

2012 NATIONAL HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY (NHIS) June 30, 2013  
PUBLIC USE DATA RELEASE

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WARNING - DATA USE RESTRICTIONS! Read Carefully Before Use

The Public Health Service Act (Section 308 (d)) provides that the data collected by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), may be used only for the purpose of health statistical reporting and analysis.

Any effort to determine the identity of any reported case is prohibited by this law.

NCHS does all it can to assure that the identity of data subjects cannot be disclosed. All direct identifiers, as well as any characteristics that might lead to identification, are omitted from the data files. Any intentional identification or disclosure of a person or establishment violates the assurances of confidentiality given to the providers of the information. Therefore, users will:

1. Use the data in these data files for statistical reporting and analysis only.
2. Make no use of the identity of any person or establishment discovered inadvertently and advise the Director, NCHS, of any such discovery (301-458-4500).
3. Not link these data files with individually identifiable data from other NCHS or non-NCHS data files.

By using these data, you signify your agreement to comply with the above-stated statutorily based requirements.

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INTRODUCTION

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) is conducted annually by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The NHIS administers face-to-face interviews in a nationally representative sample of households. Each month a probability sample of the civilian non-institutionalized population of the United States is interviewed by personnel of the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Information is obtained about the health and other characteristics of each member of the household.

2012 NHIS STRUCTURE

The NHIS contains many similar questions every year. The repeated items are called "core questions". Beginning with a new NHIS design in 1997, these core questions were divided into three components -- Family, Sample Adult, and Sample Child. In

most years, the NHIS also has supplemental questions/modules.

The 2012 NHIS contains the core questions, enhanced questions on health care access and utilization, and additional supplemental questions in the Family questionnaire on the subject of food security, Sample Adult questionnaire on the subjects of immunization, complementary and alternative medicine, non-cigarette tobacco use, voice, speech, and language and in the Sample Child questionnaire on the subjects of mental health, mental health services, immunization, complementary and alternative medicine, balance, voice, speech, and language. Along with the 2012 NHIS core data files are the Disability Questions Tests 2012 files which contain person-level data collected via a field test of six disability questions. These supplemental questions appeared on the NHIS, at the end of the Family, Sample Adult, and Sample Child Cores. For more details, please refer to <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/disabilityquestionstests2012.htm>.

The Disability Questions Tests 2012 files are released as three separate files. A fourth disability supplement was also fielded in 2012 as part of the Sample Adult Core and is called "Functioning and Disability".

The 2012 NHIS data release consists of eleven questionnaires, six core data files, a paradata file, the three Disability Questions Tests files, a Functioning and Disability file, and two Complementary and Alternative Medicine files. See the Survey Description document for more details.

The following chart shows the output data files for the 2012 NHIS components:

Component	Questionnaire	Output Data File
Family Module	Household	Household
"	Family	Family
"	"	Person
"	"	Injury/Poisoning Episode
Sample Adult Module	Sample Adult	Sample Adult
Sample Child Module	Sample Child	Sample Child
Adult Complementary And Alternative Medicine	Adult Complementary And Alternative Medicine	Adult Complementary And Alternative Medicine
Child Complementary And Alternative Medicine	Child Complementary And Alternative Medicine	Child Complementary And Alternative Medicine
--	Cover	Family
Sample Adult Module	Adult Disability Questions Tests	Adult Disability Questions Tests
Sample Child Module	Child Disability Questions Tests	Child Disability Questions Tests
Family Module	Family Disability Questions Tests	Family Disability Questions Tests
Sample Adult Module	Functioning and Disability	Functioning and Disability
--	--	Paradata

#### 2012 NHIS FILES AND DOCUMENTATION

The various files listed below comprise the 2012 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) public use data release.

## 2012 NHIS SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES, ETC.

The 2012 NHIS consists of eleven questionnaires - Household, Family, Family Disability Questions Test, Adult, Adult Alternative Medicine, Child Alternative Medicine, Adult Disability Questions Tests, Child, Child Disability Questions Test, Cover, Functioning & Disability. The questionnaires that are provided with the release of the 2012 NHIS are not identical to the versions that were utilized in the field. The questionnaires provided here reflect the minor changes in data presentation that occurred during the editing process.

Both English and Spanish versions of the questionnaires are released. The Spanish versions contain interviewer instructions in English.

The 2012 NHIS has similar questions as previous years and the same software was utilized for the questionnaire delivery system as was used for the 2011 NHIS.

Prior to 2004, one household equaled one "case". Beginning in 2004, each family is considered a separate case. For multiple-family households, there is a "parent" case designated for the first family identified, and each subsequent family becomes a "spawned" case from the parent, with its own unique case id.

Flashcards were handed to the respondents to facilitate their ability to answer certain questions - these are referenced in the questionnaires. The Field Representative Manual contains the guidelines and instructions on the survey process and topic areas covered by the NHIS and was provided to the Field Representatives (also known as interviewers). Also included is a flowchart that shows how a respondent would move through the various questionnaires.

The survey questionnaires, flashcards, and Field Representative Manual are in Adobe Portable Document Form (PDF) format and can be viewed with Adobe Acrobat software. The Adobe Acrobat Reader software can be downloaded from the Adobe Acrobat Web site at:

<http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep2.html>

## 2012 NHIS DATA FILES

The 2012 NHIS has been divided into 13 data files. For ease of transmission, each of the 2012 NHIS data files has been converted into a ZIP file format.

You can copy the data file from the .ZIP file into the appropriate folder.

To do this, create a folder on your C drive, and name it NHIS2012, assuming you are using the C drive as your hard drive. Download the zip file into your newly created folder, C:\NHIS2012.

Double click the HOUSEHLD.ZIP that is on your hard drive until you see the HOUSEHLD.DAT file.

Or you can extract the HOUSEHLD.ZIP file into the appropriate folder.

To do this, extract HOUSEHLD.ZIP into the folder C:\NHIS2012. The ASCII file, HOUSEHLD.DAT, will be generated which can then be used for processing by PC statistical software packages which utilize ASCII formatted input, or can be transferred to another computer for processing.

NOTE: The 2012 NHIS files are large in size. Please use caution and check your disk drive capacity before extracting.

NOTE: Users have encountered difficulties when downloading the data files onto their 'Desktop'. When downloading the data files, please use a separate folder (directory).

File Name	Description	Format
ADLTDISB.ZIP	Adult Disability Questions Test	Compressed ASCII
ALTHEALT.ZIP	Adult Alternative Medicine	Compressed ASCII
CHILDCAM.ZIP	Child Alternative Medicine	Compressed ASCII
CHLDDISB.ZIP	Child Disability Questions Test	Compressed ASCII
FMLYDISB.ZIP	Family Disability Questions Test	Compressed ASCII
FUNCDISB.ZIP	Function & Disability	Compressed ASCII
FAMILYXX.ZIP	Family Data	Compressed ASCII
HOUSEHLD.ZIP	Household Data	Compressed ASCII
INJPOIEP.ZIP	Injury/Poison Episode	Compressed ASCII
PERSONSX.ZIP	Person Data	Compressed ASCII
SAMADULT.ZIP	Sample Adult Data	Compressed ASCII
SAMCHILD.ZIP	Sample Child Data	Compressed ASCII
PARADATA.ZIP	Paradata	Compressed ASCII

#### 2012 NHIS SAS, SPSS AND STATA INPUT STATEMENTS

Sample SAS, SPSS, and STATA input statement programs have been provided for each data file. By using the ASCII data files (.DAT files that can be extracted from the .ZIP files) as input to these programs, SAS, SPSS, or STATA data files can be created. The SAS, SPSS, and STATA input statement programs are stored in ASCII format. STATA programs were not provided prior to the 2002 data year.

File Name	Description	Format
ADLTDISB.SAS	Adult Disability Questions Test SAS program	ASCII
ALTHEALT.SAS	Adult Alternative Medicine SAS program	ASCII
CHILDCAM.SAS	Child Alternative Medicine SAS program	ASCII
CHLDDISB.SAS	Child Disability Questions Test SAS program	ASCII
FMLYDISB.SAS	Family Disability Questions Test SAS program	ASCII
FUNCDISB.SAS	Function & Disability SAS program	ASCII
FAMILYXX.SAS	Family SAS program	ASCII
HOUSEHLD.SAS	Household SAS program	ASCII
INJPOIEP.SAS	Injury/Poison Episode SAS program	ASCII
PERSONSX.SAS	Person SAS program	ASCII
SAMADULT.SAS	Sample Adult SAS program	ASCII
SAMCHILD.SAS	Sample Child SAS program	ASCII
PARADATA.SAS	Paradata SAS program	ASCII

ADLTDISB.SPS	Adult Disability Questions Test SPSS program	ASCII
ALTHEALT.SPS	Adult Alternative Medicine SPSS program	ASCII
CHILDCAM.SPS	Child Alternative Medicine SPSS program	ASCII
CHLDDISB.SPS	Child Disability Questions Test SPSS program	ASCII
FMLYDISB.SPS	Family Disability Questions Test SPSS program	ASCII
FUNCDISB.SPS	Function & Disability SPSS program	ASCII
FAMILYXX.SPS	Family SPSS program	ASCII
HOUSEHLD.SPS	Household SPSS program	ASCII
INJPOIEP.SPS	Injury/Poison Episode SPSS program	ASCII
PERSONSX.SPS	Person SPSS program	ASCII
SAMADULT.SPS	Sample Adult SPSS program	ASCII
SAMCHILD.SPS	Sample Child SPSS program	ASCII
PARADATA.SPS	Paradata SPSS program	ASCII
ADLTDISB.DO	Adult Disability Questions Test Stata program	ASCII
ALTHEALT.DO	Adult Alternative Medicine Stata program	ASCII
CHILDCAM.DO	Child Alternative Medicine Stata program	ASCII
CHLDDISB.DO	Child Disability Questions Test Stata program	ASCII
FMLYDISB.DO	Family Disability Questions Test Stata program	ASCII
FUNCDISB.DO	Function & Disability Stata program	ASCII
FAMILYXX.DO	Family Stata program	ASCII
HOUSEHLD.DO	Household Stata program	ASCII
INJPOIEP.DO	Injury/Poison Episode Stata program	ASCII
PERSONSX.DO	Person Stata program	ASCII
SAMADULT.DO	Sample Adult Stata program	ASCII
SAMCHILD.DO	Sample Child Stata program	ASCII
PARADATA.DO	Paradata SAS program	ASCII

#### 2012 NHIS DATA FILE DOCUMENTATION FILES

There is a Survey Description document which contains general information about the 2012 NHIS. There are three documentation files associated with each subject matter file (summary, layout, frequency report).

The documentation files are in PDF format and can be viewed with Adobe Acrobat software. The Adobe Acrobat Reader software can be downloaded from the Adobe Acrobat Web site at:

<http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep2.html>

File Name	Description	Format
SRVYDESC.PDF	Survey Description Document	PDF
ADLTDISB_SUMMARY.PDF	Adult Disability Questions Test File Variable Summary	PDF
ALTHEALT_SUMMARY.PDF	Adult Alternative Medicine File Variable Summary	PDF
CHILDCAM_SUMMARY.PDF	Child Alternative Medicine File Variable Summary	PDF
CHLDDISB_SUMMARY.PDF	Child Disability Questions Test File Variable Summary	PDF
FMLYDISB_SUMMARY.PDF	Family Disability Questions Test File Variable Summary	PDF
FUNCDISB_SUMMARY.PDF	Function & Disability Summary File Variable Summary	PDF

FAMILYXX_SUMMARY.PDF	Family File Variable Summary	PDF
HOUSEHLD_SUMMARY.PDF	Household File Variable Summary	PDF
INJPOIEP_SUMMARY.PDF	Inj/Poi Episode File Variable Summary	PDF
PERSONSX_SUMMARY.PDF	Person File Variable Summary	PDF
SAMADULT_SUMMARY.PDF	Sample Adult File Variable Summary	PDF
SAMCHILD_SUMMARY.PDF	Sample Child File Variable Summary	PDF
PARADATA_SUMMARY.PDF	Paradata File Variable Summary	PDF
ADLTDISB_LAYOUT.PDF	Adult Disability Questions Test File Layout	PDF
ALTHEALT_LAYOUT.PDF	Adult Alternative Medicine File Layout	PDF
CHILDCAM_LAYOUT.PDF	Child Alternative Medicine File Layout	PDF
CHLDDISB_LAYOUT.PDF	Child Disability Questions Test File Layout	PDF
FMLYDISB_LAYOUT.PDF	Family Disability Questions Test File Layout	PDF
FUNCDISB_LAYOUT.PDF	Function & Disability Summary File Layout	PDF
FAMILYXX_LAYOUT.PDF	Family File Layout	PDF
HOUSEHLD_LAYOUT.PDF	Household File Layout	PDF
INJPOIEP_LAYOUT.PDF	Inj/Poi Episode File Layout	PDF
PERSONSX_LAYOUT.PDF	Person File Layout	PDF
SAMADULT_LAYOUT.PDF	Sample Adult File Layout	PDF
SAMCHILD_LAYOUT.PDF	Sample Child File Layout	PDF
PARADATA_LAYOUT.PDF	Paradata File Layout	PDF
ADLTDISB_FREQ.PDF	Adult Disability Questions Test Frequency Report	PDF
ALTHEALT_LAYOUT.PDF	Adult Alternative Medicine Frequency Report	PDF
CHILDCAM_LAYOUT.PDF	Child Alternative Medicine Frequency Report	PDF
CHLDDISB_FREQ.PDF	Child Disability Questions Test Frequency Report	PDF
FMLYDISB_FREQ.PDF	Family Disability Questions Test Frequency Report	PDF
FUNCDISB_FREQ.PDF	Function & Disability Frequency Report	PDF
FAMILYXX_FREQ.PDF	Family File Frequency Report	PDF
HOUSEHLD_FREQ.PDF	Household File Frequency Report	PDF
INJPOIEP_FREQ.PDF	Inj/Poi Episode File Frequency Report	PDF
PERSONSX_FREQ.PDF	Person File Frequency Report	PDF
SAMADULT_FREQ.PDF	Sample Adult File Frequency Report	PDF
SAMCHILD_FREQ.PDF	Sample Child File Frequency Report	PDF
PARADATA_FREQ.PDF	Paradata File Frequency Report	PDF

NOTE: The numeric portion of the variable labels included in the SAS programming code and frequency documents are provided as a link to the file layout document but do not necessarily link to the question numbers on the survey instrument, especially for recode variables. The recode variables may be based on other recodes or more than one question.

#### 2012 NHIS DATA FILES' RECORD SEQUENCE

All records in the NHIS data files have first been sorted by the Household Serial Number (HHX).

The Family file has been sorted by combining the Household Serial Number (HHX) and the Family Serial Number (FMX).

The person-level files (Person, Sample Adult, Sample Child)

have been sorted by combining the Household Serial Number (HHX), Family Sequence Number (FMX) and Person Sequence Number (FPX).

The injury file (Injury/Poison Episode) has been sorted by combining the Household Serial Number (HHX), Family Sequence Number (FMX), Person Sequence Number (FPX), and Injury/Poison Sequence Number (IPEPNO).

#### MERGING 2012 NHIS DATA FILES

To merge data from the Household file into the Family file, or into any of the person-level files (Person, Sample Adult, Sample Child) or into any of the episode-level files (Injury/Poison Episode), merge by variable HHX.

To merge the Family file information into a person-level or episode-level file merge by HHX and FMX.

To merge any person-level file with another person-level file or with an episode-level file, merge by variables HHX, FMX and FPX.

NOTE: An asterisk in the summary and/or frequency documents means that there is additional information for the variable in the Notes section of the file's layout document.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Updates about new data releases, publications, or errors will be sent to members of the NHIS Listserv. To join, visit the website at:

[http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/nhis\\_listserv.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/nhis_listserv.htm)

For additional information on NHIS data products:

Phone : 301-458-4901  
FAX : 301-458-4035  
E-mail : [nhislist@cdc.gov](mailto:nhislist@cdc.gov).  
Internet: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>

For additional information on other NCHS data products:

Phone : 866-441-6247  
E-mail : [nchsquery@cdc.gov](mailto:nchsquery@cdc.gov)  
Internet: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs>

#### STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

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