

August 23, 2022

NHANES Protected Data – Information for NHANES Data Users

Several NHANES datasets are not released to the public. However, secure, controlled access is granted through the NCHS Research Data Center (RDC) to guarantee confidentiality of the survey participants. A comprehensive list of the NHANES data files available through the RDC is available at, <http://www.cdc.gov/Nchs/Nhanes/Search/DataPage.aspx?Component=Non-Public>.

The NHANES data files released only through the RDC fall into two general categories: 1) the data file could possibly disclose participation in the survey (e.g., due to small sample sizes or rare combination of characteristics) or 2) the data file contains sensitive information (e.g., sexual behavior) and have been deemed to be NHANES Protected Data. A list of NHANES Protected Data Files from the 1999-2020 data collection cycles is included in the Appendix.

Because disclosure risk for the NHANES Protected Data is different from other RDC NHANES files, the DHANES policy for access to analytic output differs from the general RDC policy. With the exceptions of #3a and #3b specified below, all other RDC policies for RDC files hold.

Access to NHANES Protected Data and analytic output:

1. A researcher must have an approved RDC proposal prior to gaining access to the NHANES Protected Data. Refer to the RDC website regarding the proposal process: <http://www.cdc.gov/rdc/leftbrch/presubmit.htm>.
2. Access to these data will follow the same RDC process as with any other RDC file (<http://www.cdc.gov/rdc/leftbrch/UseRestrictd.htm>).
3. The general RDC output policies must be followed as specified on the RDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/rdc/b5aproj/ap550.htm>) and the Disclosure Manual (<https://www.cdc.gov/rdc/data/b4/disclosuremanual.pdf>) with the following exceptions:
 - a. **Output from NHANES Protected Data may not need to be suppressed if the cell frequency is less than 5.**
 - b. **Output from NHANES Protected Data may not need to be suppressed if there are extreme values from procedures such as Proc Univariate or calculation of 0, 1, 99, and 100 percentiles.**
4. When outputs from NHANES Protected Data are considered for inclusion in publications, the RDC Publishing Guidelines must be followed. (<https://www.cdc.gov/rdc/b6pubeyond/pub600.htm>).
5. If the NHANES Protected Data are linked to any other data available only through the RDC (e.g., geocoded data, occupation/industry data, single survey year data, physical images/scan data, etc.), the usual RDC rules of data access apply and #3a and #3b above no longer hold.

APPENDIX: NHANES Protected Data, 1999-2020

Data File Name	NHANES Survey Cycles										
	1999 - 2000	2001 - 2002	2003 - 2004	2005 - 2006	2007 - 2008	2009 - 2010	2011 - 2012	2013 - 2014	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018	2017 - 2020
Alcohol Use - Youth	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Bacterial vaginosis (BV) & Trichomonas vaginalis - Youth		x	x								
Chlamydia - Urine - Youth							x	x	x	x	x
Chlamydia - Urine - Adult										x	x
Chlamydia & Gonorrhea - Urine - Youth	x	x	x	x	x	x					
Chlamydia Pgp3 (plasmid gene product 3) ELISA (enzyme linked immunosorbent assay) and multiplex bead array (MBA) results - Youth								x	x		
Consumer Behavior											x
Drug Use - Youth					x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Drug Use - Adult											x
Herpes Simplex Virus Type-1 and Type-2 - Youth									x		x
Herpes Simplex Virus Type-1 and Type-2 - Adult										x	x
Herpes Simplex Virus Type-2 - Youth	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	
HIV Antibody Test											x
Housing Characteristics											x
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) - 6, 11, 16 & 18 Antibody - Serum - Youth				x	x	x					
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) - Multiplexed 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 22, 45, 52 & 58 Antibody - Serum - Youth				x							
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) - Oral Rinse - Youth						x	x	x	x		
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) DNA - Penile Swabs: Roche Linear Array - Youth								x	x	x	x
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) DNA - Penile Swabs: Roche Linear Array - Adult										x	x
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) DNA - Vaginal Swab: Digene Hybrid Capture & Prototype Line Blot Assay - Youth			x								
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) DNA - Vaginal Swab: Digene Hybrid Capture & Roche Linear Array - Youth				x	x	x	x				
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) DNA - Vaginal Swab: Roche Cobas & Roche Linear Array - Youth								x			
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) DNA - Vaginal Swab: Roche Cobas High-Risk - Youth									x	x	
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) DNA - Vaginal Swab: Roche Cobas High-Risk - Adult										x	

Data File Name	NHANES Survey Cycles										
	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2017
	- 2000	- 2002	- 2004	- 2006	- 2008	- 2010	- 2012	- 2014	- 2016	- 2018	- 2020
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) DNA - Vaginal Swab: Roche Linear Array - Youth			x						x	x	
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) DNA - Vaginal Swab: Roche Linear Array - Adult										x	
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Viral Load - Oral Rinse - Oral High-Risk HPV Infections - Youth						x					
Mental Health - Attention Deficit Disorder/Hyperactivity - Youth	2000	x	x								
Mental Health - Conduct Disorder - Youth	x	x	x								
Mental Health - Conduct Disorder - Youth, Parent Version	2000	x	x								
Mental Health - Depression Screener - Youth				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Mental Health - Eating Disorders - Youth	2000	x	x								
Mental Health - Elimination Disorders - Youth	2000	x	x								
Mental Health - Generalized Anxiety Disorder - Youth	x	x	x								
Mental Health - Major Depression/Dysthymic Disorder - Youth	2000	x	x								
Mental Health - Panic Disorder - Youth	x	x	x								
Mental Health Diagnostic Interview - Youth	x	x	x								
Mycoplasma genitalium - Urine - Youth										x	x
Mycoplasma genitalium - Urine - Adult										x	x
Sexual Behavior - Youth	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Sexual Behavior - Adult										x	x
Trichomonas - Urine - Youth								x	x	x	x
Trichomonas - Urine - Adult										x	x

Note: Blank cell denotes no data collection occurred during the specified survey time period or that the collected data were publicly released. Refer to NHANES website for further detail on specific data.