

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

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

Reproductive Health (RHQ_L)

Data File: RHQ_L.xpt

First Published: September 2024

Last Revised: NA

Component Description

The reproductive health questionnaire (variable name prefix RHQ) contains questions for females only. Questions on reproductive health include menstrual history, pregnancy history, current breastfeeding, and other reproductive conditions.

Eligible Sample

Female participants aged 12 years and older were eligible.

Interview Setting and Mode of Administration

These questions were asked at the Mobile Examination Center (MEC) during the MEC Interview using the Audio Computer-Assisted Self-Interview (ACASI) system, in English and Spanish only. The interview was not administered to proxy informants due to the sensitive nature of the questions. In previous NHANES cycles, reproductive health questions were asked face-to-face using the Computer Assisted Personal Interview system.

Quality Assurance & Quality Control

The ACASI system is programmed with built-in consistency checks to reduce data entry errors. ACASI also uses online help screens to assist interviewers in defining key terms used in the questionnaire.

Data Processing and Editing

Edits were made to ensure the completeness, consistency, and analytic usefulness of the data.

Analytic Notes

This public use data file excludes select variables related to pregnancy and hysterectomy for females aged 12-19 and older than 44 years due to disclosure risks. A data file with all reproductive health related variables for all females 12 years and older is available in the [NCHS Research Data Center](#).

Several questions were dropped in NHANES August 2021-August 2023 and are not included in this data file: RHQ.018, RHQ.020, RHQ.070, RHQ.071, RHQ.073A—RHQ.073N, RHQ.074,

RHQ.076, RHQ.160, RHQ.162, RHQ.171, RHQ.172, RHQ.180, RHQ.190, RHQ.197, RHQ.421, RHQ.540, RHQ.542A—RHQ542D, RHQ.554. RHQ.570.

RHD143: Current pregnancy status from question: "are you pregnant now?" Please note that these responses may differ from the pregnancy status variable RIDEXPRG in the DEMO data file.

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:	Females only 12 YEARS - 150 YEARS

RHQ010 - Age when first menstrual period occurred

Variable Name: RHQ010

SAS Label: Age when first menstrual period occurred

English Text: The next series of questions are about {your/SP's} reproductive history. I will begin by asking about {your/SP's} periods or menstrual cycles. How old {were you/was SP} when {you/SP} had {your/her} first menstrual period?

English Instructions: CODE "0" IF HAVEN'T STARTED YET. CAPI INSTRUCTION: SOFT EDIT VALUES: 8-25 YEARS. HARD EDIT VALUES: AGE OF 1ST PERIOD CANNOT BE GREATER THAN CURRENT AGE. ENTER AGE IN YEARS.

Target: Females only 12 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
6 to 19	Range of Values	3336	3336	
0	Hasn't started yet	28	3364	End of Section
20	20 years or older	5	3369	
777	Refused	2	3371	
999	Don't know	9	3380	
.	Missing	537	3917	

RHQ031 - Had regular periods in past 12 months

Variable Name:

RHQ031

SAS Label:

Had regular periods in past 12 months

English Text:

{Have you/Has SP} had at least one menstrual period in the past 12 months? (Please do not include bleedings caused by medical conditions, hormone therapy, or surgeries.)

Target:

Females only 12 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	1496	1496	
2	No	1854	3350	RHD043
7	Refused	1	3351	RHQ060
9	Don't know	4	3355	RHQ060
.	Missing	562	3917	

RHD043 - Reason not having regular periods

Variable Name: RHD043

SAS Label: Reason not having regular periods

English Text: What is the reason that {you have/SP has} not had a period in the past 12 months?

Target: Females only 20 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Pregnancy	6	6	
2	Breast feeding	6	12	
3	Hysterectomy	502	514	
7	Menopause/Change of life	1136	1650	
9	Other	177	1827	
77	Refused	3	1830	
99	Don't know	4	1834	
.	Missing	2083	3917	

RHQ060 - Age at last menstrual period

Variable Name:

RHQ060

SAS Label:

Age at last menstrual period

English Text:

About how old {were you/was SP} when {you/SP} had {your/her} last menstrual period?

English Instructions:

ENTER AGE IN YEARS.

Target:

Females only 12 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
20 to 59	Range of Values	1774	1774	
19	19 years or under	30	1804	
60	60 years or older	29	1833	
777	Refused	0	1833	
999	Don't know	6	1839	
.	Missing	2078	3917	

RHQ078 - Ever treated for a pelvic infection/PID?

Variable Name:

RHQ078

SAS Label:

Ever treated for a pelvic infection/PID?

English Text:

{Have you/Has SP} ever been treated for an infection in {your/her} fallopian tubes, uterus or ovaries, also called a pelvic infection, pelvic inflammatory disease, or PID?

Target:

Females only 18 YEARS - 59 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	76	76	
2	No	1587	1663	
7	Refused	0	1663	
9	Don't know	0	1663	
.	Missing	2254	3917	

RHQ131 - Ever been pregnant?

Variable Name: RHQ131

SAS Label: Ever been pregnant?

English Text: The next questions are about {your/SP's} pregnancy history. {Have you/Has SP ever been pregnant? Please include (current pregnancy,) live births, miscarriages, stillbirths, tubal pregnancies and abortions.}

Target: Females only 20 YEARS - 59 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	1114	1114	
2	No	429	1543	RHD280
7	Refused	0	1543	RHD280
9	Don't know	0	1543	RHD280
.	Missing	2374	3917	

RHD143 - Are you pregnant now?

Variable Name: RHD143

SAS Label: Are you pregnant now?

English Text: {Are you/Is SP} pregnant now?

Target: Females only 20 YEARS - 44 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	30	30	
2	No	536	566	
7	Refused	0	566	
9	Don't know	1	567	
.	Missing	3350	3917	

RHD167 - Total number of deliveries

Variable Name: RHD167

SAS Label: Total number of deliveries

English Text: How many deliveries {have you/has SP} had? (Please count all vaginal and Cesarean deliveries and count stillbirths as well as live births.)

English Instructions: COUNT THE NUMBER OF DELIVERIES, NOT THE NUMBER OF LIVE-BORN CHILDREN. FOR EXAMPLE, IF SP DELIVERED TWINS OR HAD ANY OTHER MULTIPLE BIRTH, COUNT AS A SINGLE DELIVERY.

Target: Females only 20 YEARS - 59 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
0 to 4	Range of Values	1047	1047	
5	5 or more	67	1114	
77	Refused	0	1114	
99	Don't know	0	1114	
.	Missing	2803	3917	

RHQ200 - Now breastfeeding a child?

Variable Name: RHQ200

SAS Label: Now breastfeeding a child?

English Text: {Are you/Is SP} now breast feeding a child?

Target: Females only 20 YEARS - 44 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	28	28	
2	No	498	526	
7	Refused	0	526	
9	Don't know	0	526	
.	Missing	3391	3917	

RHD280 - Had a hysterectomy?

Variable Name: RHD280

SAS Label: Had a hysterectomy?

English Text: {Have you/Has SP} had a hysterectomy that is, surgery to remove {your/her} uterus or womb?

Target: Females only 20 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	653	653	
2	No	2198	2851	
7	Refused	0	2851	
9	Don't know	2	2853	
.	Missing	1064	3917	

RHQ305 - Had both ovaries removed?

Variable Name:

RHQ305

SAS Label:

Had both ovaries removed?

English Text:

{Have you/Has SP} had both of {your/her} ovaries removed (either when {you/she} had {your/her} uterus removed or at another time)?

Target:

Females only 20 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	359	359	
2	No	2485	2844	
7	Refused	2	2846	
9	Don't know	4	2850	
.	Missing	1067	3917	

RHQ332 - Age when both ovaries removed

Variable Name:

RHQ332

SAS Label:

Age when both ovaries removed

English Text:

How old {were you/was SP} when {you/she} had {your/her} ovaries removed or last ovary removed if removed at different times?

English Instructions:

ENTER AGE IN YEARS.

Target:

Females only 20 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
22 to 59	Range of Values	308	308	
19	19 years or under	1	309	
60	60 years or older	46	355	
777	Refused	0	355	
999	Don't know	4	359	
.	Missing	3558	3917	

