



FROM THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
AND THE AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

Healthcare is one of the most important issues in the United States today. Policymakers and researchers need reliable and current information to guide our Nation's healthcare system.

The U.S. Census Bureau has been conducting annually, since 1996, the Health Insurance Cost Study, the insurance component of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS-IC), for the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Your response to this voluntary study is extremely important. Accurate measurements of the current health insurance system and realistic assessments of proposed changes to that system can only be made when organizations like yours respond.

This information is not subject to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy rules because it does not ask for any individually identifiable health information.

We are conducting this study under the authority of Section 913 of the Public Health Service Act (Title 42, United States Code (U.S.C.), Section 299b-2). Sections 924c and 308d of that Act (42 U.S.C. Section 299c-3(c) and 42 U.S.C. Section 242m, respectively) ensure that the information you report will be released only to authorized staff of the Census Bureau, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and their authorized researchers and contractors. This survey has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and given an OMB approval number which appears in the upper right-hand corner of the form. If this number was not displayed, we could not conduct this survey or request your participation.

Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it within 30 days in the postage-paid envelope. We will accept estimates when book figures are not available. If you have any questions or need assistance, please call us toll-free at 1-888-273-3878, weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time.

If you would like more information on the MEPS-IC or the survey sponsor, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), please visit the AHRQ Web site at <http://www.meps.ahrq.gov>.

Sincerely,

John H. Thompson
Director
U.S. Census Bureau

Richard Kronick, Ph.D.
Director
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

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