

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

2017-March 2020 Data Documentation, Codebook, and Frequencies

Dermatology (P_DEQ)

Data File: P_DEQ.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 dermatology questionnaire (variable name prefix DEQ) section provides personal interview data on sun exposure and sun protective behavior.

Eligible Sample

All participants aged 20-59 years in the NHANES 2017-March 2020 pre-pandemic sample were eligible.

Interview Setting and Mode of Administration

The DEQ was asked, in the home, by trained interviewers using the Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) system.

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. The NHANES [2017-2018](#) and [2019-2020](#) questionnaires are available on the NHANES website.

Data Processing and Editing

Frequency counts were verified during the preparation of the file.

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 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. 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.

Responses to questions on time spent outside on work or school days (DEQ120) and on days not at work or at school (DEQ125) were collected in either hours or minutes. For data release purposes, all responses were converted to minutes. If participants indicated that they did not spend any time outdoors, then their values for

these questions were set to zero. The corresponding description in the codebook is “no time spent outdoors”. Values of 1-14 minutes were grouped into one category. The code “3333” was set for participants who reported “does not work or go to school” to DEQ120 or “at work or at school 9 to 5 seven days a week” to DEQ125. These variables were then renamed DED120 and DED125 for release, respectively.

Responses to question DEQ038Q, “How many times in the past year have you had a sunburn?” with values of 20 or more were combined into one category and labeled “20”.

Analysts should be aware that some questions may have very few responses. Even with two years of data collection, there may not be sufficient sample size for such variables to be analytically useful. In these cases, it may be necessary to combine more than two years of data to conduct analysis.

Although dermatology 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 [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 20 YEARS - 59 YEARS

DEQ034A - Stay in the shade?

Variable Name: DEQ034A

SAS Label: Stay in the shade?

English Text: When {you go/SP goes} outside on a very sunny day, for more than one hour, how often {do you/does SP} Stay in the shade?

English Instructions: HAND CARD DEQ2A

Target: Both males and females 20 YEARS - 59 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Always	503	503	
2	Most of the time	1531	2034	
3	Sometimes	2509	4543	
4	Rarely, or	907	5450	
5	Never?	331	5781	
6	Don't go out in the sun	24	5805	DED120
77	Refused	0	5805	
99	Don't know	3	5808	
.	Missing	2	5810	

DEQ034C - Wear a long sleeved shirt

Variable Name: DEQ034C
SAS Label: Wear a long sleeved shirt
English Text: Wear a long sleeved shirt? Would you say . . .
English Instructions: HAND CARD DEQ2A
Target: Both males and females 20 YEARS - 59 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Always	312	312	
2	Most of the time	501	813	
3	Sometimes	1603	2416	
4	Rarely, or	1446	3862	
5	Never?	1919	5781	
7	Refused	0	5781	
9	Don't know	3	5784	
.	Missing	26	5810	

DEQ034D - Use sunscreen?

Variable Name: DEQ034D
SAS Label: Use sunscreen?
English Text: Use sunscreen? Would you say . . .
English Instructions: HAND CARD DEQ2A
Target: Both males and females 20 YEARS - 59 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Always	481	481	
2	Most of the time	701	1182	
3	Sometimes	1194	2376	
4	Rarely, or	1061	3437	
5	Never?	2347	5784	
7	Refused	0	5784	
9	Don't know	0	5784	
.	Missing	26	5810	

DED120 - Minutes outdoors 9am - 5pm work day

Variable Name: DED120**SAS Label:** Minutes outdoors 9am - 5pm work day

English Text: The next questions ask about the time you spent outdoors during the past 30 days. By outdoors, I mean outside and not under any shade. How much time did you usually spend outdoors between 9 in the morning and 5 in the afternoon on the days that you worked or went to school?

English Instructions: ENTER NUMBER OF MINUTES

Target: Both males and females 20 YEARS - 59 YEARS

Hard Edits: 15 to 480

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
15 to 480	Range of Values	3946	3946	
0	No time spent outdoors	1107	5053	
14	1-14 minutes	183	5236	
3333	Does not work or go to school	552	5788	
7777	Refused	1	5789	
9999	Don't Know	15	5804	
.	Missing	6	5810	

DED125 - Minutes outdoors 9am - 5pm not work day

Variable Name: DED125

SAS Label: Minutes outdoors 9am - 5pm not work day

English Text: During the past 30 days, how much time did you usually spend outdoors between 9 in the morning and 5 in the afternoon on the days when you were not working or going to school?

English Instructions: ENTER NUMBER OF MINUTES

Target: Both males and females 20 YEARS - 59 YEARS

Hard Edits: 15 to 480

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
15 to 480	Range of Values	5005	5005	
0	No time spent outdoors	672	5677	
14	1-14 minutes	87	5764	
3333	At work or at school 9 to 5 seven days a week	10	5774	
7777	Refused	3	5777	
9999	Don't Know	27	5804	
.	Missing	6	5810	