

# National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

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

Preventive Aspirin Use (RXQASA\_L)

**Data File:** RXQASA\_L.xpt

**First Published:** September 2024

**Last Revised:** NA

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## Component Description

The preventive aspirin use questionnaire (RXQASA\_L) data file provides personal interview data on low-dose aspirin taken to prevent heart attacks, strokes, and cancer. Cardiovascular disease (CVD) remains the leading cause of death in the United States. Low-dose aspirin might be considered for primary prevention of CVD among select adults aged 40-70 years who are at higher CVD risk but not at increased bleeding risk (Arnett DK et. al., 2019). Increasing aspirin use among individuals who are at high risk for CVD is one of the key Public Health objectives in the U.S. (Frieden & Berwick, 2011).

## Eligible Sample

All survey participants aged 40 year and older in the NHANES August 2021–August 2023 sample are included in this dataset.

Survey participants between 20 and 39 years of age who reported having a history of coronary heart disease, heart attack, angina, and/or stroke were also eligible. Data obtained from this small subgroup are only available through the NCHS Research Data Center.

## Interview Setting and Mode of Administration

These questions were asked in the home or on the phone, by trained interviewers using the Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) system. A proxy provided information for survey participants who were under 16 years of age and for participants who could not answer the questions themselves. The respondent selected the language of interview (English or Spanish) or requested to use an interpreter.

The NHANES August 2021-August 2023 questionnaires are 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, "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.

## Analytic Notes

The analysis of NHANES August 2021–August 2023 RXQASA data must be conducted using the appropriate survey design variables, sample weights, and the basic demographic variables. Interview weights should only be used if questionnaire data are analyzed by themselves. However, if RXQASA data are merged with the MEC examination data or laboratory full sample data, the MEC examination weights should be used for analyses. If RXQASA data are merged with laboratory subsample data, subsample weights should be used for 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.

## References

- Arnett DK, Blumenthal RS, Albert MA et. al. 2019 ACC/AHA Guidelines on the Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease: Executive Summary. A Report of the American College of Cardiovascular/American Heart Association Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines. Circulation. 2019; 140: e563-e594.
- Frieden TR, Berwick DM. The "Million Hearts" initiative--preventing heart attacks and strokes. N Engl J Med. 2011 Sep 29;365(13):e27.

## 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 40 YEARS - 150 YEARS

## RXQ510 - Dr told to take daily low-dose aspirin?

**Variable Name:** RXQ510

**SAS Label:** Dr told to take daily low-dose aspirin?

**English Text:** Doctors and other health care providers sometimes recommend that {you take/SP takes) a low-dose aspirin each day to prevent heart attacks, strokes, or cancer. {Have you/Has SP} ever been told to do this?

**English Instructions:** INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: IF THE RESPONDENT VOLUNTEERS THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD TO TAKE AN ASPIRIN EVERY OTHER DAY OR 'REGULARLY' FOR THESE REASONS, CODE "YES".

**Target:** Both males and females 40 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	2049	2049	
2	No	3654	5703	RXQ520
7	Refused	0	5703	RXQ520
9	Don't know	9	5712	RXQ520
.	Missing	13	5725	

## RXQ515 - Followed advice, took low-dose aspirin?

**Variable Name:**

RXQ515

**SAS Label:**

Followed advice, took low-dose aspirin?

**English Text:**

{Are you/Is SP} now following this advice?

**Target:**

Both males and females 40 YEARS - 150 YEARS

<b>Code or Value</b>	<b>Value Description</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>	<b>Skip to Item</b>
1	Yes	1300	1300	End of Section
2	No	641	1941	End of Section
3	Sometimes	51	1992	End of Section
4	Stopped aspirin use due to side effects	55	2047	End of Section
7	7	1	2048	
9	Don't know	1	2049	
.	Missing	3676	5725	

## RXQ520 - Taking low-dose aspirin on your own?

**Variable Name:**

RXQ520

**SAS Label:**

Taking low-dose aspirin on your own?

**English Text:**

On {your/SP's} own, {are you/is SP} now taking a low-dose aspirin each day to prevent heart attacks, strokes, or cancer?

**Target:**

Both males and females 40 YEARS - 150 YEARS

<b>Code or Value</b>	<b>Value Description</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>	<b>Skip to Item</b>
1	Yes	203	203	
2	No	3459	3662	
7	Refused	0	3662	
9	Don't know	1	3663	
.	Missing	2062	5725	

