

**NHANES 2001-2002 Data Release
July 2004
Sample Person Questionnaire**

Weight History (WHQ)

Survey Years Included in this File: 2001-2002

Questionnaire Section Characteristics:

Questionnaire Section Description:

The Weight History section (abbreviated “WHQ” in the NHANES questionnaire variable-naming convention scheme) provides personal interview data on several topics related to body weight, including self-reported weight over the lifetime, self-perception of weight, attempted weight loss during the past 12 months, and methods used to try to lose weight and to keep from gaining weight.

Interview Setting:

Home Interview

Mode of administration:

In-person

Topics Included in the Section:

- Current self-reported height and weight (16+ yr)
- Self perception of weight (16+ yr)
- Desire for weight change (16+ yr)
- Weight 1 year ago (16+ yr)
- Intentional weight change and weight loss/maintenance methods (16+ yr)
- Attempted weight loss during the past 12 months (16+ yr)
- Weight 10 years ago (36+ yr)
- Weight at age 25 (27+ yr)
- Height at age 25 (50+ yr)
- Maximum weight and age at maximum weight (18+ yr)

Eligible sample and any section-specific exclusion criteria:

The target samples for questions in this section vary. Please review the questionnaire and codebook carefully. Frequency counts were verified during the preparation of the

file.

Data Processing and Editing:

In 2001-2002, current weight (WHD020) for pregnant women was recorded as weight before pregnancy. In 1999-2000, current weight included weight during pregnancy.

Self-reported height was standardized to inches using the conversion factors 0.3937 inches per centimeter and 12 inches per foot. Current and past self-reported weights were standardized to weight in pounds using the conversion factor 2.2046 pounds per kilogram.

Reported heights and weights considered to be physiologically implausible and the result of interviewer data entry error, e.g., height less than 3 feet and weight less than 50 pounds, were coded as "Don't Know."

For WHD150, if maximum weight extended over more than one year, the interviewer recorded the most recent age at which the survey participant reported that weight.

Beginning in 2002, WHD160 (minimum weight since age 18 (19+ yr)) and WHQ170 (age at minimum weight) were no longer collected. WHD160 and WHQ170 data from 2001 are not included in this data release file but can be accessed at the NCHS Research Data Center.

Data Access:

The WHQ data are publicly available at www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm

Reference:

None.