

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

August 2021-August 2023 Data Documentation, Codebook, and Frequencies

Early Childhood (ECQ_L)

Data File: ECQ_L.xpt

First Published: September 2024

Last Revised: NA

Component Description

The Early Childhood questionnaire (variable name prefix ECQ) section of the Sample Person Questionnaire provides personal interview data for children, including birth weight, and the proxy's assessment of the participant's weight.

Eligible Sample

Participants aged birth to 15 years in the NHANES August 2021-August 2023 sample are included in this dataset. However, the ages of participation for some questions in this section vary. Please review the codebook carefully. Frequency counts were verified during the preparation of the file.

Interview Setting and Mode of Administration

These questions were asked by trained interviewers using the Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) system in the participant's home or by telephone.

For details on the administration of the ECQ_L, please refer to the [2022 Interviewer Procedures Manual – October 2022 \(cdc.gov\)](#) and [August 2021-August 2023 NHANES Early Childhood – ECQ](#) Sample Person Participant Questionnaires on the NHANES website.

Quality Assurance & Quality Control

The CAPI system is programmed with built-in consistency checks to reduce data entry errors. CAPI also uses online help screens to assist interviewers in defining key terms used in the questionnaire. All data was reviewed by the NHANES field office staff for accuracy and completeness.

Data Processing and Editing

Frequency counts were checked, "skip" patterns were verified, and the reasonableness of question responses was reviewed. Edits were made to some variables to ensure the completeness, consistency, and analytic usefulness of the data. Edits were also made, when necessary, to address data disclosure concerns. When a variable was modified globally, as part of the editing process, the third letter in the variable name was changed from a Q (i.e., ECQ) to a D (i.e., ECD). For example, some data were collected using two variables (a number variable and a unit of measure variable) but combined into a single variable for data release purposes.

For ECD070A (weight at birth, pounds) and ECD070B (weight at birth, ounces), all responses of 3 pounds or under were collapsed into a single category with ECD070A coded as "3" and ECD070B coded as "0." Similarly, for ECD070A and ECD070B all responses of 11 pounds or over were collapsed into a single category, with ECD070A coded as "11" and ECD070B coded as "0." This was done to protect the confidentiality of survey participants.

Analytic Notes

Although data in this file were collected as part of the household questionnaire, if they are merged with the MEC exam data, exam sample weights should be used for the analyses.

Please refer to the [NHANES Analytic Guidelines](#) and the on-line [NHANES Tutorial](#) for further details on the use of sample weights and other analytic issues.

Codebook and Frequencies

SEQN - Respondent sequence number

Variable Name:	SEQN
SAS Label:	Respondent sequence number
English Text:	Respondent sequence number.
Target:	Both males and females 0 YEARS - 15 YEARS

ECD070A - Weight at birth, pounds

Variable Name: ECD070A

SAS Label: Weight at birth, pounds

English Text: How much did {SP NAME} weigh at birth?

English Instructions: IF ANSWER GIVEN IN POUNDS ONLY, PROBE FOR OUNCES. IF ANSWER GIVEN IN EXACT POUNDS, ENTER NUMBER OF POUNDS AND 0 OUNCES. ENTER NUMBER OF POUNDS.

Target: Both males and females 0 YEARS - 15 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
4 to 10	Range of Values	3185	3185	
3	3 pounds or less	77	3262	
11	11 pounds or more	15	3277	
7777	Refused	4	3281	
9999	Don't know	151	3432	
.	Missing	0	3432	

ECD070B - Weight at birth, ounces

Variable Name: ECD070B

SAS Label: Weight at birth, ounces

English Text: How much did {SP NAME} weigh at birth?

English Instructions: ENTER NUMBER OF OUNCES

Target: Both males and females 0 YEARS - 15 YEARS

Hard Edits: 0 to 15

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
0 to 15	Range of Values	3277	3277	
7777	Refused	4	3281	
9999	Don't know	151	3432	
.	Missing	0	3432	

ECQ075 - CHECK ITEM

Variable Name: ECQ075

English Instructions: BOX 1. CHECK ITEM: IF REFUSED (CODE 7777) OR DON'T KNOW (CODE 9999) TO ECD070A, CONTINUE; OTHERWISE, GO TO ECQ095 (BOX 2).

Target: Both males and females 0 YEARS - 15 YEARS

ECQ080 - Weight more/less than 5.5 lbs

Variable Name: ECQ080

SAS Label: Weight more/less than 5.5 lbs

English Text: Did {SP NAME} weigh . . .

Target: Both males and females 0 YEARS - 15 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	More than 5-1/2 lbs. (2500 g), or	116	116	
2	Less than 5-1/2 lbs. (2500 g)?	11	127	ECQ095
7	Refused	0	127	ECQ095
9	Don't know	28	155	ECQ095
.	Missing	3277	3432	

ECQ090 - Weight more/less than 9.0 lbs

Variable Name: ECQ090
SAS Label: Weight more/less than 9.0 lbs
English Text: Did {SP NAME} weigh . . .
Target: Both males and females 0 YEARS - 15 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	More than 9 lbs. (4100 g), or	19	19	
2	Less than 9 lbs. (4100 g)?	87	106	
7	Refused	0	106	
9	Don't know	10	116	
.	Missing	3316	3432	

ECQ095 - CHECK ITEM

Variable Name: ECQ095

English Instructions: BOX 2. CHECK ITEM ECQ095: IF SP AGE = 2-15 YEARS CONTINUE;
OTHERWISE, GO TO END OF SECTION.

Target: Both males and females 0 YEARS - 15 YEARS

WHQ030E - How do you consider your child's weight

Variable Name: WHQ030E

SAS Label: How do you consider your child's weight

English Text: How do you consider {SP} weight?

Target: Both males and females 2 YEARS - 15 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Overweight	314	314	
2	Underweight	183	497	
3	About the right weight	2562	3059	
7	Refused	3	3062	
9	Don't know	2	3064	
.	Missing	368	3432	

MCQ080E - Your child was overweight

Variable Name:

MCQ080E

SAS Label:

Your child was overweight

English Text:

Has a doctor or health professional ever told you that {SP} was overweight?

Target:

Both males and females 2 YEARS - 15 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	341	341	
2	No	2716	3057	
7	Refused	3	3060	
9	Don't know	4	3064	
.	Missing	368	3432	

