

# National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 2005–2006

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## Documentation, Codebook, and Frequencies

### Bowel Health

Questionnaire

Survey Years:  
2005 to 2006

SAS Transport File:  
BHQ\_D.XPT



November 2007

# NHANES 2005–2006 Data Documentation

## Questionnaire Section: Bowel Health (BHQ\_D)

First Published: November 2007

Last Revised: N/A

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### **Component Description**

The Bowel Health section of the mobile exam center (MEC) interview (variable name prefix BHQ) provides personal interview data on fecal incontinence and defecating function for adults age 20 years and older.

Questions BHQ010 – BHQ040 comprise the Fecal Incontinence Severity Index (FISI) (Rockwood, 2000) which applies a type x frequency matrix to obtain the subject's perception of symptom severity. The four symptoms composing the index are incontinence of gas, mucus, liquid stool, and solid stool. The FISI responses are weighted on a 1-20 point severity scale and a total FISI score can be calculated.

Question BHQ060 is the Bristol Stool Form Scale. The stool consistency scale has been used in a series of studies. These studies have shown that a subject's rating of his/her own individual stools (Probert, 1993) are robustly correlated with measures of how long it takes radiopaque markers to pass through the gastrointestinal tract.

This component was administered in the NHANES beginning in 2005.

### **Eligible Sample**

The target sample for the questions in this section is adults age 20 years and older. Frequency counts were verified during the preparation of the file.

### **Interview Setting and Mode of Administration**

The Bowel Health (BHQ\_D) questions were asked in the MEC interview, using an interviewer-administered computer assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) system; proxy respondents were not permitted.

For details on the administration of the Bowel Health (BHQ\_D) section, please refer to the NHANES 2005-06 Interview Procedure Manuals and the Bowel Health Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) Questionnaire on the NHANES website.

### **Quality Assurance & Quality Control**

For details on the QA/QC process for this component, please refer to the NHANES 2005-06 Interviewer Procedure Manuals on the NHANES website.

**Data  
Processing  
and Editing**

Times per day responses to BHQ050 (How often do you have bowel movements?) were converted to times per week so that all responses are in times per week units.

**Analytic  
Notes**

Survey participants with ostomies and gastrointestinal conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome are not identified in the data file.

Pregnant women were asked about their usual bowel habits when not pregnant.

Exam sample weights should be used for analyses.

Please refer to the Analytic Guidelines for further details on the use of sample weights and other analytic issues. The Analytic Guidelines are available on the NHANES website.

**References**

1. Rockwood TH, Church JM, Fleshman, et al. FIQL: A quality of life instrument for patients with fecal incontinence. *Dis Colon Rectum* 2000; 43(1): 9-17.
2. Probert CJS, Emmett PM, Heaton KW. Intestinal transit time in the population calculated from self made observations of defecation. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* 1993;47:331-333.

## Locator Record

**Title:** Bowel Health (BHQ\_D)

**Contact Number:** 1-866-441-NCHS

**Years of Content:** 2005–2006

**First Published:** November 2007

**Revised:** NA

**Access Constraints:** None

**Use Constraints:** None

**Geographic Coverage:** National

**Subject:** Personal interview data for adults age 20 years and older on fecal incontinence and defecating function.

**Record Source:** NHANES 2005–2006

**Survey Methodology:** NHANES 2005–2006 is a stratified multistage probability sample of the civilian non-institutionalized population of the U.S.

**Medium:** NHANES Web site; SAS transport files

**National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey  
Codebook for Data Production (2005-2006)**

**Questionnaire Section:  
Bowel Health (BHQ\_D)**

November 2007



<b>SEQN</b>	<b>Target</b>
	B(20 Yrs. to 150 Yrs.)
<b>Hard Edits</b>	<b>SAS Label</b>
	Respondent sequence number
<b>English Text:</b> Respondent sequence number.	
<b>English Instructions:</b>	

<b>BHQ005</b>	<b>Target</b>
	B(20 Yrs. to 150 Yrs.)
<b>Hard Edits</b>	<b>SAS Label</b>
	CHECK ITEM
<b>English Text:</b> CHECK ITEM	
<b>English Instructions:</b> BOX 1. CHECK ITEM BHQ005: IF INTERVIEW DONE ONLY WITH SURVEY PARTICIPANT (CODED '1' IN RIQ005), CONTINUE WITH BHQ010; OTHERWISE, GO TO NEXT SECTION.	

<b>BHQ010</b>	<b>Target</b>
	B(20 Yrs. to 150 Yrs.)
<b>Hard Edits</b>	<b>SAS Label</b>
	Bowel leakage consisted of gas?

**English Text:** Next, we'd like to talk to you about bowel health. We'll start with accidental bowel leakage. There are four types of bowel leakage that can happen: leakage (passing) of gas, leakage of mucus, leakage of liquid stool, and leakage of solid stool. We will ask you about leakage of each of these one at a time. How often during the past 30 days have you had any amount of accidental bowel leakage that consisted of gas? Would you say . . .

**English Instructions:** HAND CARD BHQ1 CAPI INSTRUCTION: HELP SCREEN SHOULD READ: The bowel is another name for the intestines. Other names for the bowel include guts or innards. Accidental bowel leakage is leaking from the bowel or intestines that can't be controlled. Leakage of gas is also called passing gas, passing wind, or farting.

<b>Code or Value</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>	<b>Skip to Item</b>
1	2 or more times a day,	541	541	
2	once a day,	368	909	
3	2 or more times a week,	337	1246	
4	once a week,	240	1486	
5	1-3 times a month, or	488	1974	
6	Never?	2324	4298	
77	Refused	0	4298	
99	Don't know	10	4308	
.	Missing	465	4773	

<b>BHQ020</b>	<b>Target</b>
	B(20 Yrs. to 150 Yrs.)
<b>Hard Edits</b>	<b>SAS Label</b>
	Bowel leakage consisted of mucus?
<b>English Text:</b> How often during the past 30 days have you had any amount of accidental bowel leakage that consisted of mucus?	
<b>English Instructions:</b> HAND CARD BHQ1 CAPI INSTRUCTION: HELP SCREEN SHOULD READ: Mucus is a thick, jelly-like substance made by the intestines that helps coat and protect the lining of the intestine. Mucus also helps stool pass through the large intestine and rectum more easily.	

Code or Value	Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	2 or more times a day,	9	9	
2	once a day,	12	21	
3	2 or more times a week,	26	47	
4	once a week,	21	68	
5	1-3 times a month, or	76	144	
6	Never?	4161	4305	
77	Refused	0	4305	
99	Don't know	3	4308	
.	Missing	465	4773	

<b>BHQ030</b>	<b>Target</b>
	B(20 Yrs. to 150 Yrs.)
<b>Hard Edits</b>	<b>SAS Label</b>
	Bowel leakage consisted of liquid?
<b>English Text:</b> How often during the past 30 days have you had any amount of accidental bowel leakage that consisted of liquid stool?	
<b>English Instructions:</b> HAND CARD BHQ1 CAPI INSTRUCTION: HELP SCREEN SHOULD READ: Stool is also called a bowel movement, BM, or poop.	

Code or Value	Description	Count	Cumulative	Skip to Item
1	2 or more times a day,	7	7	
2	once a day,	9	16	
3	2 or more times a week,	31	47	
4	once a week,	29	76	
5	1-3 times a month, or	177	253	
6	Never?	4049	4302	
77	Refused	0	4302	
99	Don't know	6	4308	
.	Missing	465	4773	

<b>BHQ040</b>	<b>Target</b>			
	B(20 Yrs. to 150 Yrs.)			
<b>Hard Edits</b>	<b>SAS Label</b>			
	Bowel leakage consisted of solid stool?			
<b>English Text:</b> How often during the past 30 days have you had any amount of accidental bowel leakage that consisted of solid stool?				
<b>English Instructions:</b> HAND CARD BHQ1				
<b>Code or Value</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>	<b>Skip to Item</b>
1	2 or more times a day,	2	2	
2	once a day,	4	6	
3	2 or more times a week,	18	24	
4	once a week,	6	30	
5	1-3 times a month, or	47	77	
6	Never?	4229	4306	
77	Refused	0	4306	
99	Don't know	2	4308	
.	Missing	465	4773	

<b>BHD050</b>	<b>Target</b>			
	B(20 Yrs. to 150 Yrs.)			
<b>Hard Edits</b>	<b>SAS Label</b>			
	How often have bowel movements?			
<b>English Text:</b> How often do you usually have bowel movements?				
<b>English Instructions:</b> PROBE: How many times per week do you usually have a bowel movement?				
<b>Code or Value</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>	<b>Skip to Item</b>
1 to 70	Range of Values	4294	4294	
77	Refused	0	4294	
99	Don't know	14	4308	
.	Missing	465	4773	

<b>BHQ060</b>	<b>Target</b>			
	B(20 Yrs. to 150 Yrs.)			
<b>Hard Edits</b>	<b>SAS Label</b>			
	Common Stool Type			
<b>English Text:</b> Please look at this card and tell me the number that corresponds to your usual or most common stool type.				
<b>English Instructions:</b> HAND CARD BHQ2				
<b>Code or Value</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>	<b>Skip to Item</b>
1	Type 1 (separate hard lumps, like nuts),	82	82	
2	Type 2 (sausage-like, but lumpy),	237	319	
3	Type 3 (like a sausage but with cracks in the surface),	1140	1459	
4	Type 4 (like a sausage or snake, smooth and soft),	2238	3697	
5	Type 5 (soft blobs with clear-cut edges),	281	3978	
6	Type 6 (fluffy pieces with ragged edges, a mushy stool),	230	4208	
7	Type 7 (watery, no solid pieces),	32	4240	
77	Refused	4	4244	
99	Don't know	64	4308	
.	Missing	465	4773	