

## Other Safeguards for Your Privacy

- NCHS takes your privacy seriously. The answers you give us are used for statistical research only. This means that your answers will be combined with other people's answers in a way that protects everyone's identity. As required by federal law, only those NCHS employees, our contractors, and our specially designated agents who must access your personal information for a specific reason will do so.

- Your answers will only be used after NCHS has removed all information that could identify you or your family. Names and addresses are never on anything NCHS releases or shares. We also mask details on your household or other traits if they could lead to anyone being identified.

- NCHS protects information stored on NCHS computers. Measures include passwords, firewalls, and other means to block people from getting these data.

- Your personal information is protected from the Freedom of Information Act and court subpoenas.

- NCHS complies with the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015. This law requires the federal government to protect federal computer networks from cybersecurity risks like hacking, internet attacks, and other security weaknesses.

## For More Information

NCHS data are made available in published reports and data files, after identifying information has been removed. For more information, visit the NCHS home page:

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

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

**Confidentiality Officer**  
National Center for Health Statistics  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
3311 Toledo Road  
Hyattsville, MD 20782  
Telephone: 888-642-4159  
Email: [NCHSconfidentiality@cdc.gov](mailto:NCHSconfidentiality@cdc.gov)

**U.S. Department of Health & Human Services**  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Health Statistics



# The National Survey of Family Growth

## How We Keep Your Information Strictly Confidential

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

## The Law

Information collected in the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) is used only for statistical purposes. NCHS will not share or release information that identifies you or your family.

## The Sworn Statement

Anyone working on this study must sign an affidavit—a legal document making them subject to the Privacy Act, the Public Health Service Act, and other laws. Anyone who violates the law can be fined up to \$250,000, lose their job, or go to jail.

## The Record

Since its very first survey in 1957, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has maintained the highest standards and a very strong record in protecting the privacy of people in its surveys.

### A message from the Director of NCHS:

*This agency is well known for the quality of the data we provide. Collecting high-quality information is not possible unless we can promise that the information you give us is confidential. We can.*

*The principles of privacy and confidentiality are firmly grounded in Federal laws. Those laws include the Privacy Act, the Public Health Service Act, Title 18 of the United States Code, and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act. All NCHS employees must sign a pledge making them legally liable and subject to all punishments in these laws.*

*Those working for NCHS must also strictly observe special practices to protect confidential information. The practices are meant to insure that your privacy is respected.*

*So we have a number of very important reasons for observing strict confidentiality. It is the right thing to do. We could not collect quality information without it. And it is required by law.*

**Charles J. Rothwell**  
Director,  
National Center for Health Statistics

## NCHS and NSFG

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) first carried out the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) in 1973. For over 40 years, the NSFG has been the major source of information on trends in U.S. childbearing, marriage and divorce, contraceptive use, and parenting. These data are used to guide health services and health education programs all over the U.S. You can see some of the statistics produced from the NSFG at our web site:

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