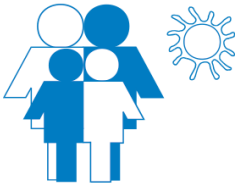








A. Adolescent Fact Sheet




B. Emancipated Youth Fact Sheet

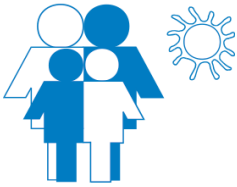


## Questions and Answers about the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being

	<b>What is the National Survey on Child and Adolescent Well-Being?</b>	This is a nationwide study of children and families who have had contact with the child welfare system. The government wants to learn about the needs of youth and to improve programs and services for youth. We are talking to 4,000 kids about this study. We will also talk to parents of youth or the person who provides the most care. This information is used to learn about the needs of children and families and about the kinds of services they use.
	<b>Why should I take part?</b>	By taking part, youth have a chance to talk about their needs and experiences from their own point of view. Youth will receive a <b>\$20</b> gift card plus a small gift of equal value for completing the survey.
	<b>Who is doing this study?</b>	The federal government sponsors the study. A research company hired by the federal government will carry out the study. The researchers are not connected with the child welfare agency.

	<b>How was I chosen?</b>	In doing this survey, we cannot talk to everyone in the country. That would cost too much and take too long. We selected a sample of children at random who have had contact with the child welfare system during the past 12 months. You may have been interviewed once before. We want to interview you again about your life experiences, health, and behaviors.
	<b>How is the study conducted?</b>	If you decide to take part, we will ask you some questions over the telephone and others you will answer on the Internet. The interview can also be conducted in person. A parent or caregiver must provide permission before any youth can take part.
	<b>How long will it take?</b>	<p>The interview will last about 45 minutes. The first part of the interview can take place over the telephone or in person. The second part of the interview will take place over the Internet.</p> <p>The interviewer will read the questions and type the answers into a computer. After you finish the survey, the interviewer will tell you how to log on and finish the rest of the survey on the Internet. If the survey is conducted in person, the interviewer can provide a laptop for you to use to complete the section over the Internet. The interview includes questions about your health, how you behave at home or school, and your relationships with family and friends. We will also ask questions about your community and risky behaviors like sexual activity and drug use. We will schedule the interview at a time that works with your schedule.</p>

	<b>Are the questions personal?</b>	Some questions may seem personal to some people. All collected information is kept private. Youth who choose to take part do not have to answer any question that they do not want to answer.
	<b>What happens to the information?</b>	We collect your survey responses using a secure computer. We send your responses to RTI through the computer in a safe and secure way. We combine answers with other interviews and report in summary form.
	<b>What about privacy?</b>	<p>We keep your responses private to the extent permitted by the law. We keep your interview answers on a secure computer labeled with an ID number. We do not identify you by name. All staff involved in this research signed a Privacy Pledge.</p> <p>Part of the study will ask you to enter responses in a secure website. We expect taking part in this study presents no greater risk than everyday use of the Internet. Please be aware that if you email information in an unsecure manner, it could be read by a third party before it reaches our secure environment.</p> <p>We have a paper from the government that promises that we do not have to give your information to anyone. This means the researchers cannot share the information they gather that may identify you. This paper prevents researchers from revealing this information even if it is ordered by a court.</p> <p>This paper does allow researchers to share information in some situations. For example, researchers must follow reporting laws about child or adult abuse. Also, as a part of agreeing to be in this study, you are giving permission for researchers to share information if it is needed to prevent serious risk to yourself or others. The agency that funds this research (ACF), is also permitted to access information to confirm that the research is being conducted properly.</p> <p>We never identify a single person in our reports. Your responses will be combined with others taking part in the study. When we write up the study to share it with other researchers, we will write about the combined information. You will not be identified in any published or presented materials.</p>



## Questions and Answers about the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being

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We invite you to take part in an important study called the *National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being* (NSCAW). Below you will find answers to some of the most common questions asked about the survey.

### **What is the National Survey on Child and Adolescent Well-Being?**

The NSCAW is the first ever nationwide study of children and families who have come in contact with the child welfare system. We designed the NSCAW to collect data directly from children and their parents or guardians. We will also collect information from caseworkers and agency records. We use this information to learn about the needs of children and families, about the kinds of services used by children and families, and about other services provided by child welfare agencies.

### **Why should I participate?**

By taking part in this survey, you have a chance to have your voice heard and to talk about your needs and experiences from your own point of view. You will receive a \$50 gift card to thank you for participating in the interview.

### **Who is doing this study?**

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services sponsors the study. ACF hired a team of researchers from RTI International (RTI), the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Washington University in St. Louis to conduct the study. None of the researchers hired by ACF are connected with the child welfare agency.

### **Who is RTI International?**

RTI is a research company located in North Carolina. RTI conducts research projects for a wide variety of clients including government agencies and private companies. Our local interviewers will contact and schedule interviews with children, families, and caseworkers.

### **How was I chosen?**

In doing this survey, we cannot talk to everyone in the country. That would cost too much and take too long. We selected a sample of children at random who came in contact with the child welfare system during a 12-month period. You are among 4,000 children taking part in this study. We want to interview you about your life experiences, health, behaviors, and transition to adulthood.

### **How is the study conducted?**

If you decide to take part, we will ask you some questions over the telephone and others you will answer privately on the Internet. The interview can also be conducted in person.

Upon completion of the interview, we will ask for your okay to keep and use in our research any information we may obtain from child welfare agency records. If you have received services since the last interview, we may also interview your caseworker.

### **Tell me more about my involvement.**

The interview will last about 45 minutes. The first part of the interview can take place over the telephone or in person. The second part of the interview will take place over the Internet.

The interviewer will read the questions and type the answers into a computer. The interviewer will tell you how to log on to a secure web site to finish the survey on the Internet. The interview includes questions about your life experiences. The questions will focus on your health, employment, relationships, social support system, behaviors, and

use of services. The interview also includes questions about the community in which you live, involvement with police and risky behaviors such as sexual activity and drug use.

With your permission, we would also like to contact your caregiver if you are currently living with or have recently lived with a caregiver. If you have lived with or have recently lived with a caregiver, we would like to interview your caregiver. Your caregiver can be interviewed by phone or in person and over the Internet.

### **Are the questions personal?**

Some questions may seem personal to some people. We keep your information private; no one else (even other household members) will know what you said during the interview. You do not have to answer any question that you do not want to answer.

### **What happens to the information?**

We collect your survey responses using a secure computer. We send the collected information to RTI through the computer in a safe and secure way. We combine your answers with other interviews and report in summary form. We do not link your name to the information you provide. We keep your name and other identifiers separate from your answers. We only use your name and other identifying information to locate you. RTI may also telephone you or send a letter to check on the quality of the interviewer's work.

### **How will you contact child welfare personnel and caregivers?**

We will ask your caseworker about the child welfare services provided to you and your family. We will ask your caseworker to refer to your service records when answering our questions.

If you live with or have lived with a parent, grandparent, or other adult who took care of you in the last three months, we ask for your okay to speak with that person. We will ask this person questions about services your family receives, family relationships and support, life experiences, and involvement with school and community activities. We will also ask them about your learning, behavior, health, and friendships.

### **What about privacy?**

We keep your responses private to the extent permitted by the law. We keep your interview answers on a secure computer labeled with an ID number. We do not identify you by name. All staff involved in this research signed a Privacy Pledge.

Part of the study will ask you to enter information in a secure website. We anticipate that your participation in this study presents no greater risk than everyday use of the Internet. Though we are taking precautions to protect your privacy, you should be aware that if you email information in an unsecure manner, it could be read by a third party before it reaches our secure environment.

The research is covered by a federal protection called a Certificate of Confidentiality. This means the researchers cannot share this information they gather that may identify you. This paper prevents researchers from revealing this information even if it is subpoenaed by a court.

However, this paper does allow researchers to share information in some situations. For example, researchers must follow reporting laws about child or adult abuse. Also, as a part of agreeing to be in this study, you are giving permission for researchers to share information in the rare circumstances that it is needed to prevent serious risk to yourself or others. In addition, the agency that funds this research (ACF), is permitted to access information to confirm that the research is being conducted properly.

We never identify a single person in our reports. Your information will be combined with information from other people taking part in the study. When we write up the study to share it with other researchers, we will write about the combined information. You will not be identified in any published or presented materials.

We will ask for your permission before we contact your caregiver. To protect privacy, we combine your answers with the answers from thousands of others taking part in the study. We report our results in percentages, averages, and other statistics.

**Where do I get more information about the study?**

If you have other questions, please call toll-free: Jennifer Keeney at RTI, 1-800-334-8571, extension 919-316-3525 or send us an email via our study email box, NSCAW@rti.org. If you have questions about your rights as a study participant, call toll-free: **RTI's Office of Human Research Protections** at 1-866-214-2043.