



President Obama signs the Affordable Care Act into law on March 22, 2010. (PHOTO: THE OFFICE OF HARRY REID (<http://www.reid.senate.gov/issues/healthcare.cfm>))

How Well Do You Understand the Affordable Care Act? Take Our Quiz!

BY Joel Smith (<http://www.psmag.com/author/joel-smith/>) · November 02, 2012 · 9:48 AM

“Obamacare” is one of the most divisive issues of the presidential election. But a new Stanford survey suggests that nobody really even understands it. What about you?

It is one of the Obama administration’s biggest accomplishments, one of Republicans’ biggest targets, and the first thing that Mitt Romney says he’ll undo if he becomes president. Given the emotions around the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/111/hr3590>), then, you’d think that people must have really picked it apart and made up their minds about it, right?

Not the case.

According to a new survey by Stanford University (<http://comm.stanford.edu/faculty/krosnick/docs/2012/Health%20Care%202012%20-%20Knowledge%20and%20Favorability.pdf>) (pdf), hardly any Americans really understand what’s in the contentious, 900-page law, which was passed by Congress in 2010 with a single Republican vote.

For the survey, Jon Krosnick, a Stanford professor of communications and political science (along with the Associated Press and survey research firm GfK), polled about 2,500 Americans in 2010 and 2012. People were shown 18 claims about the new law and asked their level of certainty about whether the claims were true, or not.

“We found nobody, literally nobody in the country, who answered all the quiz questions correctly,” wrote Krosnick, in a press release.

In fact, Krosnick found that only 14 percent of respondents answered a majority of the questions correctly with a high degree of certainty.

Obviously that points to a poor understanding of the most enormous piece of legislation in years, but the data shows us some other interesting information, too.

Krosnick found that the better a respondent fared on the quiz—that is, the better they understood what actually was and wasn’t in the health care bill—the more likely they were to support it.

“If the public had perfect understanding of the elements that we examined,” Krosnick predicted, “the proportion of Americans who favor the bill might increase from the current level of 32% to 70%.”

The study also showed:

- Understanding of the parts of the legislation varied with party identification: Democrats understood the most, independents less, and Republicans still less.
- Older and more educated people scored higher than younger and less educated people.
- Understanding of the new law didn’t grow much between the 2010 and 2012 surveys.

SO HOW WELL DO YOU UNDERSTAND the health care bill? We took Krosnick’s 18 questions and created the following quiz to find out.

A disclaimer: Though we used the exact wording of the Stanford survey, we had to simplify things a little. Most notably, we’re not asking you to indicate a level of certainty about your response. Just indicate whether you think that each element provided is in the Affordable Care Act or not.

And when you’re done, let us know how you did (and what you think of the bill) over at our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/PacificStand>).

Good luck!

[mtouchquiz 2]



[The Rise of Extreme Daycare \(http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/rise-extreme-daycare-working-24-hour-children-school-93860/\)](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/rise-extreme-daycare-working-24-hour-children-school-93860/)

[The Most Dangerous Idea in Mental Health \(http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/dangerous-idea-mental-health-93325/\)](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/dangerous-idea-mental-health-93325/)

[We Are All Confident Idiots \(http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/confident-idiot-92793/\)](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/confident-idiot-92793/)

[MORE POSTS](http://www.psmag.com/category/magazines/november-december-2014/) • [ARCHIVE](http://www.psmag.com/magazine/) • [\(HTTP://WWW.PSMAG.COM/MAGAZINE/\)](http://www.psmag.com/magazine/)



[SUBSCRIBE](https://www.pubservice.com/mmc/subnew.aspx?pc-mm) • [HTTPS://WWW.PUBSERVICE.COM/MMC/SUBNEW.ASPX?PC-MM](https://www.pubservice.com/mmc/subnew.aspx?pc-mm)

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

email address

A weekly roundup of the best of *Pacific Standard* and Psmag.com, delivered straight to your inbox.

RECENT POSTS



[\(http://www.psmag.com/navigation/politics-and-law/losing-the-invisible-primary-nominations-election-cycle-season-96465/\)](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/politics-and-law/losing-the-invisible-primary-nominations-election-cycle-season-96465/)

[\(http://www.psmag.com/navigation/politics-and-law/losing-the-invisible-primary-nominations-election-cycle-season-96465/\)](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/politics-and-law/losing-the-invisible-primary-nominations-election-cycle-season-96465/)

And this is the most exciting part.

December 15 • 10:00 AM
The 2016 Presidential Race Has Already Started



[\(http://www.psmag.com/navigation/nature-and-technology/second-life-old-apple-ipods-music-96403/\)](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/nature-and-technology/second-life-old-apple-ipods-music-96403/)

ipods-music-96403/
again?

December 15 • 8:00 AM
The Second Life of Old iPods (http://www.psmag.com/navigation/nature-and-technology/second-life-old-apple-ipods-music-96403/)
Why is it that old iPods are suddenly cool—and pricey



[\(http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/lifelong-consequences-rape-96056/\)](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/lifelong-consequences-rape-96056/)

the shame our culture insists on perpetuating.

December 15 • 6:00 AM
The Lifelong Consequences of Rape (http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/lifelong-consequences-rape-96056/)
The long-term psychological and physical effects of the experience are devastating. And they're likely exacerbated by



[\(http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/mating-mindset-interferes-attempts-stop-smoking-96457/\)](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/mating-mindset-interferes-attempts-stop-smoking-96457/)

[\(http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/mating-mindset-interferes-attempts-stop-smoking-96457/\)](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/mating-mindset-interferes-attempts-stop-smoking-96457/)
Taiwanese researchers find photos of attractive women put men in an immediate-gratification state of mind.

December 15 • 4:00 AM
Mating Mindset Interferes With Attempts to Stop Smoking



[\(http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/innovation-thrives-richard-florida-ethnicity-place-migration-talent-95973/\)](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/innovation-thrives-richard-florida-ethnicity-place-migration-talent-95973/)

[\(http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/innovation-thrives-richard-florida-ethnicity-place-migration-talent-95973/\)](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/innovation-thrives-richard-florida-ethnicity-place-migration-talent-95973/)

Innovation does not require an urban area or a suburban area—it can happen in the city or in a small town. What it requires is open knowledge networks and the movement of people from different places.

December 15 • 2:00 AM
Where Innovation Thrives



[\(http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/damage-done-can-distance-mother-daughter-best-solution-96470/\)](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/damage-done-can-distance-mother-daughter-best-solution-96470/)

[\(http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/damage-done-can-distance-mother-daughter-best-solution-96470/\)](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/damage-done-can-distance-mother-daughter-best-solution-96470/)

"The devastation kept me away, but the guilt kept bringing me back, ready for another round."

December 13 • 9:18 AM
The Damage Done: Can Distance Between a Mother and Daughter Be the Best Solution?



[\(http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/red-cross-serially-misleading-donors-dollars-going-95980/\)](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/red-cross-serially-misleading-donors-dollars-going-95980/)

[\(http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/red-cross-serially-misleading-donors-dollars-going-95980/\)](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/red-cross-serially-misleading-donors-dollars-going-95980/)

The charity has become closely associated with one remarkable number in recent years: 91. That's the percentage of donor dollars that goes toward services, according to organization leaders. But it's unclear where that number comes from.

December 12 • 4:00 PM
The Red Cross Has Been Serially Misleading About Where Donors' Dollars Are Going



[\(http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/its-time-to-reclaim-the-word-recovery-addiction-treatment-12-step-programs-96037/\)](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/its-time-to-reclaim-the-word-recovery-addiction-treatment-12-step-programs-96037/)

[\(http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/its-time-to-reclaim-the-word-recovery-addiction-treatment-12-step-programs-96037/\)](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/its-time-to-reclaim-the-word-recovery-addiction-treatment-12-step-programs-96037/)

It's empowering to say publicly that you are in recovery from addiction. But for some, recovery is a members-only club for people who are totally abstinent. That leaves most of us out in the cold.

December 12 • 2:00 PM
It's Time to Reclaim the Word 'Recovery'



December 12 • 12:00 PM
We Are Not Darren Wilson



(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/books-and-culture/darren-wilson-ferguson-eric-garner-protests-international-africa-96399/>)

garner-protests-international-africa-96399/)

(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/books-and-culture/darren-wilson-ferguson-eric-garner-protests-international-africa-96399/>)

But the view from Africa kind of makes it look like we are.



(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/politics-and-law/cia-america-built-torture-remember-senate-intelligence-committee-report-96398/>)

remember-senate-intelligence-committee-report-96398/)

(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/politics-and-law/cia-america-built-torture-remember-senate-intelligence-committee-report-96398/>)

The people arguing that torture contradicts our country's historical virtues are dead wrong.

December 12 • 10:00 AM

America Is Built on Torture, Remember?



(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/scientists-hate-journals-academic-publishing-96426/>)

academic-publishing-96426/)

(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/scientists-hate-journals-academic-publishing-96426/>)

The publishers seem to care more about their image and financial bottom line than their core scientific functions.

December 12 • 8:00 AM

Why Scientists Hate Their Journals



(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/word-caution-holiday-deal-makers-96353/>)

makers-96353/)

bargain-hunting prowess—can have negative effects on a company's net earnings.

December 12 • 7:15 AM

A Word of Caution to the Holiday Deal-Makers
(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/word-caution-holiday-deal-makers-96353/>)

Repeat customers—with higher return rates and real



(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/case-allowing-homeless-drink-alcohol-recovery-supportive-housing-96061/>)

drink-alcohol-recovery-supportive-housing-96061/)

(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/case-allowing-homeless-drink-alcohol-recovery-supportive-housing-96061/>)

Alcohol consumption inside a supportive housing unit can actually make the road to recovery easier. And that means huge taxpayer savings on arrests, hospitalizations, and welfare.

December 12 • 6:00 AM

The Case for Allowing the Homeless to Drink



(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/crowdfunding-works-science-96336/>)

science-96336/)

December 12 • 4:14 AM

Crowdfunding Works for Science
(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/crowdfunding-works-science-96336/>)

Scientists just need to put forth some effort.



(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/politics-and-law/a-leak-at-the-federal-reserve-confidential-bond-buying-ben-bernanke-95981/>)

confidential-bond-buying-ben-bernanke-95981/)

(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/politics-and-law/a-leak-at-the-federal-reserve-confidential-bond-buying-ben-bernanke-95981/>)

Ben Bernanke ordered an internal review of a previously undisclosed leak that found its way into a newsletter for big investors, revealing confidential bond-buying details.

December 11 • 4:00 PM

A Leak at the Federal Reserve



(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/politics-and-law/right-left-wingers-physically-active-centrists-politics-exercise-extreme-96362/>)

active-centrists-politics-exercise-extreme-96362/)

(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/politics-and-law/right-left-wingers-physically-active-centrists-politics-exercise-extreme-96362/>)

New research from Europe finds those on the political extremes spend more time exercising than those in the middle.

December 11 • 3:30 PM

Right- and Left-Wingers More Physically Active Than Centrists



(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/fear-opioids-leaves-world-pain-96038/>)

pain-96038/)

the medication that could relieve their suffering. The international drug control system is to blame.

December 11 • 2:00 PM

Our Fear of Opioids Leaves the World in Pain
(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/fear-opioids-leaves-world-pain-96038/>)

Millions of people worldwide endure traumatic injuries or deaths from cancer, AIDS, and, now, Ebola without access to



(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/brief-conversation-can-change-minds-gay-marriage-96291/>)

change-minds-gay-marriage-96291/)

(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/brief-conversation-can-change-minds-gay-marriage-96291/>)

New research finds speaking with an openly gay canvasser about the issue can produce a lasting shift in views.

December 11 • 11:00 AM

Brief Conversation Can Change Minds on Gay Marriage



(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/nature-and-technology/makes-smart-web-editor-owen-thomas-readwrite-say-media-tempest-96156/>)

owen-thomas-readwrite-say-media-tempest-96156/)

(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/nature-and-technology/makes-smart-web-editor-owen-thomas-readwrite-say-media-tempest-96156/>)

Noah Davis talks to Owen Thomas about late nights on his old high school literary magazine, early HTML, and his editorial philosophy.

December 11 • 10:00 AM

What Makes You So Smart, Web Editor?



(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/books-and-culture/cracking-code-james-hampton-private-language-96278/>)

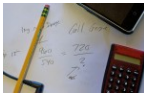
hamptons-private-language-96278/)

December 11 • 8:00 AM

Cracking the Code of James Hampton's Private Language

(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/books-and-culture/cracking-code-james-hamptons-private-language-96278/>)

For years, scholars have been searching for meaning in the artist's preparation for the Second Coming of Christ. Perhaps the real purpose of the shrine lies not in his cryptic notes, but in our own sense of astonishment.



(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/theres-one-way-good-math-96228/>)

December 11 • 7:14 AM

There's More Than One Way to Be Good at Math
(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/theres-one-way-good-math-96228/>)

Mathematical ability isn't one single skill set; there are indeed many ways to be "good at math," research shows.



(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/books-and-culture/neuroscience-altruism-donald-pfaff-brain-morality-96067/>)

December 11 • 6:00 AM

The Neuroscience of Altruism

(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/books-and-culture/neuroscience-altruism-donald-pfaff-brain-morality-96067/>)

In *The Altruistic Brain*, neurobiologist Donald Pfaff makes the case that humans are hard-wired for good. But, Noah Berlatsky argues, that good is frequently defined and distorted by culture.



(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/the-cost-of-juvenile-incarceration-96258/>)

December 11 • 4:00 AM

The Cost of Juvenile Incarceration
(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/the-cost-of-juvenile-incarceration-96258/>)

States pay hundreds of thousands of dollars every year to

keep each juvenile offender behind bars. A new report calculates that long-term costs of incarceration could add up to \$21 billion annually.



(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/schools-pin-kids-say-never-happened-95979/>)

December 10 • 4:00 PM

Schools Pin Down Kids and Then Say It Never Happened
(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/schools-pin-kids-say-never-happened-95979/>)

All school districts in the country are required to tell the federal government how many times kids have been restrained in their schools. But some districts aren't following through.



(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/diy-drugs-digital-future-getting-high-96039/>)

December 10 • 2:00 PM

DIY Drugs and the Digital Future of Getting High
(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/diy-drugs-digital-future-getting-high-96039/>)

Journalist Mike Power broke the story of the drug revolution that the rest of the media largely ignores—he even created a drug of his own to prove it. He tells us how legal highs and the Internet are transforming use and challenging policy.

MORE RECENT POSTS ↓

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

FOLLOW US

(<http://www.facebook.com/PacificStand>) (<http://www.twitter.com/PacificStand>) (<http://www.psmag.com/feed/atom/>)

Search

LATEST PRINT ISSUE

16. Nov/Dec 2014

The Rise of Extreme Daycare
(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/rise-extreme-daycare-working-24-hour-children-school-93860/>)

The Most Dangerous Idea in Mental Health
(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/dangerous-idea-mental-health-93325/>)

We Are All Confident Idiots
(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/confident-idiots-92793/>)

MORE POSTS ▶

([HTTP://WWW.PSMAG.COM/CATEGORY/MAGAZINES/NOVEMBER-](http://www.psmag.com/category/magazines/november-december-2014/)

[DECEMBER-2014/](#)) [ARCHIVE](#) ▶

([HTTP://WWW.PSMAG.COM/MAGAZINE/](http://www.psmag.com/magazine/))



SUBSCRIBE ▶

([HTTPS://WWW.PUBSERVICE.COM/MMC/SUBNEW.ASPX?](https://www.pubservice.com/mmc/subnew.aspx?PC-MM)
PC-MM)

COLUMNISTS



(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/politics-and-law/losing-the-invisible-primary-nominations-election-cycle-season-96465/>)

SETH MASKET:

The 2016 Presidential Race Has Already Started [<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/politics-and-law/losing-the-invisible-primary-nominations-election-cycle-season-96465/>]



(<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/mating-mindset-interferes-attempts-stop-smoking-96457/>)

TOM JACOBS:
Mating Mindset Interferes With Attempts to Stop Smoking [<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/mating-mindset-interferes-attempts-stop-smoking-96457/>]



([http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/innovation-thrives-richard-florida-ethnicity-place-migration-talent-95973/)

[economics/innovation-thrives-richard-florida-ethnicity-place-migration-talent-95973/](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/innovation-thrives-richard-florida-ethnicity-place-migration-talent-95973/))

JIM RUSSELL:
Where Innovation Thrives [<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/innovation-thrives-richard-florida-ethnicity-place-migration-talent-95973/>]



([http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/scientists-hate-journals-academic-publishing-96426/)

[economics/scientists-hate-journals-academic-publishing-96426/](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/scientists-hate-journals-academic-publishing-96426/))

MICHAEL WHITE:
Why Scientists Hate Their Journals [<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/scientists-hate-journals-academic-publishing-96426/>]



([http://www.psmag.com/navigation/nature-](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/nature-and-technology/makes-smart-web-editor-owen-thomas-readwrite-say-media-tempest-96156/)

[and-technology/makes-smart-web-editor-owen-thomas-readwrite-say-media-tempest-96156/](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/nature-and-technology/makes-smart-web-editor-owen-thomas-readwrite-say-media-tempest-96156/))

NOAH DAVIS:
What Makes You So Smart, Web Editor? [<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/nature-and-technology/makes-smart-web-editor-owen-thomas-readwrite-say-media-tempest-96156/>]



([http://www.psmag.com/navigation/books-](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/books-and-culture/cracking-code-james-hamptons-private-language-96278/)

[and-culture/cracking-code-james-hamptons-private-language-96278/](http://www.psmag.com/navigation/books-and-culture/cracking-code-james-hamptons-private-language-96278/))

CASEY N. CEP:
Cracking the Code of James Hampton's Private Language [<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/books-and-culture/cracking-code-james-hamptons-private-language-96278/>]

[MORE RECENT COLUMNS ↓](#)

QUICK STUDIES ([HTTP://WWW.PSMAG.COM/CATEGORY/QUICK-STUDIES/](http://www.psmag.com/category/quick-studies/))

A Word of Caution to the Holiday Deal-Makers (<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/word-caution-holiday-deal-makers-96353/>)

Repeat customers—with higher return rates and real bargain-hunting prowess—can have negative effects on a company's net earnings.

Crowdfunding Works for Science (<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/crowdfunding-works-science-96336/>)

Scientists just need to put forth some effort.

There's More Than One Way to Be Good at Math (<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/theres-one-way-good-math-96228/>)

Mathematical ability isn't one single skill set; there are indeed many ways to be "good at math," research shows.

Attention Office Jerks: Back Off! (<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/business-economics/attention-office-jerks-back-off-96199/>)

We tolerate jerks in the workplace because we value their creativity. Maybe it's time we stopped.

Yes, Mom and Dad, I Lied Sometimes—But That's All Your Fault (<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/yes-mom-dad-lied-sometimes-thats-fault-96139/>)

A new study finds that punishment can actually make our kids lie more.

MORE QUICK STUDIES ↓

THE BIG ONE

One in two United States senators and **two in five** House members who left office **between 1998 and 2004** became lobbyists. *November/December 2014*



[<http://d1435t697bgj2a.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/big-one-novdec-05.jpg>]

MOST POPULAR POSTS

- 1 How to Beat a Polygraph** (<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/politics-and-law/beat-polygraph-doug-williams-law-enforcement-crime-policing-evidence-court-95274/>)
- 2 Mindfulness Short-Circuits Reflexive Racial Bias** (<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/meditation-mindfulness-short-circuits-reflexive-racial-bias-95713/>)
- 3 We Are All Confident Idiots** (<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/confident-idiots-92793/>)
- 4 The Answer to Implicit Racism Might Be in Children's Literature** (<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/books-and-culture/answer-implicit-racism-might-childrens-literature-95094/>)
- 5 Facts? We Don't Need No Stinking Facts!** (<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/opinions-dont-need-no-stinking-facts-contradict-beliefs-assertions-95759/>)
- 6 Why Women Aren't Welcome on the Internet** (<http://www.psmag.com/navigation/technology/why-women-arent-welcome-on-the-internet-72700/>)

[\(HTTP://WWW.PSMAG.COM/FOUNDER/\)](http://www.psmag.com/founder/) | [CONTACT US \(HTTP://WWW.PSMAG.COM/CONTACT-US/\)](http://www.psmag.com/contact-us/) | [WRITE FOR US \(HTTP://WWW.PSMAG.COM/WRITE-US/\)](http://www.psmag.com/write-us/) | [ADVERTISE \(HTTP://WWW.PSMAG.COM/ADVERTISE/\)](http://www.psmag.com/advertise/) | [PRIVACY & TERMS \(HTTP://WWW.PSMAG.COM/PRIVACY-STATEMENT/\)](http://www.psmag.com/privacy-statement/)