

**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



Questions & Answers



The National Survey of Family Growth

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.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF FAMILY GROWTH (NSFG)?

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 U.S.C. 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

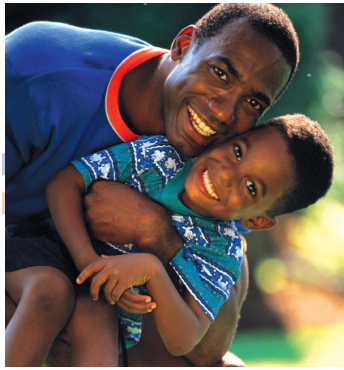
WHO IS DOING THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF FAMILY GROWTH ?

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, sponsors, designs, and distributes the survey. NCHS has been conducting the NSFG since 1973. NSFG is one of many important surveys conducted by NCHS. You can find out more about NCHS at www.cdc.gov/nchs.

NCHS has contracted the University of Michigan to conduct the fieldwork for the NSFG. 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. 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. Strict laws prevent NCHS from releasing information that could identify you or your family to anyone else without your consent. A number of federal laws require that all information we collect be held in strict confidence. Section 308(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242m(d)), the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA, Title 5 of Public Law 107-347), and the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a. Every NCHS employee, contractor, research partner, and agent has taken an oath to keep your information private. Any NCHS employee, agent, or contractor who willfully discloses ANY identifiable information could get a jail term of up to 5 years, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both.

In addition, NCHS complies with the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015. This law requires the federal government to protect federal computer networks by using computer security programs to identify cybersecurity risks like hacking, internet attacks, and other security weaknesses. If information sent through government networks triggers a cyber threat indicator, the information may be intercepted and reviewed for cyber threats by computer network experts working for, or on behalf, of the government. The Act requires any personal information that identifies you or your family to be removed from suspicious files before they are shared.



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.

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. Many 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.



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

For study information:

- Ask your interviewer
- Visit the survey's website at 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 NCHS 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

HOW WILL I RECOGNIZE THE INTERVIEWER?

NCHS has contracted the University of Michigan to conduct interviews for this study. 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, the university logo, and a Letter of Authorization from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

