

**NHANES 2001-2002 Data Release  
May 2004  
Sample Person Questionnaire  
Physical Function (PFQ) Section**

Survey Years Included in this File: 2001-2002

**Questionnaire Section Characteristics:**

**Questionnaire Section Description:**

The physical function section (variable name prefix PFQ) provides self-reported data on functional limitations caused by long-term physical, mental, and emotional problems or illnesses. It can be used to assess an individual's level of disability.

**Interview Setting:**

Home Interview

**Mode of administration:**

In-person

**Topics Included in the Section:**

- All participants 1 to 4 years of age were asked about play activities.
- All participants 1 to 19 years of age were asked about mobility (crawl, walk, run).
- All participants 1 to 15 years of age were asked about receiving Special Education or Early Intervention Services.
- All participants 20 years of age and older were asked about their ability to work at a job or business. Participants were also asked a series of questions designed to measure their functional status. These questions were phrased to assess the individual's level of difficulty in performing the task without using any special equipment. Functional limitations were assessed based on scales of activities of daily living (ADLs), instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), mobility & upper/lower body strength, and social participation. Participants were asked to select from a list of health problems in order to determine the reason for the disability or limitations.

**Eligible sample and any section-specific exclusion criteria:**

All participants 1 year and older.

**Data Processing and Editing:**

Edits were made to ensure the completeness, consistency, and analytic usefulness of the data.

Only questions appearing in both 2001 and 2002 questionnaires were released due to data disclosure and sample size concerns.

**PFD040** (Receive Special Ed or Early Intervention)

This information was collected on individuals 1-15 years of age. In Year 2002 the age of participants asked this question was changed to include 1-17. This item was derived to only include the age range 1-15 due to confidentiality issues.

**PFD067a—PFD067e** (Health problems causing difficulty)

This item name was changed to reflect the change in the English instructions which included a new category added to the PFQ060 series in 2002. This item combines PFQ063a-e from 2002 and PFQ067a-e from 2001.

**PFD069a—PFD069r** (Duration of each health problem)

This information was collected using two-part (number and unit) questions to allow respondents to report the duration in days, weeks, months, or years. The released variables were edited to standardize the reported duration to number of days, using the following conversion factors: 7 days/week, 30.4 days/month and 365 days/year.

**Analytic Notes:**

**Data Access:**

The PFQ data are publicly available at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm)

**Reference:**

None.