

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

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

Balance (BAQ_L)

Data File: BAQ_L.xpt

First Published: October 2024

Last Revised: NA

Component Description

The balance section (variable name prefix BAQ) provides respondent-level interview data on balance, dizziness, and falls.

Eligible Sample

All survey participants aged 20-69 years were eligible.

Interview Setting and Mode of Administration

This questionnaire was asked, in the home or by telephone, by trained interviewers, using the Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) system.

The NHANES [August 2021-August 2023](#) questionnaire is available 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. Interviewers were required to audio-record interviews. The recorded interviews were reviewed by interviewer supervisors and NCHS staff.

Data Processing and Editing

Frequency counts were checked, and the reasonableness of question responses was reviewed. Edits were made to ensure the completeness, consistency, and analytic usefulness of the data.

Self-reported data collected asking similar questions but with different recall periods may result in apparent discrepancies. No edits were made to resolve possible discrepancies between BAQ530 (number of falls in the past 5 years) and BAQ550 (number of falls in the past 12 months). However, analysts may consider recoding variables for their analyses.

Analytic Notes

The analysis of NHANES August 2021–August 2023 BAQ data must be conducted using the appropriate survey design variables, sample weights, and the basic demographic variables.

Although these data 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 also refer to the [NHANES Analytic Guidelines](#) and the on-line [NHANES Tutorial](#) for 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 20 YEARS - 69 YEARS

BAQ321A - Past 12 months, problems with vertigo

Variable Name: BAQ321A

SAS Label: Past 12 months, problems with vertigo

English Text: The next questions are about symptoms of dizziness, light-headedness, or balance problems. Do not include times when drinking alcohol, using recreational drugs, or taking medications that cause dizziness. In the past 12 months, {have you/has SP} had problems with... vertigo - a sensation of spinning, tilting, swaying or rocking of {yourself/himself/herself/SP's} or {your/his/her/SP's} surroundings?

English Instructions: CAPI INSTRUCTIONS: MAKE ABOVE TEXT OPTIONAL (IN BRACKETS) for b through d. RESPONSES: YES = 1, NO = 2, REFUSED = 7, DON'T KNOW = 9.

Target: Both males and females 20 YEARS - 69 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	1151	1151	
2	No	4898	6049	
7	Refused	1	6050	
9	Don't know	9	6059	
.	Missing	11	6070	

BAQ321B - Past 12 months, prblms w/blurring vision

Variable Name: BAQ321B

SAS Label: Past 12 months, prblms w/blurring vision

English Text: The next questions are about symptoms of dizziness, light-headedness, or balance problems. Do not include times when drinking alcohol, using recreational drugs, or taking medications that cause dizziness. In the past 12 months, {have you/has SP} had problems with... blurring of {your/his/her/SP's} vision when {you move your/he moves his/she moves her/SP moves SP's} head?

English Instructions: CAPI INSTRUCTIONS: MAKE ABOVE TEXT OPTIONAL (IN BRACKETS) for b through d. RESPONSES: YES = 1, NO = 2, REFUSED = 7, DON'T KNOW = 9.

Target: Both males and females 20 YEARS - 69 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	684	684	
2	No	5369	6053	
7	Refused	1	6054	
9	Don't know	5	6059	
.	Missing	11	6070	

BAQ321C - Past 12 months, problems with unsteady

Variable Name: BAQ321C

SAS Label: Past 12 months, problems with unsteady

English Text: The next questions are about symptoms of dizziness, light-headedness, or balance problems. Do not include times when drinking alcohol, using recreational drugs, or taking medications that cause dizziness. In the past 12 months, {have you/has SP} had problems with... unsteadiness - a feeling of being off-balance or not stable when standing or sitting upright?

English Instructions: CAPI INSTRUCTIONS: MAKE ABOVE TEXT OPTIONAL (IN BRACKETS) for b through d. RESPONSES: YES = 1, NO = 2, REFUSED = 7, DON'T KNOW = 9.

Target: Both males and females 20 YEARS - 69 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	1433	1433	
2	No	4620	6053	
7	Refused	2	6055	
9	Don't know	3	6058	
.	Missing	12	6070	

BAQ321D - Past 12 months, problems w/light-headed

Variable Name: BAQ321D

SAS Label: Past 12 months, problems w/light-headed

English Text: The next questions are about symptoms of dizziness, light-headedness, or balance problems. Do not include times when drinking alcohol, using recreational drugs, or taking medications that cause dizziness. In the past 12 months, {have you/has SP} had problems with... light-headedness - without a sense of motion, OR fainting - a feeling {you are/he is/she is/SP is} going to pass out or faint

English Instructions: CAPI INSTRUCTIONS: MAKE ABOVE TEXT OPTIONAL (IN BRACKETS) for b through d. RESPONSES: YES = 1, NO = 2, REFUSED = 7, DON'T KNOW = 9.

Target: Both males and females 20 YEARS - 69 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	1202	1202	
2	No	4851	6053	
7	Refused	2	6055	
9	Don't know	3	6058	
.	Missing	12	6070	

BAQ341 - Past 12 months, which bothered the most?

Variable Name: BAQ341

SAS Label: Past 12 months, which bothered the most?

English Text: This next section focuses on {your/SP's} most bothersome symptom in the past 12 months. During the past 12 months, which one of these problems bothered {you/SP} the most?

English Instructions: CAPI INSTRUCTION: ONLY DISPLAY RESPONSE OPTIONS WITH A "YES" RESPONSE RECORDED IN QUESTIONS BAQ.321a TO BAQ.321d. BAQ.321a = RESPONSE OPTION 1, BAQ.321b = RESPONSE OPTION 2, BAQ.321c = RESPONSE OPTION 3, BAQ.321d = RESPONSE OPTION 4.

Target: Both males and females 20 YEARS - 69 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Vertigo	536	536	
2	Blurring vision	233	769	
3	Unsteadiness	638	1407	
4	Light-headed or fainting	715	2122	
7	Refused	1	2123	
9	Don't know	16	2139	
.	Missing	3931	6070	

BAQ391A - Episodes with nausea or vomiting?

Variable Name: BAQ391A

SAS Label: Episodes with nausea or vomiting?

English Text: During the past 12 months, were {your/SP's} episodes for {your/his/her/SP's} {RESPONSE FOR BAQ.341} accompanied by the following?

English Instructions: CAPI INSTRUCTION: FILL {RESPONSE FOR BAQ.341} WITH TEXT OF RESPONSE SELECTED FOR BAQ.341.

Target: Both males and females 20 YEARS - 69 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	511	511	
2	No	1609	2120	
7	Refused	0	2120	
9	Don't know	2	2122	
.	Missing	3948	6070	

BAQ391B - Episodes with migraine/severe headache?

Variable Name: BAQ391B

SAS Label: Episodes with migraine/severe headache?

English Text: During the past 12 months, were {your/SP's} episodes for {your/his/her/SP's} {RESPONSE FOR BAQ.341} accompanied by the following?

English Instructions: CAPI INSTRUCTION: FILL {RESPONSE FOR BAQ.341} WITH TEXT OF RESPONSE SELECTED FOR BAQ.341.

Target: Both males and females 20 YEARS - 69 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	736	736	
2	No	1384	2120	
7	Refused	0	2120	
9	Don't know	2	2122	
.	Missing	3948	6070	

BAQ401 - Balance prevent you from doing things

Variable Name: BAQ401

SAS Label: Balance prevent you from doing things

English Text: During the past 12 months, {did your/SP's} dizziness or balance problem(s) prevent {you/SP} from doing things {you/he/she/SP} otherwise would do, such as, work, school, or other scheduled activities?

Target: Both males and females 20 YEARS - 69 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	728	728	
2	No	1410	2138	
7	Refused	0	2138	
9	Don't know	1	2139	
.	Missing	3931	6070	

BAQ421 - How much of a problem was balance?

Variable Name: BAQ421

SAS Label: How much of a problem was balance?

English Text: During the past 12 months, how much of a problem was {your/his/her/SP's} problem with balance, blurred vision, or light-headedness and fainting? Was it...

English Instructions: INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: IF RESPONDENT IS UNCLEAR HOW TO ANSWER BECAUSE EPISODES VARY, THEN JUST ASK THE RESPONDENT TO THINK ABOUT THEIR TYPICAL EPISODE TO RESPOND.

Target: Both males and females 20 YEARS - 69 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	No problem,	577	577	
2	A small problem,	899	1476	
3	A moderate problem,	443	1919	
4	A big problem, or	142	2061	
5	A very big problem?	78	2139	
7	Refused	0	2139	
9	Don't know	0	2139	
.	Missing	3931	6070	

BAQ431 - Ever see health professional for balance

Variable Name: BAQ431

SAS Label: Ever see health professional for balance

English Text: Think of any time {you have/SP has} had symptoms of dizziness, imbalance, etc. {Have you/Has SP} ever seen a doctor or other health professional, including emergency room physicians, about {your/his/her/SP's} problem(s) with balance, blurred vision, or light-headedness and fainting?

Target: Both males and females 20 YEARS - 69 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	981	981	
2	No	1156	2137	
7	Refused	0	2137	
9	Don't know	2	2139	
.	Missing	3931	6070	

BAQ491 - Ever tried to treat balance problems?

Variable Name: BAQ491

SAS Label: Ever tried to treat balance problems?

English Text: {Have you/Has SP} ever tried anything to treat {your/his/her/SP's} problem(s) with balance, blurred vision, or light-headedness and fainting?

Target: Both males and females 20 YEARS - 69 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	876	876	
2	No	1258	2134	
7	Refused	0	2134	
9	Don't know	5	2139	
.	Missing	3931	6070	

BAQ530 - Past 5 years, how many times fallen?

Variable Name: BAQ530

SAS Label: Past 5 years, how many times fallen?

English Text: The next questions are about frequency of falling and associated injuries. By "falling", we mean unexpectedly or unintentionally dropping to a lower surface - the floor or ground - for example, from a standing, seated, walking, or bending position. During the past 5 years, how many times {have you/has SP} fallen?

English Instructions: INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: A FALL CAN BE FROM ANY POSITION.

Target: Both males and females 20 YEARS - 69 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Never	3220	3220	End of Section
2	1 or 2 times	1615	4835	
3	3 to 4 times	604	5439	
4	About every year	368	5807	
5	About every month	153	5960	
6	About every week	43	6003	
7	Daily or constantly	27	6030	
77	Refused	1	6031	End of Section
99	Don't know	29	6060	End of Section
.	Missing	10	6070	

BAQ550 - Past 12 months, number of times fallen?

Variable Name: BAQ550

SAS Label: Past 12 months, number of times fallen?

English Text: During the past 12 months, how many times {have you/has SP} fallen?

Target: Both males and females 20 YEARS - 69 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Never	1087	1087	End of Section
2	1 or 2 times	1316	2403	
3	3 to 4 times	204	2607	
4	5 to 9 times	103	2710	
5	10 or more times	93	2803	
7	Refused	0	2803	
9	Don't know	7	2810	
.	Missing	3260	6070	

BAQ560 - Past 12 mnths, have injury from falling?

Variable Name: BAQ560

SAS Label: Past 12 mnths, have injury from falling?

English Text: During the past 12 months, did {you/SP} have an injury that resulted from falling?

English Instructions: INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION:INJURIES INCLUDE CUTS OR WOUNDS, DISLOCATION OF JOINTS, FRACTURES OR BROKEN BONES, PAIN, ACHE OR STRAIN TO THE SPINE OR BACK, HEAD OR NECK INJURY, SPRAIN OR TORN LIGAMENT OR MUSCLE, AND SWELLING OR BRUISING.

Target: Both males and females 20 YEARS - 69 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	588	588	
2	No	1131	1719	
7	Refused	0	1719	
9	Don't know	4	1723	
.	Missing	4347	6070	

