

Occupation (OCQ) Section (June 2002) Sample Person Questionnaire

Description of Section

The Occupation Questionnaire Section (prefix OCQ; questions OCQ.130 to OCQ.450) contains personal interview data on employment and variables relating to the work environment.

OCQ Section Topics

- Data for SP's Current Job (weekly hours worked, public vs. private sector, duration of employment)
- Duration of the SP's Longest Job (OCD.395)
- Exposure to Workplace Tobacco Smoke
- Personal Protective Equipment Use in the Workplace
- Workplace Noise Exposure History
- Average Work Hours/Week for Adolescents 12-15 Years
- Whether Health Insurance is Offered at the Current Job

Eligible Sample and Exclusion Criteria

The OCQ Questionnaire was administered to SP's 12+ years of age. SP's aged 12-15 years were asked a single question (OCQ.130) that collected data on the average hours of work per week. For minors, questions were answered via a proxy respondent, generally a parent or guardian. Survey respondents 16 years of age and older were asked the full series of Occupation-related questions (OCQ.150-450).

Data Processing, Preparation, and Data Editing

The data were edited for completeness, consistency, and illogical values.

Analytic Notes

In general, analysts are advised to carefully review question wording in the OCQ codebook to make sure they understand 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 (AU, Lab 7-Latex)

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. For the SP's Longest Job,

only the duration of employment in months is collected. 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

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. These OCQ questions are logically related to SMQ Questionnaire data.

Data on the Use of Personal Protective Equipment at Work:

Data is collected on whether the SP has ever used protective equipment at work, including the use of respirators, hearing protection, or protective glove use. The data on latex protective glove use is designed to be analyzed with Lab 7 Latex-specific IGE antibody data.

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), as well as the non-occupational use of hearing protection is located 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; OCQ420 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 OCD395.

Other Notes:

No detailed job history information for adolescents aged 12-15 years was collected in NHANES; only the average work hours/week was collected (OCQ.130).

OCQ.280 asks SP's whether Health Insurance is offered at the SP's Current Job. This question was placed in the OCQ Questionnaire to facilitate the interviewing process, and is analytically a part of the Health Insurance Questionnaire (HIQ) segment.