

Data from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) are released in printed reports and on the NCHS website at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs>.

For more information on NHANES, visit the NHANES website at <https://www.cdc.gov/nhanes>.

For any questions regarding NCHS or NHANES, contact:

**National Center for Health Statistics**  
Information Dissemination Staff  
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Hyattsville, MD 20782

Telephone:  
1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)  
TTY:  
1-888-232-6348  
Online request form:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/info>  
Internet:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs>

For specific questions about how NCHS protects the information you provide, contact:

**Confidentiality Office, NCHS**  
Telephone:  
1-888-642-4159  
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**NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS**



# How the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey Keeps Your Information

**CONFIDENTIAL**



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Health Statistics

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

## NCHS and NHANES

### Our promise

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) carried out the first National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) in 1960. Today, more than 50 years later, the promise to protect the privacy of everyone remains our top priority. We believe this record is an important reason why so many people are willing to take part in the survey.

## There's safety in numbers, especially our numbers!

### The law...

**Assurance of Confidentiality:** 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 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 of 2002 (CIPSEA, Title 5 of Public Law 107-347). In accordance with CIPSEA, every NCHS employee, contractor, and 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.

In addition, NCHS complies with the Federal Cybersecurity Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. §§ 151 & 151 note). 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 pledge...

Anyone working on NHANES must sign a pledge. This makes them subject to punishment by Federal laws, including the Privacy Act, the Public Health Service Act, and others.

### 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 NHANES is fully respected.

- Anything that could reveal who you are is removed. This includes, but is not limited to, your or your families' names, addresses, phone numbers, and places of work.
- Data are not released if they are for a geographical location so small that the numbers might identify someone.
- Computers are password protected and data are encrypted for added security.

## NCHS and NHANES will not release your private data without your consent!