

**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

**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 (NCHS) first carried out the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) 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 analyses.

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

For more information, visit the NCHS home page.

www.cdc.gov/nchs

For more information on NSFG, visit the NSFG website.

www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

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



**Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention**
National Center for
Health Statistics

NCHS and NSFG

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

OUR PROMISE

Since its very 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 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 **our specially designated** agents will not disclose or release responses in 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(d)) and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (44 U.S.C. 3561-3583).

In accordance with CIPSEA, every NCHS employee, contractor, and **specially designated** agent has taken an oath and is subject to a jail term of up to five 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. In addition, NCHS complies with the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of **2018 (6 U.S.C. § 663)** which protects Federal information systems from cybersecurity risks by screening their networks.

THE PLEDGE

Anyone working on this study must **complete annual confidentiality training and** 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.

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 analyses 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 NCHS employees, our contractors, and our specially designated agents will use your 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.

**WE TAKE YOUR PRIVACY
VERY SERIOUSLY!**