

**FOR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS  
ABOUT HOW NCHS PROTECTS  
THE INFORMATION YOU  
PROVIDE, CONTACT:**

**Confidentiality Office, NCHS**  
3311 Toledo Road  
Hyattsville, MD 20782

**Telephone:**  
1-888-642-4159

**E-mail:**  
[NCHSconfidentiality@cdc.gov](mailto:NCHSconfidentiality@cdc.gov)

**FOR ANY QUESTIONS  
REGARDING NCHS OR NSFG,  
CONTACT:**

**National Center for Health Statistics**  
**Telephone:**  
1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)

**TTY:**  
1-888-232-6348

**Online request form:**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/info>

**NCHS AND NSFG**

The National Center for Health Statistics first conducted the National Survey of Family Growth in 1973. For nearly 50 years, the NSFG has been a major source of information on U.S. trends in pregnancies, marriages and other relationships, use of contraception and other factors related to fertility, family formation, and health. NSFG data are used to help understand health and health behaviors in the United States, plan health services and health education programs, and conduct statistical research.

NCHS data are made available in published reports and data files after identifying information has been removed.

*For more information about NCHS,  
the visit NCHS website:*

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs>

*For more information on NSFG, visit  
the NSFG website:*

<https://www.cdc.gov/nsfg.htm>

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

**How the National  
Survey of Family  
Growth Keeps  
Your Information  
Confidential**



**U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services**  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

# NCHS and NSFG

## Protecting the public's privacy ... no idle pledge

### OUR PROMISE

Since its first survey in 1957, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has maintained the highest standards and a very strong record in protecting the privacy of people in its surveys. Our promise to protect the privacy of everyone remains our top priority. We believe this record is an important reason why so many take part in NCHS surveys.

### THE LAW

Information collected in the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) is used only for statistical purposes. NCHS will not share or release information that identifies you or your family.

We take your privacy very seriously. All information that relates to or describes identifiable characteristics of individuals, a practice, or an establishment will be used only for statistical purposes. NCHS staff, contractors, and agents will not disclose or release responses identifiable form without the consent of the individual or establishment in accordance with section 308(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242m) and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA) (Title III of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Pub. L No. 115-435, 132 Stat. 5529 §302)).

In accordance with CIPSEA, every NCHS employee, contractor, and agent has taken an oath and is subject to a jail term of up to 5 years, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both if he or she willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about you.

NCHS protects information stored on NCHS computers. Measures include passwords, firewalls, and other means to block people from getting these data. NCHS complies with the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015. This law requires the federal government to protect federal computer networks from cybersecurity risks like hacking, internet attacks, and other security weaknesses.

### THE PLEDGE

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.

### THE PENALTIES

People who break these laws can be fined up to \$250,000, lose their job, or go to jail.

## WE TAKE YOUR PRIVACY VERY SERIOUSLY!

### OTHER WAYS WE PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY

Those working for NCHS must also follow special rules for handling private information. These rules are meant to ensure that the privacy of the people taking part in NSFG is fully respected.

- NCHS removes any information that could reveal who you are. Names and addresses are never on anything NCHS releases or shares.
- We also conceal specific information about your household and other details about you that could lead to anyone being identified.
- The answers you give us are used for statistical research only. This means that your answers will be combined with other people's answers in a way that protects everyone's identity. As required by federal law, only those NCHS employees, our contractors, and our specially designated agents who will only use your personal information for statistical activities.
- Your answers will be shared only after all information that could identify you or your family has been removed.
- Computers are password protected and data are encrypted for added security.