



# Summary of Current Surveys and Data Collection Systems

## Vital Records

### National Vital Statistics System

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss.htm>

| Data source and methods   | Selected data items   | Targeted sample size   | Disparity variables and data collection  | Frequency  | FY 2020–2021 plans   |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State vital registration</li> <li>Births</li> <li>Deaths</li> <li>Fetal deaths</li> <li>Linked Birth/Infant Death Program</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birth and death rates</li> <li>Birthweight</li> <li>Teen and nonmarital births</li> <li>Pregnancy outcomes</li> <li>Method of delivery</li> <li>Preterm delivery/gestational age</li> <li>Multiple births</li> <li>Medicaid payment</li> <li>WIC receipt</li> <li>Prenatal care</li> <li>Breastfeeding</li> <li>Maternal weight and Body Mass Index</li> <li>Infant mortality</li> <li>Life expectancy</li> <li>Causes of death, including fetal causes</li> <li>Occupational mortality</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All births: About 4 million records annually</li> <li>All deaths: About 2.7 million records annually</li> <li>Reported fetal deaths of 20 or more weeks gestation: About 26,000 annually</li> <li>Counts of marriages and divorces</li> </ul> | <p>For births, deaths, and fetal deaths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office of Management and Budget (OMB) race categories* (1997)</li> <li>Education</li> </ul> <p>For births and deaths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marital status</li> <li>Primary language information not collected</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue monthly, quarterly, and annual reporting</li> <li>Assist states in automating or re-engineering their IT systems to enhance timeliness and quality of reporting</li> <li>Evaluate quality of birth data items added in 2003; evaluate potential new items for collection</li> <li>Promote e-learning training for birth certificates and fetal death reports; assess impact of training</li> <li>Promote mobile app for cause-of-death certification; complete development of and promote e-learning training for death certificates; assess impact of training</li> <li>Enhance new data access methods and reports</li> <li>Continue to enhance natality and mortality surveillance system</li> <li>Improve timeliness of vital statistics reports and data files</li> <li>Re-engineer or replace the medical coding system</li> <li>Expand cause-of-death coding to include more detailed supplemental codes for specific drugs (i.e., more detail than available in ICD–10)</li> </ul> |

### National Death Index (NDI)

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ndi.htm>

| Data source and methods   | Selected data items   | Targeted sample size   | Disparity variables and data collection | Frequency   | FY 2020–2021 plans  |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State registration areas—death certificates</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitates epidemiological follow-up studies from 1979–2019</li> <li>Verifies death for study participants for health and medical research purposes only</li> <li>Optional release of coded causes of death available to users upon request</li> <li>NCHS surveys can be linked to NDI</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All deaths</li> </ul> |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semi-annual</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue ongoing operations</li> <li>Continue to improve timeliness of data availability for matching</li> <li>Update NDI website</li> <li>Expand outreach to health and medical research community</li> <li>Pilot new funding model to improve and expand use of NDI for National Institutes of Health-funded projects</li> </ul> |

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# Provider surveys

## National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

[https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/about\\_ahcd.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/about_ahcd.htm)

| Data source and methods   | Selected data items   | Targeted sample size   | Disparity variables and data collection   | Frequency  | FY 2020–2021 plans  |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review medical records and abstract patient visit information</li> <li>Interview physicians and community health centers (CHCs) providers</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patient visit information, including demographics, vital signs, reason for visit, injury, continuity of care, diagnosis, chronic conditions, medical services, medications, and various laboratory test results</li> <li>Physician and CHC provider practice characteristics including: specialty, ownership, tests performed, and revenue</li> <li>Use of electronic medical records</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3,000 physicians in office-based practices</li> <li>104 community health centers with up to 312 community health center providers</li> <li>99,360 patient visits</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OMB race and Hispanic origin categories* (1997)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finish 2019 data collection</li> <li>Continue annual survey</li> <li>Additional content to be added to the 2020 physician and CHC interviews to collect data on the effects of COVID-19 on the provision of ambulatory care</li> </ul> |

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nehrs/about.htm>

## National Electronic Health Records Survey (formerly National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey—Electronic Health Records)

| Data source and methods   | Selected data items  | Targeted sample size  | Disparity variables and data collection                          | Frequency  | FY 2020–2021 plans   |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mixed mode (i.e., web, mail, and telephone) survey of office-based physicians</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provider characteristics</li> <li>Use of electronic medical records and features</li> <li>Specialty, practice size, and ownership</li> <li>Physician attitudes about electronic health records, barriers, benefits, and impact</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10,302 physicians in office-based practices in 50 states and Washington, DC</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None collected</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue annual survey</li> <li>Additional content to be added to the 2020 interview to collect data on the use of telemedicine during the COVID-19 pandemic</li> </ul> |

[https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/about\\_ahcd.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/about_ahcd.htm)

## National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

| Data source and methods   | Selected data items   | Targeted sample size  | Disparity variables and data collection   | Frequency  | FY 2020–2021 plans  |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review medical records for patient visit information</li> <li>Interview hospital administrators</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patient demographics and characteristics</li> <li>Length of stay in emergency department</li> <li>Diagnoses, procedures, and treatment</li> <li>Facility characteristics</li> <li>Visit volumes</li> <li>Use of electronic medical records and features</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>410 hospitals with emergency departments</li> <li>65,000 patient visits</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OMB race and Hispanic origin categories* (1997)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finish 2019 data collection</li> <li>Continue annual survey</li> <li>Collect data for emergency departments</li> <li>Additional content to be added to the 2021 emergency department interview to collect data on the effects of COVID-19 on the provision of ambulatory care</li> </ul> |

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<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhcs.htm>

**National Hospital Care Survey**  
(replaced the National Hospital Discharge Survey, last conducted in 2010)

| Data source and methods  | Selected data items   | Targeted sample size  | Disparity variables and data collection  | Frequency  | FY 2020–2021 plans  |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hospital billing (UB–04) records and electronic health records</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilization of hospital care, inpatient care, and care delivered in emergency departments</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>608 hospitals</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OMB race and Hispanic-origin categories* (1997) for EHR data collection using the Implementation Guide</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finish 2019 data collection</li> <li>Continue recruitment of hospitals and collection of data in hospitals currently recruited</li> <li>Link NDI and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) data</li> <li>Additional content to be added to the 2020 Annual Hospital Interview to collect data on the effects of COVID-19 on the provision of care, and the number of visits related to the virus</li> </ul> |

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/npals/index.htm>

**National Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Study**  
(previously known as the National Study of Long-Term Care Providers that replaced the National Nursing Home Survey, National Home and Hospice Care Survey, and National Survey of Residential Care Facilities)

| Data source and methods   | Selected data items   | Targeted sample size  | Disparity variables and data collection   | Frequency  | FY 2020–2021 plans  |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mail, web, and telephone surveys of directors of adult day care services centers and residential care communities</li> <li>CMS administrative data (claims, assessment, and certification) on nursing homes and residents, home health agencies and patients, and hospices and patients, long-term care hospitals and patients, and inpatient rehabilitation hospitals and patients</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provider geographic and operating characteristics, services, practices, and staffing</li> <li>Services user (residents, participants, and patients) characteristics, including demographics, diagnoses, cognitive and physical functioning, falls, hospital and emergency department use, advance care planning, polypharmacy, antipsychotic medications, and service use</li> <li>Rotating topic modules</li> <li>State-level estimates where feasible</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11,600 (approximate) residential care communities</li> <li>5,000 (approximate) adult day services centers</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OMB race and Hispanic-origin categories* (1997)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare for 2020 survey implementation</li> <li>Additional content to be added to the 2020 wave of the adult day services center and residential care community components to collect data on the number of COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, and deaths among services users and staff; availability of personal protective equipment and testing; use of telemedicine; visitor policies and general infection control policies</li> <li>Create in-house restricted and public-use data files for the 2018 wave</li> </ul> |

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<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>

## National Health Interview Survey

| Data source and methods   | Selected data items   | Targeted sample size   | Disparity variables and data collection  | Frequency  | FY 2020–2021 plans  |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal interviews</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chronic conditions</li> <li>Health status</li> <li>Functioning and disability</li> <li>Health insurance</li> <li>Health care access and use</li> <li>Health-related behaviors</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30,000 sample adults and 10,000 sample children</li> <li>Address-based sample design</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OMB race and Hispanic-origin categories* (1997)</li> <li>Family income</li> <li>Poverty level</li> <li>Marital status</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Birthplace</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual sustaining sponsored content on cancer control and prevention, immunizations, non-cigarette tobacco product use, food security, and insulin use</li> <li>Emerging content to address health, health care, and well-being issues regarding COVID-19</li> <li>2020 sponsored content on diabetes, asthma, prescription opioid use and pain management, and age of onset of disability</li> <li>Pilot study to test the collection of biomeasures from National Health Interview Survey respondents</li> <li>Pilot study to evaluate the feasibility of follow-up interviews with adolescents</li> </ul> |

## National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/index.htm>

| Data source and methods  | Selected data items   | Targeted sample size   | Disparity variables and data collection  | Frequency   | FY 2020–2021 plans  |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal interviews</li> <li>Physical examinations</li> <li>Laboratory tests</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selected diseases and conditions, including those undiagnosed or undetected</li> <li>Nutrition monitoring, including birth to 24 months and infant formula</li> <li>Environmental exposures monitoring</li> <li>Children's growth and development</li> <li>Infectious disease monitoring</li> <li>Overweight and diabetes</li> <li>Hypertension and cholesterol</li> <li>Health behaviors</li> <li>Oral health</li> <li>Hearing and balance</li> <li>Cognitive functioning</li> <li>Prescription drug use</li> <li>Dietary supplement use</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5,000 persons per year, all ages</li> <li>Oversample persons aged 60 and over</li> <li>Oversample black, Asian, and Hispanic persons</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OMB race and Hispanic-origin categories* (1997)</li> <li>Income and poverty index</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Occupation</li> <li>Type of living quarters</li> <li>Social services</li> <li>Birthplace</li> <li>Acculturation questions, including language usually spoken at home</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous since 1999, 2-year survey cycles</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resume data collection following survey suspension due to corona pandemic</li> <li>Evaluate the inclusion of COVID-19 components when data collection resumes</li> <li>Release data on 2-year cycles</li> <li>Maintain DNA repository</li> <li>Maintain biospecimen repository</li> <li>Infant blood collection pilot</li> </ul> |

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# Population surveys (Continued)

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm>

## National Survey of Family Growth

| Data source and methods   | Selected data items  | Targeted sample size  | Disparity variables and data collection  | Frequency  | FY 2020–2021 plans  |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal interviews</li> <li>Men and women aged 15–44 years through September 2015</li> <li>Men and women aged 15–49 years since September 2015</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contraception and sterilization</li> <li>Pregnancy and birth history</li> <li>Teenage sexual activity and pregnancy</li> <li>Family planning and services and other reproductive health care</li> <li>Unintended pregnancy</li> <li>Infertility, adoption, and breastfeeding</li> <li>Marriage, divorce, and cohabitation</li> <li>Fatherhood involvement</li> <li>HIV/STD risk behavior</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5,000 men and women aged 15–49 years per survey year</li> <li>Oversample black and Hispanic persons</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OMB race and Hispanic-origin categories* (1997)</li> <li>Family and individual income; percent of poverty level</li> <li>Sources of income</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Marital and cohabitating status</li> <li>Primary language information collection began in Fall 2011</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data collection for 2017–2019 was completed in September 2019 and public-use files will be released in late 2020</li> <li>Expect to award new contract for continued data collection to start in 2022</li> </ul> |

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/rands/index.htm>

## Research and Development Survey (RANDS)

| Data source and methods  | Selected data items   | Targeted sample size  | Disparity variables and data collection  | Frequency   | FY 2020–2021 plans   |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primarily web surveys from commercial recruited panels with telephone mode surveys with English-speaking adults aged 18 and over</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RANDS is fielded to support different methodological studies, including question-response patterns, so most content varies among rounds</li> <li>Selected chronic conditions fielded each round</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample size varies by round with target between 2,000 and 5,000 per round</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OMB race and Hispanic-origin categories* (1997)</li> <li>Income (varies by commercial vendor)</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Marital status</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As needed</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fielded RANDS during COVID in FY 20</li> <li>Release experimental estimates regarding health care access during the pandemic</li> <li>Public-use files for RANDS 1 through 3 released in June 2020, expect to release public-use files for RANDS during COVID-19 and RANDS 4 in January of 2021</li> <li>Field additional round in FY 2021</li> </ul> |

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NCHS

For more information about NCHS, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs>.