

1986-2000 NHIS LINKED MORTALITY FILE: 2004 Restricted Release
Detailed Notes for Selected Variables

PUBLIC_ID—NHIS Public ID Construction

All NHIS linked mortality data files can be linked to the NHIS public use files by matching on the unique NHIS public use ID number. Any NHIS analytic data file brought to the RDC to be linked with the NHIS linked mortality file must have the correct NHIS public use ID number. For each survey year, the NHIS public use ID number should be constructed as follows:

1986-1994

<u>Item</u>	<u>Mortality Location</u>	<u>Public-use Location</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Description</u>
Year (2 digit)	1-2	3-4	2	Year of interview
Quarter	3	5	1	Calendar quarter of interview
PSU	4-6	6-8	3	Random recode of PSU #
Week	7-8	9-10	2	Week of interview within quarter
Segment	9-10	11-12	2	Segment number
Household	11-12	13-14	2	Household number within quarter
Person number	13-14	15-16	2	Person number within household

Note: Concatenate all variables to get the unique person identifier. All variables are zero filled.

1995, 1996

<u>Item</u>	<u>Mortality Location</u>	<u>Public-use Location</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Description</u>
Year (2 digit)	1-2	3-4	2	Year of interview
Household ID	3-12	5-14	10	Household ID number
Person number	13-14	15-16	2	Person number within Household

Note: Concatenate all variables to get the unique person identifier. All variables are zero filled.

1997-2000

<u>Item</u>	<u>Mortality Location</u>	<u>Public-use Location</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Description</u>
Year (4 digit)	1-4	3-6	4	Year of interview
Household Serial #	5-10	7-12	6	Household serial number
Person number	11-12	15-16	2	Person number within Household
Blank (no data)	13-14	-	2	

Note: Concatenate all variables to get the unique person identifier. All variables are zero filled.

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ELIGSTAT – Eligibility Status for Mortality Follow-Up

All NHIS participants are included on the linked mortality files, but only NHIS participants at least 18 years of age at time of interview were eligible to be submitted to the NDI. Those 17 years or younger at the time of the NHIS interview were ineligible for matching with NDI records. A second group of NHIS participants were defined as ineligible for mortality linkage because of insufficient identifying data to create a NDI submission record. The percentage of NHIS respondents 18 years and older who are ineligible due to insufficient data markedly increased in 1997 compared with prior years ([See Tabular Data, Tables 1 and 3](#)).

The eligibility status variable is available to users because ignoring NHIS participants who are ineligible due to insufficient identifying information may lead to biased mortality analysis. To account for this, NCHS developed new sample weights that are available on the 2004 restricted release NHIS Linked Mortality files. (See [Analytic Guidelines](#) and [Guide to Weighting and Variance Estimation in the 1986-2000 NHIS Linked Mortality Files](#)).

MORTSTAT – Final Mortality Status

The MORSTAT variable is NCHS's final determination of vital status and should be used as an outcome variable and to calculate survival. Each NHIS participant who is eligible for mortality follow-up is assigned a vital status code (0 = assumed alive; 1 = assumed deceased). The ascertainment of vital status for NHIS participants with matches to NDI records is based upon the NCHS recommended criteria determined by a calibration study.

WGT_NEW - Weight Adjusted for Ineligible Respondents

The WGT_NEW variable is an eligibility-adjusted sample weight for all adult respondents who are in the annual NHIS person files. $WGT_NEW = 0$ for all ineligible individuals. This new person-level sample weight accounts for ineligible status due to insufficient identifying information for linkage (See [Analytic Guidelines](#) and [Guide to Weighting and Variance Estimation in the 1986-2000 NHIS Linked Mortality Files](#)). Users should note that the eligibility-adjusted weight is specific to the person-level NHIS files and eligibility adjusted weights specific to the sample adult files, sample child files or any NHIS supplemental files have NOT been created.

PSU8600 - New PSU defined for the NHIS years 1986 to 2000

STR8600 - New strata defined for the NHIS years 1986 to 2000

For the 1986-2000 NHIS Linked Mortality Files, the NHIS years 1986-1994 and 1995-2000 are based upon two independent design structures, which cannot be combined easily using the original STRATA and PSU design variables. To serve the vast majority of data users who may wish to combine several years of the NHIS Linked Mortality Files to get reliable estimates for rare health characteristics or mortality outcomes, NCHS has created new design variables for variance estimation. The variables STR8600 and PSU8600 can be used in analyses that combine all or any years of data in the NHIS Linked Mortality Files. (See [Analytic Guidelines](#) and [Guide to Weighting and Variance Estimation in the 1986-2000 NHIS Linked Mortality Files](#)).