



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

HIS-600(L) LOS ANGELES  
(10-2013)

National Center for Health Statistics  
3311 Toledo Road  
Hyattsville, MD 20782

From the Acting Director of the United States National Center for Health Statistics

I'm Charles Rothwell and I head the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), part of CDC (the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). In partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau, my agency is conducting a major survey about the nation's health and we need your help.

In the next few days, a Census Bureau interviewer will ask you some questions to see if you are eligible for the National Health Interview Survey. For your protection, the interviewer will show you an official identification card.

Please know that everything you tell us will be kept strictly private. Your answers are used only for health research, and to help understand and solve today's health problems and anticipate future health issues. Quality health information is necessary to make good decisions and sound policies. In this way, taking part in the survey indirectly benefits all Americans.

Strict federal laws protect your information. Question 6 on the back of this letter describes these laws and who may see your personal information.

I hope you will want to take part in the survey—it is your choice. No penalties or loss of benefits will come from refusing.

Some interviews take about five minutes. Most interviews will take about an hour to do all parts, depending on the size and health of your family. You may choose not to answer any question and, of course, you can stop at any time. Health and health care information from other records may be combined with your survey answers. These data also will be kept strictly private. You also may be given the choice to take part in other surveys sponsored by the National Center for Health Statistics.

Please contact the Census Bureau, toll-free, at 1-800-992-3530, press 5, if you have questions about the survey or to schedule an interview. About a week after the interview, some households will be asked a few extra questions for quality purposes.

You can learn more about the survey at our website: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>

I know your time and privacy are valuable so I am very grateful for your help. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Rothwell  
Acting Director, National Center for Health Statistics  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

REGIONAL OFFICE  
US CENSUS BUREAU  
15350 SHERMAN WAY STE 400  
VAN NUYS CA 91406-4203  
**1-800-992-3530, press 5**

National Health Interview Survey  
*Since - 1957*

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NATIONAL HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY (NHIS)**

### **1. HOW WAS I CHOSEN FOR THE SURVEY?**

Every month we pick between 5,300 and 5,500 home addresses across the entire United States. We pick addresses using scientific methods so they represent all communities in the U.S.

### **2. WHY NOT INTERVIEW AT THE HOUSE ACROSS THE STREET? WHY IS MY PARTICIPATION IMPORTANT?**

It is important that the people living at the address selected be in the survey. Due to the scientific methods used to pick addresses, we cannot exchange one address for another. If we did that, the survey results would not describe the entire country.

### **3. I AM NOT SICK – WHY SHOULD I TAKE PART IN A HEALTH SURVEY?**

This is a survey of the Nation's health. We want to know how many people are sick and why they are sick, but it is also important to know how many people are healthy and why they are healthy. Everyone's answers are important.

### **4. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO ASK ME?**

The NHIS covers a wide range of topics like doctor visits, medical conditions, health insurance, physical activity, and injuries. We also ask questions that help us better understand the health information you give us. For example, we ask about race, income, and permission to combine your answers with information from other places, like medical records. Most people have no difficulty with any of the questions in the NHIS. However, others find some questions to be sensitive. You do not have to answer any questions you don't want to.

### **5. WHY DO YOU ASK ABOUT IMMUNIZATIONS?**

Immunizations help prevent infectious disease, disability, and death. To get the most accurate picture of children's immunization levels, we may ask you for permission to contact your child's immunization providers. This is only for young children and teenagers, and we ask their providers only for immunization dates and doses. Like all the data we collect, this information is treated as confidential.

### **6. WHO WILL SEE MY ANSWERS?**

We take your privacy very seriously. Only those NCHS employees, our specially designated agents including the U.S. Census Bureau, and our full research partners who must use your personal information for a specific reason can see your answers. Everyone else who uses your data can do so only after all information that could identify you and your family is removed. The answers you give us are used for statistical research only. This means that your answers will be combined with those given by other people in a way that protects everyone's identity.

Strict laws prevent us from releasing information that could identify you or your family to anyone else without your consent. Congress authorized the NHIS data collection in Section 306 of the Public Health Service Act (42 United States Code 242k). The federal laws that require all information we collect to be held in strict confidence are Section 308(d) of the Public Health Service Act [42 United States Code 242m (d)] and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (PL 107-347). If any federal employee, contractor, or agent gives out confidential information not authorized by law, he or she can be fired, fined and/or imprisoned.

### **7. WHO LOOKS OUT FOR THE INTERESTS OF SURVEY PARTICIPANTS?**

Every year, the Research Ethics Review Board (ERB) of the National Center for Health Statistics reviews survey content and methods to protect study participants. You may call the ERB if you want to ask about your rights as a participant in this research study. The toll-free number is 1-800-223-8118. Please leave a brief message with your name and phone number. Say you are calling about Protocol # 2009-16. Your call will be returned promptly.

HIS-700  
(11-2013)



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Economics and Statistics Administration**  
**U.S. Census Bureau**  
Washington, DC 20233-0001  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Hello

Aloha

Talofa lava

Mālō e lelei

la Orana

Tālofa

Fakaalofa atu

Malo ni

Noa'ia

Kia Ora

Kaoha

**KIA ORANA**

Hafa Adai

Yokwe

Ran anim

Kaselehlie

Lotu wo

Mogethin

Alii

Mauri

Mo yoraŋ

Bula vinaka

Halo

Halo ola keta

Bonjour

Kwe'

I am Charles Rothwell, the head of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), part of the CDC (the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and I am John H. Thompson, the head of the U.S. Census Bureau. Our agencies are working together to conduct a major survey about the nation's health and we need your help.

The survey is called the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI). In the next few days, a Census Bureau interviewer will visit you to ask for your participation. We ask that you take some time to answer our questions.

Please know that everything you tell us will be kept strictly private. Your answers are used to help understand and solve the health problems of your community and anticipate future health issues. Quality health information is necessary to make good decisions and sound policies. In this way, taking part in the survey indirectly benefits all NHPI Americans – children and adults, parents and grandparents.

Some interviews take about five minutes. Most interviews will take about an hour to do all the parts, depending on the size and health of your family. We hope you will want to take part in the survey – it is your choice. Your participation is voluntary. No penalties or loss of benefits will come from refusing.

Strict federal laws protect your information. Question 5 on the back of this letter describes these laws and who may see your personal information.

Please contact the Census Bureau, toll-free, at 1-800-992-3530, press 5, if you have questions about the survey or to schedule an interview. About a week after the interview, some households will be asked a few extra questions for quality purposes. The back of this letter provides you with information about the study and how the data from the survey are used.

Please visit our survey website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm> for more information about the NHIS.

We are very grateful for your help. We know your time and privacy are valuable. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Rothwell  
Acting Director,  
National Center for Health Statistics  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

John H. Thompson  
Director  
U.S. Census Bureau

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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NATIONAL HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY(NHIS)

## 1. HOW WAS I CHOSEN FOR THE SURVEY?

Your household participated in the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS).

## 2. WHY NOT INTERVIEW AT THE HOUSE ACROSS THE STREET? WHY IS MY PARTICIPATION IMPORTANT?

It is important that the people living at the address selected be in the survey. Due to the scientific methods used to pick addresses, we cannot exchange one address for another. If we did that, the survey results would not describe the entire country.

## 3. I AM NOT SICK & WHY SHOULD I TAKE PART IN A HEALTH SURVEY?

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Thank You

Mahalo

Fa'afetai tele

Mālō 'aupito

Mauru' uru

Fakafetai

Fakaue lahi

Faka fetai

Fāiāk se'ea

Kia Ora

Kotoa nui

Meitaki maata

Si Yu'us Mā'āse'

Kommol tata

Kinisou

Kalahngan

Kulo

Kamagar

Sulang

Ko rab'a

Tubwa

Vinaka vakalovu

Tank iu

Tank yiu

Tenkyu tru

Merci

Wela'lin