

User's Guide for the 2015-2019 National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) Interviewer Observations File

Introduction

This User's Guide describes a special data file that contains responses from *interviewers* for the 2015-2019 NSFG. The interviewers responded to a short questionnaire asking about the respondent and the interview setting. This User's Guide provides a brief background on the NSFG and a description of how and when the Interviewer Observations data were collected.

The University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research (ISR), under contract to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), conducted interviews for the National Survey of Family Growth, beginning in September 2011 and ending in September 2019. Four public-use datasets were released during this eight-year span (2011-2013, 2013-2015, 2015-2017, and 2017-2019). These restricted-use interviewer observation data are from interviews conducted during the four-year period from September 2015 through September 2019 (2015-2017 and 2017-2019). This is the second of two such files, the first one for 2011-2015, also described on the [2011-2019 Combined Data Files Special Supplementary Data Files](#) page.

Interviews were completed with 5,554 women and 4,540 men in the 2015-2017 NSFG and 6,141 women and 5,206 men in the 2017-2019 NSFG. The NSFG was administered using both computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI), in which the interviewer asked the questions and entered the answers into a computer, and audio computer-assisted self interviewing (ACASI), in which the respondent used the computer to read (and/or listen to) the questions and enter their answers into the computer.

While the respondent completed the ACASI portion of the survey, which occurred at the end of the interview, the interviewer filled out a paper questionnaire called the [Interview Observation Form](#). This allowed the interviewer to use the time during which the respondent was reading and answering questions on the computer to provide valuable information about the interview process. The Interview Observation Form contained questions on aspects of the interview such as where it was conducted, the atmosphere during the interview, physical or mental impairments of the respondent, and the degree of cooperation from the respondent. These items provided data useful for survey planning and management, for evaluating data quality, and for assessing the effectiveness of interviewer training.

Interviewer Observations Data File and Documentation

The Interviewer Observations data file and codebook documentation are available through the [NCHS Research Data Center](#) (RDC) only. Documentation available includes:

- Two items available on the [2011-2019 Combined Data Files Special Supplementary Data Files](#) page.
 - [File index](#) listing every variable with a brief description
 - [Interview Observation Form](#) (the paper questionnaire used in the field)
- The codebook (only available in the RDC):
 - Contains question text, response categories and frequencies, and a universe statement (i.e., the conditions under which the question was applicable) for every variable

The 2015-2019 Interviewer Observations data file is intended to be used in conjunction with the NSFG public-use data files. The Interviewer Observation data file contains a case ID that is common to the case ID on the female and male public-use files for 2015-2017 and 2017-2019.

If you have questions about any of these materials, please contact NSFG staff at nsfg@cdc.gov.

Data Notes:

The Interviewer Observation Form was not completed for 6 respondents interviewed in 2015-2019. These cases are coded “not ascertained” (7 or 97) on all variables in the Interview Observations data file. These cases are also missing Interviewer’s ID number.

Open-ended responses are not included on the data file (example: Question 28: “What comment(s) did the R make?”).