

# The National Survey of Family Growth

## How We Keep Your Information Strictly Confidential

### Other Safeguards for Your Privacy

- We remove any information that could reveal who you are. Names and addresses are never on anything we give out. We also mask details on jobs, family, or other traits if they could lead to anyone being identified.

- No one from outside NCHS can get to the information stored in NCHS computers. Measures include passwords, firewalls, and other means to block people from getting these data.

- No one can obtain data that identifies you from NCHS. We will not give information that identifies a person to police, the military, or any other government agency, including the Internal Revenue Service, Immigration, or welfare agencies, for any reason. And your information is protected from the Freedom of Information Act and court subpoenas.

### For More Information

NCHS data are released in printed reports and CD-ROM's 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:

**Alvan O. Zarate, Ph.D.**  
**Confidentiality Officer**  
**National Center for Health Statistics**  
**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
3311 Toledo Road, Room 7039  
Hyattsville, MD 20782  
Telephone: 301-458-4601  
E-mail: [aоз1@cdc.gov](mailto:aоз1@cdc.gov)



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



A Research Study for the  
National Center for Health Statistics conducted by

**The University of Michigan**

# 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. No information that could identify a person can be released to anyone—including the President, Congress, or any court.

## 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 a perfect 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.*

**Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.**  
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 30 years, the NSFG has been the major source of information on trends in US childbearing, marriage and divorce, contraceptive use, and parenting. These data are used to guide health services and health education programs all over the US. 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)