

Attachment 2f - Additions to NHIS Core

English Proficiency: As required by Section 4302 of the Affordable Care Act (see Attachment 1), a question that addresses English proficiency was added to the Core NHIS in 2013. This item continues for 2017:

Question Text:

How well {fill: do you/does NAME} speak English? Would you say...

*Read categories below.

1 Very well

2 Well

3 Not well

4 Not at all

7 Refused

9 Don't know

Universe Text: All family members age 5+ years

Binge Drinking: A question on binge drinking added to the NHIS Core Module in 2014 for Sample Adults was modified for 2015 and continues in this modified form for 2017. The modification to the 2014 question, which had asked about alcohol consumption in a two-hour time period, changed the time frame for alcohol consumption from a two hour window to “an occasion.” This change made the NHIS question more similar to binge drinking questions on CDC and other federal and state health surveys.

Adult Select Items: This module, first included on the NHIS in 2013, continues for 2017. It contains questions to ascertain respondents' sexual orientation, embedded alongside questions about their neighborhood, computer use, sleep patterns, and mental health. The sexual orientation questions were developed to fill the gap in nationally representative data available on health disparities that involve the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual (LGB) populations, which resulted in many Healthy People 2010 objectives going unmeasured. The NHIS sexual orientation questions allow assessment and monitoring of the health status, health behaviors, and health care utilization of LGB persons.

Child Health Status: In 2016, a small number of follow-up questions were added to the core questions asking about the Sample Child's lifetime diagnoses for autism, intellectual disability, and ADD/ADHD. The added follow-up questions ask if the child currently has the condition.

Methodological projects: Using the sample of respondents not set aside for MEPS, NHIS respondents may be included (along with members of commercial survey panels) as participants in methodological and cognitive testing activities in 2017. These small-scale assessment projects will build on and integrate the findings from previous NHIS follow-back surveys and special methodological projects. Aimed at informing the 2018 questionnaire redesign, the planned series of short, web and/or mail assessments would test new and/or updated questionnaire items, evaluate the impact of different categorical response option formats on answer choices, and measure respondent comprehension of health care-related terms and concepts in various contexts.