

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

2017-March 2020 Data Documentation, Codebook, and Frequencies

Alcohol Use (P_ALQ)

Data File: P_ALQ.xpt

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Component Description

The NHANES program suspended field operations in March 2020 due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. As a result, data collection for the NHANES 2019-2020 cycle was not completed and the collected data are not nationally representative. Therefore, data collected from 2019 to March 2020 were combined with data from the NHANES 2017-2018 cycle to form a nationally representative sample of NHANES 2017-March 2020 pre-pandemic data. These data are available to the public. Please refer to the Analytic Notes section for more details on the use of the data.

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Eligible Sample

All participants ages 12 years and older in the NHANES 2017-March 2020 pre-pandemic sample were eligible; however, only data from participants who were ages 18 and over are included in this file.

A special use data file for participants ages 12-17, P_ALQY_R, is available through the [NCHS Research Data Center \(RDC\)](#).

Interview Setting and Mode of Administration

The ALQ section was administered at the Mobile Examination Center (MEC) during the MEC Interview, except the question on binge drinking frequency in the past 30 days (ALQ170), which was asked at the end of the in-person dietary interview in the MEC. For adults 18 years and older, questions were asked, by trained interviewers, using the Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) system. A proxy provided information for survey participants who were could not answer the questions themselves.

The NHANES [2017-2018](#) and [2019-2020](#) alcohol use 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.

For details on the QA/QC process for this component, please refer to the 2017-2018 [MEC Interviewer Procedures](#) and 2019-2020 [MEC Interviewer Procedures](#) manuals, and the 2017-2018 [MEC In-Person Dietary Interviewers manual](#) and 2019-2020 [MEC In-Person Dietary Interviewers manual](#) on the [NHANES website](#).

Data Processing and Editing

The data were edited for completeness, consistency, and illogical values. Because the data are based on self-reports, not all inconsistencies could be resolved. It is recommended that analysts review the data carefully prior to analysis.

Analytic Notes

The COVID-19 pandemic required suspension of NHANES 2019-2020 field operations in March 2020 after data were collected in 18 of the 30 survey locations in the 2019-2020 sample. Data collection was cancelled for the remaining 12 locations. Because the collected data from 18 locations were not nationally representative, these data were combined with data from the previous cycle (2017-2018) to create a 2017-March 2020 pre-pandemic data file. A special weighting process was applied to the 2017-March 2020 pre-pandemic data file. The resulting sample weights in the demographic file should be used to calculate estimates from the combined cycles. These sample weights are not appropriate for independent analyses of the 2019-2020 data and will not yield nationally representative results for either the 2017-2018 data alone or the 2019-March 2020 data alone. Please refer to the NHANES website for additional information for the NHANES 2017-March 2020 pre-pandemic data, and for the previous 2017-2018 public use data file with specific weights for that 2-year cycle.

The NHANES ALQ asked to adults 18 years and over were not changed between the 2017-2018 and 2019-2020 data collection cycle. However, the NHANES alcohol questions asked to adults 18 and over were changed between the 2015-2016 cycle and the 2017-March 2020 pre-pandemic cycle. These changes are described in the [Analytic Notes](#) of the 2017-2018 alcohol use data documentation.

Question ALQ170 was asked in a different component (i.e., in-person dietary recall interview), and there will be respondents to ALQ170 without any other alcohol use data and vice versa. Consistent with the approach used in the National Health Interview Survey, the phrase "on an occasion" was self-defined by each participant.

All the NHANES 2017-March 2020 pre-pandemic ALQ data were collected in the MEC; therefore, exam sample weights should be used for the 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 18 YEARS - 150 YEARS

ALQ111 - Ever had a drink of any kind of alcohol**Variable Name:** ALQ111**SAS Label:** Ever had a drink of any kind of alcohol

English Text: The next questions are about drinking alcoholic beverages. Included are liquor (such as whiskey or gin), beer, wine, wine coolers, and any other type of alcoholic beverage. In {your/SP's} entire life, {have you/has he/has she} had at least 1 drink of any kind of alcohol, not counting small tastes or sips? By a drink, I mean a 12 oz. beer, a 5 oz. glass of wine, or one and a half ounces of liquor.

English Instructions: HAND CARD ALQ1**Target:** Both males and females 18 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	7503	7503	
2	No	867	8370	End of Section
7	Refused	0	8370	
9	Don't know	0	8370	
.	Missing	595	8965	

ALQ121 - Past 12 mo how often drink alcoholic bev

Variable Name: ALQ121

SAS Label: Past 12 mo how often drink alcoholic bev

English Text: During the past 12 months, about how often did {you/SP} drink any type of alcoholic beverage? PROBE: How many days per week, per month, or per year did {you/SP} drink?

English Instructions: HAND CARD ALQ2

Target: Both males and females 18 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
0	Never in the last year	1638	1638	ALQ151
1	Every day	240	1878	
2	Nearly every day	273	2151	
3	3 to 4 times a week	514	2665	
4	2 times a week	586	3251	
5	Once a week	562	3813	
6	2 to 3 times a month	1042	4855	
7	Once a month	570	5425	
8	7 to 11 times in the last year	457	5882	
9	3 to 6 times in the last year	795	6677	
10	1 to 2 times in the last year	822	7499	
77	Refused	2	7501	
99	Don't know	2	7503	
.	Missing	1462	8965	