



National Center for Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road
Room 3409
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

NAMCS

Endorsing Organizations

- American Academy of Dermatology
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Academy of Neurology
- American Academy of Ophthalmology
- American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
- American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, Inc.
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- American College of Cardiology
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- American College of Physicians - American Society of Internal Medicine
- American College of Preventive Medicine
- American College of Surgeons
- American Osteopathic Association
- American Psychiatric Association
- American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, Inc.
- American Urological Association
- Association of American Medical Colleges

Dear Executive Director:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is conducting the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). This annual study which has been in the field since 1973 collects information about the large portion of ambulatory care provided by physicians and mid-level providers throughout the U.S. Research utilizing the NAMCS helps to inform physicians, health care researchers, and policy makers about the changing characteristics of ambulatory health care in this country. This year, for the first time, the NAMCS is specifically sampling providers from a national sample of Community Health Centers.

Your center has been selected and we are requesting a short interview with you to obtain information that would allow us to sample three physicians and/or mid-level providers in your health center. From these providers we will collect (1) information from a sample of patient visits (e.g., demographics, diagnoses, services, and treatments), (2) provider demographic and practice characteristics, and (3) information about cervical cancer screening practices from providers who offer such services.

Many organizations and leaders in the health care community, including those providing the enclosed letter of endorsement, have expressed their support and join me in urging your participation in this meaningful study. The following are some key points about the survey.

- Data collection for the NAMCS is authorized by Section 306 of the Public Health Service Act (Title 42, U.S. Code, 242k).
- All information collected will be held in the strictest confidence according to law Section 308(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42, U.S. Code, 242m(d)) and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (Title 5 of PL 107-347). This information will be used for statistical purposes only. No patient names, social security numbers, or addresses are collected.
- This study conforms to the Privacy Rule as mandated by HIPAA because disclosure of patient data is permitted for public health purposes, and NAMCS has been approved by the NCHS Research Ethics Review Board.
- U.S. Census Bureau employees, who administer the study, have taken an oath to abide by Title 13, U.S. Code, Section 9 that requires them to keep all information about your practice and patients confidential.

A representative of the Census Bureau, acting as our agent, will be calling you to schedule an appointment regarding the details of your participation which is voluntary. If you have any questions regarding your participation, please call a NAMCS representative at (800) 392-2862. Additional information on the survey may be obtained by visiting the NAMCS participant Web site at www.cdc.gov/namcs. We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D., Director

Enclosures