



HCHS/SOL Question by Question Instructions Personal Information Form (PIE/PIS), Version A

General Instructions

This section of the interview assesses sociodemographic characteristics of the participant including information designed to correctly classify the ethnicity of the participants as well as parents and grandparents. This information is essential since one of the objectives of the Hispanic Community Health Study is a comparison of the health status of the major Hispanic subgroups residing in the United States. The accurate collection of sociodemographic information such as educational attainment is also critical given that many health status indicators vary by measures of social class.

Question By Question Instructions

- Q1 Question assesses gender. In almost all cases classification of gender is self evident. You may enquire about gender if you are uncertain.
- Q2 Question collects date of birth. Accurate collection of date of birth is essential since this information will be used later for tracking the health status of the participant via medical record search and other databases such as the National Death Index. Use leading zeros to fill out month, day, and year. For example, if the participant was born in March, for month you would record “03” not “3”.
- Q3 Question assesses marital status. Read the response options in the order presented until the participant makes a selection. You may need to repeat the response options. For participants having difficulty with this question you can rephrase the question as follows: “Which of these categories best describes your current marital status.”
- Q4 Question asks the participant to indicate which country or territory they were born in. You must convert this country to a two-digit location code which is located on the last page of the Personal Information Page. This list is alphabetized by name of the country (e.g., “01 for Afghanistan to “66” for the Virgin Islands). The code for the United States is “63”. Other codes which you may encounter frequently include: Mexico (“46”), Puerto Rico (“57”), and Cuba (“18”). It is important that you have some familiarity with the other countries listed on the location code page. Code “67” (Other) is used only when country of origin is not found on the list. Code “99” is recorded when the participant refuses to answer the question or reports that he/she does not know their country of origin.
- Q5 Question asks the participant to indicate their Hispanic/Latino heritage. Read the response options in the order presented. You may need to repeat the response options. Check box number 6 for those who report more than one Hispanic/Latino heritage. If none of the categories apply, check box number 7 (other) and record the participant’s self-described heritage.
- Q6 Question assesses the self-described race of the participant. In order to distinguish from the previous question you should emphasize the word “addition” at the beginning of this sentence when asking this question (“In addition to...”). Read the response options in the order

presented. You may need to repeat the response options. Check box number 6 for those who report more than one race. If unknown, not reported or refused check box number 7.

- Q7-10 These questions ask about residential history for participants born outside of the US. These questions are not administered to US-born participants. Therefore, those who responded to Q4 that they were US born (code 63) are skipped to Q11.
- Q7 Question asks the participant to estimate the number of years they have lived in the US. This includes all 50 states but excludes its territories, including Puerto Rico. Round to the nearest year. If they report one year and one month then you would record “01” on the form. If they reported they lived one year and seven months then you would round up and record “02”. Round up one year in the circumstance when a participant reports being in the country for six months. For example, if they report that they have lived 2 ½ years in the country then you would record “03”.
- Q8 Question asks if they live in the same state all year when they are living in the US. This question is designed to capture migration to and from different parts of the country or to and from the US and other countries.
- Q9 Question asks if the participant returns to their native country for part of each year. Short vacations are specifically excluded so if the participant indicates that they only occasionally return home then check the “no” box.
- Q10 Question indicates how many months they are in their native country each year. Be sure to record the response in months using leading zeros (i.e. “01” not “1”). Round to the nearest number of months.
- Q11-16. Question assesses country of origin for the participants’ parents and grandparents. Use the location codes on the last page of the personal information page. Be sure to record each response using leading zeros if necessary (i.e. “01” not “1”).
- Q17 Question asks the participant to estimate the total number of years of schooling. This may be difficult for the participant since many people recollect their schooling in phases such as grade school, middle school high school, college, etc. You may assist the participant by asking how many years they attended for each period and come up with a total estimate.
- Q18 Question asks “In what country or territory was your highest level of education completed”. Convert the reported country to a two-digit location code located on the last page of the Personal Information Page. In many cases you will record “63” for those who completed their highest level of education in the US.
- Q19 Question asks the participant to classify the highest level of education received in broad categories. Read each response option until the participant selects a category. Mark only the category representing the highest level of education. If none of the response options describes their highest level of education, check the “other” box and record the education level obtained in the space provided.

- Q20 Question asks if the participant received any diplomas, certificates or degrees from their schooling. If no, skip the following question.
- Q21 Question asks which diplomas, certificates or degrees they have received for the same educational categories listed in Q19. Read the list of possible degrees/diplomas. If the participant states he/she has a diploma, certificate or degree not listed then check the check the “other” box and record the diploma, certificate or degree obtained in the space provided.
- Q22 and 23. Question assesses the highest grade/level obtained by the participant’s father and mother. Response options for these questions are identical to those administered for Q19, except that the first option given is “no schooling”. For both questions mark only the category representing the highest level of education. If none of the response options describes their highest level of education, check the “other” box and record the education level obtained in the space provided.