



National Center for Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road
Hyattsville, MD 20782

Hello,

You have been selected to participate in the 2020 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).



Why are you contacting me again?

A lot has changed in the United States over the past year, and your health, healthcare, and well-being may have changed too. Your current information, when combined with the survey responses you gave us last year, will help tell the story of how the health of the nation has and has not changed over the last year.



What is the NHIS?

The NHIS is the oldest household health survey in the United States. It is conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics, a part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Census Bureau is contracted to collect the data. Since 1957, NHIS data has shown whether Americans' health is getting better or worse and which groups of people are more likely to have health problems. This helps the CDC and other organizations develop programs to keep America healthy. To learn more, see <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>.



What to do now

Call 1-800-992-3530, then press 5 to schedule your telephone interview at a time that is convenient for you including days, evenings, and weekends. In most cases, this interview will take less than 45 minutes.



Why should I participate?

- **Help adults.** Doctors use NHIS data to identify factors that help adults live longer, healthier lives.
- **Help your country.** Policy makers trust and rely on NHIS data to understand changes in the nation's health.
- **Help your family members, friends, and community.** NHIS data helps researchers understand how we can achieve and sustain the good health we all want for ourselves and for the people we love.



What to expect

1. A U.S. Census Bureau interviewer will call you by telephone.
2. He/she will ask you a few questions about the persons living at this address.
3. The interviewer will ask only about your own health. The interviewer will not ask about the health of any children in your family. Some of the questions will be the same as last time and some will be different.

You Cannot be Replaced. People's answers from last year will be compared to their answers this year. This lets us identify any changes in the health of people in the United States. Only people who have previously participated in the NHIS can participate in this follow-up survey. We rely on you to make the survey results as accurate as possible. Participation is voluntary, but we cannot replace you with another person.

Confidentiality Ensured. Everything you tell us is confidential. Your information is ONLY used for statistical purposes. We remove all personally-identifying information from the data. After that, the data is posted on the NHIS website for future research or to guide public health decisions.

Thank you for participating in this important survey.

Sincerely,

Brian C. Moyer, Ph.D.
Director, National Center for Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



HIS-600(L)(FB) (6-2020)
U.S. Census Bureau,
Los Angeles Regional Office

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NATIONAL HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY (NHIS)

1. I PARTICIPATED IN THE NHIS LAST YEAR, WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME TO DO IT AGAIN?

The NHIS is doing a special telephone follow-up survey of some of the adults who participated in last year's survey. We will look at how people answered questions last year and how they answer this year to see what has changed about their health and what has stayed the same.

2. I AM NOT SICK – WHY SHOULD I TAKE PART IN A HEALTH SURVEY?

This is a survey of the Nation's health. We want to know how many people are sick and why they are sick. We also want to know how many people are healthy and what makes them healthy. Everyone's answers are important.

3. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO ASK ME?

The NHIS asks about a lot of things. We will ask about doctor visits, medical conditions, health insurance, and other topics. We also ask questions to understand the health information you give us. For example, we ask about race and income. Most people have no difficulty with any of the questions in the NHIS.

You might find some questions to be sensitive. You may choose not to answer any or all questions in this survey and can stop at any time. There are no penalties for refusing to answer questions. However, the information we collect is very important. We need your help to ensure that the survey results are complete and correct. You are getting a special chance to make a difference in the health of the nation.

4. CAN I COMPLETE THE SURVEY ONLINE?

One of the reasons that the NHIS is the U.S. gold standard health survey is that the data are collected by highly trained and skilled U.S. Census Bureau interviewers. There is no online option for the NHIS.

5. WHO WILL SEE MY ANSWERS?

NCHS collects and uses information you provide in accordance with System of Records Notice 09-20-0164, Health and Demographic Surveys Conducted in Probability Samples of the United States (<https://www.cdc.gov/SORNnotice/09-20-0164.htm>). We take your privacy very seriously. We combine your answers with other people's answers in a way that keeps everyone's identity secret. As required by federal law, your identity can be seen only by those NCHS employees and specially designated agents (such as the U.S. Census Bureau) who need that information for a specific reason. No one else can see your answers until all information that could identify you and/or your family has been removed.

6. WHAT LAWS PROTECT MY PRIVACY?

Congress authorized the NHIS data collection in Section 306 of the Public Health Service Act (42 United States Code 242k). Strict federal laws prevent us from releasing information that could identify you or your family to anyone else without your permission. These laws are: Section 308(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242m(d)); the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2018 (Title III, Public Law No. 115-435); and the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. § 552a). Every National Center for Health Statistics employee, contractor, research partner, and agent has taken an oath to keep your information private. Anyone who willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about ANYONE in the survey could get a jail term of up to five years, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both.

7. WHO PROTECTS THE INTERESTS OF SURVEY PARTICIPANTS?

The Ethics Review Board (ERB) of the National Center for Health Statistics reviews survey content and methods to protect study participants. You may call the Ethics Review Board to ask about your rights as a participant in this survey. The toll-free number is 1-800-223-8118. You will get an answering service. Please leave a brief message with your name and phone number. Say you are calling about Protocol #2019-09. Your call will be returned promptly.