

HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS



ARE YOU IN A HOUSEHOLD SURVEY?

The U.S. Census Bureau compiles information from household surveys to produce statistics that describe populations and their characteristics, such as age, education, housing and income. We collect this data by asking household members to provide information about the people who live in the house, apartment, mobile home or group housing.

For households, when we select your household for a survey or census, we send you an official letter from the U.S. Census Bureau director. We address the letter to “resident.” Depending on the survey, there are four options for responding: online, by completing and mailing back the form, in a phone interview, or through an in-person interview with a trained Field Representative at your home. We provide you with specific instructions about how to respond to your survey. The Census Bureau always tells you whether your participation is mandatory or voluntary, and we encourage you to answer all questions asked.

WHY WAS MY HOUSEHOLD SELECTED?

The U.S. Census Bureau randomly selected your household through a process of scientific sampling. We collect data from a sample of the population to produce estimates for the entire population. This ensures that a small sample represents the entire group covered by the survey.

DIDN'T I ALREADY ANSWER THE CENSUS?

You may have answered the census in 2010, a count of everyone living in the United States every 10 years, as mandated by the U.S. Constitution. However, your address—not you personally—has also been chosen to be part of a randomly selected sample for one of the household surveys conducted by the Census Bureau.

ARE MY ANSWERS SAFE AND SECURE?

We collect data for statistical purposes only. We combine your responses with information from other households to produce statistics, which never identify your household. Your information is CONFIDENTIAL. We never identify you individually. Learn more about how we protect your information at <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/are-you-in-a-survey/data-protection.html>.

WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Visit our website at <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/are-you-in-a-survey.html> for more information. You can also visit the survey website on the survey's official letter or brochure.

Household Surveys Currently Being Conducted



American Community Survey (ACS) – The American Community Survey is an ongoing survey that provides data every year -- giving communities the current information they need to plan investments and services. Information from the survey generates data that help determine how more than \$400 billion in federal and state funds are distributed each year.

Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE) – The Consumer Expenditure Survey measures how people in the United States spend their money on items such as housing, food, education, transportation, and healthcare. The information you provide will affect wages and pensions through adjustments due to changes in the cost of goods and services. In addition, people in your community and throughout the country use the survey results for planning public services and addressing consumer needs.

Current Population Survey (CPS) – The Current Population Survey is a monthly survey of households conducted by the Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition to the national unemployment rate, it provides a comprehensive body of data on the labor force, employment, unemployment, the unemployment rate, persons not in the labor force, hours of work, earnings, and other demographic and labor force characteristics. In addition to providing data on the labor force status of the population, CPS is used to collect data for a variety of studies on the entire U.S. population and specific population subsets. These studies keep the nation informed of the economic and social well-being of its people and are used by federal and state agencies, private foundations and other organizations.

National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) – The National Crime Victimization Survey is the nation's primary source of information on criminal victimization. The NCVS is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Justice Statistics, which is a part of the U.S. Department of Justice. The NCVS is a self-report survey in which interviewed persons are asked about the number and characteristics of victimizations experienced during the prior 6 months. The NCVS collects information on nonfatal personal crimes and household property crimes both reported and not reported to police. In addition to providing annual level data and change estimates on criminal victimization, the NCVS provides the largest national forum for victims to describe the impact of crime and characteristics of violent offenders.

National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) – The National Health Interview Survey obtains information about the health status of children and adults, including health conditions and functional difficulties people might have; health behaviors, such as smoking, drinking and exercise; and access to health insurance and the kinds of health services people might receive.

Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) – SIPP is the premier source of information for income and program participation. SIPP collects data and measures change for many topics including: economic well-being, family dynamics, education, assets, health insurance, childcare, and food security. SIPP is used by researchers to provide elected officials with the information necessary to determine funding for social welfare programs, aid these officials in making voting decisions on legislation, as well as the distribution of these programs and federal funding.