

IPUMS

User Extract nhis_00004.dat

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§ 1. Document Description

Citation

Title Statement	
Title:	Codebook for an Integrated Health Interview Series Data Extract
Subtitle:	DDI 2.5 metadata describing the extract file 'nhis_00004.dat'
Identification Number:	ddi2-7114a990-cdda-013c-b092-0242ac190004-nhis_00004.dat-nhis.ipums.org
Responsibility Statement	
Authoring Entity:	IPUMS
Affiliation:	University of Minnesota
Production Statement	
Producer:	IPUMS
Affiliation:	University of Minnesota
Role:	Documentation
Date of Production:	October 7, 2025
Place of Production:	IPUMS, 50 Willey Hall, 225 - 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455
Distribution Statement	
Contact Persons:	IPUMS

Affiliation:	University of Minnesota
URI:	https://ipums.org

§ 2. Study Description

Citation

Title Statement	
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Distribution Statement	
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Affiliation:	University of Minnesota
URI:	https://ipums.org
Version Statement	
Date:	2025-10-07

Study Scope

Subject Information

Topic Classification:	Technical Household Variables -- HOUSEHOLD
	Technical Person Variables -- PERSON
	Education Variables -- PERSON
	Work Variables -- PERSON
	General Health Variables -- PERSON
	Access to Care Variables -- PERSON
	General Coverage Variables -- PERSON
Summary Data Description	
Time Period:	2022
Country:	United States
Summary Data Description	
Time Period:	2023
Country:	United States
Summary Data Description	
Time Period:	2024
Country:	United States
Notes	
Note:	Additional notes on a sample that is part of this study: 2022 NHIS
	Additional notes on a sample that is part of this study: 2023 NHIS
	Additional notes on a sample that is part of this study: 2024 NHIS

Data Access - Use Statement

Confidentiality Declaration
The Public Health Service Act (Section 308 (d)) provides that the data collected by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), may be used only for the purpose of health statistical reporting and analysis. Any effort to determine the identity of any reported case is prohibited by this law. NCHS does all it can to assure that the identity of data subjects cannot be disclosed. All direct identifiers, as well as any characteristics that might lead to identification, are omitted

from the data files. Any intentional identification or disclosure of a person or establishment violates the assurances of confidentiality given to the providers of the information.

Therefore, users will:

Use the data in these data files for statistical reporting and analysis only.

Make no use of the identity of any person or establishment discovered inadvertently and advise the Director, NCHS, of any such discovery (301-458-4500).

Not link these data files with individually identifiable data from other NCHS or non-NCHS data files.

By using these data, you signify your agreement to comply with the above-stated statutorily-based requirements.

Contact Persons:	Integrated Health Interview Series
Affiliation:	IPUMS
URI:	http://www.nhis.ipums.org/

Citation Requirement

Publications and research reports based on the NHIS database must cite it appropriately. The citation is as follows:

Lynn A. Blewett, Julia A. Rivera Drew, Andrew Fenelon, Miriam L. King, Kari C.W. Williams, Daniel Backman, Etienne Breton, Grace Cooper, and Stephanie Richards. IPUMS Health Surveys: National Health Interview Survey, Version 8.1 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.18128/D071.V8.1>

If possible, citations should also include the URL for the NHIS site: <http://www.nhis.ipums.org>.

Please see <http://www.nhis.ipums.org/nhis/citation.shtml> for precise formatting of the citation.

Conditions

The Public Health Service Act (Section 308 (d)) provides that the data collected by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), may be used only for the purpose of health statistical reporting and analysis. Any effort to determine the identity of any reported case is prohibited by this law. NCHS does all it can to assure that the identity of data subjects cannot be disclosed. All direct identifiers, as well as any characteristics that might lead to identification, are omitted from the data files. Any intentional identification or disclosure of a person or establishment violates the assurances of confidentiality given to the providers of the information.

Therefore, users must:

Use the data in these data files for statistical reporting and analysis only.

Make no use of the identity of any person or establishment discovered inadvertently and advise the Director, NCHS, of any such discovery (301-458-4500).

Not link these data files with individually identifiable data from other NCHS or non-NCHS data files.

By using these data, you signify your agreement to comply with the above-stated statutorily-based requirements.

Furthermore, users of NHIS data must agree to abide by the conditions of use. Users must agree to the following conditions:

- (1) Use the data in these data files for statistical reporting and analysis only
- (2) Make no use of the identity of any person or establishment discovered inadvertently and advise the Director of NCHS of any such discovery (301-458-4500)
- (3) Do not link these data with individually-identifiable data from NCHS or non-NCHS data files
- (4) No fees may be charged for use or distribution of the data. All persons are granted a limited license to use and distribute these data, but you may not charge a fee for the data if you distribute them to others.
- (5) Cite the NHIS appropriately. Publications and research reports based on the database must cite it appropriately. Please see <http://www.nhis.ipums.org/nhis/citation.shtml>
- (6) NHIS cannot be used to study small geographic areas. The smallest geographical areas identified in the NHIS are regions (groups of states) and a limited number of metropolitan areas.
- (7) This system provides individual-level data only. The NHIS Data Extraction System will not produce tables. You will need to use a statistical software package, such as Stata, SAS, or SPSS, to analyze the downloaded data. Alternatively, you may use the NHIS-SDA tabulator to produce tables online, without making a data extract.

Disclaimer

The user of the data acknowledges that the original collector of the data, the authorized distributor of the data, and the relevant funding agency bear no responsibility for use of the data or for interpretations or inferences based upon such uses.

§ 3. File Description

File

File Name:	nhis_00004.dat
Contents of Files:	Microdata records
Type:	rectangular
File Type:	ISO-8859-1 data file
Data Format:	fixed length fields
Place of File Production:	IPUMS, 50 Willey Hall, 225 - 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455

§ 4. Variable Description

Jump to Variable

1. YEAR (Survey year)
2. NHISPID (NHIS Unique Identifier, person)
3. HHX (Household number (from NHIS))
4. EDUC (Educational attainment)
5. HOURSWRK (Total hours worked last week or usually)

6. [HEALTH](#) (Health status)
7. [USUALPL](#) (Has usual place for medical care)
8. [HINOTCOVE](#) (Health Insurance coverage status)
9. [HIPRIVATEE](#) (Covered by private health insurance: Recode)

Variable: "YEAR"

Name:	YEAR
Label:	Survey year
Variable Text:	YEAR is a four-digit variable reporting the calendar year (e.g., 2003) the survey was conducted and the data were collected. YEAR indicates the survey year reported on the household record.
Concept:	Technical Household Variables -- HOUSEHOLD
Start Position:	1
End Position:	4
Width:	4
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0
Coder Instructions:	This is a 4-digit numeric variable with 0 implied decimal places

Variable: "NHISPID"

Name:	NHISPID
Label:	NHIS Unique Identifier, person
Variable Text:	<p>NHISPID is an IPUMS NHIS-constructed value that is an identifying number unique to each person in a given survey year. Using NHISPID, analysts can link IPUMS NHIS data with additional data elements, from the NHIS source public use data files, that are not currently available in IPUMS. For example, researchers can use NHISPID to link variables in IPUMS NHIS with other variables from the core NHIS files variables. Alternatively, users may use NHISPID to link variables from IPUMS with variables from NHIS supplements that are not yet part of IPUMS NHIS. NHISPID is a single variable constructed by concatenating multiple data elements from the NHIS source data files.</p> <p>Analysts wishing to link household-level NHIS data should use the household-level linking key NHISHID.</p> <p>See the user note on LINKING for instructions on how to create links between IPUMS NHIS and NHIS source data.</p>

Concept:	Technical Person Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	5
End Position:	20
Width:	16
Variable Format:	character
Implied Decimal Places:	0
Coder Instructions:	Codes NHISPID is a 16-character string variable.

Variable: "HHX"

Name:	HHX
Label:	Household number (from NHIS)
Variable Text:	For sample adults and sample children, HHX reports the person's household number on the original NHIS data. HHX is unique within sample but only unique across samples when combined with information on year. Prior to 2019, this variable was available for all persons.
Concept:	Technical Person Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	21
End Position:	27
Width:	7
Variable Format:	character
Implied Decimal Places:	0
Coder Instructions:	This is a 7-digit numeric variable with 0 implied decimal places

Variable: "EDUC"

Name:	EDUC
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Label:	Educational attainment				
Variable Text:	<p>For sample adults (and, prior to 2019, for all persons aged 5 and older), EDUC reports the highest level of schooling an individual has completed, in terms of completed grades for persons with less than a high school degree, and in terms of degrees attained for high school graduates and those with higher education. Respondents were handed a card listing recognized categories and asked to identify the correct category.</p> <p>According to the Field Representative's Manuals for 1997-2000, only "regular schooling which advances a person toward an elementary or high school diploma, or a college/university/professional school (such as law, medicine, dentistry)" counted as education. Schooling in settings other than "regular schools" counted only if the credits obtained were acceptable in a regular school system. Thus, for example, "adult education" classes not taken for credit or for the attainment of a college degree did not count.</p> <p>For the end of high school, EDUC distinguishes between those who completed twelfth grade but did not attain a diploma (e.g., those who failed to pass state-mandated high school exit examinations), those who graduated from high school, and those passed the GED (General Equivalence Degree) Test (which certifies that the test taker has attained high school-level academic skills). Persons who attained a high school diploma in less than twelve years were to be recorded as "high school graduates," a guideline consistent with EDUC's emphasis on degrees attained rather than years spent in the classroom. The Field Representative's Manual for 1997-2000 directed interviewers to probe to determine whether persons who attended "post-graduate" high school classes but did not attend college had received a high school diploma.</p> <p>For nurses, interviewers were to determine whether training was received in a college or in a nursing school (with the grade completed at the last regular--non-nursing--school to be entered in the latter case). For a person attending special education classes or a school for persons with mental, physical, or developmental difficulties, interviewers were to ask which grade in a regular school most closely matched the individual's education level. Persons currently in school were generally assumed to have completed the previous grade.</p>				
Concept:	Education Variables -- PERSON				
Start Position:	28				
End Position:	30				
Width:	3				
Variable Format:	numeric				
Implied Decimal Places:	0				
Categories					
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Value</th> <th>Label</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>000</td> <td>NIU</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Value	Label	000	NIU
Value	Label				
000	NIU				

100	Grade 12 or less, no high school diploma or equivalent
101	Grade 8 or less (no further detail)
102	Never attended/kindergarten only
103	Grades 1-11 (no further detail)
104	Grade 1
105	Grade 2
106	Grade 3
107	Grade 4
108	Grade 5
109	Grade 6
110	Grade 7
111	Grade 8
112	Grade 9-12, no diploma (no further detail)
113	Grade 9
114	Grade 10
115	Grade 11
116	12th grade, no diploma
200	High school diploma or GED
201	High school graduate
202	GED or equivalent
300	Some college, no 4yr degree
301	Some college, no degree
302	AA degree: technical/vocational/occupational
303	AA degree: academic program
400	Bachelor's degree (BA,AB,BS,BBA)

500	Master's, Professional, or Doctoral Degree
510	Master's degree (MA,MS,Med,MBA)
520	Professional School or Doctoral degree (MD, DDS, DVM, JD, PhD, EdD)
521	Professional degree (MD,DDS,DVM,JD)
522	Doctoral degree (PhD, EdD)
530	Other degree
996	No degree, years of education unknown
997	Unknown--refused
998	Unknown--not ascertained
999	Unknown--don't know

Variable: "HOURSWRK"

Name:	HOURSWRK
Label:	Total hours worked last week or usually
Variable Text:	<p>For sample adults aged 18+ (and all persons age 18+ in 2004-2018) who worked at a paid or unpaid job or business last week, held a seasonal or contract position last week, or were not working last week because they were on vacation, on family/maternity leave, unable to work for health reasons, HOURSWRK reports the total hours that the sample person worked in the past week. or in the past two weeks at all jobs/ businesses or at the main job/business. The universe and time period for HOURSWRK were somewhat different for 1979 and 1991.</p> <p>HOURSWORK reports total hours worked in the past two weeks for sample persons aged 17+ in 1979 who, during the past 2 weeks, worked, had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent, or looked for work or were on layoff; in 1991, HOURSWORK reports total work hours worked in the past two weeks for sample persons aged 18+ in 1991 who were employed in the past 2 weeks and worked for a private company or the federal, state, or local government. Please refer to the Universe and Comparability tabs for more information about changes in the universe, time period, and the types of jobs included in HOURSWRK.</p> <p>Beginning in 2019, sample adults aged 18+ who held a seasonal or contract position last week continued to be identified by NCHS as included in the universe for HOURSWORK, but were omitted from the HOURSWRK question and had their responses set to "Unknown - Not Ascertained."</p>
Concept:	Work Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	31
End Position:	32

Width:	2
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0
Categories	
Value	Label
00	NIU
01	1
02	2
03	3
04	4
05	5
06	6
07	7
08	8
09	9
10	10
11	11
12	12
13	13
14	14
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90	90
91	91
92	92

93	93
94	94
95	95+ hours
97	Unknown--refused
98	Unknown--not ascertained
99	Unknown--don't know

Variable: "HEALTH"

Name:	HEALTH
Label:	Health status
Variable Text:	<p>For sample adults and sample children, HEALTH rates an individual's general health (as self-reported by the person in question or evaluated by a family member) on a four-point (1972-81) or five-point (1982 forward) Likert scale, ranging from "excellent" to "poor" (along with an unrated "unknown" category).</p> <p>For 1997-2018, HSTATYR reports whether the health status of sample adults and sample children was better, worse, or about the same as one year ago.</p>
Concept:	General Health Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	33
End Position:	33
Width:	1
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0
Categories	

Value	Label
1	Excellent

2	Very Good
3	Good
4	Fair
5	Poor
7	Unknown-refused
8	Unknown-not ascertained
9	Unknown-don't know

Variable: "USUALPL"

Name:	USUALPL
Label:	Has usual place for medical care
Variable Text:	<p>For sample adults and sample children, USUALPL indicates whether individuals have a place (or more than one place) that they usually go when they are sick or need advice about their health. Please see the Universe tab for changes to the universe prior to 1997.</p> <p>Text from the Field Representative's Manual for 1997 (which was not routinely read to respondents) clarified this inquiry by noting, "This is not necessarily the doctor most recently contacted. (For example, the most recent contact may have been with a specialist never seen before.) Additionally, it need not be a doctor or clinic the Sample Adult has ever contacted. In this case, the question refers to the doctor or place the Sample Adult would contact if he/she is sick or needs advice about his/her own health."</p>
Concept:	Access to Care Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	34
End Position:	34
Width:	1
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0
Categories	

Value	Label
0	NIU
1	There is no place or No
2	Yes, has a usual place or Yes
3	There is more than one place
7	Unknown-refused
8	Unknown-not ascertained
9	Unknown-don't know

Variable: "HINOTCOVE"

Name:	HINOTCOVE
Label:	Health Insurance coverage status
Variable Text:	<p>For sample adults and sample children, HINOTCOVE indicates whether the person currently lacks health insurance coverage. Prior to 2019, this variable is available for all persons.</p> <p>HINOTCOVE is a recoded variable created by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and included in the original NHIS public use data. HINOTCOVE, like other recoded health insurance variables in these data, is based on responses to a series of questions and on back editing carried out by NCHS staff. For the 1997 sample only, HINOTCOVE is constructed by IPUMS NHIS staff using back edited variables from the original NHIS public use data. The component variables used by IPUMS NHIS staff are available in IPUMS NHIS as HIPRIVATEE, HIMILITE, HIMCAIDE, HIMCAREE, HICHIPE, HISTATEE, and HIOTHGOVE.</p>
Concept:	General Coverage Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	35
End Position:	35
Width:	1
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0

Categories

Value	Label
0	NIU
1	No, has coverage
2	Yes, has no coverage
7	Unknown-refused
8	Unknown-not ascertained
9	Unknown-don't know

Variable: "HIPRIVATEE"

Name:	HIPRIVATEE
Label:	Covered by private health insurance: Recode
Variable Text:	<p>For sample adults and sample children, HIPRIVATEE indicates whether the person currently had private health insurance coverage. Prior to 2019, this variable is available for all persons. Private health care plans may be provided in part or in full by an individual's employer or union, and they may also be purchased directly by a person.</p> <p>HIPRIVATEE is a recoded variable created by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and included in the original NHIS public use data. HIPRIVATEE, like other recoded health insurance variables in these data, is based on responses to a series of questions and by editing carried out by the NCHS.</p> <p>Definitions</p> <p>The Field Representative's Manual for 1998 defines a private health insurance plan as "any type of health insurance, including Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs), other than the public programs in categories (4) and (6)-(11)" (of the flash card used by respondents in that year to report their type(s) of insurance coverage). In other words, private health insurance is, in the NCHS, defined as insurance other than Medicare, Medicaid, Military health care/VA, CHAMPUS/TRICARE/CHAMP-VA, Indian Health Service, State-sponsored health plans, and health insurance from other government programs (including CHIP, the Children's Health Insurance Plan, which was added to the card in 1999).</p> <p>The flash card specified distinct kinds of private health insurance coverage in certain years: private health insurance plan from employer or workplace; Medi-Gap (i.e., private health insurance purchased to supplement Medicare), and private insurance plan through a state or local government program or community program.</p> <p>This last category, which was first added to the card in 1998, was defined in the Manual for that year as follows:</p> <p>Private Health Insurance Plan through a State or Local Government program or community Program is a type of private insurance for which state or local government or community effort pays for part or all of the cost of a private insurance plan, such as Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The individual may also contribute the cost of the health insurance and may receive a</p>

card such as a Blue Cross/Blue Shield card. A community program or effort may include a variety of mechanisms to achieve health insurance for persons who would otherwise be uninsured. An example would be a private company giving a grant to an HMO to pay health insurance coverage. (Beginning in 1999, the example changed to "a private company providing insurance for 500 uninsured children at little or no cost.") Single service plans are another type of insurance usually classified as private health insurance, but single service plan coverage did not count as private insurance coverage in HIPRIVATEE. Single service insurance was first defined in the 1999 Field Representative's Manual as "health insurance coverage paid for by the individual that provides for only one type of service. Examples of SSPs are dental care, vision care, prescriptions, nursing home care, hospice care, accidents, catastrophic care, cancer treatment, AIDS care, and/or hospitalization."

Initially, the NHIS specifically directed respondents to exclude such private single service plans from their reports of private insurance coverage. In 1997-1998, the flashcard listing general types of insurance coverage and handed to respondents stated, "EXCLUDE private plans that only provide extra cash while hospitalized or pay for only one type of service (nursing home care, accidents, or dental care)." From 1999-2018, this policy changed. The category "Single Service Plan (e.g., dental, vision, prescriptions)" was added to the flash card, and the card directed respondents to "INCLUDE those that pay for only one type of service (nursing home care, accidents, or dental care), exclude private plans that only provide extra cash while hospitalized." Beginning in 2019, three separate questions were asked to determine if the respondent had single service plans for dental services, vision services, and prescriptions.

While information on most kinds of single service plans was collected in the survey from 1999 forward, these privately purchased single service health insurance plans were not treated as "private insurance coverage" in HIPRIVATEE. As the Field Representative's Manual for 2001 forward explained, "In trying to determine the appropriate type of health care coverage that an individual has, it is important to remember that for purposes of this survey, Single Service Plans are not considered private health insurance and should not be recorded as such." 2001 marked the first year that the Field Representative's Manual provided guidance to interviewers on recording responses relating to two other types of private insurance coverage--COBRA and TCC--that were included in HIPRIVATEE (under the subheading, "Private Health Insurance Plan from employer or workplace").

 The Manual's discussion of COBRA and TCC was as follows:

If a respondent indicates that he/she is covered by COBRA (the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985) or by TTC (Temporary Consolidation of Coverage), this should be coded as a Private Health Insurance Plan from employer or workplace. COBRA provides a bridge between health plans for qualified workers, their spouses and their dependent children when their health insurance might otherwise be cut off. Under this act, if a person voluntarily resigns from a job or is terminated for any reason other than 'gross misconduct' they are guaranteed the right to continue in their former employers group health insurance plan as an individual or family health care coverage for up to 18 months at one's own expense. In some cases, a spouse and dependent children are also eligible for COBRA coverage for as long as three years. The TCC program is similar to COBRA. This program is available to federal employees. If a person loses Federal Employees Health Benefit (FEHB) coverage because of separation from federal service, they may enroll under the TCC provision of FEHB law to continue coverage for up to 18 months at their own expense in a FEHB plan. Family members who lose coverage because they are no longer eligible may enroll under TCC to continue FEHB coverage for up to 36 months at their own expense. Data Collection Process

Concept:	General Coverage Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	36
End Position:	36
Width:	1

Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0
Categories	
Value	Label
1	No
2	Yes, information
3	Yes, but no information
7	Unknown-refused
8	Unknown-not ascertained
9	Unknown-don't know