National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

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

Occupation (OCQ_L)

Data File: OCQ_L.xpt

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Last Revised: NA

Component Description

The Occupation Questionnaire (variable name prefix OCQ) section provides survey participant interview data on employment. The primary focus of the OCQ is data collection on the participant's work within the previous week (i.e., the participant's Current Job). The participant's Current Job is defined as the main paid job worked within the last week, including work on a family farm. Topics covered in the OCQ section include:

- Employment status in the last week;
- The number of hours worked last week;
- Whether the participant usually works 35 or more hours per week;
- Number of days usually worked per week; and,
- The main reason the participant did not work last week (if not currently working).

Eligible Sample

All survey participants aged 16 years and older were eligible.

Interview Setting and Mode of Administration

These questions were asked by trained interviewers the using Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) system in the participant's home or by telephone.

People 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 individuals who could not answer the questions themselves.

The NHANES occupation questionnaire is available on the NHANES website: NHANES August 2021-August 2023 Questionnaire Instruments (cdc.gov)

Quality Assurance & Quality Control

The CAPI system is programmed with built-in consistency checks to reduce data entry errors and online help screens to assist interviewers in defining key terms. During the August 2021-August 2023 data collection cycle, periodic QC checks were performed on the OCQ data being collected; and interviewer-specific feedback and retraining was performed as appropriate.

Data Processing and Editing

Questionnaire interview responses were entered into a tablet and then uploaded into a computerized database in the same manner as other sections of the Survey Participant Questionnaire. The data were then edited for completeness, consistency, and illogical values.

To decrease the risk of disclosure, additional "bottom" and "top" summary codes were implemented for one variable in the August 2021-August 2023 cycle:

• OCQ180 (hours worked last week): Responses 5 hours or less were re-coded as "5" in the public use file, responses 80 hours or more were re-coded as "80."

Analytic Notes

In general, analysts are advised to carefully review the question wording in the OCQ codebook to make sure they understand question skip patterns and the definitions employed for occupation-related variables.

There was a slight change to the question wording for OCQ180 starting in the 2019-March 2020 survey cycle. In addition, some of the response options for the question on the main reason of not being at work in the last week (OCQ383), which is collected among survey participants reported not currently working at a job or business, changed between 2017-2018 and 2019-2020 survey cycles, as well. Users need to be aware of these differences when comparing or combining data with previous cycles.

The OCQ data were collected as part of the household questionnaire and, therefore, the full sample NHANES interview weights WTINT2YR should be used for statistical analysis. However, if the OCQ data are merged with the MEC exam or laboratory data, then the NHANES examination sample weights WTMEC2YR should be used for analyses.

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:	Both males and females 16 YEARS - 150 YEARS

OCD150 - Type of work done last week

Variable Name:	OCD150
SAS Label:	Type of work done last week
English Text:	In this part of the survey, I will ask you questions about {your/SP's} work experience. Which of the following {were you/was SP} doing last week?
Target:	Both males and females 16 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Working at a job or business,	4247	4247	OCQ180
2	With a job or business but not at work,	262	4509	OCQ210
3	Looking for work, or	361	4870	End of Section
4	Not working at a job or business?	3613	8483	OCQ383
7	Refused	0	8483	End of Section
9	Don't know	2	8485	End of Section
.	Missing	16	8501	

OCQ180 - Number of hours worked in the last week

Variable Name: OCQ180

SAS Label: Number of hours worked in the last week

English Text: How many hours did {you/SP} work last week at all jobs or businesses?

English Instructions: ENTER NUMBER OF HOURS

Target: Both males and females 16 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
6 to 78	Range of Values	4092	4092	
5	1-5 Hours	71	4163	
80	80 Hours or more	62	4225	
77777	Refused	3	4228	
99999	Don't know	19	4247	
.	Missing	4254	8501	

OCQ200 - CHECK ITEM

Variable Name:	OCQ200
English Instructions:	BOX 1. CHECK ITEM OCQ200: IF HOURS IN OCQ180 <= 34, OR REFUSED (CODE 77777), OR DON'T KNOW (CODE 99999), CONTINUE. OTHERWISE, GO TO OCQ215.
Target:	Both males and females 16 YEARS - 150 YEARS

OCQ210 - Usually work 35 or more hours per week

Variable Name: OCQ210

SAS Label: Usually work 35 or more hours per week

English Text: {Do you/Does SP} usually work 35 hours or more per week in total at all jobs or businesses?

Target: Both males and females 16 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	510	510	
2	No	929	1439	
7	Refused	1	1440	
9	Don't know	1	1441	
.	Missing	7060	8501	

OCQ215 - Number of days usually worked per week

Variable Name:	OCQ215
SAS Label:	Number of days usually worked per week
English Text:	How many days per week {do you/does SP} usually work?
English Instructions:	ENTER NUMBER OF DAYS CAPI INSTRUCTION: HARD EDIT VALUES LESS THAN 1 AND GREATER THAN 7.
Target:	Both males and females 16 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1 to 7	Range of Values	4502	4502	
77	Refused	2	4504	
99	Don't know	5	4509	
.	Missing	3992	8501	

OCQ383 - Main reason did not work last week

Variable Name: OCQ383

SAS Label: Main reason did not work last week

English Text: (SP Interview Version) What is the main reason {you/SP} did not work last week? (Family Interview Version) What is the main reason {you/NON-SP HEAD/NON-SP SPOUSE} did not work last week?

Target: Both males and females 16 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Taking care of house or family	321	321	
2	Going to school	293	614	
3	Retired	1988	2602	
4	Unable to work for health reasons/Disabled	705	3307	
5	Can't find work/On layoff	74	3381	
6	Seasonal/Contract work	34	3415	
7	Other	196	3611	
77	Refused	1	3612	
99	Don't know	2	3614	
.	Missing	4887	8501	