

Data from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) are released in printed reports and on the NCHS website at [www.cdc.gov/nchs](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs).

For more information on NHANES, visit the NHANES website at [www.cdc.gov/nhanes](http://www.cdc.gov/nhanes).

For any questions regarding NCHS or NHANES, contact:

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For specific questions about how NCHS protects the information you provide, contact:

**Confidentiality Officer, NCHS**

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National Center for Health Statistics



## How the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey Keeps Your Information

# STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL



# Protecting the public's privacy . . . no idle pledge

## Our Promise

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) carried out the first National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) in 1960. Today, more than 50 years later, the promise to protect the privacy of everyone who takes part in the survey has never been broken.

We believe this record is an important reason why so many people are willing to take part in the survey.

**There's safety in numbers, especially our numbers!**

## The law . . .

Information gathered in NHANES is used only for statistical purposes. No information that could identify you can be given to anyone - including the President of the United States, Congress, any Federal, state, or local government agency, or any court without your consent.

## The pledge . . .

Anyone working on NHANES **must** sign a pledge. This makes them subject to punishment by Federal laws, including the Privacy Act, the Public Health Service Act, and others.

## The penalties . . .

People who break these laws can be fined up to \$250,000, lose their job, or go to jail.

## NCHS and NHANES

### Other ways we protect your privacy

Those working for NCHS must also follow special rules for handling private information. These rules are meant to ensure that the privacy of the people taking part in NHANES is fully respected.

- Anything that could reveal who you are is removed. This includes, but is not limited to, your name, address, place of work, and family information.
- Data are not released if they are for a geographical location so small that the numbers might identify someone.

- Special safety measures block outside contact with any private information stored in the NHANES database.
- Computers are password protected and data are encrypted for added security.

**No one can get your private data from NCHS and NHANES without your consent. This means we will not give your information out to any police department, the U.S. military, or any government agency or ANY REASON.**