THE NATIONAL FOOD STUDY

Protecting your identity

Federal law protects your identity and the information you give us

We depend on your cooperation and trust, and promise to protect the confidentiality of your information. The information you and your household provide will be used for statistical purposes only, in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107–347 and other applicable Federal laws, your responses will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed in identifiable form to anyone other than employees of Mathematica Policy Research.

It is against the law to disclose or publish any of the following information:

- Names
- Addresses, including GPS coordinates
- Telephone numbers

Sworn for life to protect your confidentiality

All employees of Mathematica Policy Research take an oath to safeguard your information and keep it private. Employees are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data.

Federal employees are not allowed to reveal information either. USDA will receive data collected by the National Food Study but will not receive any information that identifies the people who participate in the study.

Violating the oath is a serious crime. By law, every USDA employee, as well as every employee of Mathematica Policy Research—field representatives, telephone interviewers, and authorized researchers—has taken an oath and is subject to a jail term of up to 5 years, a fine of up to $250,000, or both if he or she willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about you or your household.