

OMB Questions on Attitudes Survey

1. ACF's response to question #A10: Please check with your GC to make sure that the Privacy Act, FOIA act, etc. provide ACF the statutory authority to provide assurances of confidentiality? For example, if ACF were FOIA'd, would ACF be able to withstand the FOIA request and keep the materials private? If not, please remove all uses of the word "confidential" and replace with "private to the extent permitted by law." Also, please add "to the extent permitted by law" in all cases when ACF says the information will be "kept private." For example, Appendix C (parent interview) says "As permitted by law, all of your answers... will be kept private..." Unless ACF has the statutory authority to provide this level of privacy, it would be more accurate to say "all of your answers will be kept private to the extent permitted by law."

We are presently checking with our General Counsel to ensure that we are able to provide an assurance of confidentiality.

We will add the phrase "to the extent permitted by law".

2. A16 says that ACF is trying to explore how definitions of abstinence relate to exposure to the abstinence message. Please clarify where respondents are asked to provide a definition for abstinence.

A previous version of the survey asked respondents to identify how they define abstinence. The survey has since been revised so that this question no longer exists. Rather than explore how parent and adolescent definitions of abstinence relate to exposure to the abstinence message, the survey focuses on parent and adolescent's knowledge and attitudes towards abstinence and abstinence education. The analysis will account for the parent-adolescent relationship and other background characteristics.

In developing the survey, the cognitive testing showed that exploring the meaning of abstinence and establishing a clear definition for abstinence could lead to confusion among the respondents. The word 'abstinence' has thus been removed and replaced throughout with variations of the phrase 'waiting to have sex.'

3. B4 says that questions were changed based on cognitive interviews and pre-tests. Please specify what has changed (a track changes version of the questions would be helpful). Also, are the ICs submitted as part of this package different from the ones submitted as part of the supporting statement?

The survey has undergone further revisions since this time; primarily relevant to wording and question order. ACF will submit a final version with changes tracked no later than the first week of October.

4. Surveys: the race/ethnicity questions must comply with OMB standards. Question 5 on the Parent Interview has an incorrect category for Native Hawaiian; it should be "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander," not Alaska Native. Also, the "other" race category cannot be read to respondents as a response option.

ACF will revise the survey accordingly.

5. Please provide more information about how the results of the survey will be published and used. It is not clear why a public opinion survey like this is needed for "grant administration and technical assistance activities."

This study will provide lots of useful information, including:

- What are the views of parents and their adolescent children about sexual intercourse?
- How do they communicate their views with one another?

- What kind of communication is desired?
- Where do youth get information about sex from?

With answers to these kinds of questions programs will be able to:

- Reach out to youth and parents with messages that resonate with their existing views.
- Identify the gaps in communication between youth and parents that need to be addressed.
- Identify potential stakeholders (like schools, doctor offices, places of worship, or other community organizations) that they can partner with to create an environment that supports and encourages abstinence.

The findings of the report will be shared with grantees through conferences and conference calls or webcasts. The findings may also inform the ACF funded "Parents, Speak Up! National Campaign." This media campaign encourages parents to talk with their children about waiting until marriage to have sex and includes a variety of video, audio and print materials.

6. Please provide more information about your plans for a second survey to compare to this one and the purpose of doing this. Are the results intended for evaluating a program or public information campaign?

ACF has no plans to conduct a second survey to compare to this one. As mentioned above, the results of this survey will inform the "Parents, Speak Up" National Campaign.

7. Please provide a copy of the article by Blumberg, Cynamon, Osborn, and Olson (2003) cited on page B-7.

ACF will send a copy of the article requested.