

An Email Dated Oct 12, 2016

Dear Dale:

Thank you for your e-mail to the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) asking about the exclusion of prayer from our most recent statistical reports on the use of complementary health in the United States, which are based on data from the 2007 and 2012 U.S. National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).

Prayer was not included in the definition of complementary health used for the analyses of the 2007 and 2012 NHIS data. We based our definition of a complementary health approach for these analyses on the taxonomy system developed by Kaptchuk and Eisenberg. You will find a more detailed explanation of the reasons that prayer was not included on page 2 of the full 2007 report, "Complementary and Alternative Medicine Use Among Adults and Children: United States, 2007" (at [nccih.nih.gov/sites/nccam.nih.gov/files/news/nhsr12.pdf](http://nccih.nih.gov/sites/nccam.nih.gov/files/news/nhsr12.pdf)).

However, the NHIS data sets include data on prayer. You can access the NHIS raw data on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics Web site at [cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/data-questionnaires-documentation.htm](http://cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/data-questionnaires-documentation.htm).

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Terry Evans  
NCCIH Clearinghouse  
P.O. Box 7923  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20898-7923  
Toll-free in the U.S.: 1-888-644-6226  
TTY (for deaf and hard-of-hearing callers):  
1-866-464-3615  
Fax: 1-866-464-3616