

FROM THE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

Within the next few weeks, your household will be called to take part in an important national study being conducted by the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**. This study provides important information for measuring the progress of vaccination for young children and adults age 50 and older, as well as other preventative health issues concerning adults.

Childhood immunization rates are at an all-time high of 78%, but many children have not received all of their immunizations. The Department of Health and Human Services is committed to improving immunization services and reducing the costs of vaccines. Local, state, and federal health authorities depend on the results of this study to measure the progress of immunization for the country.

The results of this study also help local, state, and federal health authorities understand how to improve health care services for children and older adults. Therefore, some households may be asked questions about the types of health and related services they need or use.

You may call Jim Murphy at the study's toll-free telephone number (1-800-247-1970) to participate immediately or to obtain more information about the study's background and content. You may also visit the study's web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/nis> for more information. If you have a child between 18 and 35 months of age, please take a moment to locate the child's immunization records. They will help you during the interview.

We are relying on your help to make this study a success. Although participation is completely voluntary and there is no penalty for not answering any question, we hope you will agree to participate. The information we are gathering will help shape health care policy in the years ahead.

If you would like to learn more about your rights as a respondent, please call the office of the Institutional Review Board at the National Center for Health Statistics, toll-free, at 1-800-223-8118. Please leave a brief message with your name and phone number. Say that you are calling about Protocol #2000-17. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Your telephone number was selected at random using scientific methods, and your address was obtained through commercial listings. When the interviewer calls, you will be asked a few questions to determine whether or not your household is eligible for participation in this study.

This study is authorized by the Public Health Service Act, and by law, information you provide during the interview will be kept strictly confidential. The information reported in this survey will be summarized for research purposes only.

We appreciate your taking the time to talk to us. Thank you for your assistance.