

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

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

Mental Health - Depression Screener (DPQ_L)

Data File: DPQ_L.xpt

First Published: September 2024

Last Revised: NA

Component Description

A nine-item depression screening questionnaire (variable name prefix DPQ), called the Patient Health Questionnaire (also, PHQ-9), (Kroenke and Spitzer, 2002; Kroenke et. al., 2001) was administered to determine the frequency of depression symptoms over the past 2 weeks. For each symptom question, scores ranging from 0 to 3, are associated with the response categories "not at all," "several days," "more than half the days," and "nearly every day." An additional functional impairment question is asked if any symptom is endorsed. This screening instrument incorporates DSM-IV depression diagnostic criteria (Spitzer et. al., 1999).

Eligible Sample

Participants aged 12 years and older who were able to understand and read English or Spanish were eligible. The interview was not administered to participants needing a proxy informant or interpreter due to the sensitive nature of the questions. Only data from participants aged 18 and older are included in this data file. Data for youth 12-17 years of age are available through the NCHS Research Data Center.

Interview Setting and Mode of Administration

The questions were asked at the Mobile Examination Center (MEC) using the Audio Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (ACASI) system. In previous NHANES, these questions were administered as part of the face-to-face MEC Interview.

Quality Assurance & Quality Control

The ACASI system is programmed with built-in consistency checks to reduce data entry errors.

Data Processing and Editing

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

Analytic Notes

A total score, ranging from 0 to 27, can be calculated for participants who have complete responses to the symptom questions. Major depression and depression severity can be assessed using pre-defined cut-points, described in the references.

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.

References

- Kroenke K, Spitzer RL, Williams JB. The PHQ-9: validity of a brief depression severity measure. J Gen Intern Med 2001; 16: 1606-13.
- Kroenke K, Spitzer RL. The PHQ-9: a new depression and diagnostic severity measure. Psych Annals 2002; 32:509-21.
- Spitzer RL, Kroenke K, Williams JB. Validation and utility of a self-report version of Prime MD: the PHQ primary care study. JAMA 1999; 282: 1737-44.

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 18 YEARS - 150 YEARS

DPQ010 - Have little interest in doing things

Variable Name: DPQ010

SAS Label: Have little interest in doing things

English Text: Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by the following problems: little interest or pleasure in doing things? Would you say...

Target: Both males and females 18 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
0	Not at all	3703	3703	
1	Several days	1205	4908	
2	More than half the days	334	5242	
3	Nearly every day	256	5498	
7	Refused	5	5503	
9	Don't know	16	5519	
.	Missing	818	6337	

DPQ020 - Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless

Variable Name: DPQ020

SAS Label: Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless

English Text: [Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by the following problems:] feeling down, depressed, or hopeless?

Target: Both males and females 18 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
0	Not at all	3674	3674	
1	Several days	1325	4999	
2	More than half the days	295	5294	
3	Nearly every day	214	5508	
7	Refused	3	5511	
9	Don't know	7	5518	
.	Missing	819	6337	

DPQ030 - Trouble sleeping or sleeping too much

Variable Name: DPQ030

SAS Label: Trouble sleeping or sleeping too much

English Text: [Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by the following problems:] trouble falling or staying asleep, or sleeping too much?

Target: Both males and females 18 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
0	Not at all	2772	2772	
1	Several days	1690	4462	
2	More than half the days	511	4973	
3	Nearly every day	536	5509	
7	Refused	3	5512	
9	Don't know	4	5516	
.	Missing	821	6337	

DPQ040 - Feeling tired or having little energy

Variable Name: DPQ040

SAS Label: Feeling tired or having little energy

English Text: [Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by the following problems:] feeling tired or having little energy?

Target: Both males and females 18 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
0	Not at all	2348	2348	
1	Several days	2113	4461	
2	More than half the days	571	5032	
3	Nearly every day	474	5506	
7	Refused	3	5509	
9	Don't know	5	5514	
.	Missing	823	6337	

DPQ050 - Poor appetite or overeating

Variable Name: DPQ050

SAS Label: Poor appetite or overeating

English Text: [Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by the following problems:] poor appetite or overeating?

Target: Both males and females 18 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
0	Not at all	3710	3710	
1	Several days	1138	4848	
2	More than half the days	371	5219	
3	Nearly every day	291	5510	
7	Refused	0	5510	
9	Don't know	3	5513	
.	Missing	824	6337	

DPQ060 - Feeling bad about yourself

Variable Name: DPQ060

SAS Label: Feeling bad about yourself

English Text: [Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by the following problems:] feeling bad about yourself - or that you are a failure or have let yourself or your family down?

Target: Both males and females 18 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
0	Not at all	3971	3971	
1	Several days	1054	5025	
2	More than half the days	268	5293	
3	Nearly every day	212	5505	
7	Refused	3	5508	
9	Don't know	2	5510	
.	Missing	827	6337	

DPQ070 - Trouble concentrating on things

Variable Name: DPQ070

SAS Label: Trouble concentrating on things

English Text: [Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by the following problems:] trouble concentrating on things, such as reading the newspaper or watching TV?

Target: Both males and females 18 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
0	Not at all	4036	4036	
1	Several days	989	5025	
2	More than half the days	277	5302	
3	Nearly every day	203	5505	
7	Refused	2	5507	
9	Don't know	1	5508	
.	Missing	829	6337	

DPQ080 - Moving or speaking slowly or too fast

Variable Name: DPQ080

SAS Label: Moving or speaking slowly or too fast

English Text: [Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by the following problems:] moving or speaking so slowly that other people could have noticed? Or the opposite - being so fidgety or restless that you have been moving around a lot more than usual?

Target: Both males and females 18 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
0	Not at all	4748	4748	
1	Several days	511	5259	
2	More than half the days	129	5388	
3	Nearly every day	108	5496	
7	Refused	4	5500	
9	Don't know	8	5508	
.	Missing	829	6337	

DPQ090 - Thought you would be better off dead

Variable Name: DPQ090

SAS Label: Thought you would be better off dead

English Text: [Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by the following problems:] Thoughts that you would be better off dead or of hurting yourself in some way?

Target: Both males and females 18 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
0	Not at all	5207	5207	
1	Several days	209	5416	
2	More than half the days	57	5473	
3	Nearly every day	28	5501	
7	Refused	0	5501	
9	Don't know	5	5506	
.	Missing	831	6337	

DPQ100 - Difficulty these problems have caused

Variable Name: DPQ100

SAS Label: Difficulty these problems have caused

English Text: How difficult have these problems made it for you to do your work, take care of things at home, or get along with people?

Target: Both males and females 18 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
0	Not at all difficult	2573	2573	
1	Somewhat difficult	1306	3879	
2	Very difficult	207	4086	
3	Extremely difficult	74	4160	
7	Refused	4	4164	
9	Don't know	3	4167	
.	Missing	2170	6337	

