

The Oregon Health Insurance Survey Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Oregon Health Insurance Survey?

The Oregon Health Insurance Survey is an important study of Oregonians' health care and insurance. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) manages the study. Researchers have randomly chosen your household to participate.

Why should I spend my time doing this?

Your survey responses, combined with input from thousands of other people, will form a thorough and accurate view of Oregonians' health care and insurance needs and choices. The combined information can help improve health care for everyone in Oregon.

Who directs the Oregon Health Insurance Survey?

The Oregon Health Authority directs the survey. We partner with Market Decisions Research (MDR) and a subcontractor to interview participants. The Oregon Health Authority is a state agency that oversees the Oregon Health Plan, Healthy Kids and other statewide health programs.

Who is MDR?

The Oregon Health Authority is partnering with a survey research firm, Market Decisions Research (MDR), to interview Oregon Health Insurance Survey participants. MDR has done similar studies in several states. Their professional interviewers respect people's time and confidentiality. MDR's subcontractor, M. Davis and Company, helps with interviews.

What kinds of questions will you ask me?

The survey includes questions about your and your family's health status, health care and public or private health insurance. We want to know what services you need and your experiences in getting them. We also ask your age, gender, race or ethnicity, education, employment status and income. This information helps ensure interviews accurately represent all Oregon residents. All your answers are private; they will not link to your name, phone number or address.

How will OHA use the study results?

OHA will use the study results to measure how many people in Oregon have health insurance; how easy it is to get health care; and the types of health care people need. Policymakers will use this information to help guide Oregon's health care system.

I'm concerned about the state government having information about me that I consider private. How will OHA handle my personal information?

The interview is confidential. That means your name, telephone number and all other personal information are private; researchers will never link you to your answers.

OHA's survey research partner, MDR, collects the information and then removes all identifying information before sending the data summaries to OHA. OHA researchers will not identify any survey participant before analyzing or sharing any study outcomes. OHA will not use your personal information or your answers to survey questions for any marketing or administrative purposes.

Where did you get my name and phone number?

Researchers randomly selected your household from phone numbers in Oregon. To reach Oregon residents by phone, we obtained landline and cellular phone numbers from public telephone directories and commercial phone lists. We legally obtained all phone numbers.

Who will researchers interview?

The study will reach people in more than 8,000 Oregon households from various backgrounds. We hope to reach a wide variety of people to get a balanced picture of all Oregon residents. We hope the households we contact will participate in the study.

I have a friend who would like to participate in the study.

Can my friend answer the survey questions?

Possibly.

We use a random selection of phone numbers to ensure we have information from all groups of people who live in Oregon. Your friend may be on this list, but there is no guarantee. If your friend strongly wants to participate, he or she should contact MDR through this website: www.orhealthsurvey.com.

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact the Oregon Health Authority Director's Office at 503-947-2340 or OHA.DirectorsOffice@dhsola.state.or.us. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.