

To Whom It May Concern:

[INTERVIEWER NAME] has been authorized to work as a field interviewer on the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG). This major study is sponsored by the National Center for Health Statistics of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This survey provides information on health, marriage and divorce, having and raising children and medical care.

About 17,000 people in the U.S. will be selected at random to take part in this study.

The interviewers working on this study have been hired and trained by the University of Michigan's Survey Research Center, located in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The National Center for Health Statistics hired the University of Michigan (Contract # 200-2010-33976) to collect the data for the survey.

If you would like more proof that [INTERVIEWER NAME] is an interviewer working for the University of Michigan on this study, please call the Survey Research Center at 1-855-891-8891 (toll-free).

If you would like to know more about the NSFG, you may visit the study's website: [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm). You may also call Dr. Joyce Abma or Dr. Gladys Martinez, at the National Center for Health Statistics (1-866-227-8347 - toll-free), during business hours, Monday through Friday.

Thank you in advance for your help with this important research study.

Sincerely,



Charles J. Rothwell  
Director, National Center for Health Statistics

A quien pueda interesar:

[INTERVIEWER NAME] ha sido autorizada para trabajar como entrevistadora en la Encuesta Nacional de Crecimiento Familiar (NSFG, por sus siglas en inglés). Este importante estudio está patrocinado por el Centro Nacional para Estadísticas de Salud del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de los Estados Unidos. Esta encuesta proporciona información acerca de salud, matrimonios y divorcios, tener y criar hijos, y atención médica.

Aproximadamente 17,000 personas en los EE.UU. serán seleccionadas al azar para participar en este estudio.

Las entrevistadoras que trabajan en este estudio han sido empleadas y entrenadas para este proyecto por el Centro de Encuestas de la Universidad de Michigan, ubicado en Ann Arbor, Michigan. La Universidad de Michigan tiene un contrato (Contrato # 200-2010-33976) con el Centro Nacional para Estadísticas de Salud para recopilar los datos de la encuesta.

Si desea más pruebas de que [INTERVIEWER NAME] es una entrevistadora que trabaja para la Universidad de Michigan en este estudio, por favor póngase en contacto con el Centro de Encuestas llamando al teléfono gratuito 1-800-643-7605.

Si desea más información sobre la encuesta NSFG, puede visitar en Internet la página del estudio: [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm). También puede llamar la Dra. Gladys Martinez (ella habla Español) o a la Dr. Joyce Abma, al Centro Nacional para Estadísticas de Salud (teléfono gratuito: 1-866-227-8347), durante horas de trabajo, de lunes a viernes.

Desde ya, le agradecemos su cooperación con este importante estudio.

Atentamente,



Charles J. Rothwell  
Director, Centro Nacional para Estadísticas de Salud

**The best health decisions  
are based on the best  
health information.**

*“CDC’s National Survey of Family Growth is critical to help ensure that policies and programs address the health needs of all Americans. The survey provides important statistical information on family growth, health, and health care that can be used to help people live stronger and healthier lives. I urge you to take part in this important survey to help us build a foundation for a healthier America.”*

**Charles J. Rothwell**

Director,  
National Center for Health Statistics

Your household has been chosen to take part in the NATIONAL SURVEY OF FAMILY GROWTH. The NSFG is an important research study of men, women and families. In this brochure, we answer some of the questions people ask about the study.



## Questions & Answers



# The National Survey of Family Growth

### WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF FAMILY GROWTH?

The National Survey of Family Growth gathers information on family life, marriage and divorce, pregnancy, infertility, use of birth control, sexual experience, and men’s and women’s health. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services uses the survey results. This information is used to plan health services and educational programs.

The survey is authorized by a federal law, Section 306(b)1(H) of the Public Health Service Act (42 USC 242k), which asks us to collect “statistics on family formation, growth, and dissolution.”

The survey provides accurate national statistics on critical issues like:

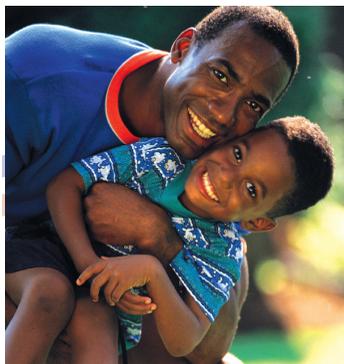
- People making choices about school, work and having a family
- Women looking for a safe and effective way to space their children
- The health care that men and women get, including family planning and reproductive health
- Risk for sexually transmitted infections
- Child care services used by working parents
- How programs for families and children are working

### WHO IS DOING THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF FAMILY GROWTH?

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, does the survey. You can find out more about NCHS at [www.cdc.gov/nchs](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs). NCHS has asked the University of Michigan to do the interviews. A professional, female interviewer from the University of Michigan’s Survey Research Center will come to your home and find out if you are eligible for the study. The interviewer who comes to your home will have a University of Michigan identification badge with her picture on it and a Letter of Authorization from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She will ask you questions and type your answers into a laptop computer. You will also get to answer some questions by putting answers into the computer yourself.

### HOW WAS I CHOSEN?

*We do not know who lives at your house or what your name is. We take a sample of households from all across the United States. When your interviewer arrives, she will find out if there is someone in your household we need to include in our study.*



### WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE? WHY NOT INTERVIEW ACROSS THE STREET?

We cannot talk to all of the millions of men and women in this country - that would cost too much and take too long. So we scientifically select a “sample” of households. We then choose one person from some of those households to be in the survey. Choosing the sample scientifically lets us take the information we learn and use it to better understand the whole population. Once participants have been chosen they cannot be replaced.

### ARE THESE INTERVIEWS JUST FOR FAMILIES, OR THOSE WITH CHILDREN?

**No.** If you do not have children, or live alone, your responses are just as important to the study as anyone else’s. You will be asked only those questions that apply to you. For example, we need to have accurate information about topics such as:



- How many people are choosing not to have children or to have them later in life
- How long marriages and other relationships last
- How often divorced fathers see their children
- The need for infertility services

### WILL MY ANSWERS BE KEPT PRIVATE?

**Yes.** Federal law protects the confidentiality of all the information you provide [Section 308(d) the Public Health Service Act (42 USC 242m(d)), the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a), and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (PL 107-347)]. Each research staff member has signed a legal confidentiality pledge. The answers you give will be combined with answers from many other people. The data will be reported as percentages, totals, and averages. By law we cannot release information that could identify you or your family to anyone else. Anyone who breaks the law can be fined up to \$250,000, lose their job, and/or be sent to prison.

### DO I HAVE TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS?

Your help with this study is voluntary. Saying yes or no to being in the study will not change any benefits you get now or in the future.

Most people find the interview interesting and enjoyable. Your participation is very important because each person interviewed represents thousands of others. Some of the questions may be sensitive for some people. You may choose not to answer any question for any reason and may stop the interview at any time.

### Who is The UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN?

The University of Michigan was one of the first public universities in the United States. Today, the University is one of the largest research universities in the world. This study is only one of many important surveys done by the University’s Survey Research Center. Other studies’ topics include families, health, retirement and other important issues.



### HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

Interviews take about 60-80 minutes for most adults. Interviews for teenagers take about 60 minutes. A few interviews take a little less or a little more time. We will do the interview at the time that works best for you. Also, for your help in being part of this study, you will receive \$40 as a token of our appreciation.

### WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

#### For study information:

- Ask your interviewer
- Visit the survey’s website at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm)
- Call Dr. Anjani Chandra or Dr. Gladys Martinez at NCHS (toll-free): 1-866-227-8347

#### For information about your rights as a participant:

- Call the office set up to oversee research (toll-free): 1-800-223-8118

#### To schedule an interview:

- Call the University of Michigan (toll-free): 1-855-891-8891



**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**

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

## 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:

**Eve Powell-Griner, Ph.D.**  
**Confidentiality Officer**  
**National Center for Health Statistics**  
**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
3311 Toledo Road, Room 7116  
Hyattsville, MD 20782  
**Telephone: 301-458-4257**  
**E-mail: [EPowell-Griner@cdc.gov](mailto:EPowell-Griner@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

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**UNIVERSITY OF  
MICHIGAN**

# The National Survey of Family Growth

## How We Keep Your Information Strictly Confidential

# 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.*

**Charles J. Rothwell**  
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)