



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; National Survey of Children's Health

AGENCY: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment on the proposed revision of the National Survey of Children's Health, prior to the submission of the information collection request (ICR) to OMB for approval.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by email to ADDP.NSCH.List@census.gov. Please reference National Survey of Children's Health in the subject line of your comments. You may also submit comments, identified by Docket Number USBC-2023-0011, to the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments received are part of the public record. No comments will be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> for public viewing until after the comment period has closed. Comments will generally be posted without change. All Personally Identifiable Information (for example, name and address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible.

Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Leah Meyer, Assistant Survey Director, by way of phone (301-763-7174) or email (Leah.Meyer@census.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Sponsored primarily by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau (HRSA MCHB), the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) is designed to produce data on the physical and emotional health of children under 18 years of age who live in the United States. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the United States Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (CDC-NCBDDD), and the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (CDC-DNPAO) sponsor supplemental content on the NSCH. Additionally, the upcoming cycle of the NSCH plans to include fifteen (15) age, state, or regional oversamples. The age-based oversample would be funded by the United States Department of Health and Human Services' Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDC-NCCDPHP). The state- or region-based oversamples would be sponsored by Children's Health Care of Atlanta, the State of California, the State of Colorado, the State of Illinois, the State of Kansas, the State of Louisiana, the State of Minnesota, the State of Nebraska, the State of Ohio, the State of Pennsylvania, the State of South Carolina, the State of Utah, the State of Wisconsin, and the State of Wyoming.

The NSCH collects information on factors related to the well-being of children, including access to health care, in-home medical care, family interactions, parental health, school and

after-school experiences, and neighborhood characteristics. The goal of the 2024 NSCH is to provide HRSA MCHB, the supplemental sponsoring agencies, states, regions, and other data users with the necessary data to support the production of national estimates yearly and state- or region-based estimates with pooled samples on the health and well-being of children, their families, and their communities as well as estimates of the prevalence and impact of children with special health care needs. The MCHB sponsored NSCH sample plus the separately sponsored age-, state- or region-based oversamples will be approximately 385,000 addresses for the 2024 NSCH.

NSCH is seeking clearance to make the following changes:

- **Revised questionnaire content** – Newly proposed and revised NSCH content from the sponsors at HRSA MCHB is currently undergoing cognitive testing. This testing request was submitted under the generic clearance package and approved by OMB.¹ Based on the results, a list of modified content will be included in the full OMB ICR for the 2024 NSCH.
- **Oversamples²** - In order to inform various priorities that are otherwise not supported by the NSCH, some stakeholders have shown interest in sponsoring an oversample of particular populations as part of the annual NSCH administration. Currently, there are thirteen (13) states and one region contributing to an oversample as part of the 2024 NSCH. Eight (8) states (California, Colorado, Louisiana, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Wyoming) and the Atlanta, GA Metro Area, have been oversampled since 2020 and are continuing with the option as part of the 2024 NSCH. Three (3) additional states (Kansas, Illinois, and Minnesota) were included in oversample in 2023 and will continue with the option as part of the 2024 NSCH, and

¹Generic Clearance Information Collection Request:

https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAViewIC?ref_nbr=202209-0607-002&icID=260679

²State Oversampling in the National Survey of Children's Health: Feasibility, Cost, and Alternative Approaches

https://census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/nsch/NSCH_State_Oversample_Summary_Document.pdf

two (2) additional states (South Carolina and Utah) will be oversampled for the first time in 2024. CDC-NCCDPHP is supporting an oversample of households with young children. Additionally, MCHB is requesting oversamples within the states of California, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Besides the proposed changes listed above, the 2024 NSCH will proceed with the current design outlined in the previous OMB ICR package, including the use of incentives. Response rates for the unconditional monetary incentive group continues to show a statistically significant difference over the control group that did not receive an unconditional monetary incentive. As part of the initial screener mailing, 90% will include \$5 and 10% will not receive an incentive. The incentive assignment to each sampled address would still be random as was done in prior cycles and approved by OMB. For those households that are eligible for an initial paper topical mailing, the package will include an additional \$5 incentive. Additional incentives and mailing strategies may be used to both reduce nonresponse bias and improve response rates per request of the sponsor and as funding allows. We will continue to make modifications to data collection strategies based on modeled information about paper or Internet response preference. Results from prior survey cycles will continue to be used to inform the decisions made regarding future cycles of the NSCH.

From prior cycles of the NSCH, using American Association for Public Opinion Research definitions of response, we can expect for the 2024 NSCH an overall screener

completion rate to be about 44.4% and an overall topical completion rate to be about 31.3%.³

This is different from the overall response rate, which we expect to be about 39.3%.⁴

II. Method of Collection

The 2024 NSCH plan for the web push data collection design includes approximately 70% of the production addresses receiving an initial invite with instructions on how to complete an English or Spanish-language screener questionnaire via the web. Households that decide to complete the web-based survey will be taken through the screener questionnaire to determine if they are eligible for one of three topical instruments. Households that list at least one child who is 0 to 17 years old in the screener are directed into a topical questionnaire immediately after the last screener question. If a household in the web push treatment group decides to complete the paper screener, the household will receive an additional topical questionnaire incentive. This group will receive two web survey invitation letters requesting their participation in the survey prior to receiving up to two additional paper screener questionnaires in the second and third follow-up mailings.

The 2024 NSCH plan for the mixed-mode data collection design includes up to 30% of the production addresses receiving a paper screener questionnaire in the initial mailing with instructions on how to complete an English or Spanish language screener questionnaire via the web as well. Households that decide to complete the web-based survey will follow the same screener and topical selection path as the web push. Households that choose to complete the

³ Screener Completion Rate is the proportion of screener-eligible households (i.e., occupied residences) that completed a screener. It is equal to $(S+X)/(S+X+R+e(UR+UO))$, where S is the count of completed screeners with children, X is completed screeners without children, R is screener refusals, and $e(UR+UO)$ is the estimated count of screener eligible households among nonresponding addresses.

The Topical Completion Rate is the proportion of topical-eligible households (i.e., occupied residences with children present) that completed a topical questionnaire. It is equal to I/HCT , where I is the count of completed topicals and HCT is the estimated count of households with children in the sample or $S+R+(S+R)/(S+X+R)*e(UR+UO)$.

⁴ Overall Response Rate is the probability a resolved address completes a screener questionnaire and then, when eligible, completes a topical questionnaire.

paper screener questionnaire rather than completing the survey on the Internet and that have eligible children will be mailed a paper topical questionnaire upon receipt of their completed paper screener at the Census Bureau's National Processing Center. If a household in the mixed-mode group chooses to complete the paper screener instead of completing the web-based screener via the Internet, then the household will receive an additional topical questionnaire incentive. This group will receive both a web survey invitation letter along with a mailed paper screener questionnaire with either the initial invitation or the first follow-up and each additional nonresponse follow-up mailing.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0607-0990.

Form Number(s): NSCH-S1 (English Screener), NSCH-T1 (English Topical for 0- to 5-year-old children), NSCH-T2 (English Topical for 6- to 11-year-old children), NSCH-T3 (English Topical for 12- to 17-year-old children), NSCH-S-S1 (Spanish Screener), NSCH-S-T1 (Spanish Topical for 0- to 5-year-old children), NSCH-S-T2 (Spanish Topical for 6- to 11-year-old children), and NSCH-S-T3 (Spanish Topical for 12- to 17-year-old children).

Type of Review: Regular submission, Request for a Revision of a Currently Approved Collection.

Affected Public: Parents, researchers, policymakers, and family advocates.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 132,402.

Estimated Time Per Response: 5 minutes per screener response and 35-36 minutes per topical response, which in total is approximately 40-41 minutes for households with eligible children.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 49,431.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0 (This is not the cost of respondents' time, but the indirect costs respondents may incur for such things as purchases of specialized software or

hardware needed to report, or expenditures for accounting or records maintenance services required specifically by the collection.)

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S.C. 8(b); 42 U.S.C. 701; 42 U.S.C. 1769d(a)(4)(B); and 42 U.S.C. 241.

IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include, or summarize, each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sheleen Dumas,

*Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs,
Commerce Department.*