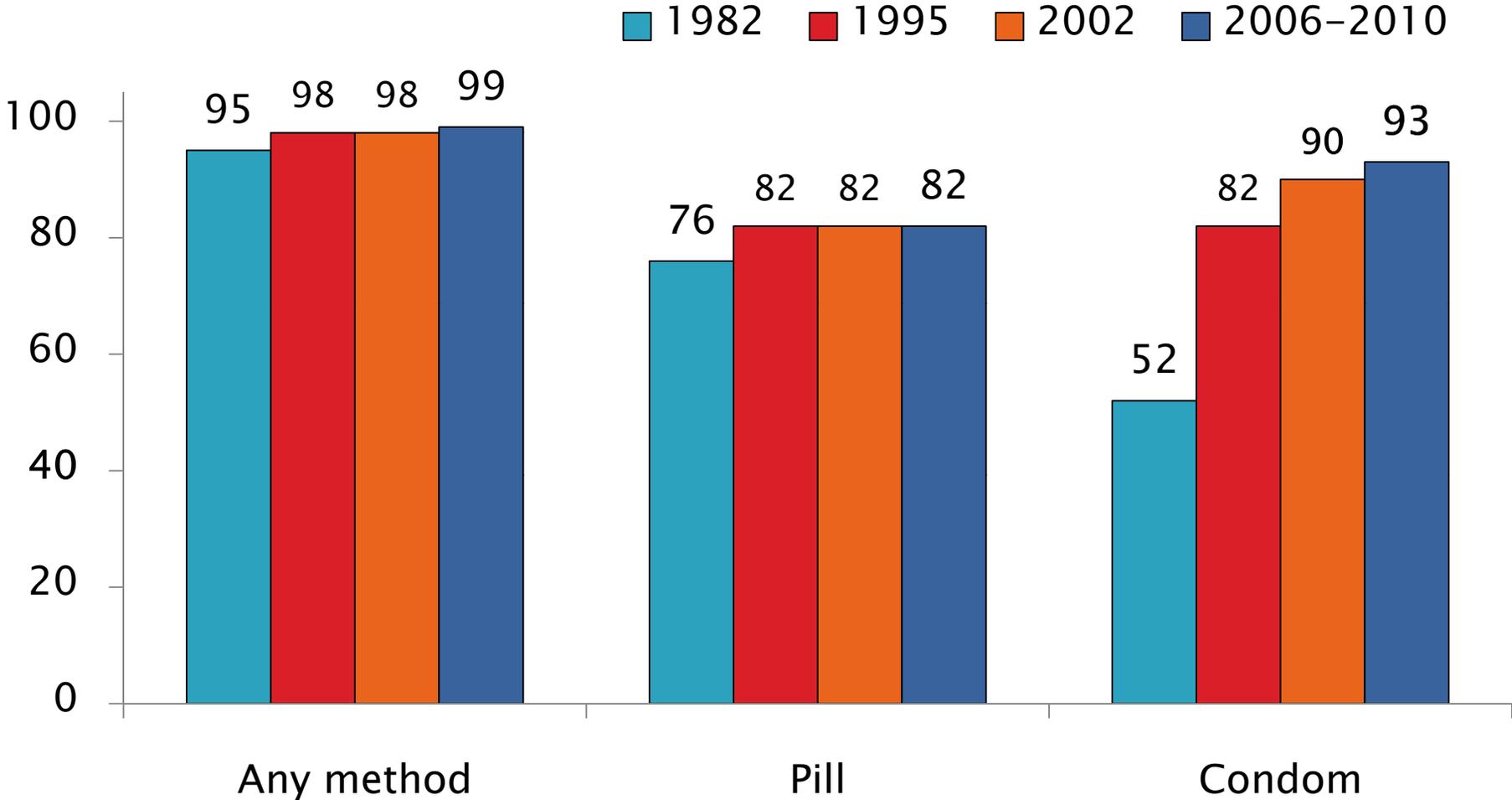
“99% of women have ever used contraception.”



On Feb 10, 2012 President Obama cited 2006–2008 NSFG data, published in Series 23, No. 29, table 1. In following days, Congresswoman Pelosi and others also cited the statistic.

The statement refers to 99.1% of the 53.24 million women 15–44 who have ever had intercourse. (52.8 million women 15–44.)

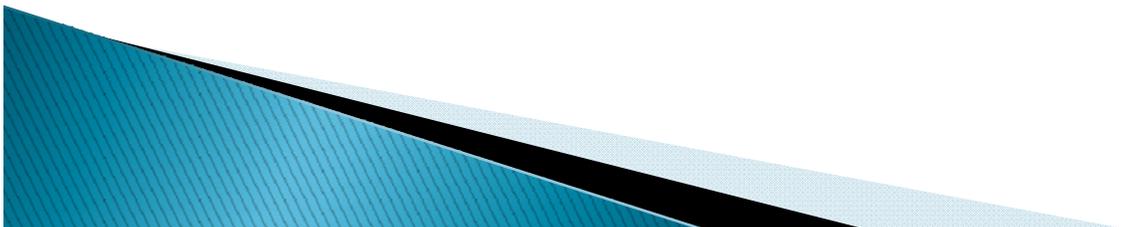
# Percentage of sexually experienced women aged 15–44 who have ever used the specified contraceptive method: United States, 1982, 1995, 2002, and 2006–2010



Source: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth

## Recommendation 1

- ❖ Implement a strategic planning process, with systematic input from the user community, including regular and frequent research conferences and regular meetings with an advisory group.
- ❖ For example, explore the possibility of content enhancement associated with expanding the survey's age range to 49 or 54, and a 6–12 month longitudinal follow-up.



## Response—Planning Process

- Research Conference on Oct 17–18, 2012 will provide user feedback on 2006–2010 NSFG.
- Annual meeting of funding agencies.
- Quarterly updates for funders (e-mail and phone).
- Frequent ad hoc interaction with funders.
- Trip to CDC/Atlanta funders Sept 4–6, 2012.
- Visits to DC area funders this year.
- Meetings with outside experts to think about the next several years could begin in Spring, 2013. Figure out an ongoing schedule of such meetings.



*Save the Date! October 17 and 18*



## 2012 Research Conference on the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG)



Wednesday and Thursday  
October 17 and 18, 2012  
Hyattsville, MD



The conference will present original analysis of the 2006–2010 NSFG data that contain 22,682 interviews of men and women aged 15–44 years.

### Select topics from NSFG:

- Male and female fertility, contraceptive use, and infertility
- Marriage and cohabitation, and attitudes toward family life
- Reproductive health, including use of health care
- HIV/STD risk-related behavior, sexual behavior and sexual identity/orientation
- Parenting activities by men (fatherhood roles)
- Socioeconomic, religious, and contextual variations in these behaviors

National Center for  
Health Statistics

Division of Vital Statistics,  
Reproductive Statistics Branch

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

National Center for Health Statistics  
Division of Vital Statistics



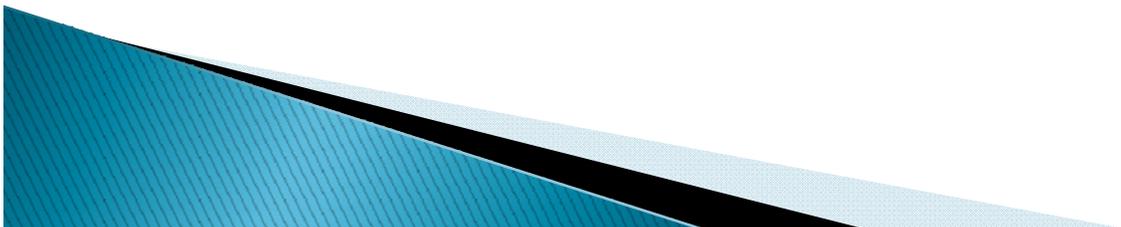
- At NCHS in Hyattsville, MD
- Register by Oct 3
- About 20 papers will be presented
- Includes authors and discussants from major universities.
- Important source of feedback on NSFG from research community.

## Recommendation 2—Marketing Plan

- ❖ Develop a marketing plan to promote the NSFG and its data files, including regular releases at 2 or 3 year intervals, webinars, and other electronic outreach.
  - We have an “NSFG Announcements” listserv.
  - [nsfg@cdc.gov](mailto:nsfg@cdc.gov) is used to answer many user questions.
  - We present papers and user workshops at conferences, such as APHA, PAA, MCH–Epi, and NCHS
  - We are not marketing experts, but we are interested in webinars & other techniques for informing & training potential users.

## Recommendation 3

- ❖ Improve the user experience by providing easily downloadable files and documentation, preferably in SAS, Stata, & SPSS as well as ASCII.
- ❖ Coordinate with the RDC to process proposals more promptly & to reach out to users to overcome obstacles and misunderstandings.
- ❖ Allow remote access via Stata as well as SAS.



## Response—improving the user experience

- We improved the User's Guide & related documentation for the 2006–2010 public use files.
- We are working to increase awareness of the technical assistance on our webpage.
- We improved the usability of our codebook documentation, including better electronic search capability.
- We updated the NSFG Key Statistics on our web site with 2006–10 data.
- **RDC proposals**: We have 2 staff members who review all NSFG proposals to use the RDC, and they do so promptly. Their review is focused on improving the user's chance of a successful use of the RDC.

## Multiple modes of contact with users:

- NSFG webpage

[www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm)

- “NSFG Announcements” ListServ
- Contact the NSFG team

Email: [nsfg@cdc.gov](mailto:nsfg@cdc.gov)

Phone: 301-458-4222



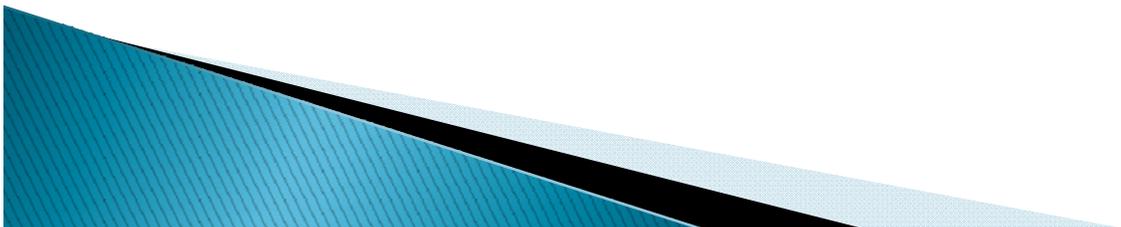
National Survey of Family Growth
About NSFG
What's New
Questionnaires, Datasets, and Related Documentation
Key Statistics from NSFG
Publications and Information Products
Bibliography
Research Conferences
Listserv

***NSFG team:*** *Joyce Abma, Anjani Chandra, Casey Copen, Kim Daniels, Jo Jones, Isaedmarie Febo-Vazquez, Gladys Martinez, Bill Mosher (team leader)*

*Stephanie Ventura, Chief, Reproductive Statistics Branch*  
*Charlie Rothwell, Director, Division of Vital Statistics*

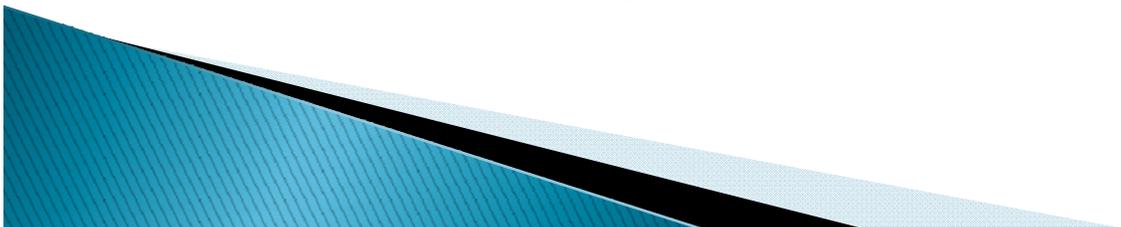
## Recommendations 4 & 5

- ❖ Study ways to improve the production of documentation, including the use of relational databases for questionnaires and documentation.
- ❖ Improve the timeliness of data release.
- ❖ Set a date for release and then meet it; don't change it.



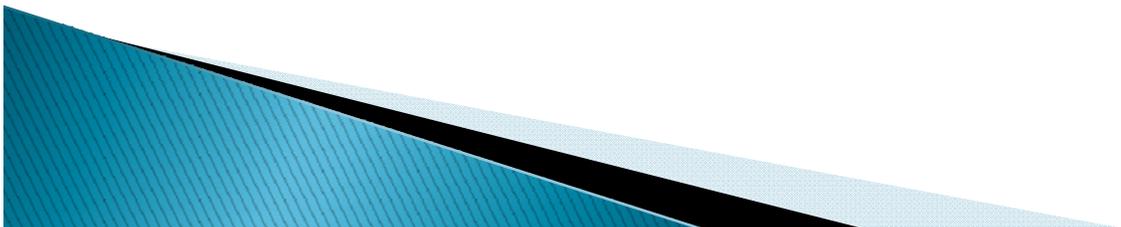
## Response—documentation & data release (1)

- After consulting our users, funders, and our contractor's design statisticians, we expect to release our data files after every 2 years of data collection. This gives our users
  - very frequent data releases
  - an adequate sample size
  - The lowest possible design effects (sampling errors)
  - ability to combine several 2-year periods for time series analysis or large sample sizes.
- Specific timing of releases will be less critical because users will get new data on a predictable schedule every 2 years.



## Response—documentation & data release (2)

- Improved the user experience by upgrading data user resources on our web site:
  - ✓ 7 appendixes answer frequently asked user questions (male–female comparisons, trend comparisons, variance estimates, ways to get started with the files, etc).
  - ✓ Key statistics, from A to W, just updated.
  - ✓ PDF's of all NCHS–NSFG reports are on the web site.
- Significantly improved RDC and NSFG web sites.



CDC Home



# Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People. Saving Money through Prevention.

SEARCH

A-Z Index A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z #

## National Survey of Family Growth



### National Survey of Family Growth

About NSFG

What's New

Questionnaires, Datasets, and Related Documentation

**Key Statistics from NSFG**

A Listing

B Listing

C Listing

D Listing

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F Listing

H Listing

T Listing

NCHS Home > Surveys and Data Collection Systems > National Survey of Family Growth

> [Key Statistics from NSFG](#)

## Key Statistics from NSFG

### T Listing

- [Teenagers](#) - See also [Sex education](#) and [Teen pregnancy](#)
- [Teen pregnancy](#) - See also [Sex education](#) and [Teen pregnancy](#)
- [Tubal sterilization](#) - See also [Sex education](#) and [Teen pregnancy](#)

### Teenagers

See also [Sex education](#) and [Teen pregnancy](#)

#### Teenagers

See also [Sex education](#) and [Teen pregnancy](#)

- Percent of never-married teenagers 15-19 years of age who ever had intercourse by age and sex: United States, 1995, 2002, and 2006-2010

Female	1995	2002	2006-2010
15-19 years of age	49.3%	45.5%	42.6%
15-17 years of age	38.0%	30.3%	27.0%
18-19 years of age	68.0%	68.8%	62.7%

Male	1995	2002	2006-2010
15-19 years of age	55.2%	45.7%	41.8%
15-17 years of age	43.1%	31.3%	28.0%
18-19 years of age	75.4%	64.3%	63.9%

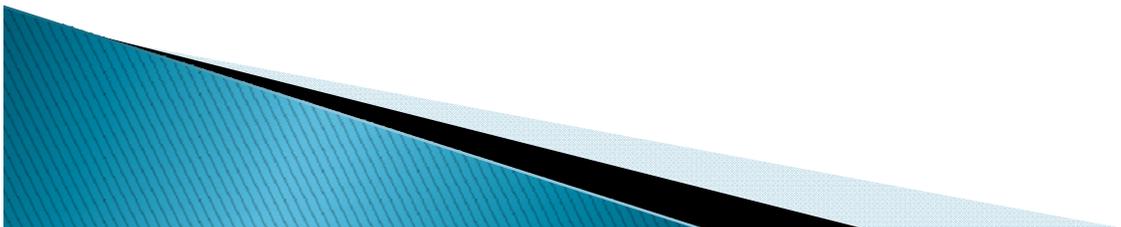
Source: Series 23, No. 31, Table 1 [PDF - 723 KB]

- Percent of never-married teenagers 15-19 years of age who ever had intercourse by age and sex: United States, 1995, 2002, and 2006-2010

NSFG@cdc.gov

## Recommendation 6

- ❖ Increase funding for NSFG—recognize that NCHS funding for NSFG is too low in relation to other NCHS data systems and fix it.
- ❖ Fund a sample of 15,000 interviews every 2 years to produce more reliable data.
- ❖ Use the marketing program to obtain funding from additional sponsors (although more sponsors will require staff to respond to their needs.)

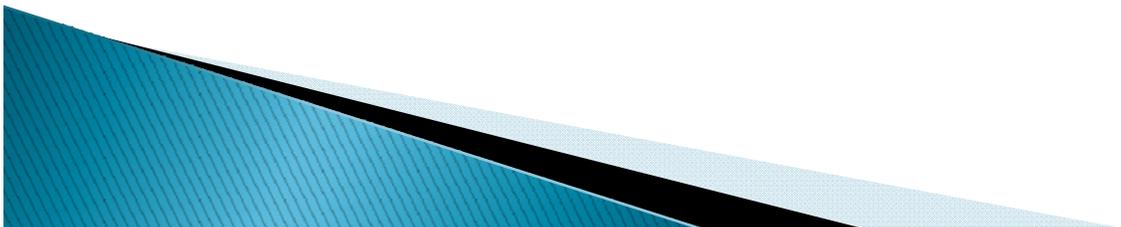


## Response—funding & scope

- These are difficult budget times.
- NSFG receives about \$1 million from NCHS & another \$1.3 million in personnel support.
- The rest of our support (about \$3.5 M per year) comes from about 10 other DHHS programs.
- NSFG is dependent on external funding.
- Our supporters in DHHS are loyal, but if they suffer budget cuts, we would be in jeopardy.
  
- Long-range planning with outside experts could begin as early as next Spring (internally, discussions have already begun).

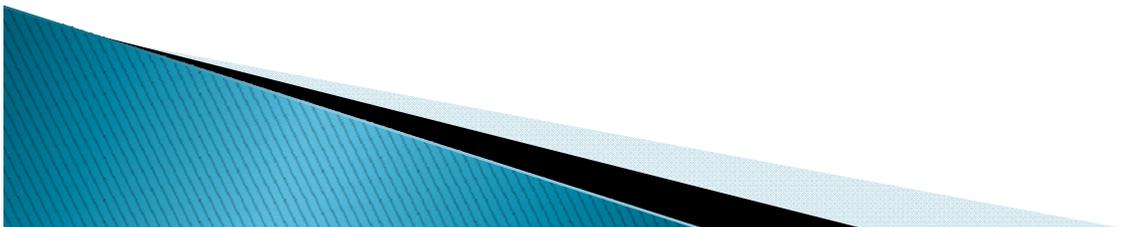
## Recommendation 7

- ❖ Expand the staff to the optimum level of 10–12 to support timely data release and proper support of funding agencies.
- ❖ Explore ways that new hires can complement existing staff by providing skills they don't have, or staff that can perform routine tasks.
- ❖ Allow the staff more time for professional development and analysis.



## Response–staffing

- We did recruit 2 new staff in 2010; we also lost 2 staff.
- We replaced one of these & have received permission to replace the 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are grateful for this support.
- We would like to discuss ways that new hires could complement existing staff, so that more time could be devoted to:
  - strategic planning,
  - collaboration with funding agencies,
  - user training (e.g. webinars),
  - professional development, &
  - analysis.



## Summary

- ▶ These are thoughtful & helpful recommendations.
- ▶ We expect to continue research conferences and expert meetings.
- ▶ Our web-based, searchable documentation & extensive user information in the latest public use files are intended to help users.
- ▶ But Webinars and other ways to reach new users are certainly worth discussing.
- ▶ A regular, frequent, & predictable schedule of data releases will help users plan their use of NSFG.

