

**NHANES 2001–2002 Data Documentation**  
**February 2006**  
**Household Interview Sample Person Questionnaire**

**Occupation (OCQ)**

Survey Years Included in this File: 2001–2002

**Questionnaire Section Characteristics**

**Questionnaire Section Description:**

The Occupation Questionnaire Section (prefix OCQ; questions OCD.150 to OCQ.480) contains personal interview data on employment and variables relating to the work environment.

**Interview Setting:**

Home interview

**Mode of Administration:**

In-person.

**Topics Included in the Section:**

- Data for Sample Person’s Current Job (OCD230-OCD270): weekly hours worked, public vs. private sector, industry and occupation group codes, duration of employment.
- Data for the Sample Person’s Longest Job (OCD390G-OCD 395): occupation group codes, duration of employment.
- Data for the Sample Person’s “Asthma Job” (OCD470G-OCD 480): for adults reporting a diagnosis of asthma (MCQ010=1), the industry and occupation group codes for the specific job held when the asthma began are provided. This designated job may or may not be related to the onset of a Sample Person’s asthma.
- Exposure to Workplace Tobacco Smoke
- Hearing Protection Use in the Workplace
- Workplace Noise Exposure History

## **Eligible Sample and any Section-Specific Exclusion Criteria:**

In the 2001-2002 survey, the OCQ Questionnaire was administered to SP's 16+ years of age. For minors, questions were answered via a proxy respondent, generally a parent or guardian.

## **Data Processing and Editing:**

A subject's questionnaire interview responses were entered into a pentop computer and then uploaded into a computerized database in the same manner as other sections of the Sample Person Questionnaire. The data was then edited for completeness, consistency, and illogical values. Industry and occupation text data were then coded by trained coders using the U.S. Census Bureau's Census 2000 Indexes of Industry and Occupations.<sup>1</sup> For public release, recoded variables for industry and occupation groups were constructed, closely following the pattern established for reporting industry and occupation groups in the Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (see NHANES 1999-2000 Occupation Questionnaire documentation, Appendix B).

## **Data Access:**

Analyses requiring additional detail of occupation or industry coding than those publicly released are restricted because of the confidentiality of NHANES data. Proposals for such analyses must be submitted to the NHCS Research Data Center (RDC) for review and approval.

## **Analytic Notes:**

In general, analysts are advised to carefully review question wording in the OCQ codebook to make sure they understand question skip patterns and the definitions employed for Occupation-related variables. Many OCQ questions need to be considered as an integral part of data collection for other Questionnaire sections (AUQ, HIQ, SMQ) and Exam or Laboratory Components (for example Audiometry-AU). Appendix A lists a SAS<sup>TM</sup> program to provide value labels for the Industry and Occupation groups designated for the Sample Person's current, longest, and "asthma" jobs (Note that military occupations are not permissible entries for NHANES current job data because the survey covers only the civilian, non-institutionalized population. Military occupations are, however, valid entries for longest or "asthma" job data.)

### **Current Job Information:**

The primary focus of the OCQ Questionnaire is data collection for the SP's work within the previous week, i.e. the SP's Current Job. The SP's Current Job is defined as the main paid job worked within the last week, including work on a family farm. When an individual currently worked multiple jobs, the SP was asked

to designate a main job for the interview. Data collected included:

- The Number of Hours Worked Last Week- All Jobs
- Whether the SP Usually Works 35 or More Hours/Week
- Sector Of Employment (Private, Public) for Current, Main Job
- Number Of Months Working On Current, Main Job
- (If not working) The Main Reason The SP Did Not Work Last Week

Longest Job Information:

By design, the survey collected data on both industry and occupation for a subject's current and "asthma" job, but only data on occupation was collected for the subject's longest job. Therefore industry information is not available for the Sample Person's designated longest job. Some industry information is available in instances where the longest job is the same as the current job, or was the armed forces (OCD390G=2 or 3). Also, in some instances industry for the longest job can be inferred from the Sample Person's longest occupation. Previous survey research has shown a moderate correlation exists between a respondent's current and longest reported jobs.<sup>2</sup>

"Asthma" Job Information:

For respondents reporting a diagnosis of asthma (MCQ010=1), the industry and occupation designation for the specific job held when the asthma began were captured. This employment history may be, but is not necessarily related to the onset of a Sample Person's asthma. OCQ470G, the "gate" question for this series, records whether this "asthma" job was the same as the respondent's current or longest job, or if the respondent was not working at that time. If the respondent was working, but not with either the current or longest designated job; OCQ470 and OCQ480 record the pertinent occupation and industry information.

Data on Workplace Tobacco Smoke Exposure:

Data for exposure to workplace tobacco smoke is collected only for the SP's Current Job. Exposure to tobacco smoke is defined as whether the SP's can smell tobacco smoke at work. Also collected is the number of hours/day of workplace tobacco exposure (OCQ290Q). A value of "0" in OCQ290Q signifies that workplace exposure to tobacco smoke occurred, but was less than one hour per day. These OCQ questions are logically related to SMQ Questionnaire data.

Data on the Use of Personal Protective Equipment at Work:

For NHANES 2001-2002, only data on the used of protective hearing devices was collected.

Workplace Noise Exposure History:

For the NHANES Survey, workplace noise exposure is defined as on-the-job noise so loud that the SP has to speak in a raised voice to be heard. Data analysts should be aware that the SP's history of hearing disorders as well as the SP's exposure history for non-occupational loud noise (i.e. from firearms, power

tools or loud music) and the non-occupational use of hearing protection is located elsewhere in the AUQ questionnaire segment.

#### Lifetime Work Noise Exposures:

Data on lifetime exposure to loud job noise for greater than 3 months is collected in OCQ.340 and OCQ.420, which must be combined for any overall analysis (OCQ.340 collects this data for the currently employed; OCQ.420 collects the data for SP's not currently employed).

#### Workplace Noise in Current Job:

For the SP's Current Job, OCQ.350 collects data on the presence or absence of job noise exposure, and OCQ.360 collects the average number of hours/week. The use of hearing protection devices on the SP's Current Job is collected in OCQ.310b.

#### Noise Exposure in the SP's Longest Job:

For the SP's Longest Job, exposure to loud job noise for greater than 3 months is collected in the series OCQ.430, OCQ.440 and OCQ.450 (presence/absence of exposure; hours/day exposed; and whether protective hearing devices were worn, respectively). The duration of the SP's Longest Job is recorded in OCQ.395.

#### Other Notes:

A detailed review and discussion of previous Occupational data for previous NHANES surveys, as well as other National Center for Health Statistics Surveys is available.<sup>3</sup>

## References:

<sup>1</sup> Detailed information on the Census 2000 Indexes of Industry and Occupations is available at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/ioindex.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Burnett CA, Crouse WE. Agreement of latest and longest occupation and industry as reported in the 1980 National Health Interview Survey. *J Occup Med.* 1989 Apr;31(4):339-46.

<sup>3</sup> Wagener DK. Occupation and Health Data Guide: Bibliographies and Data Sources From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics. No. 2. May 1993. 36 pp. (PHS) 93-1308.

## APPENDIX A

SAS™ program providing value labels for the Industry and Occupation groups designated for the Sample Person's current, longest, and "asthma" jobs.  
(Note: "Mfg." is an abbreviation for "Manufacturing")

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PROC FORMAT;
VALUE IGROUP
1='Agriculture production'
2='Agricultural services, forestry, and fishing'
3='Mining'
4='Construction'
5='Mfg.-Food and kindred products'
6='Mfg.-Textile mill products'
7='Mfg.-Apparel and other finished textile products'
8='Mfg.-Paper products, printing, publishing, and allied industries'
9='Mfg.-Chemicals, petroleum, and coal products'
10='Mfg.-Rubber, plastics, and leather products'
11='Mfg.-Lumber and wood products, including furniture'
12='Mfg.-Metal industries'
13='Mfg.-Machinery, except electrical'
14='Mfg.-Electrical machinery, equipment, and supplies'
15='Mfg.-Transportation equipment'
16='Mfg.-Miscellaneous and not specified manufacturing industries'
17='Trucking service'
18='Transportation, except trucking'
19='Communications'
20='Utilities'
21='Wholesale Trade, Durable goods'
22='Wholesale Trade, Non-durable and not specified goods'
23='Retail-Department stores'
24='Retail-Food stores'
25='Retail-Vehicle dealers, supply and service stores'
26='Retail-Apparel and accessory stores'
27='Retail-Eating and drinking places'
28='Other Retail trade'
29='Banking and other finance'
30='Insurance and real estate'
31='Business services'
32='Repair services'
33='Private households'
34='Lodging places'
35='Personal services, except private households and lodging'
36='Entertainment and recreation services'
37='Offices of health practitioners'
38='Hospitals'
39='Health services, n. e. c.'
40='Educational services'
41='Social services'
42='Other professional and related services'
43='Justice, public order, and safety'
44='Public administration, except justice, public order, safety'
45='Military & national security'
98='Blank but applicable';
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VALUE OGROUP

1='Executive, administrators, and managers'  
2='Management related occupations'  
3='Engineers, architects and scientists'  
4='Health diagnosing, assessing and treating occupations'  
5='Teachers'  
6='Writers, artists, entertainers, and athletes'  
7='Other professional specialty occupations'  
8='Technicians and related support occupations'  
9='Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupations'  
10='Sales representatives, finance, business, & commodities ex. retail'  
11='Sales workers, retail and personal services'  
12='Secretaries, stenographers, and typists'  
13='Information clerks'  
14='Records processing occupations'  
15='Material recording, scheduling, and distributing clerks'  
16='Miscellaneous administrative support occupations'  
17='Private household occupations'  
18='Protective service occupations'  
19='Waiters and waitresses'  
20='Cooks'  
21='Miscellaneous food preparation and service occupations'  
22='Health service occupations'  
23='Cleaning and building service occupations'  
24='Personal service occupations'  
25='Farm operators, managers, and supervisors'  
26='Farm and nursery workers'  
27='Related agricultural, forestry, and fishing occupations'  
28='Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics and repairers'  
29='Other mechanics and repairers'  
30='Construction trades'  
31='Extractive and precision production occupations'  
32='Textile, apparel, and furnishings machine operators'  
33='Machine operators, assorted materials'  
34='Fabricators, assemblers, inspectors, and samplers'  
35='Motor vehicle operators'  
36='Other transportation and material moving occupations'  
37='Construction laborers'  
38='Laborers, except construction'  
39='Freight, stock, and material movers, hand'  
40='Other helpers, equipment cleaners, hand packagers and laborers'  
41='Military occupations'  
98='Blank but applicable';  
RUN: