

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

2017-March 2020 Data Documentation, Codebook, and Frequencies

Health Insurance (P_HIQ)

Data File: P_HIQ.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.

The Health Insurance questionnaire (variable name prefix HIQ) provides respondent-level interview data on insurance coverage, type of insurance coverage, coverage of prescription drugs, and uninsured status during the past 12 months.

Eligible Sample

All participants in the NHANES 2017-March 2020 pre-pandemic sample are included in this dataset.

Interview Setting and Mode of Administration

The questionnaire was asked, in the home, by trained interviewers using Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) system. 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 respondent selected the language of interview (English or Spanish) or requested that an interpreter be used. Hand cards, showing response choices or information that survey participants needed to answer the questions, were used for some questions. The hand cards were printed in English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese (both traditional and simplified), Korean, and Vietnamese. The interviewer directed the respondent to the appropriate hand card during the interview. When necessary, the interviewer further assisted the respondent by reading the response choices listed on the hand cards.

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

After collection, interview data were reviewed by the NHANES field office staff for accuracy and completeness of selected items. The interviewers were required to audio-record interviews and the recorded interviews were reviewed by NCHS staff and interviewer supervisors.

Data Processing and Editing

Frequency counts were checked, "skip" patterns were verified, and the reasonableness of question responses was reviewed. Edits were made to some variables to ensure the completeness, consistency, and analytic usefulness of the data. Edits were also made, when necessary, to address data disclosure concerns.

For the 2019-20 survey cycle, the question HIQ031 was changed to HIQ032 and the response category

“Single Service Plan” was dropped. To make 2017-18 data compatible to 2019-20 data, respondents who responded “Yes” to HIQ011 and reported only a “Single Service Plan” for HIQ031, were recoded to “No” for HIQ011. To reduce the risk of disclosure, responses of “Military Health Care” and “Indian Health Services” for kind of health care coverage (HQ031/HIQ032) were recoded to “Other Government Program”.

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. Because the collected data 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 data 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.

Since the questionnaire was asked during the household interview, the interview sample weights should be used in the analysis. However, if the data is joined with data from the Mobile Exam Center (MEC), the MEC sample weights should be used.

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

HIQ011 - Covered by health insurance

Variable Name: HIQ011**SAS Label:** Covered by health insurance**English Text:** {Are you/Is SP} covered by health insurance or some other kind of health care plan? [Include health insurance obtained through employment or purchased directly as well as government programs like Medicare and Medicaid that provide medical care or help pay medical bills.]**Target:** Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	13671	13671	
2	No	1852	15523	HID259
7	Refused	8	15531	HID259
9	Don't know	29	15560	HID259
.	Missing	0	15560	

HIQ032A - Covered by private insurance

Variable Name: HIQ032A
SAS Label: Covered by private insurance
English Text: {Are you/Is SP} covered by private insurance?
Target: Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Covered by private insurance	6978	6978	
77	Refused	4	6982	
99	Don't know	121	7103	
.	Missing	8457	15560	

HIQ032B - Covered by Medicare

Variable Name: HIQ032B
SAS Label: Covered by Medicare
English Text: {Are you/Is SP} covered by Medicare?
Target: Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
2	Covered by Medicare	2592	2592	
.	Missing	12968	15560	

HIQ032C - Covered by Medi-Gap

Variable Name: HIQ032C
SAS Label: Covered by Medi-Gap
English Text: {Are you/Is SP} covered by Medi-Gap?
Target: Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
3	Covered by Medi-Gap	98	98	
.	Missing	15462	15560	

HIQ032D - Covered by Medicaid

Variable Name: HIQ032D
SAS Label: Covered by Medicaid
English Text: {Are you/Is SP} covered by Medicaid?
Target: Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
4	Covered by Medicaid	4179	4179	
.	Missing	11381	15560	

HIQ032E - Covered by CHIP

Variable Name: HIQ032E
SAS Label: Covered by CHIP
English Text: {Are you/Is SP} covered by CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program)?
Target: Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
5	Covered by CHIP	171	171	
.	Missing	15389	15560	

HIQ032H - Covered by state-sponsored health plan

Variable Name: HIQ032H**SAS Label:** Covered by state-sponsored health plan**English Text:** {Are you/Is SP} covered by state-sponsored health plan?**Target:** Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
8	Covered by state-sponsored health plan	937	937	
.	Missing	14623	15560	

HIQ032I - Covered by other government insurance

Variable Name: HIQ032I**SAS Label:** Covered by other government insurance**English Text:** {Are you/Is SP} covered by other government insurance?**Target:** Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
9	Covered by other government insurance	1008	1008	
.	Missing	14552	15560	

HIQ032J - Not covered by any insurance

Variable Name: HIQ032J
SAS Label: Not covered by any insurance
English Text: {Are you/Is SP} NOT covered by any insurance?
Target: Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
10	No coverage of any type	2	2	
.	Missing	15558	15560	

HID259 - CHECK ITEM

Variable Name:	HID259
English Instructions:	IF HIQ032B = 2, GO TO HIQ105. ELSE IF AGE >= 65, GO TO HIQ260. ELSE IF HIQ011 = 1 AND HIQ032J NOT= 10, GO TO HIQ270. OTHERWISE GO TO END OF SECTION.
Target:	Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

HIQ260 - Have Medicare?

Variable Name: HIQ260**SAS Label:** Have Medicare?**English Text:** {Do you/Does SP} have Medicare?**English Instructions:** This is a health insurance program that virtually all persons 65 and older are eligible for.**Target:** Both males and females 65 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	135	135	
2	No	128	263	HIQ269
7	Refused	4	267	HIQ269
9	Don't know	7	274	HIQ269
.	Missing	15286	15560	

HIQ105 - Insurance card available or not

Variable Name: HIQ105**SAS Label:** Insurance card available or not**English Text:** Insurance card available or not.**Target:** Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	1878	1878	
2	No	70	1948	
.	Missing	13612	15560	

HIQ269 - CHECK ITEM

Variable Name:	HIQ269
English Instructions:	IF (HIQ011 = 1 AND HIQ032J \neq 10) OR (HIQ260 = 1), CONTINUE. OTHERWISE, GO TO END OF SECTION.
Target:	Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

HIQ270 - Do plans cover prescriptions?

Variable Name: HIQ270

SAS Label: Do plans cover prescriptions?

English Text: {Does this plan/Do any of these plans} cover any part of the cost of prescriptions?

English Instructions: CAPI INSTRUCTION: IF HIQ032B = 2 or HIQ260 = 1, DISPLAY: [If {you are/ SP is} enrolled in Medicare Part D, also known as the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan, {you have/he has/she has} some prescription drug coverage.]

Target: Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	12771	12771	
2	No	731	13502	
7	Refused	5	13507	
9	Don't know	188	13695	
.	Missing	1865	15560	

HIQ210 - Time when no insurance in past year?

Variable Name: HIQ210**SAS Label:** Time when no insurance in past year?**English Text:** In the past 12 months, was there any time when {you/SP} did not have any health insurance coverage?**Target:** Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	964	964	
2	No	12704	13668	
7	Refused	2	13670	
9	Don't know	25	13695	
.	Missing	1865	15560	