

1970 NATIONAL HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY 02/01/2010  
PUBLIC USE DATA RELEASE

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WARNING - DATA USE RESTRICTIONS! Read Carefully before Using

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 (301-458-4000).
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.

INTRODUCTION

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) is conducted annually by the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The NHIS administers face-to-face interviews in a nationally representative sample of households. Each week 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.

The NHIS includes a basic questionnaire plus one or more additional questionnaires. More information on the survey in general and the 1970 version, in particular, is found in the Current Estimates Series report:

[http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_10/sr10\\_072.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_10/sr10_072.pdf)

NOTES TO USERS

Users are advised to subscribe to the NHIS Listserv to receive notice of any corrections/updates. For information about joining the Listserv, see the CONTACT INFORMATION section at the bottom of this document.

## 1970 NHIS FILES AND DOCUMENTATION

The 1970 NHIS files and related documentation, not including HEALTHIN.DAT, MEDCCOST.DAT, and XRAYXXXX.DAT, have been previously distributed via various formats -- magnetic tape, ASCII CDs, etc. HEALTHIN.DAT, MEDCCOST.DAT, AND XRAYXXXX.DAT were released for the first time in 2010 on the Internet.

The files listed below comprise the 1970 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) public use data release as found on the Internet.

A copy of this file (README.PDF) is located at the following ftp location:

ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\_Documentation/NHIS/1970/

## 1970 NHIS DATA FILES

Five 1970 NHIS files are referred to as "core" files because they were administered each year (through 1996). The five core files are Household, Person, Condition, Doctor Visit, and Hospital.

The 1970 NHIS data have been divided into eight data files, consisting of the five core files and three supplemental files. For ease of transmission, each of the 1970 NHIS data files has been converted into a self-extracting compressed format. To load and expand a compressed file into an ASCII file, perform the following steps:

Download a compressed file onto your hard drive into an appropriate directory (folder). For example: Copy the data file HOUSEHLD.EXE into a directory called NHIS1970. To do this, create a directory on your C: drive called NHIS1970. Then, using your browser, go to the FTP site containing the 1970 NHIS data files (see address at end of this section). Right click on the HOUSEHLD.EXE file. Depending on your browser, select Save Link As... or Save Target As... Type c:\nhis1970\HOUSEHLD.EXE in the box labeled File Name and hit Enter. To then extract HOUSEHLD.EXE into the ASCII file HOUSEHLD.DAT, go to the directory NHIS1970 and do the following:

- From DOS        - in the c:\nhis1970 directory, type HOUSEHLD  
                  and hit Enter
  
- From Windows - Double-click on HOUSEHLD.EXE  
                  or  
                  Click the Start Button, Click Run, enter  
                  c:\nhis1970\HOUSEHLD.EXE and hit Enter.

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 transferred to another computer for processing.

NOTE: The 1970 NHIS files are large in size. Please use caution and check your disk drive capacity before extracting.

## 1970 NHIS DATA FILES

NHIS FILE TYPE	FILE NAME	RECORD LENGTH	# RECS
HOUSEHOLD	HOUSEHLD.DAT	516	39,011
PERSON	PERSONSX.DAT	516	116,466
CONDITION	CONDITON.DAT	516	68,331
HOSPITAL	HOSPITAL.DAT	516	16,073
DOCTOR VISIT	DRVISITX.DAT	516	21,412
HEALTH INSURANCE	HEALTHIN.DAT	513	48,779
MEDICAL CARE COST	MEDCCOST.DAT	278	23,690
X-RAY	XRAYXXXX.DAT	370	13,623

Note: The above data files are the unzipped files in ASCII format.

The 1970 NHIS data files are located at:

[ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Datasets/NHIS/1970](ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Datasets/NHIS/1970)

### 1970 NHIS FILE LAYOUTS (CODEBOOKS)

There is a file layout (also called codebook or data dictionary) for each data file. The file layouts 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/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

File Name	Description of Component	File Format
NHISCORE.PDF*	Core files layout	Adobe PDF
HEALTHIN.PDF	Health Insurance file layout	Adobe PDF
MEDCCOST.PDF	Medical Care Cost file layout	Adobe PDF
XRAYXXXX.PDF	X-Ray file layout	Adobe PDF

\*NHISCORE.PDF contains the file layouts for the following five core files: Household, Person, Condition, Doctor Visit, and Hospital.

The 1970 NHIS data file layout documentation files are located at:

[ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/NHIS/1970](ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHIS/1970)

## 1970 NHIS SAS INPUT STATEMENTS

Sample SAS programs containing input statements have been provided for each data file. By using the ASCII data files (.DAT files) as input to these programs, SAS data files can be created. The SAS input statement programs are stored in ASCII format.

File Name	Description of Component	File Format
CONDITON.SAS	Condition file SAS program	ASCII
DRVISITX.SAS	Doctor Visit file SAS program	ASCII
HEALTHIN.SAS	Health Insurance file SAS program	ASCII
HOSPITAL.SAS	Hospital file SAS program	ASCII
HOUSEHLD.SAS	Household file SAS program	ASCII
MEDCCOST.SAS	Medical Care Cost file SAS program	ASCII
PERSONSX.SAS	Person file SAS program	ASCII
XRAYXXXX.SAS	X-Ray file SAS program	ASCII

The 1970 NHIS sample SAS input statement programs are located at:

[ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Program\\_Code/NHIS/1970](ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Program_Code/NHIS/1970)

## 1970 NHIS SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES AND FLASHCARDS

The 1970 NHIS questionnaires and flashcards can be found as an appendix to the 1970 Current Estimates publication which is on the Internet at:

[http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_10/sr10\\_072.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_10/sr10_072.pdf)

## MISCELLANEOUS

All information collected in the survey is from reports by responsible family members residing in the household. When possible, all adult family members participate in the interview. However, proxy responses are accepted for family members who are not at home and are required for all children and for family members who are physically or mentally incapable of responding for themselves. Although a considerable effort is made to ensure accurate reporting, the information from both proxy respondents and self-respondents may be inaccurate because the respondent is unaware of relevant information, has forgotten it, does not wish to reveal it to an interviewer, or does not understand the intended meaning of a question.

Data from the core in 1970 were collected for 45 weeks. Weeks 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13 of calendar quarter 1, and week 2 of calendar quarter 2, have been omitted due to budgetary shortage. All seven omitted weeks fell into processing quarter 1, which begins with the third week of a calendar quarter and runs through the second week of the following calendar quarter. Data from the Health Insurance special health topic were collected for 19 weeks (processing quarters 1, 4). Data from the X-Ray special health topic were collected for 26 weeks (processing quarters 2, 3). Data from the Medical Care Cost special health topic were collected primarily by mail from a subsample of addresses selected for the NHIS sample for October-December 1970.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

For additional information on the NHIS, visit the website at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>

If you have questions or comments on any aspect of the NHIS, please contact us:

E-mail : [nhislist@cdc.gov](mailto:nhislist@cdc.gov)  
Call : 301-458-4901  
FAX : 301-458-4035  
Mail : DHHS:PHS:CDC:NCHS:DHIS  
3311 Toledo RD Room 2217  
Hyattsville MD 20782  
Home Page: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>

For additional information on NCHS data products, contact the:

Data Dissemination Branch, NCHS  
3311 Toledo Road  
Hyattsville, MD 20782  
Tel: 1-301-458-4636 or 1-866-441-NCHS  
E-mail: [nchsquery@cdc.gov](mailto:nchsquery@cdc.gov)  
Internet: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/>

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STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

This material has been cleared for public distribution by CDC/ATSDR and will be authentic if obtained directly from [ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/](ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/). CDC/ATSDR takes all effort to assure the authenticity of electronically distributed documents. However, in all instances where the electronic and official agency record differ, the authenticity of the official agency record is controlling.

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