

# 1. The Freedom of Information Act

The Freedom of Information Act, known as the FOIA, is a law that gives any person the right to request federal agency records.

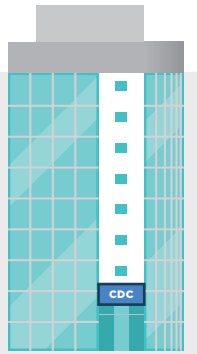
Like all federal agencies, the CDC is required to disclose records requested in writing by individuals (regardless of citizenship), Partnerships, Corporations and Organizations unless the records (or a part of the records) are protected from disclosure by any of the nine exemptions contained in the law.

The FOIA also requires federal agencies to make certain types of information available to the public without the need to submit a request.



# 2. FOIA at CDC

CDC is the nation's leading public health agency, dedicated to saving lives and protecting the health of Americans. CDC ensures its science and research activities, as well as employees, comply with various federal laws, regulations, and policies in order to exercise the highest level of scientific integrity. At the core of this mission is information sharing – not just health information and disease study results, but information CDC gathers as part of a continuous process of putting information into action. As a science-based agency funded by U.S. taxpayers, CDC is committed to openness and accountability.

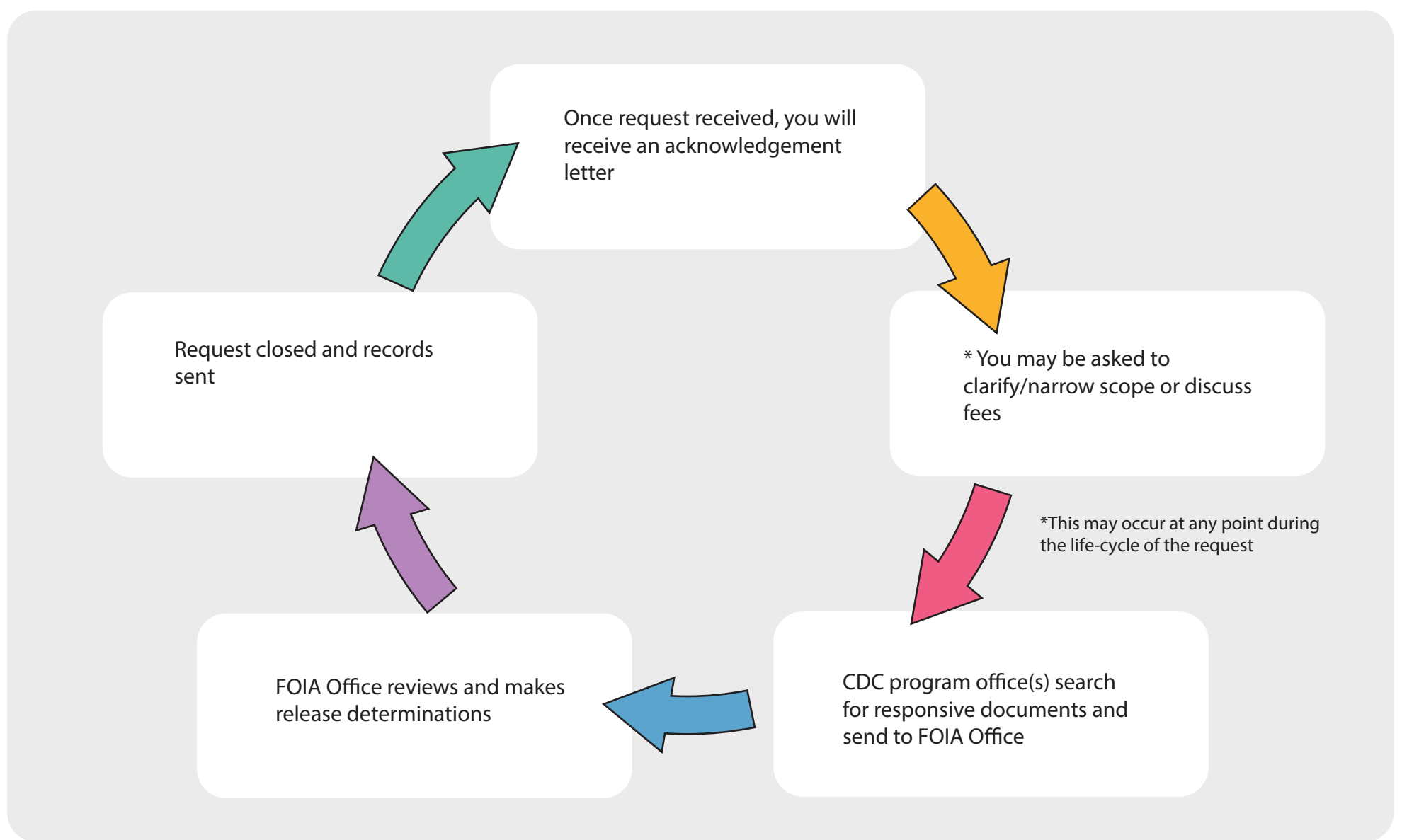


# 3. Agency Records

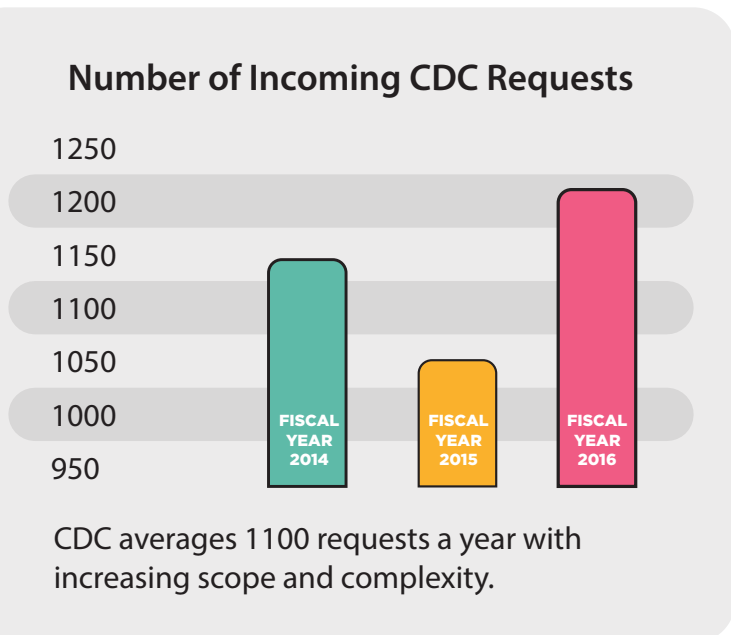
Agency records are any records created or obtained in a normal course of agency business, within our possession AND control.



# 4. General Lifecycle of a CDC/ATSDR FOIA Request



# 5. CDC FOIA Requests Received



# 6. Most Cited Exemptions at CDC/ATSDR

Most cited exemptions at CDC: 4, 5, and 6 which protect an individual's personal privacy. Visit the [E-Z Guide to FOIA Exemptions](#) page for details.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention