



HCHS/SOL Question by Question Instructions Social Network Index Form (SNE/SNS), Version A

General Instructions

The goal of this set of question is to assess the social ties that individuals have, in this case with family members, which is a measure of social integration. Researchers will be studying the relationship between social ties and health. This section will complement the questions on marital status and religious affiliation for a more comprehensive measure of participants' social integration.

Question by Question Instructions

- Q1. This question refers to all children participants have, whether they are biological or not, whether they live together or not, and regardless of their children's age. Ask participants to count the number of children and fill in the appropriate box.
- Q2. The goal of this question is to assess close contact with their children. Keep in mind that the question asks contact at least once every 2 weeks or twice a month. Participants may not have contact with all their children, or they may see or talk to them infrequently. If participant respond that they see or talk to their children once or less than once a month, then the answer is 0. The number reported here could be lower than the total number of children but not higher. For example, they may have reported having 4 children in the first question, but they may see or talk at least once every 2 weeks with only 2 of them; while seeing or talking to the other 2 children once a month. Thus, the correct response here should be 2.
- Q3. This question refers to biological and non-biological (i.e. step and adoptive) parents as well. If participants answer simply 'yes' or 'no' to this question, the interviewer will need to FOLLOW-UP WITH THE QUESTION "is that your mother, your father, or both parents?" to clarify and identify the appropriate box to check. If the participant feels that because he/she was parented by multiple individuals or for other reasons that this is a complicated issue, have the participant identify the primary parent and/or parental unit, and have the participant that he/she should think of that parent and/or parental unit when answering the question.
- Q4. Similar to question 2, this question asks for contact at least once every 2 weeks or twice a month. If they talk to either of their parents less than once a month or less code "Neither (0)." Keep in mind that they may see/talk to one of their parents and not the other one. For example if both parents are alive, but they only see or speak at least once every 2 weeks with their mother, then you should code for "Mother Only (1)".

As with question 3, if participants answer simply 'yes' or 'no' to this question, the interviewer will need to FOLLOW-UP WITH THE QUESTION "is that your mother, your father, or both parents?" to clarify and identify the appropriate box to check. Similar to Q3, if the participant feels that because he/she was parented by multiple individuals or for other reasons that this is a complicated issue, have the participant identify the primary parent and/or parental unit, and think of that parent and/or parental unit when answering the question.

- Q5. This question applies to biological or non-biological (i.e. adoptive) parents. If participants do not have a partner or spouse, then code “Not applicable (4)” and skip to question 7.
- Q6. See instructions for question 4.
- Q7. The goal of this question is to assess whether there are other family members that the participants feel close to. Relatives can be defined as any person whom the participant feels he/she is related to by blood or by marriage. It may include cousins, uncles, aunts, grandparents. Participants should count all of the relatives they feel close to. Interviewers can probe by asking if they feel close to any cousin, uncle, etc.