



Questions & Answers

for the 2012 Interviews

PORTRAITS OF AMERICAN LIFE STUDY

Thank you. We sincerely appreciate your participation in the Portraits of American Life Study (PALS) six years ago in 2006. We are pleased to continue the research, and we would very much like to talk with you again. In this brochure you will find answers to the most common questions that are asked about the study.

Q. What is the Portraits of American Life Study (PALS)?

A. The purpose of this study is to provide researchers with the nation's only on-going survey that covers a variety of areas of social life. The PALS seeks to understand the changes and continuities for both individuals and families over the course of their lives and across generations.

In order to do this, we are contacting all of the same participants from the 2006 interviews. We will be measuring what has changed and what has stayed the same since the last time we talked.

Q. Who sponsors this study?

A. The PALS is being conducted by Rice University and the University of Notre Dame in collaboration with Abt SRBI and is funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc.

Q. How is the survey administered?

A. Participation in this study is voluntary. Details on how to participate are in the letter mailed with this brochure. The survey takes about an hour to complete, and we know your time is valuable. In appreciation for sharing your time, we will mail a gift card when the interview is completed.

Q. What types of questions will be asked?

A. The survey contains questions about your social activities, religious identification, race and ethnicity, and friendships. You will also be asked some general questions about yourself and about your health.

Q. Will the responses of participants be kept confidential?

A. Yes. All information provided will be used for research purposes only. The answers you provide are compiled with the responses from other participants and reported to the general public in statistical form. Answers will not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose, unless otherwise required by law.

Q. How is the information from the survey used?

A. The information gathered in the study will be used to better understand what life is like for people in the United States. Data will enable researchers to study a variety of areas of social life and carefully measure beliefs and practices. Because it is to be of use for so many researchers with different interests, the survey covers a wide range of topics.

Q. Why should I participate again?

A. Your opinions count! You represent other Americans who were not selected to participate. Without your participation, you and the thousands of other Americans like you will not be heard. Furthermore, we are trying to understand what changes and what stays the same in people's lives. Only you and the select 2,600 persons who completed the first interview six years ago can help us by participating again. Without you, our picture of change and continuity will not be complete. The goal of this research is to help improve the lives and communities of people in the United States.

Q. What is Abt SRBI?

A. Abt SRBI, a private research organization located in New York with offices around the country, is one of the most respected research firms in the nation. Abt SRBI will administer the survey.

Q. Will other members of my family be interviewed?

A. For these interviews, we will not ask questions directly of your spouse or partner. But to understand Americans across generations, we would like to interview family members that are ages 20-22 years old and were living in your household in 2006. If you have family members that qualify, we will ask you for information to assist us in contacting them. Their participation is also voluntary, and they will receive a gift card in appreciation of their time.

Q. What if I have other questions?

A. Feel free to reach us by calling or sending an email. The contact information is on the next panel of this brochure.

For interview-related questions:

PALS / Abt SRBI Phone

1-888-738-6626
(use project code 5300)

PALS@srbi.com

Abt SRBI
Office of Human Research
Protection
312-529-9703

For questions about the PALS study
or changes to your contact information:

PALS Hotline

1-866-888-PALS (7257)
pals@rice.edu

Visit our website:
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