National Adult Tobacco Survey SAS Format Files

There are SAS formats associated with all of the variables in the National Adult Tobacco Survey SAS data file. For example, the format **HEALTH** is associated with the variable **genhealth** (Question 1), to display the labels Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor, DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE, and REFUSED for the corresponding numeric values of genhealth (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 9).

This document describes several options for displaying or suppressing format labels as you work with the SAS data file.

A. Instructions for suppressing SAS formats for all ATS variables

If you do not want to display the format labels for any of the NATS variables, include the following statement in your SAS program:

```
options nofmterr;
```

Use the option above to avoid SAS errors, such as:
`ERROR: Format HEALTH not found or couldn't be loaded for variable GENHEALTH.`

B. Instructions for using the CDC-provided SAS format library

The SAS format library catalog file, **formats.sas7bcat**, contains the formats associated with variables in the NATS data file **xx_nats_completes.sas7bdat**, where xx is the two-letter state abbreviation.

To use the SAS format library catalog file:

1. Copy the **formats.sas7bcat** file to a folder, for example: C:\NATS\SASformatfile.

2. Copy the **xx_nats_completes.sas7bdat** data file to a folder, for example: C:\NATS\SASdata.

3. Put the following statements in the SAS program that reads the ATS data file:

```
libname in C:\NATS\SASdata;
libname library C:\NATS\SASformatfile;

data atsdata;
   set in.xx_nats_completes;
run;
```

Note that the word "library" in the second libname statement above is a required SAS keyword. The "libname library" statement indicates the location of the format library catalog file.

C. Options for displaying or suppressing format labels in output

The SAS formats are built into the NATS data files. You can work with the data file as is, with the entire set of formats, or you can create a separate data set and remove the formats from specific variables when you need to.

1. To display built in format labels in output:
Follow instructions in item B. above.

Example: Assign format library folder using a libname library statement. Run frequency procedure to display the built in format labels for genhealth.

```
libname in C:\NATS\SASdata;
libname library C:\NATS\SASformatfile;

proc freq data= in.xx_nats_completes;
 tables genhealth;
run;
```

Would you say that in general your health is:				
GENHEALTH	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
1-EXCELLENT	1009	25.19	1009	25.19
2-VERY GOOD	1323	33.03	2332	58.23
3-GOOD	1196	29.86	3528	88.09
4-FAIR	357	8.91	3885	97.00
5-POOR	104	2.60	3989	99.60
7-DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE	6	0.15	3995	99.75
9-REFUSED	10	0.25	4005	100.00

2. To remove a format from specific variable(s):
ADD format *varname* ; to the data step (where *varname* is the name of the specific variable you want to display without the format labels).

Example: Use a data step to create a new data set, and remove format from genhealth in the new data set.

```
data natsdata;
  set in.xx_nats_completes;
  format genhealth ;  *removes format from genhealth in the data step ;
run;

proc freq data=natsdata;
tables genhealth;
run;
```

Would you say that in general your health is:				
GENHEALTH	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
1	1009	25.19	1009	25.19
2	1323	33.03	2332	58.23
3	1196	29.86	3528	88.09
4	357	8.91	3885	97.00
5	104	2.60	3989	99.60
7	6	0.15	3995	99.75
9	10	0.25	4005	100.00

3. To suppress display of format labels in output, for specific variable(s):
ADD format *varname* ; to the SAS procedure, where *varname* is the name of the specific variable you want to display without the format labels.

Example: Suppress display of format labels for genhealth in the FREQ procedure output. The format is still associated with the variable in the data set, but the format labels are not displayed in the FREQ procedure output.

```
proc freq data= in.xx_nats_completes;
 tables genhealth;
  format genhealth ;
run;
```

Would you say that in general your health is:				
GENHEALTH	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
1	1009	25.19	1009	25.19
2	1323	33.03	2332	58.23
3	1196	29.86	3528	88.09
4	357	8.91	3885	97.00
5	104	2.60	3989	99.60
7	6	0.15	3995	99.75
9	10	0.25	4005	100.00

4. To work without the entire set of built in formats:

- If there is a libname library statement in the SAS program, delete it or comment it out.
- Add the following statement to the top of the SAS program (before any data steps or PROC statements): OPTIONS NOFMTERR;