

Information about the National Flu Survey

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What is the purpose of this study?

- The data collected from households like yours will help health officials measure the number of flu vaccinations received by adults and children nationwide.
- Health care agencies will use the data to increase vaccination rates and monitor flu resources across the country.
- The study also collects information on where people receive their flu vaccinations, American's thoughts on the effectiveness and safety of flu vaccines, and why some people choose not to get vaccinated against the flu.
- This survey was conducted in November 2011 to provide timely information on how many vaccinations had taken place and intent to get vaccinated mid-way through the 2011–2012 influenza season. The survey is being repeated in March 2012 to measure flu vaccinations received throughout the influenza season.

How are numbers chosen?

- Telephone numbers are selected at random to represent the population. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) depends on the help of households like yours to find out what Americans know about flu vaccinations.
- Participation is voluntary; however, without your help, your community may not be adequately represented in this important study on flu vaccinations.
- We are calling households from all across the country to interview an adult about vaccinations and related health issues.

Why are you calling my cell phone?

- We need accurate, up-to-date information about flu vaccinations from everyone. Since many people use only their cell phones to make and receive calls, we want to make sure we include these people too.

Who is funding this survey?

- It is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a federal governmental agency headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia.

Who is NORC?

- NORC at the University of Chicago is a non-profit research organization that provides information to government and community organizations to help them make informed decisions about social issues, including issues relating to public health. NORC has been contracted to conduct the National Flu Survey for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

How is my information protected?

- Confidentiality is mandated by federal law. Information that identifies you (or your household) will never be given to a company trying to sell products or services to you. All data we collect from you will remain confidential under federal law and you can skip any questions that you don't want to answer.
- If you have any questions about your rights as a study participant, you may call Kathleen Parks, the NORC IRB Administrator, toll free, at 1-866-309-0542. If you would like more information about confidentiality and related federal laws that ensure the protection of your information, please see: How NCHS Protects Your Privacy.

Why are you doing a survey on the flu?

- Influenza (the flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. Some people, such as older people, young children, and people with certain health conditions, are at high risk for serious flu complications. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting vaccinated each year.

Where can I get more information about the flu and flu vaccinations?

- For information about influenza and influenza vaccination: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>
- To see how data from the National Flu Survey and other surveys are used: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/vaccinecoverage.htm>

Contact Information

National Flu Survey Toll free number: 1-800-993-0495

CDC Seasonal Flu Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>

CDC INFO Contact Center: 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)

NCHS Ethics Review Board: 1-800-223-8118

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