General Instructions

The HCHS/SOL disability screening form contains a six item set of questions (Q1-Q4, Q7-Q8) used on ACS and other major surveys to gauge disability is the data standard for survey questions on disability. The six-item disability standard represents a minimum standard and the questions and answer categories cannot be changed. Two additional items (Q5-Q6) asked in other cohort studied have been added to provide more information on functional limitations.

The set of questions used on the ACS and other major surveys to measure disability was developed by a federal interagency committee and reflects the change in how disability is conceptualized consistent with the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health. The question set defines disability from a functional perspective and was developed so that disparities between the 'disabled' and 'nondisabled' population can be monitored. The question set went through several rounds of cognitive and field testing and has been adopted in many federal data collection systems. OMB has encouraged the use of this question set by other federal agencies conducting similar population studies due to the extensive testing used in the development of these measures, including the findings that alternative measures did not test as well. Cognitive testing of these questions revealed that the six ACS questions must be used as a set to assure a meaningful measure of disability.

QXQ Instructions

The questions cover the basic functions of day-to-day living.

- **Sensory Disability:** Conditions that include blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment.
- **Physical Disability:** Conditions that substantially limit one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying.
- **Mental Disability:** Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, the person has difficulty learning, remembering or concentrating.
- **Self-care Disability:** Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, the person has difficulty dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home.
- **Go-outside-home Disability:** Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, the person has difficulty going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's office.

Items #1 and #2 use the phrase, “do you have serious difficulty …?” The term serious difficulty is used here in the context of seriously interferes with daily activities of living.