

The 1997 National Nursing Home Survey (NNHS) Linked Mortality File

Analytic guidelines

The 1997 NNHS Linked Mortality File is a mortality follow-up study of eligible 1997 NNHS participants through December 31, 2006 and represents an update of the mortality experience of eligible 1997 NNHS participants from their baseline interview. This is the first data release of mortality follow-up information for the 1997 NNHS that includes record linkage to the National Death Index.

These guidelines address the following analytical topics:

[I. Eligibility status](#)

[II. NNHS participants with an age last known alive of 100 years or greater](#)

[III. Nursing home residents aged 17 years and younger](#)

[IV. Source of mortality information](#)

[V. Special request data file](#)

I. Linkage eligibility status

All 1997 NNHS participants with sufficient identifying data to create a [NDI](#) submission record were eligible for mortality follow-up. Eligibility status for mortality follow-up is indicated by the variable ELIGSTAT. There are 148 Discharge Resident records where there is an indication of deceased status on the 1997 NNHS Discharge Resident public-use file but these records were ineligible for NDI linkage and are indicated as ineligible on the 1997 NNHS Linked Mortality File. For more information please refer to the File Layout and Detailed Notes for Selected Variables.

II. NNHS participants with an age last known alive of 100 years or greater

The 1997 NNHS Linked Mortality File includes records where the calculated age presumed alive at the end of mortality follow-up (December 31, 2006) is 100 years or greater. For these cases there was no valid NDI record match or any other source of mortality information. Yet, given the probabilistic nature of the mortality ascertainment, analysts may wish to consider these cases as loss to follow-up and make them ineligible for mortality analyses.

III. Nursing home residents aged 17 years and younger

The restricted-use 1997 NNHS Linked Mortality File includes 18 records for children, 17 years of age and younger, at the time of their survey participation.

IV. Source of mortality information

NCHS collects multiple sources of information to determine the final mortality status of a NNHS survey participant. In addition to the NDI record linkage, mortality was ascertained from the Social Security Administration as well as during the survey for Discharged Residents. If a source of mortality, other than a NDI record was available, the NNHS participant was considered deceased, unless they were ineligible for NDI matching. Variables indicating which source or sources were used to determine vital status are available on the linked mortality file. More than one source of mortality may be available. For more information please refer to the File Layout and Detailed Notes for Selected Variables.

V. Special request data file

A [special request data file](#) is available that includes additional death certificate data as well as NDI record match results for potential NDI matches that were considered “false” by the probabilistic matching algorithm, thus providing date and cause of death for those NNHS participants NCHS determined to be alive. To provide the analysts with the opportunity to alter the criteria for determining final vital status, NCHS has provided the SCORE and CLASS for the best NDI record match. The analyst can take either a more or less conservative approach to vital status ascertainment by setting a different cut-off score within each class and/or determining which classes contain true matches. For more information on the implications of using alternate cut-off scores on vital status ascertainment, please refer to the [matching methodology document, Appendix B](#).