

DATA DOCUMENTATION

ACASI

(Audio Computer-Assisted Self-Interview)

Interview Setting and Mode of Administration

ACASI was conducted in either English or Spanish. The participant listened to a recorded voice through a headset while reading the question on the screen and then indicated responses to each question by touching the computer screen; the process provided total privacy for the participant. This component was intended to be self-administered due to the sensitivity of the questions on sexual behavior and drug use. Questions were asked on lifetime and current sexual behavior for men and women, history of sexually transmitted diseases, sexual orientation, circumcision status (men only), lifetime and current use of street drugs, the intravenous use of drugs, illicit use of prescription medications, incarceration history and domestic violence. Proxy respondents or translators were not used when the respondents could not self-report.

Quality Assurance and Quality Control

The ACASI system had built-in consistency checks, including range checks, valid response checks, and checks for logical relationships. Soft edits alerted the respondents to a potential error or problem, but allowed the respondents to proceed after confirming that the entered value was correct. Hard edits prohibited the respondents from continuing with the ACASI until the error was corrected. Respondents also had the right to refuse to answer any questions.

Data Processing and Editing

Sexual Behavior (SXQ)

- Responses to SXQ030 (age at first sexual intercourse) that were 9 years or less were grouped and coded as 9 years or younger.

Analytic Notes

Analytic Notes are available for several variables in ACASI and are provided below by section. Analysts are encouraged to also refer to NHANES Data, Documentation, and Codebooks on specific sections by component for other notes and documentation (http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/nhanes/nhanes2003-2004/nhanes03_04.htm). In general, analysts are advised to carefully review question wording, skip patterns and check items to understand targets and eligibility for a particular item. Additionally, analysts may find that ACASI variables should be utilized in conjunction with variables from other survey components (e.g., CAPI, Labs).

'[Previously Used Recodes](#)' are provided for some measures if available. However, before using the recodes analysts must consider whether the recode is appropriate to their analysis and should review relevant published literature and clinical guidelines for standard definitions of

specific health outcomes. The list of 'Previously Used Recodes' is not exhaustive; the recodes are intended to help analysts understand how variables can be used in defining outcomes. Users may find that cutoffs or categories can be redefined using similar variables.

Analysts should refer to all materials under 'Using the Data' before analyzing the data. These materials provide guidance on how to use the data as well as the documentation available on the website. The Analytic Guidelines describe the specific weights in detail and when to use each one. The sample programs also illustrate examples for using each type of weight.

Sexual Behavior (SXQ)

- Men and women who reported ever having had sex in **SXQ020** were asked separately about the number and gender of lifetime and current sexual partners.
 - Note that responses of refused and don't know in **SXQ100, SXQ120, SXQ130, SXQ150, SXQ170, SXQ190, SXQ200** and **SXQ220** were coded as number values and should be interpreted and/or recoded appropriately.
 - To obtain the total number of lifetime sexual partners for women regardless of the gender of the partner, number responses from **SXQ100** and **SXQ130** can be added to form a new continuous variable. However, responses of refused and don't know were coded as number values and should be recategorized first. See 'Previously Used Recodes' for lifetime number of sexual partners.
 - To obtain the total number of lifetime sexual partners for men regardless of the gender of the partner, number responses from **SXQ170** and **SXQ200** can be added to form a new continuous variable. However, responses of refused and don't know were coded as number values and should be recategorized first. See 'Previously Used Recodes' for lifetime number of sexual partners.
 - A single variable for the total number of lifetime sexual partners for each SP can be obtained by combining the above two recodes. Those who reported 'No' to ever having sex in **SXQ020** can be recoded as having 0 (zero) lifetime partners if necessary for the analysis. See 'Previously Used Recodes' for lifetime number of sexual partners.
 - To obtain the total number of current sexual partners for women regardless of the gender of the partner, number responses from **SXQ120** and **SXQ150** can be added to form a new continuous variable. However, responses of refused and don't know were coded as number values and should be recategorized first. Note that women who never had a male lifetime sexual partner were not asked about male sexual partners in the past 12 months and women who never had a female lifetime sexual partner were not asked about female sexual partners in the past 12 months. See 'Previously Used Recodes' for current number of sexual partners.
 - To obtain the total number of current sexual partners for men regardless of the gender of the partner, number responses from **SXQ190** and **SXQ220** can be added to form a new continuous variable. However, responses of refused and don't know were coded as number values and should be recategorized first.

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Note that men who never had a female lifetime sexual partner were not asked about female sexual partners in the past 12 months and men who never had a male lifetime sexual partner were not asked about male sexual partners in the past 12 months. See 'Previously Used Recodes' for current number of sexual partners.

- A single variable for the total number of current sexual partners for each SP can be obtained by combining the above two recodes. Those who reported 'No' to ever having sex in **SXQ020** can be recoded as having 0 (zero) current partners if necessary for the analysis. See 'Previously Used Recodes' for current number of partners.
- **SXQ200** is asked of men only and can be used to classify men who have sex with men, or 'MSM'.

Drug Use (DUQ)

- The series of specific drug use questions (**DUQ510-DUQ560**) was asked only of respondents who initially reported using "cocaine, including crack or freebase, or other street drugs not including marijuana" (**DUQ100**).
- **DUQ100** and **DUQ120** can be used together to determine needle use to take street drugs. See 'Previously Used Recode' for drug use.