



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 Title 13, United States Code (U.S.C.), and Section 8(b) and Section 913 of the Public Health Service Act (Title 42, U.S.C., Section 299b-2). Section 9 of the Title 13, U.S.C. (the Census Bureau statute), ensures that the information you report will be strictly confidential. This survey has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and given an OMB approval number of 0935-0110.

As requested during our initial telephone call, please contact our interviewing staff at your convenience at _____ between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time and reference ID# _____.

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
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

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