

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

August 2021-August 2023 Data Documentation, Codebook, and Frequencies

Smoking - Cigarette Use (SMQ_L)

Data File: SMQ_L.xpt

First Published: September 2024

Last Revised: NA

Component Description

This smoking - cigarette use questionnaire (variable name prefix SMQ) provides a history of cigarette smoking, age at initiation, past 30-day use, and cigarette type. Since 1999, SMQ questionnaire content has varied; this data set has fewer variables than past cycles.

Eligible Sample

All participants aged 12 years and older were eligible. Participants aged 12-17 answered questions on their own; interviews requiring proxy informants or interpreters were not administered.

Interview Setting and Mode of Administration

For adults aged 18 years or older, this questionnaire was asked by trained interviewers using the Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) system in the participant's home or by telephone. For youth aged 12-17 years, questions were asked at the Mobile Examination Center (MEC) during the MEC Interview using the Audio Computer-Assisted Self-Interview (ACASI) system, in English and Spanish only.

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. Interviewers were required to audio-record interviews. The recorded interviews were reviewed by interviewer supervisors and NCHS staff.

Data Processing and Editing

Edits were made to ensure completeness, consistency, and analytic usefulness of the data. A variable, SMAQUX was created as a flag to designate each interview mode and age group.

Analytic Notes

Several questions were dropped in NHANES August 2021-August 2023 and are not included in this data file, including SMQ030, SMQ050, SMQ055, SMQ057, SMQ078, SMQ653, SMQ657, SMQ671.

Questions varied by target age; youths 12-17 years were asked fewer questions than adults 18 years and older. Analysts are advised to carefully review skip patterns, and target ages for this question series, and to combine and re-code responses to account for the full target sample. Persons who were not asked a question due to a skip pattern were coded as missing ("."). If skip patterns are not considered, estimates may be based on a portion rather than on the entire population. For example, to determine current adult cigarette smoking status (18+ years), responses to the preliminary question (SMQ.020) on '100 cigarettes in lifetime,' with responses to the follow-up question on 'now smokes cigarette' (SMQ.040) must be considered.

Related questions on cigarette and tobacco use are located in the SMQRTU, SMQFAM data files. Biomarkers for tobacco exposure including serum cotinine, are found in NHANES laboratory data files.

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 12 YEARS - 150 YEARS

SMQ020 - Smoked at least 100 cigarettes in life

Variable Name: SMQ020

SAS Label: Smoked at least 100 cigarettes in life

English Text: These next questions are about cigarette smoking and other tobacco use. {Have you/Has SP} smoked at least 100 cigarettes in {your/his/her} entire life?

Target: Both males and females 18 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Yes	3243	3243	
2	No	4878	8121	SMAQUEX2
7	Refused	7	8128	SMAQUEX2
9	Don't know	7	8135	SMAQUEX2
.	Missing	880	9015	

SMQ040 - Do you now smoke cigarettes?**Variable Name:** SMQ040**SAS Label:** Do you now smoke cigarettes?**English Text:** {Do you/Does SP} now smoke cigarettes?**Target:** Both males and females 18 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Every day	952	952	
2	Some days	238	1190	
3	Not at all	2053	3243	
7	Refused	0	3243	SMAQUEX2
9	Don't know	0	3243	SMAQUEX2
.	Missing	5772	9015	

SMD641 - # days smoked cigs during past 30 days

Variable Name: SMD641

SAS Label: # days smoked cigs during past 30 days

English Text: On how many of the past 30 days did {you/SP} smoke a cigarette?

English Instructions: ENTER NUMBER (OF DAYS)

Target: Both males and females 12 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Hard Edits: 0 to 30

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
0 to 30	Range of Values	268	268	
77	Refused	0	268	
99	Don't know	5	273	
.	Missing	8742	9015	

SMD650 - Avg # cigarettes/day during past 30 days

Variable Name: SMD650

SAS Label: Avg # cigarettes/day during past 30 days

English Text: During the past 30 days, on the days that {you/SP} smoked, about how many cigarettes did {you/s/he} smoke per day?

English Instructions: 1 PACK EQUALS 20 CIGARETTES. IF LESS THAN 1 PER DAY, ENTER 1. IF 95 OR MORE PER DAY, ENTER 95. ENTER NUMBER (OF CIGARETTES) (PER DAY).

Target: Both males and females 12 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Hard Edits: 1 to 95

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
2 to 90	Range of Values	1080	1080	
1	1 cigarette or less	94	1174	
95	95 cigarettes or more	2	1176	
777	Refused	0	1176	
999	Don't know	9	1185	
.	Missing	7830	9015	

SMD100MN - Cigarette Menthol indicator

Variable Name: SMD100MN
SAS Label: Cigarette Menthol indicator
English Text: Do you usually smoke menthol or non-menthol cigarettes?
Target: Both males and females 18 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
0	Non-menthol	712	712	
1	Menthol	460	1172	
7	Refused	0	1172	
9	Don't know	3	1175	
.	Missing	7840	9015	

SMQ621 - Cigarettes smoked in entire life

Variable Name: SMQ621

SAS Label: Cigarettes smoked in entire life

English Text: The following questions are about cigarette smoking and other tobacco use. Do not include cigars or marijuana. About how many cigarettes have you smoked in your entire life?

English Instructions: INSTRUCTIONS TO SP: Please select . . .

Target: Both males and females 12 YEARS - 17 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	I have never smoked, not even a puff	720	720	SMAQUX2
2	1 or more puffs but never a whole cigarette	28	748	SMAQUX2
3	1 cigarette	6	754	
4	2 to 5 cigarettes	4	758	
5	6 to 15 cigarettes	4	762	
6	16 to 25 cigarettes	5	767	
7	26 to 99 cigarettes	2	769	
8	100 or more cigarettes	2	771	
77	Refused	0	771	SMAQUX2
99	Don't know	1	772	SMAQUX2
.	Missing	8243	9015	

SMD630 - Age first smoked whole cigarette

Variable Name: SMD630

SAS Label: Age first smoked whole cigarette

English Text: How old were you when you smoked a whole cigarette for the first time?

Target: Both males and females 12 YEARS - 17 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
9 to 16	Range of Values	23	23	
6	6 years or less	0	23	
77	Refused	0	23	
99	Don't know	0	23	
.	Missing	8992	9015	

SMAQUX2 - Questionnaire Mode Flag

Variable Name: SMAQUX2

SAS Label: Questionnaire Mode Flag

English Text: Questionnaire Mode Flag

Target: Both males and females 12 YEARS - 150 YEARS

Code or Value	Value Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	Home Interview (18+ Yrs)	8153	8153	
2	ACASI (12 - 17 Yrs)	862	9015	
.	Missing	0	9015	