

Variable Definitions, nhis_alcohol.dta

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) is an annual survey of about 40,000 households and 90,000 individuals. It is the principle source of data about the health status of the US non-institutionalized population in the US. The survey collects some basic health data about everyone in the household then detailed information about a sampled person in the household. For example, it get self-reported health status from everyone but detailed information about drinking habits for sampled adults in the household.

This data has been harmonized across years by the IPUMS project and downloadable at ipums.org. The data set for this project has information for males and females aged 18-49 from the 2012-2016 NHIS. Below are variable definitions for the variables I've pulled for this exercise.

Variable name	Definition
age	Age in years
female	Dummy variable, =1 if a female, =0 if not
race	1=white, non-Hispanic; 2=black, non-Hispanic; 3=other race, non-Hispanic; 4=Hispanic
srhealth	Self-reported health status, 1=excellent, 2=very good, 3=good, 4=fair, 5=poor
educgrp	Education level, 1 for < high school, 2=high school graduate, 3= some college, 4=college graduate, 5=some graduate school
married	Dummy variable, =1 if married, =0 if not
year	Year of the survey (2012-2016)
bmi	Body-mass index, weight in kgs/heights in meters squared
earnings	Annual labor market earnings
hours_wk_wk	Usual hours of work per week
limited_work_health	Dummy variable, =1 if some health conditions limits work, =0 otherwise
unable_work_health	Dummy variable, =1 if health conditions prevents you from working, =0 otherwise
days_exer_week	Usual number of days you exercise vigorously at least 10 minutes
min_exer_setting	How many minutes do you usually exercise when you do exercise
days_drink_wk	How many days per week do you usually drink? The number 0.5 means usually less than 1 day/week.
drinks_setting	When you drank, how many drinks do you usually have?
binge	How many days in the past 12 months did you binge drink (defined as having 4 or more drinks in one setting for females, 5 or more drinks in one setting for males)

For more information about the NHIS see <https://nhis.ipums.org/nhis/>