

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

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

Prescription Medications (RXQ_RX_L)

Data File: RXQ_RX_L.xpt

First Published: September 2024

Last Revised: NA

Component Description

The prescription medication questionnaire (RXQ_RX_L) data file provides personal interview data on self-assessed prescription medication use in the past 30 days, and the number of prescription medication use. The detailed prescription medication name, duration of use, and reason for use were not collected in this survey cycle.

In the second year of this survey cycle data collection, participants were asked if they were taking any medications to treat or prevent COVID-19. This part of the data is only available through the NCHS Research Data Center.

Eligible Sample

All survey participants in the NHANES August 2021–August 2023 sample are included in this dataset.

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. Participants 16 years of age and older and emancipated minors were interviewed directly. 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 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. Few edits were made to ensure the consistency of the data.

Analytic Notes

The analysis of NHANES August 2021–August 2023 RXQ_RX 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 RXQ_RX data are merged with the MEC examination data or laboratory full sample data, the MEC examination weights should be used for analyses. If RXQ_RX 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.

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 - 150 YEARS

RXQ033 - Taken prescription medicine, past month

Variable Name: RXQ033

SAS Label: Taken prescription medicine, past month

English Text: In the past 30 days, {have you/has SP} used or taken medication for which a prescription is needed? Include only those products prescribed by a health professional such as a doctor or dentist. {Please remember to include any prescription birth control products that you are taking or using such as pills or patches.} Do not include prescription vitamins or minerals.

English Instructions: CAPI INSTRUCTION: IF SP (FEMALE OR DMQ.510 = 7 OR 9) AND AGE 16-49 YEARS, DISPLAY 'Please remember to include prescription birth control products that you are taking or using such as pills or patches.' CAPI HARD EDIT CHECK #1 IF 'NO' (CODE 2) IN RXQ.033 AND 'YES' (CODE 1) IN DIQ.050 OR DIQ.070, DISPLAY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE: Earlier in the interview you reported currently taking insulin or a diabetic pill. If this is correct, we should count that as prescription medication you have taken in the last 30 days. {CAPI DISPLAYS THREE QUESTIONS FOR CORRECTION} DIQ.050 = Taking Insulin DIQ.070 = Taking Diabetic Pills RXQ.033 = Prescription Medication in Last 30 Days CAPI HARD EDIT CHECK #2 IF 'NO' (CODE 2) IN RXQ.033 AND 'YES' (CODE 1) IN BPQ.150, DISPLAY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE: Earlier in the interview you reported currently taking prescription medication for high blood pressure. If this is correct, we should count that as prescription medication you have taken in the last 30 days. {CAPI DISPLAYS TWO QUESTIONS FOR CORRECTION} BPQ.150 = Taking Blood Pressure Medication. RXQ.033 = Prescription Medication in Last 30 Days CAPI HARD EDIT CHECK #3 IF 'NO' (CODE 2) IN RXQ.033 AND 'YES' (CODE 1) IN BPQ.101d, DISPLAY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE: Earlier in the interview you reported currently taking prescription medication for high cholesterol. If this is correct, we should count that as prescription medication you have taken in the last 30 days. {CAPI DISPLAYS TWO QUESTIONS FOR CORRECTION} BPQ.101d = Taking High Cholesterol Medicine RXQ.033 = Prescription Medication in Last 30 Days

Target: Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	6255	6255	
2	No	5638	11893	End of Section
7	Refused	8	11901	End of Section
9	Don't know	7	11908	End of Section
.	Missing	25	11933	

RXQ050 - Number of prescription medicines taken

Variable Name: RXQ050

SAS Label: Number of prescription medicines taken

English Text: How many prescription medications {have you/has SP} taken in the past 30 days? Would you say {you have/SP has} taken...

Target: Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	1,	1621	1621	
2	2,	1183	2804	
3	3,	835	3639	
4	4, or	690	4329	
5	5 or more?	1917	6246	
7	Refused	4	6250	
9	Don't know	5	6255	
.	Missing	5678	11933	

