



February 5, 2021

Dear Health Center Director and Medical Director:

You have been invited by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) to participate in the 2021 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). These data are very important for providing insight on the patient experience and a better understanding of care provided at health centers. I am writing to encourage your participation in this important effort that will help health care providers and professionals deliver quality and effective health care services, inform essential medical and health education, and support the public health community in better understanding the patterns of diseases and health conditions in the underserved and vulnerable populations that you serve.

The NAMCS collects clinical visit data from both physician offices and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). These data are the sole source of nationally-representative visit-level data on ambulatory health services provided in FQHCs. NAMCS data are critical for informing health care policies and actions in response to emerging public health needs. Historically, the NAMCS has focused on private, office-based physician input. For this particular data collection, the NAMCS instrument has been specifically designed for health centers as part of a collaboration between the Health Resources and Services Administration's Bureau of Primary Health Care and the CDC/NCHS.

Analyses and findings from this survey will provide invaluable data on health center patients and the vital role of the breadth of services health centers provide. Data will be confidential and their use limited, with any data made public being aggregated to maintain confidentiality.

Thank you for all that you do for the Health Center Program. I hope you consider participating in this important effort that will further support the Health Center Program and the communities you serve.

Sincerely,

James Macrae
Associate Administrator