

Confidentiality-Related Questions?

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

Confidentiality Office
National Center for Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road
Hyattsville, MD 20782

Telephone: 1-888-642-4159
E-mail: NCHSconfidentiality@cdc.gov

For More Information about the NHIS...

- > Review the NHIS brochure that your interviewer provided;
- > Visit us online at www.cdc.gov/nhis;
- > Send an e-mail to NHIS@cdc.gov; or
- > Call 301-458-4001.



America's Health Counts

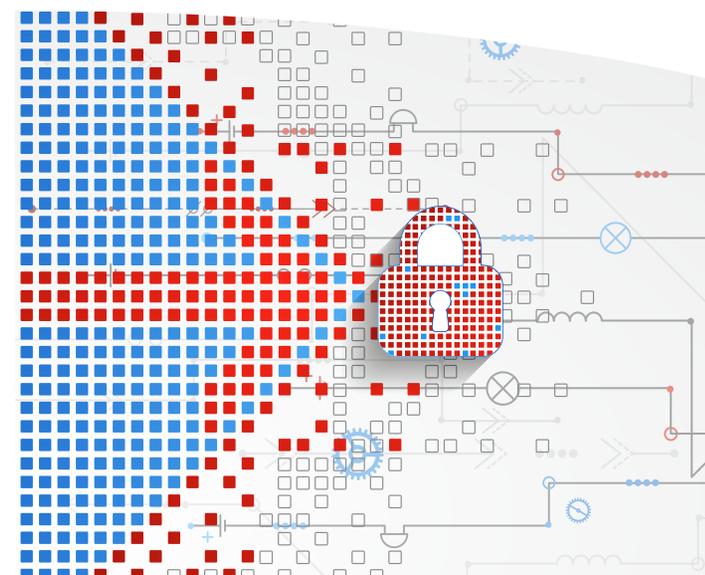
Data from the NHIS and other National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) surveys are released in printed reports and on the NCHS website.

For further information about NCHS or to access reports, visit www.cdc.gov/nchs or call 1-800-232-4636.

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Confidentiality and the NHIS

How we keep your private information safe



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

United States
Bureau
Census

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
census.gov

Our Commitment

The U.S. Census Bureau carried out the first National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) for the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) in 1957. From the very beginning, NCHS has made protecting the confidential information collected during the NHIS interview its top priority. Today, 60 years later, NCHS continues to hold itself to the highest standards in its commitment to protecting the privacy of each and every survey participant.

The NHIS' excellent track record and commitment to confidentiality are important reasons why so many people are willing to take part in the survey and share their information. In turn, this information allows NCHS to provide representative and accurate information about the health status of the U.S. population.

Your Anonymity

Your answers are combined with those of thousands of other respondents to produce statistics that describe the health status of the U.S. population.

Even then, those health statistics are only released if the geographic location they describe is large enough so you or any other individual NHIS respondents cannot be identified.

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

Your Protections

All your information is protected by a number of strict federal laws. These include the **Privacy Act of 1974** (5 U.S.C. § 552a), the **Public Health Service Act** (42 U.S.C. § 242m(d)), and the **Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act** (CIPSEA, Title 5 of Public Law 107-347).

NCHS uses the information you share with the Census Bureau interviewer only for statistical purposes. NCHS does not give your private information to anyone. Your private information is protected from the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552) and court subpoenas.

NCHS also complies with the **Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015** (6 U.S.C. §§ 151 & 151 note), which protects federal computer networks. The Act allows the use of computer security programs to identify cybersecurity risks like hacking, internet attacks, and other security weaknesses. If information sent through government networks triggers a cyber threat indicator, the information may be intercepted and reviewed for cyber threats by computer network experts working for, or on behalf, of the federal government. The Act further specifies that such information may only be used for the purpose of protecting information and information systems from cybersecurity risks.

Our Pledge

All NCHS and Census Bureau employees, contractors, research partners, and agents who come into contact with the information you share during your NHIS interview must sign a sworn affidavit. As specified in this written pledge, disclosing your private information is punishable by law.

Our Penalties

Anyone who violates the pledge by disclosing your private information can be fined up to \$250,000, lose their job, or go to jail for up to 5 years.

Our Practices

NCHS and Census Bureau employees follow special rules for handling the private information you share. These rules are meant to ensure that the confidentiality of your data is fully respected:

- Private information that could reveal your identity is removed from your NHIS record after your interview. This includes, but is not limited to, your name, address, place of work, and family information.
- All computers accessing your information are protected by passwords, firewalls, and other means to block unauthorized access to your data.