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DEPT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS



November 3, 2023

# NOTICE OF DATA INCIDENT

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>

<<City>> <<State>> <<Zip>>

<<Address1>> <<Address2>>

<<Country>>

Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>:

Westat, Inc. ("Westat" or "We") conducts data collection and related activities in support of the Drug Abuse Warning Network ("DAWN"). DAWN is a public health surveillance system that collects data on drug-related emergency department visits (<a href="https://www.samhsa.gov/data/data-we-collect/dawn-drug-abuse-warning-network">https://www.samhsa.gov/data/data-we-collect/dawn-drug-abuse-warning-network</a>). <a href="https://www.samhsa.gov/data/data-we-collect/dawn-drug-abuse-warning-network">https://www.samhsa.gov/data/data-we-c

What Happened? Westat uses a tool called MOVEit Transfer ("MOVEit") to manage DAWN data. MOVEit recently discovered a flaw within the tool. On May 30, 2023, Westat learned that the MOVEit flaw impacted our systems. We took steps to shut down the MOVEit tool. We also began an investigation to understand what DAWN data was exposed.

We learned that your data was copied or taken without permission. This happened between May 28 and May 29, 2023. After learning this, Westat reported this discovery to << Covered Entity>>> from whom it received your information and is now providing notification on that entity's behalf.

What Information Was Involved? Your name, << Data Elements>> were present in the impacted files. Although these data elements were present in the impacted files, your medical record with the hospital was not exposed as a result of this incident. We have no evidence that any of your information was used for identity theft or fraud.

What We Are Doing? We take this incident and the obligation to safeguard the information in our care very seriously. After discovering the incident, we promptly took steps to confirm our system security, and engaged with a third-party forensic specialist to assist in conducting a comprehensive investigation. Further, we have implemented all software security patches provided by MOVEit to date. As an added precaution, we are offering 12 months of credit monitoring and identity restoration services through IDX, a ZeroFox Company. If you wish to activate these complimentary services, you may follow the instructions included in the attached Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Your Personal Information. We encourage you to enroll in these services as we are unable to act on your behalf to do so.

What You Can Do. We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud by reviewing your account statements and monitoring your free credit reports for suspicious activity and to detect errors over the next 12 to 24 months.

For More Information. If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to call us at 1-888-566-8328. We are available Monday through Friday 9 am = 9 pm Eastern Time. You may also write to Westat at Westat, Inc., RB 4124, 1600 Research Blvd, Rockville, MD 20850.

Sincerely,

Dennis Pickett

Vice President

Chief Information Security Officer

Westat

#### STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO HELP PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

## **Enroll in Credit Monitoring and Identity Restoration Services**

- 1. Website and Enrollment. Scan the QR image or go to <a href="https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect">https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect</a> and follow the instructions for enrollment using your Enrollment Code provided at the top of the letter.
- 2. Activate the credit monitoring provided as part of your IDX identity protection membership. The monitoring included in the membership must be activated to be effective. Note: You must have established credit and access to a computer and the internet to use this service. If you need assistance, IDX will be able to assist you. Please note the deadline to enroll is February 3, 2024.
- 3. Telephone. Contact IDX at 1-888-566-8328 to gain additional information about this event and speak with knowledgeable representatives about the appropriate steps to take to protect your credit identity.

## Monitor Your Accounts

Under U.S. law, a consumer is entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus, Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. To order a free credit report, visit <a href="https://www.annualcreditreport.com">www.annualcreditreport.com</a> or call, toll-free, 1-877-322-8228. Consumers may also directly contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below to request a free copy of their credit report.

Consumers have the right to place an initial or extended "fraud alert" on a credit file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a 1-year alert that is placed on a consumer's credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert display on a consumer's credit file, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer's identity before extending new credit. If consumers are the victim of identity theft, they are entitled to an extended fraud alert, which is a fraud alert lasting seven years. Should consumers wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any of the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below.

As an alternative to a fraud alert, consumers have the right to place a "credit freeze" on a credit report, which will prohibit a credit bureau from releasing information in the credit report without the consumer's express authorization. The credit freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in a consumer's name without consent. However, consumers should be aware that using a credit freeze to take control over who gets access to the personal and financial information in their credit report may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application they make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit. Pursuant to federal law, consumers cannot be charged to place or lift a credit freeze on their credit report. To request a credit freeze, individuals may need to provide some or all of the following information:

- 1. Full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.);
- 2. Social Security number;
- 3. Date of birth;
- 4. Addresses for the prior two to five years;
- 5. Proof of current address, such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;
- 6. A legible photocopy of a government-issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, etc.); and
- 7. A copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft if they are a victim of identity theft.

Should consumers wish to place a credit freeze or fraud alert, please contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below:

Equifax	Experian	TransUnion
https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-	https://www.experian.com/help/	https://www.transunion.com/
report-services/		<u>credit-help</u>
1-888-298-0045	1-888-397-3742	1-800-916-8800
Equifax Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 105069	Experian Fraud Alert, P.O. Box	TransUnion Fraud Alert, P.O. Box
Atlanta, GA 30348-5069	9554, Allen, TX 75013	2000, Chester, PA 19016
Equifax Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 105788	Experian Credit Freeze, P.O.	
Atlanta, GA 30348-5788	Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013	Box 160, Woodlyn, PA 19094

## **Additional Information**

Consumers may further educate themselves regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, credit freezes, and the steps they can take to protect your personal information by contacting the consumer reporting bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission, or their state Attorney General. The Federal Trade Commission may be reached at: 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20580; <a href="www.identitytheft.gov">www.identitytheft.gov</a>; 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338); and TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The Federal Trade Commission also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. Consumers can obtain further information on how to file such a complaint by way of the contact information listed above. Consumers have the right to file a police report if they ever experience identity theft or fraud. Please note that in order to file a report with law enforcement for identity theft, consumers will likely need to provide some proof that they have been a victim. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported promptly to law enforcement and the relevant state Attorney General. This notice has not been delayed by law enforcement.

For District of Columbia residents, the District of Columbia Attorney General may be contacted at: 400 6th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001; 202-727-3400; and oag.dc.gov.

For Maryland residents, the Maryland Attorney General may be contacted at: 200 St. Paul Place, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202; 1-410-528-8662 or 1-888-743-0023; and <a href="https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/">https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/</a>.

For New Mexico residents, consumers have rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, such as the right to be told if information in their credit file has been used against them, the right to know what is in their credit file, the right to ask for their credit score, and the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information. Further, pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the consumer reporting bureaus must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information; access to consumers' files is limited; consumers must give consent for credit reports to be provided to employers; consumers may limit "prescreened" offers of credit and insurance based on information in their credit report; and consumers may seek damages from violators. Consumers may have additional rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act not summarized here. Identity theft victims and active-duty military personnel have specific additional rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act. We encourage consumers to review their rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act by visiting <a href="https://www.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504\_cfpb\_summary\_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf">www.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504\_cfpb\_summary\_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf</a>, or by writing Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

For New York residents, the New York Attorney General may be contacted at: Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341; 1-800-771-7755; or https://ag.ny.gov.

For North Carolina residents, the North Carolina Attorney General may be contacted at: 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001; 1-877-566-7226 or 1-919-716-6000; and www.ncdoj.gov.

For Rhode Island residents, the Rhode Island Attorney General may be reached at: 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903; <a href="www.riag.ri.gov">www.riag.ri.gov</a>; and 1-401-274-4400. Under Rhode Island law, individuals have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this event. There are approximately 2 Rhode Island residents that may be impacted by this event.