

## [National Household Education Surveys Program: Credentials for Work Survey and Training for Work Survey](#)

**Organization:** National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), U.S. Department of Education. “The National Center for Education Statistics is the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education.”<sup>1</sup>

**Purpose and Uses:** The National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), housed within NCES and conducted approximately every other year since 1991, provides descriptive data on the educational activities of the U.S. population and offers researchers, educators, and policymakers a variety of statistics on the condition of education in the United States.

In the coming years, NHES plans to carry out two new quadrennial surveys of adults. The Credentials for Work Survey (CWS) and the Training for Work Survey (TWS) will collect information on the prevalence and characteristics of certifications, licenses, certificates, and apprenticeships and other forms of non-degree work credentials.

**Data Elements Relevant to Postsecondary Education and Workforce Development:** The CWS and TWS will provide information regarding:

- Industry-recognized certifications
- State and local government-issued licenses
- Sub-baccalaureate educational certificates
- Noncredit instruction
- Apprenticeships
- Internships
- Other non-degree work credentials

**History and Status:** The CWS and TWS were developed through the NCES-led Interagency Working Group on Expanded Measures of Enrollment and Attainment ([GEMEnA](#)). The concepts and instruments were refined through a series of pilot tests.

GEMEnA works to develop and validate national measures of the participation in and credentialing of education and training for work, and to build government-wide consensus for the adoption of these measures in key federal data collections. More specifically, GEMEnA is engaged in a rigorous process of survey item development to validate core items on 1) the attainment of non-degree credentials, including industry-recognized certifications, occupational licenses, and educational certificates, and 2) enrollment in education and training, outside of traditional credit-bearing college coursework, that prepares people for work.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> National Center for Education Statistics, [website](#).

<sup>2</sup> Interagency Working Group on Expanded Measures of Enrollment and Attainment, [website](#).

NCES proposes to conduct the CWS in 2015 and every four years thereafter; a pilot TWS in 2015; and the TWS in 2017 and every four years thereafter. The OMB decision on the 2015 NHES is pending.

**Methodology:** The target population for the CWS and TWS is adults ages 16-65 not enrolled in grade 12 or below. In 2015, 200,000 households in the U.S. will be contacted to determine eligibility to participate in the CWS or the TWS. A total of about 78,000 households will be invited to participate in the CWS or TWS. NCES expects a 70 percent response rate, which would give it 46,100 completed CWS interviews and 11,200 completed TWS interviews.<sup>3</sup>

**Data Products and Tools:** Once the new CWS and TWS are completed, data products will be available on the NCES website.

**Annual Cost:** The estimated cost of the 2015 NHES is \$7.2 million over 20 months.<sup>4</sup> This includes, but is not limited to, the CWS and TWS.

---

<sup>3</sup> NCES, [“NHES: 2015 Full-scale Data Collection Request for OMB Review OMB# 1850-0768 v.10 Part B,”](#) July 8, 2014, pp. 1-4.

<sup>4</sup> NCES, [“NHES: 2015 Full-scale Data Collection Request for OMB Review OMB# 1850-0768 v.10 Part A,”](#) July 8, 2014, p. 16.