

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

2017-March 2020 Data Documentation, Codebook, and Frequencies

Hospital Utilization & Access to Care (P_HUQ)

Data File: P_HUQ.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 Hospital Utilization and Access to Care questionnaire (variable name prefix HUQ) provides respondent-level interview data on self-reported health status and access to health care topics.

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 HUQ061 was changed to HUQ062 and the response categories were changed. The questions were combined into HUD062 for this data file using coding from the table

below.

HUQ061. About how long has it been since you last saw or talked to a doctor or other health care professional about your health? Include doctors seen while you were a patient in a hospital. Has it been...		HUQ062. About how long has it been since you last saw a doctor or other health care professional about your health for any reason?		HUD062. Combination of HUQ061 and HUQ062.
Response Category	Value	Response Category	Value	Value
		Never	0	0
6 months or less,	1	Within the past year (anytime less than 12 months ago)	1	1
More than 6 months, but not more than 1 year ago,	2			
More than 1 year, but not more than 2 years ago,	3	within the last 2 years (1 year but less than 2 years ago)	2	2
More than 2 years, but not more than 5 years ago,	4	within the last 3 years (2 years but less than 3 years ago)	3	3
		within the last 5 years (3 years but less than 5 years ago)	4	
More than 5 years ago, or	5	within the last 10 years (5 years but less than 10 years ago)	5	4
		10 years ago or more	6	
never?	6			0

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.

Please refer to the Analytic Guidelines and the online NHANES Tutorial for the use of sample weights and other analytic issues.

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

HUQ010 - General health condition

Variable Name: HUQ010

SAS Label: General health condition

English Text: {First/Next} I have some general questions about {your/SP's} health. Would you say {your/SP's} health in general is . . .

English Instructions: CAPI INSTRUCTION: DISPLAY "FIRST" IF SP AGE IS >= 16 YEARS.

Target: Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Excellent,	4031	4031	
2	Very good,	4251	8282	
3	Good,	4665	12947	
4	Fair, or	2176	15123	
5	Poor?	427	15550	
7	Refused	6	15556	
9	Don't know	4	15560	
.	Missing	0	15560	

HUQ030 - Routine place to go for healthcare

Variable Name: HUQ030

SAS Label: Routine place to go for healthcare

English Text: Is there a place that {you/SP} usually {go/goes} when {you are/he/she is} sick or {you/s/he} need{s} advice about {your/his/her} health?

English Instructions: CAPI INSTRUCTION: IF SP AGE < 12, DISPLAY "YOU" IN THE FOURTH DISPLAY AND DON'T DISPLAY THE "S" IN THE FIFTH DISPLAY.

Target: Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	13514	13514	
2	There is no place	1968	15482	
3	There is more than one place	74	15556	
7	Refused	1	15557	
9	Don't know	3	15560	
.	Missing	0	15560	

HUQ051 - #times receive healthcare over past year

Variable Name: HUQ051**SAS Label:** #times receive healthcare over past year

English Text: {During the past 12 months, how/How} many times {have you/has SP} seen a doctor or other health care professional about {your/his/her} health at a doctor's office, a clinic or some other place? Do not include times {you were/s/he was} hospitalized overnight, visits to hospital emergency rooms, home visits or telephone calls.

English Instructions: CAPI INSTRUCTION: DISPLAY "12 MONTHS" ONLY IF SP'S AGE IS >= 1.

Target: Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
0	None	2020	2020	
1	1	3345	5365	HUQ071
2	2 to 3	5009	10374	HUQ071
3	4 to 5	2389	12763	HUQ071
4	6 to 7	1006	13769	HUQ071
5	8 to 9	421	14190	HUQ071
6	10 to 12	677	14867	HUQ071
7	13 to 15	207	15074	HUQ071
8	16 or more	446	15520	HUQ071
77	Refused	0	15520	HUQ071
99	Don't know	40	15560	HUQ071
.	Missing	0	15560	

HUD062 - How long since last healthcare visit

Variable Name: HUD062**SAS Label:** How long since last healthcare visit

English Text: About how long has it been since {you/SP} last saw a doctor or other health care professional about {your/his/her} health for any reason? READ IF NECESSARY: Include doctors seen while a patient in a hospital. READ IF NECESSARY: Do not include dental care.

Target: Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
0	never	69	69	
1	within the past year (anytime less than 12 months ago)	379	448	
2	within the last 2 years (1 year but less than 2 years ago)	749	1197	
3	within the last 5 years (2 years but less than 5 years ago)	559	1756	
4	5 years ago or more	251	2007	
77	Refused	0	2007	
99	Don't know	13	2020	
.	Missing	13540	15560	

HUQ071 - Overnight hospital patient in last year

Variable Name: HUQ071

SAS Label: Overnight hospital patient in last year

English Text: {During the past 12 months, were you/{was} SP} a patient in a hospital overnight? Do not include an overnight stay in the emergency room.

English Instructions: CAPI INSTRUCTION: DISPLAY "12 MONTHS" ONLY IF SP'S AGE IS >= 1.
DISPLAY "WAS SP" WITH LEADING CAPS, IF SP'S AGE IS <1.

Target: Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	1415	1415	
2	No	14141	15556	
7	Refused	0	15556	
9	Don't know	4	15560	
.	Missing	0	15560	

HUQ085 - CHECK ITEM

Variable Name:	HUQ085
English Instructions:	CHECK ITEM HUQ085: IF SP AGE >= 4, CONTINUE. OTHERWISE, GO TO END OF SECTION.
Target:	Both males and females 0 YEARS - 150 YEARS

HUQ090 - Seen mental health professional/past yr

Variable Name: HUQ090**SAS Label:** Seen mental health professional/past yr**English Text:** During the past 12 months, that is since {DISPLAY CURRENT MONTH} of {DISPLAY LAST YEAR}, {have you/has SP} seen or talked to a mental health professional such as a psychologist, psychiatrist, psychiatric nurse or clinical social worker about {your/his/her} health?**Target:** Both males and females 4 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	1451	1451	
2	No	12379	13830	
7	Refused	2	13832	
9	Don't know	4	13836	
.	Missing	1724	15560	