

National Health Interview Survey
Nonsubstantive Change to

OMB No. 0920-0214
(Expires 03/31/2016)

Contact:

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National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

A1. Circumstances making the collection of information necessary

This request is for a nonsubstantive change to an approved data collection (OMB No. 0920-0214) (expires 03/31/2016), the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). On March 4, 2013, OMB approved the NHIS through the 2015 data collection, including the increased sample size and the web-based multimode follow-back survey (The National Health Care Interview Survey, or NHCIS). The approved supporting statement included permission to modify selected sections of the 2013, 2014, and 2015 surveys through a nonsubstantive change clearance request. Questions/modules cycle in and out of the survey on a periodic basis to collect new and/or updated information as needed.

Changes

This change request seeks approval to:

- Cycle in health insurance questions related to the Affordable Care Act starting with the October 2013 NHIS and NHCIS.

The two questions to be added to the NHIS beginning in October 2013 are in Attachment 1. The five questions to be added to the NHCIS beginning in October 2013 are in Attachment 2. The full NHIS questionnaire with the new questions embedded is in attachments 3 through 3e. The full NHCIS questionnaire with the new questions embedded is in attachment 4.

A2. Purpose and use of information collection

Both the NHIS and NHCIS currently have a number of questions on health insurance. The expanded questions on health insurance need to be added beginning in October 2013 to serve as a base line before the January 2014 start of many features of the Affordable Care Act. The questions are designed to test people's vocabulary on, and how they think about, health insurance.

Health Insurance Questions for the NHIS:

One question will be added to the Family Health Insurance section on whether the health insurance premium is based on income. Existing questions in this section already ask about who pays for private health insurance plans. This new question would be a follow-up question for those reporting that they pay any part of the cost themselves. A second question will be added to the Sample Adult Access and Utilization section to ask if the person had looked into purchasing insurance through the health insurance marketplace (the instrument will fill in the state exchange program name). This new question would

follow an existing set of NHIS questions on whether the Sample Adult had ever tried to purchase health insurance directly.

Health Insurance Questions for the NHCIS:

The NHCIS is a followback survey of a nationally representative sample of 2012 NHIS respondents using telephone and internet modes. Its twofold purpose is to produce estimates from two points in time on issues related to health care reform and to determine whether a nationally representative internet panel can be identified for possible future surveys.

One new question is designed to assess the meaning of “health insurance premium” to individual respondents. Another question asks about the meaning of subsidizing a health insurance premium based on income. There are questions asking the respondent if they have heard of the Health Insurance Marketplace and the health insurance exchanges. The final new question asks if the respondent has looked into purchasing health insurance coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace.

A8. Consultation Outside the Agency

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) of the Department of Health & Human Services, including the Office of Health Policy of ASPE, has reviewed these questions.

A12. Estimates of Annualized Burden Hours and Costs

There is no change to the burden.

Attachments

1. October 2013 new questions for the NHIS
2. October 2013 new questions for the NHCIS
- 3-3.e Full NHIS questionnaire with the new questions embedded
4. Full NHCIS questionnaire with the new questions embedded.