



SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE™

How the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey Keeps Your Information

Strictly Confidential



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics

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

Our Promise

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) first carried out national exam studies in 1960. Today, more than 40 years later, the promise to protect the privacy of everyone who takes part in the survey has never been broken.

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 . . .

Information gathered in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) is used only for statistical purposes. No information that could identify you can be given to anyone - including the President, Congress, or any court without your consent.

The pledge . . .

Anyone working on the NHANES **must** sign a pledge. This makes them subject to punishment by Federal law 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.

NCHS and NHANES

Other ways we protect your privacy

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

- Anything that could reveal who you are is removed. More than names and addresses are removed from anything we give out. No details on jobs, family, or residence that, if put together, could identify you are ever released.
- NCHS withholds data if they are for a location so small that the numbers might identify someone.

- Special safety measures block outside contact with any private information stored in NCHS computers.
- We also use passwords to prevent illegal entry into the computers.
- No one can get private data from NCHS without your consent. This means we will not give your records to the police, military, and any branch of the government **for whatever reason**. Your answers are also protected from being given to courts.

Data from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) are released in printed reports, CD-ROMs, diskettes, and the Internet through the NCHS home page on the World Wide Web.

For further information and to access NCHS products, visit the NCHS home page:

www.cdc.gov/nchs

or contact:

**Information Dissemination Staff
3311 Toledo Road, Room 5320
Hyattsville, MD 20782**

**Telephone: 1-800-232-4636
E-mail: nchsquery@cdc.gov**

For further information on the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), visit the NHANES Web site:

www.cdc.gov/nhanes

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

Confidentiality Officer, NCHS

Telephone

1-888-642-4159

E-mail

NCHSconfidentiality@cdc.gov