

The 2012 National Sample Survey of Nurse Practitioners: Public Use File Codebook



Health Resources and Services Administration
Bureau of Health Professions
National Center for Health Workforce Analysis
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Background and Codebook of the Data set

The National Sample Survey of Nurse Practitioners (NSSNP) was commissioned by the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Bureau of Health Professions (BHP) to help fill the information gap that exists surrounding Nurse Practitioner (NP) education, training, employment, and the extent to which NPs are practicing to the full extent of their education and training. NSSNP data will be used to inform health workforce policy decisions based on current and projected supply and demand for NPs.

To support a methodologically rigorous data collection representing all licensed NPs in the U.S., HRSA obtained listings of all actively licensed NP from each state licensing board. Using the 51 individual lists, a single national sample frame was established utilizing probability matching to help identify NPs with multiple NP licenses. Once all multiply licensed NPs were identified, a sample of NP records was selected from the national sample frame. The national sample included 22,000 NP records allocated (approximately) proportional to the number of licensed NPs in each state.

Data were collected between March 2012 and July 2012 using three waves mailed paper surveys plus a reminder postcard. From this sample of 22,000, 12,923 NPs completed and returned surveys. The response rate was 60.1 percent. Each survey was carefully reviewed for missing or inaccurate data. A stepwise data cleaning process was applied to identify and consistently clean conflicting and out of range data. In addition, upcoding procedures were applied in order to standardize specified responses and other extraneous data.

Sample weights were established to permit the development of national estimates as well as state-level estimates for many of the larger states. The final weight assigned to a participating nurse practitioner may be interpreted as the number of NPs who have a currently active license in at least one state represented by that participating NP. Survey estimates, such as those included through the analytic chapters in this report are obtained by applying the final sample weights to records representing the eligible responding NPs. Corresponding estimates of variability can be obtained through use of 100 jackknife replicate weights developed for this purpose.

To support further research of this important data set, HRSA has prepared a public use file (PUF). Table 1 provides a summary of the preparation and handling of the survey variables

**The 2012 National Sample Survey of Nurse Practitioners
Public Use File: Background and Codebook**

presented in the PUF. The table lists each survey question and the resulting actions that were taken during the preparation of the data set. Variables use the following missing codes:

-1 = Inapplicable (Valid Skip)

-5 = Value Suppressed

-9 = Not Ascertained (Missing)

For more information on the PUF, please contact HRSA.

Table 1

Question	Action
Q1	Included
Q2	Excluded
Q3	Included ▶ Q3EOS- Excluded
Q4	Rolled up to: 1= 1992 or earlier 2= 1993- 1997 3= 1998- 2002 4= 2003- 2007 5= 2008 or later
Q5_1	Derived from Q5A through J Family certification (Q5E=1) 1= Checked 0= Not checked ▶ Q5JOS- Excluded
Q5_2	Derived from Q5A through J Pediatric certification(Q5F=1) 1= Checked 0= Not checked ▶ Q5JOS- Excluded
Q5_3	Derived from Q5A through J Other primary care certification (Q5C or Q5D=1) 1= Checked 0= Not checked ▶ Q5JOS- Excluded

**The 2012 National Sample Survey of Nurse Practitioners
Public Use File: Background and Codebook**

Question	Action
Q5_4	Derived from Q5A through J Other NP certification (Q5C, Q5D, Q5E, Q5F, and Q5K= 0) 1= Checked 0= Not checked ▶ Q5JOS- Excluded
Q5_5	Derived from Q5A through J No NP certification (Q5K=1) 1= Checked 0= Not checked ▶ Q5JOS- Excluded
Q6	Included
Q7	Included ▶ Q7HOS- Excluded ▶ Q7MOS- Excluded ▶ Q7H_HEALTH- Derived variable
Q8	Included
Q9	Included
Q10	Included
Q11	Rolled up to: 1= NP in clinical practice (Q11=1) 2= NP faculty (Q11=2) 3= NP other position (Q11= 3, 4, 5) 4= RN staff nurse (Q11=6) 5= Faculty, non-NP (Q11=7) 6= Administrator (Q11=8) 7= Advance Practice Nurse, non-NP (Q11=10) 8= Other, non-NP (Q11=9, 11, 12, 13) ▶ Q11OS_5- Excluded ▶ Q11OS_10- Excluded ▶ Q11OS_13- Excluded

**The 2012 National Sample Survey of Nurse Practitioners
Public Use File: Background and Codebook**

Question	Action
Q12	Rolled up to: 1= Ambulatory (Q12= 1 through 7, 22, 24) 2= Hospital (Q12= 8 through 12, 26 ¹ , 27 ² , 28 ³) 3= Long term/elder care (Q12= 13, 14, 15) 4= Public/community health (Q12= 16 through 20) 5= Academic (Q12=21) 6= Other (Q12=23, 25, 29 ⁴) ▶ Q12OS_11- Excluded ▶ Q12OS_25- Excluded
Q13	Excluded
Q13_RUCA [Derived variable]	Rolled up to standard RUCA 4-category classification: 1= Urban (1.0, 1.1, 2.0, 2.1, 3.0, 4.1, 5.1, 7.1, 8.1, 10.1) 2= Large Rural (4.0, 4.2, 5.0, 5.2, 6.0, 6.1) 3= Small Rural (7.0, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 8.0, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 9.0, 9.1, 9.2) 4= Isolated (10.0, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.5, 10.6)
Q14	Included
Q15	Included ▶ Q15OS- Excluded
Q16	Value suppressed if > 80
Q17	Earnings variable rounded to \$2,500 increments Value suppressed if > \$250,000
Q18	Included
Q19	Included
Q20	Included
Q21	Included

¹Q12_26 = Hospital surgical setting (category added from review and up-coding of open-ended responses).

²Q12_27 = Hospital other clinical role (category added from review and up-coding of open-ended responses).

³Q12_28 = Hospital non-clinical (category added from review and up-coding of open-ended responses).

⁴Q12_29 = Clinic unclassified (category added from review and up-coding of open-ended responses).

**The 2012 National Sample Survey of Nurse Practitioners
Public Use File: Background and Codebook**

Question	Action
Q22	Included
Q23	Rolled up to: 1= Within 5 years (Q23=1, 2, 3) 2= 6-10 years (Q23=4) 3= More than 10 years (Q23=5) 4= Undecided (Q23=6)
Q24	Included
Q25	Rolled up to: 1= NP (Q25= 1 through 5) 2= Non-NP (Q25= 6 through 13) ▶ Q25OS_5- Excluded ▶ Q25OS_10- Excluded ▶ Q25OS_13- Excluded
Q26	Rolled up to: 1= Ambulatory (Q26= 1 through 7, 22, 24) 2= Hospital (Q26= 8 through 12, 26 ⁵ , 27 ⁶ , 28 ⁷) 3= Other (Q26= 13 through 21, 23, 25, 29 ⁸) ▶ Q26OS_11- Excluded ▶ Q26OS_25- Excluded
Q27	Excluded
Q27_RUCA [Derived variable]	Rolled up to standard RUCA 2-category classification: 1= Urban (1.0, 1.1, 2.0, 2.1, 3.0, 4.1, 5.1, 7.1, 8.1, 10.1) 2= Non-Urban (4.0, 4.2, 5.0, 5.2, 6.0, 6.1, 7.0, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 8.0, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 9.0, 9.1, 9.2, 10.0, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.5, 10.6)
Q28	Value suppressed if > 40
Q29	Earnings variable rounded to \$2,500 increments Value suppressed if > \$30,000
Q30	Included

⁵Q26_26= Hospital surgical setting (category added from review and up-coding of open-ended responses).

⁶Q26_27= Hospital other clinical role (category added from review and up-coding of open-ended responses).

⁷Q26_28= Hospital non-clinical (category added from review and up-coding of open-ended responses).

⁸Q26_29= Clinic unclassified (category added from review and up-coding of open-ended responses).

**The 2012 National Sample Survey of Nurse Practitioners
Public Use File: Background and Codebook**

Question	Action
Q31	Rolled up to: 1= Primary Care (Q31=1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 15, 32, 40 ⁹) 2= Internal Medicine Subspecialties (Q31=5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 41 ¹⁰) 3= Surgical Specialties (Q31=16, 17, 18, 19, 36 ¹¹ , 37 ¹² , 38 ¹³ , 42 ¹⁴) 4= Other (Q31=20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 39 ¹⁵ , 43 ¹⁶) 5= No Specialty (Q31=0) ▶ Q31OS_19- Excluded ▶ Q31OS_35- Excluded
Q32	Excluded
Q33	Included
Q34	Included
Q35	Included
Q36	Rolled up to: 1= Bill under my provider number (Q36= 1) 2= Bill under my clinic/facility number (Q36= 2) 3= Bill under a physician's provider number (Q36= 3) 4= No billing, Mixed billing, or Other (Q36= 4, 5, 6, 7 ¹⁷ , 8 ¹⁸) ▶ Q36OS- Excluded
Q37	Included
Q38	Included ▶ Q38OS- Excluded ▶ Q38I ¹⁹ - Up-coded variable

⁹ Q31_40= Primary care unknown subspecialty (category added from review and up-coding of open-ended responses).

¹⁰ Q31_41= Internal Medicine unknown subspecialty (category added from review and up-coding of open-ended responses).

¹¹ Q31_36 = Surgical: anesthesia (category added from review and up-coding of open-ended responses).

¹² Q31_37 = Surgical: cardio, cardiothoracic, vascular, thoracic (category added from review and up-coding of open-ended responses).

¹³ Q31_38 = Surgical: neurological (category added from review and up-coding of open-ended responses).

¹⁴ Q31_42= Surgical unknown subspecialty (category added from review and up-coding of open-ended responses).

¹⁵ Q31_39 = Radiology (category added from review and up-coding of open-ended responses).

¹⁶ Q31_43= Other unknown subspecialty (category added from review and up-coding of open-ended responses).

¹⁷ Q36 = 7 – Billing arrangement unknown or unspecified (category added from review and up-coding of open-ended responses).

¹⁸ Q36 = 8 – Mixed billing (category added from review and up-coding of open-ended responses).

**The 2012 National Sample Survey of Nurse Practitioners
Public Use File: Background and Codebook**

Question	Action
Q39	Included
Q40	Included
Q41	Rolled up to: 1= Annual salary (Q41= 1) 2= By the hour (Q41= 2) 3= Percentage of billing, Percent billing plus salary/hourly, or Other (Q41= 3, 4, 5 ²⁰) ▶ Q41OS- Excluded
Q42	Value suppressed if > 200
Q43	Included
Q44	Value suppressed if > 2,000
Q45	Included
Q46	Included
Q47	Excluded
Q48	Excluded
Q49	Excluded
Q50	Excluded
Q51	Excluded
Q52	Included

¹⁹Q38I = Collaborate, location unspecified (category added from review and up-coding of open-ended responses).

²⁰Q41=5 – Percent of billing plus salary/hourly (category added from review and up-coding of open-ended responses).

**The 2012 National Sample Survey of Nurse Practitioners
Public Use File: Background and Codebook**

Question	Action
Q53	Rolled up to: 1= 34 years of age or younger (1978 or later) 2= 35-39 years of age (1973- 1977) 3= 40-44 years of age (1968- 1972) 4= 45-49 years or age (1963- 1967) 5= 50-54 years of age (1958- 1962) 6= 55-59 years of age (1953- 1957) 7= 60 years of age or older (1952 or earlier)
Q54	Summarized in Q55
Q55	Summarized to: 1= Non-White or Hispanic (Q54=1 or any of Q55A-D=1) 2= White, Non-Hispanic (Q54=2 and Q55E=1, and all other Q55=0)
Q56	Rolled up to: 1= Married (Q56=2) 2= Not married (Q56= 1, 3, 4, 5)
Q57	Rolled up to: 1= Associate or less (Q57A, Q57B, Q57C= 1) 2= Baccalaureate (Q57D, Q57E= 1) 3= Masters (Q57F, Q57G= 1) 4= Doctorate or higher (Q57H, Q57I, Q57J= 1) ▶ Q57OS- Excluded ▶ Q57K suppressed
Q58	Rolled up to: 1= 1992 or earlier 2= 1993-1997 3= 1998-2002 4= 2003-2007 5= 2008 or later
Q59	Excluded
Q59_RUCA [Derived variable]	Rolled up to standard RUCA 4-category classification: 1= Urban (1.0, 1.1, 2.0, 2.1, 3.0, 4.1, 5.1, 7.1, 8.1, 10.1) 2= Large rural (4.0, 4.2, 5.0, 5.2, 6.0, 6.1) 3= Small rural (7.0, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 8.0, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 9.0, 9.1, 9.2) 4= Isolated (10.0, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.5, 10.6)
Q60	Excluded

*The 2012 National Sample Survey of Nurse Practitioners
Public Use File: Background and Codebook*

Question	Action
COUNT_ LICENSE [Derived variable]	Included
NPFINWT [Weighting variable]	The final weight assigned to a participating nurse practitioner (interpreted as the number of NPs who have a currently active license in at least one state represented by that participating NP). Survey estimates, such as those included through the analytic chapters in this report are obtained by applying the final sample weights to records representing the eligible responding NPs.
NPFINWT001 NPFINWT100 [Weighting variables]	Series of 100 jackknife replicate weights developed for calculating estimates of variability using a weighting factor of 1.