

Young Adult Informed Consent

National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW)

NSCAW

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) provides funding for activities that support the well-being of children and families. ACF hired RTI International (RTI), a research company in North Carolina, to conduct a national survey of children and families in the child welfare system. RTI works with researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Washington University in St. Louis to carry out the study.

SELECTION OF YOUNG ADULTS

RTI interviewers will contact young adults, like you, selected from child welfare agencies throughout the United States. We selected over 4,000 youth to take part in this study. We want to follow up with youth 36 months after the initial interview to see how things may have changed.

PURPOSE OF THIS NSCAW INTERVIEW

Your interview will take 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.

We want to interview you about your life experiences. The questions will focus on your health, employment, relationships, social support system, behaviors, and use of services. The interview will also ask questions about the community in which you live, and about things that may happen in your life like involvement with the police, and risky behaviors such as sexual activity and drug use. Your answers, combined with the answers of other youth in the study, will help us describe the needs of children and their use of available child welfare services. What we learn from this information will help policy makers make improvements to the child welfare system.

YOUR RIGHTS

You can decide to take part in the study or not. You can refuse to answer any and all questions. Taking part does not affect any benefits you may receive. You have the right to take a break or stop the interview at any time.

RISKS

Taking part in this study presents no physical risks to you. Some questions may make you feel uneasy or feel various emotions, such as sadness. We have significant protections in place to collect and store our information securely. However, there is a small risk that if someone does not follow the rules we set, someone outside the study team might see your information. We minimize this risk by transferring and storing your information and interview data using a study ID and not your name.

BENEFITS

Taking part presents no direct benefits to you for answering our questions. What we learn from you may help to improve child welfare services and programs.

FUTURE CONTACTS

To help us understand changes over time, we or other researchers may contact you in the future to update our information. You can decide to join at that time.

PRIVACY

We keep your responses private to the extent allowed 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 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.

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

However, the Certificate does allow researchers to share information in some situations. For example, researchers must follow reporting laws about child and 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 circumstance that it is needed to prevent serious risk to yourself or others. In addition, the agency that funds this research (the Administration for Children and Families) is permitted to access information to confirm that the research is being conducted properly.

In the future, information from this study may be securely shared with qualified individuals to help learn more about the experiences of children and families with the child welfare system. The information that is shared will only include a study ID number and not your name.

We never identify a single person or family 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.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please call Jennifer Keeney at RTI, 1-800-334-8571 extension 919-316-3525 (toll-free number). If you have any questions about your rights as a study participant, please call RTI's Office of Human Research Protections at 1-866-214-2043 (a toll-free number).

You will receive a \$50 gift card for taking part in the survey. If you skip some of the questions or decide to stop participating, you will still receive the \$50 gift card.

Agreement to Participate in NSCAW

Do agree to participate in the NSCAW interview?

1 = Yes, I agree to participate in the NSCAW interview.

2 = No, I do not agree to participate in the NSCAW interview.

Release of Contact Information Statement

At some point in the future, a different group of researchers may take over this study. If that happens, with your consent, we would give contact information for you to the other group.

Do you agree to have your contact information given to another research company if they start doing the study?

1 = Yes, I agree to have my contact information given to another research company if they start doing the study.

2 = No, I do not agree to have my contact information given to another research company if they start doing the study.

Audio Recordings Statement

We use a laptop quality control (QC) system for this study. The system runs on the computer. This system will make audio recordings of what you and I say to each other during the interview. Neither you nor I will know when the computer records what we say. Project staff at RTI will listen to the recordings only to review my work.

The recordings are securely stored on my computer and transmitted back to RTI within 12 hours after this interview. They are stored on secure computers and only members of the project team can review them. The recordings will be destroyed at the end of the study after data have been cleaned and analyzed.

Do we have your permission to run this system during the interview?

1 = Yes, I agree to have parts of the interview recorded by the computer.

2 = No, I do not agree to have parts of the interview recorded by the computer.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB number and expiration date for this collection are OMB #: 0970-0202, Exp: 08/31/2026. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Dr. Melissa Dolan; 230 W. Monroe Street, Suite 2100 Chicago, IL 60606.

The Federal Government has issued a Certificate of Confidentiality (authorized by the Public Health Service Act Section 301(d), 42 U.S.C Section 241 (d), 1988) to the researchers who are conducting this study which authorizes us to protect the privacy of individuals who participate.