Component Description

NHANES is critical for monitoring oral health status, risk indicators for disease, and access to preventive and treatment services. This component will address public health significance in areas of surveillance, prevention, treatment, dental care utilization, health policy, evaluation of Federal health programs, standardization of new methods, and oral health disparities.

Oral health data from NHANES will be used for:

* Assessing the prevalence of major oral health diseases and conditions including dental caries and periodontal disease
* Assessing prevention and treatment efforts including the prevalence of dental sealants
* Evaluating specific public health programs/new policies and initiatives
* Monitoring the oral health status of minority/underserved populations
* Evaluating ***Healthy People 2020***objectives related to oral health
* Supporting research activities as identified in the 2000 Surgeon General’s Report on ***Oral Health in the United States***

The oral health examination section (OHX) provides information on a number of oral health topics. These topic areas and related target population groups in the OHX section include:

* Tooth count (1 yr and older)
* Dental caries (1 yr and older)
* Dental sealants (3 to 19 yrs)
* Periodontal pockets, recession, and loss of attachment (30 yrs and older)
* Recommendations for dental care (1 yr and older)

Eligible Sample

All survey participants 1 year and older were eligible for the oral health examination. Participants aged 30 years and older were eligible for the periodontal evaluation if they had at least one tooth (excluding third molars) and did not meet any of the health exclusion criteria. Participants were excluded if they had a heart transplant, have an artificial heart valve or heart disease since birth (not including mitral valve prolapse, or had a bacterial infection of the heart, called bacterial endocarditis.

Protocol and Procedure

All examiners for 2013-14 oral health examination were dentists (D.D.S./D.M.D.) licensed in at least one U.S. state. In 2013-14, the tooth count, dental caries and dental sealants assessments followed the same protocols conducted in 1999-2004 and 2011-2012. The 2013-14 periodontal examination was a full-mouth, six-site per tooth assessment following similar protocols used in 2009-2010 and 2011-12.

Quality Assurance & Quality Control

The quality of data in this survey is controlled by (1) an intense training period for the health technologists who were assigned to conduct the oral health examinations with calibration of dentists prior to the beginning of the survey, (2) periodic monitoring and recalibration of dentists, and (3) periodic retraining of oral health examination teams. The reference examiner visited each team up to three times per year to observe field operations and to replicate 20 to 25 oral health examinations during each visit. The purpose of these “expert replications” is to determine if the dentists are maintaining the examination standards achieved during training and to measure the degree of deviation, if any, from those standards. If the inter-rater correlation is not within acceptable limits, retraining is conducted on site and future monitoring of the field examiner intensified. An annual retraining session for each dental examiner also is conducted by the reference examiner to reinforce existing protocols and to accommodate protocol updates as needed. All oral health training, calibration, and field replicate exams were conducted by the NHANES reference examiner.

Automated data collection procedures for the survey were introduced in NHANES 1999. In the mobile examination centers (MECs), data for the oral health component are recorded directly onto a computerized data collection form. The system is integrated centrally and it allows for ongoing monitoring of much of the data. As part of an on-going quality control practice, all data are reviewed systematically for logical inconsistencies and examiner error. Internal quality control data review indicates that data quality is acceptable.

Data Processing and Editing

Frequency counts were checked, "skip" patterns were verified, and the reasonableness of responses to the questions was reviewed.

Analytic Notes

The oral health data is released in three separate data files as follows:

* Dentition Exam (OHXDEN\_H): Tooth count, dental caries, and dental sealants.
* Periodontal Exam (OHXPER\_H): Periodontal pockets, recession, and loss of attachment.
* Referral (OHXREF\_H): Report of findings-dental care recommendations, and miscellaneous.

Oral health data from these 3 files can be linked using the unique survey participant identifier, SEQN. In addition to the oral health examination data, oral health questionnaire data can be found in the oral health section (OHQ) of the NHANES 2013–2014 Household questionnaire. These data may be linked using the unique survey participant identifier, SEQN. 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 refer to the [Analytic Guidelines](https://wwwn.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/analyticguidelines.aspx) on the NHANES website for further details on the use of sample weights and other analytic issues.

If data from this release is combined with oral health data from previous data cycles for analysis, users should understand that methodological differences (in data collection) may exist among similar, earlier assessments and this may bias the analysis conducted.

In 2013-2014, a dental fluorosis assessment was also conducted for participants aged 6-19 years as part of the NHANES oral health exam. The dental fluorosis assessment data are still being evaluated and are not included in this data file.

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 1 YEARS - 150 YEARS

OHDEXSTS - Overall Oral Health Exam Status

**Variable Name:**

OHDEXSTS

**SAS Label:**

Overall Oral Health Exam Status

**English Text:**

Overall Oral Health Exam Status

**Target:**

Both males and females 1 YEARS - 150 YEARS

| **Code or Value** | **Value Description** | **Count** | **Cumulative** | **Skip to Item** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Complete | 8633 | 8633 |  |
| 2 | Partial | 333 | 8966 |  |
| 3 | Not Done | 456 | 9422 |  |
| . | Missing | 0 | 9422 |  |

OHDRCSTS - Recommendation Care Status Code

**Variable Name:**

OHDRCSTS

**SAS Label:**

Recommendation Care Status Code

**English Text:**

Recommendation Care Status Code

**Target:**

Both males and females 1 YEARS - 150 YEARS

| **Code or Value** | **Value Description** | **Count** | **Cumulative** | **Skip to Item** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Complete | 8938 | 8938 |  |
| 2 | Partial | 0 | 8938 |  |
| 3 | Not Done | 484 | 9422 |  |
| . | Missing | 0 | 9422 |  |

OHAREC - Overall recommendation for care

**Variable Name:**

OHAREC

**SAS Label:**

Overall recommendation for care

**English Text:**

Overall recommendation for care

**Target:**

Both males and females 1 YEARS - 150 YEARS

| **Code or Value** | **Value Description** | **Count** | **Cumulative** | **Skip to Item** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | See a dentist immediately | 2 | 2 |  |
| 2 | See a dentist within the next 2 weeks | 433 | 435 |  |
| 3 | See a dentist at your earliest convenience | 3080 | 3515 |  |
| 4 | Continue your regular routine care | 5423 | 8938 |  |
| . | Missing | 484 | 9422 |  |

OHAROCDT - Decayed teeth

**Variable Name:**

OHAROCDT

**SAS Label:**

Decayed teeth

**English Text:**

Decayed teeth

**Target:**

Both males and females 1 YEARS - 150 YEARS

| **Code or Value** | **Value Description** | **Count** | **Cumulative** | **Skip to Item** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Yes | 2312 | 2312 |  |
| 2 | No | 13 | 2325 |  |
| . | Missing | 7097 | 9422 |  |

OHAROCGP - Gum disease/problem

**Variable Name:**

OHAROCGP

**SAS Label:**

Gum disease/problem

**English Text:**

Gum disease/problem

**Target:**

Both males and females 1 YEARS - 150 YEARS

| **Code or Value** | **Value Description** | **Count** | **Cumulative** | **Skip to Item** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Yes | 1868 | 1868 |  |
| 2 | No | 12 | 1880 |  |
| . | Missing | 7542 | 9422 |  |

OHAROCOH - Oral hygiene

**Variable Name:**

OHAROCOH

**SAS Label:**

Oral hygiene

**English Text:**

Oral hygiene

**Target:**

Both males and females 1 YEARS - 150 YEARS

| **Code or Value** | **Value Description** | **Count** | **Cumulative** | **Skip to Item** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Yes | 1764 | 1764 |  |
| 2 | No | 3 | 1767 |  |
| . | Missing | 7655 | 9422 |  |

OHAROCCI - Impression of soft tissue condition

**Variable Name:**

OHAROCCI

**SAS Label:**

Impression of soft tissue condition

**English Text:**

Clinical impression of soft tissue condition

**Target:**

Both males and females 1 YEARS - 150 YEARS

| **Code or Value** | **Value Description** | **Count** | **Cumulative** | **Skip to Item** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Yes | 26 | 26 |  |
| 2 | No | 11 | 37 |  |
| . | Missing | 9385 | 9422 |  |

OHAROCDE - Denture/Partial Denture/Plates

**Variable Name:**

OHAROCDE

**SAS Label:**

Denture/Partial Denture/Plates

**English Text:**

Denture/Partial Denture/Plates

**Target:**

Both males and females 1 YEARS - 150 YEARS

| **Code or Value** | **Value Description** | **Count** | **Cumulative** | **Skip to Item** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Yes | 368 | 368 |  |
| 2 | No | 6 | 374 |  |
| . | Missing | 9048 | 9422 |  |

OHARNF - No significant findings

**Variable Name:**

OHARNF

**SAS Label:**

No significant findings

**English Text:**

No significant findings

**Target:**

Both males and females 1 YEARS - 150 YEARS

| **Code or Value** | **Value Description** | **Count** | **Cumulative** | **Skip to Item** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Yes | 5424 | 5424 |  |
| 2 | No | 24 | 5448 |  |
| . | Missing | 3974 | 9422 |  |

OHAROTH - Some other finding (specify w/referral)

**Variable Name:**

OHAROTH

**SAS Label:**

Some other finding (specify w/referral)

**English Text:**

Some other finding (specify w/referral letter)

**Target:**

Both males and females 1 YEARS - 150 YEARS

| **Code or Value** | **Value Description** | **Count** | **Cumulative** | **Skip to Item** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Yes | 2 | 2 |  |
| 2 | No | 0 | 2 |  |
| . | Missing | 9420 | 9422 |  |

OHAPOS - Was participant exam position recumbent

**Variable Name:**

OHAPOS

**SAS Label:**

Was participant exam position recumbent

**English Text:**

Was the SP in a recumbent (laying down) position for all eligible assessments of the oral health exam?

**English Instructions:**

Was the SP in a recumbent (laying down) position for all eligible assessments of the oral health exam (Oral-facial--Loss of Attachment)?

**Target:**

Both males and females 1 YEARS - 150 YEARS

| **Code or Value** | **Value Description** | **Count** | **Cumulative** | **Skip to Item** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Yes | 8301 | 8301 |  |
| 2 | No | 272 | 8573 |  |
| . | Missing | 849 | 9422 |  |