

# Summary of NSFG Questionnaire Changes for 2022-2023 (relative to 2017-2019 NSFG)

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## Overview

This document summarizes changes to the NSFG questionnaires for the 2022-2023 survey relative to the 2017-2019 survey. For more detail on these questionnaire changes made for 2022-2023, please see the questionnaires accessible on the [NSFG webpage](#).

While the majority of the 2022-2023 questionnaires remained the same as 2017-2019, changes were made to respond to emerging data needs, to reduce respondent burden related to question complexity, and to prepare for the transition to the multimode design. At the same time, attention was paid to maintaining a consistent time series on core NSFG items, staying within the average interview lengths approved by the Office of Management and Budget, and controlling data collection and instrument testing costs associated with questionnaire revisions.

## Changes affecting both male & female questionnaires

- Revised marital and cohabiting status questions (Section A) to be more inclusive of same-sex spouses and partners. (household roster already allows for reporting of same-sex spouses or partners in the household).
  - MARSTAT now asks about spouse/partner regardless of sex, LMARSTAT asks about opposite-sex spouse partner.
  - Respondents in same-sex relationships asked legal marital status relative to opposite-sex spouses (MARSTATB).
- Revised question (Section A) about relationship of spouse/cohabiting partner to each child in the household (RELSPCH) to ask for all spouses/partners in HH, not only opposite-sex spouses/partners.
- Reduced education series (Section A) leaving 1 question about attainment and asking for 3 mo/yr dates (high school graduation, college degree, & last attending school).
- Revised question (Section A) on mother's age at first birth (MOMFSTCH) from single years of age to a categorical question.
- Revised two foster care questions (Section A, MNYFSTER and DURFSTER) from continuous to categorical responses (number of foster care settings & age when left foster care).
- Revised HIV testing series (female section H and male section I):
  - Added question on blood donation in the past year (DONBLDYR).
  - Replaced date of last HIV test with a categorical question on recency.
  - Revised responses to where received last HIV test (PLCHIV) and the main reason for this last test (HIVTST).
  - Added question on whether heard of PrEP to reduce risk of getting HIV (PREP12).
  - Deleted question on awareness of anti-retroviral therapy (RETROVIR)
- Asked new questions on whether and how often R monitors blood pressure at home (male section H and male section I).

- Revised response categories to where one usually goes when sick (USLPLACE in Section I).
- Deleted questions (Section I) on insurance exchange (INS\_EXCH & INS,\_PREM).
- Replaced 6-item ACS disability series with 6-item Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (Section I).
- Revised RELRSD & RELNOW response categories and restored other-specify options (OTHRLRSD & OTHRLNOW in female section I and male section J).
- Reduced information on military service to a single question (female section I and male section J), with no more collection of beginning and end dates of service.
- Streamlined work series (female section I and male section J) for R and her current spouse/partner (including same-sex)
- Deleted some attitude questions (SAMESEX and CHSUPPORT in female section I and SAMESEX, CHSUPPORT, COHCHANCE, MARRCHANCE in male section J).
- Audio no longer being used for computer-assisted self-interview (female section J and male section K) after In-person interview.
- Made revisions to substance use questions (female section J and male section K) as follows:
  - Revised cigarette smoking question to ask about the last 30 days rather than last year.
  - Deleted questions asking about alcohol consumption in last 30 days.
  - Added question on use of prescription pain meds (opioids) without doctor's prescription in past year.
- Revised questions (female section J and male section K) on non-monogamy in last 12 months for R and their partners
- Added questions (female section J and male section K) about legal marital status and marriage/cohabitation experience relative to same-sex spouses to be asked only of those respondents currently in a same-sex marriage/cohabitation or those respondents with any same-sex sexual experience.
- Deleted the 50-50 study on the NSFG and NHIS questions (female section J and male section K) for sexual orientation, and adopted the NHIS question to be asked for all respondents.
- Added adverse childhood events (ACEs) and positive childhood experiences (PCEs) questions (female section J and male section K),
- Revised series on family income and public assistance (female section J and male section K) to accommodate same-sex married or cohabiting respondents.

### [Changes affecting only the female questionnaire](#)

#### **Section B: Pregnancy & Birth History; Adoption & Nonbiological Children**

- Revised pregnancy history series (BB-BC) to first ask for dates and outcomes for all pregnancies reported, and then to loop again and ask only selected questions based on pregnancy outcome, pregnancy order, and recency, to reduce respondent burden:
  - Pregnancy-specific questions were asked for all live births, all 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> pregnancies, and any pregnancies that ended in the past 5 years.
  - Level of detail was reduced for some questions about pregnancies and live births:
    - Date (mo/yr) questions were replaced with categorical age questions for children who died or who no longer live with R.
    - Question asking for exact birth weight was replaced with a dichotomous question about low birth weight.
    - Questions asking for how many weeks pregnant R was when she learned of the pregnancy or when she began prenatal care were replaced with questions asking for categorical ranges of weeks.

- Breastfeeding questions were limited to singleton live births where the child was 1-5 years old at time of interview.
- Restructured series on nonbiological children R has ever raised to instead ask child-specific questions only for those R currently lives with (or the 3 youngest, if she lives with more than 3). Reduced level of detail asked for each child, including deletion of all dates previously asked. Added question on “ever adopting a child” to account for information no longer collected on child-specific basis.

### **Section C: Marital and Relationship History; Sex Education; First Sexual Partner; Recent Partners in Past Year**

- Added series (CA) to obtain key dates and partner characteristics) for Rs currently married or cohabiting with a woman.
- Revised CB series to contain all questions about marriages to men, and scaled back detail collected, including deletion of spouse/partner’s mo/yr of birth.
- Consolidated all marriage ending dates (that had previously been asked based on how the marriage ended) into 1 date question regardless of how marriage ended (divorce, death, annulment).
- Deleted questions asking details about husbands’ and current cohabiting partner’s children from prior relationships, such as how many are under age 18 and whether he financially supports those minors.
- Scaled back CD series on former cohabiting partners to ask detailed questions only for the 1<sup>st</sup> former cohab partner, rather than up to 4.
- Deleted questions on R’s perception of the chances of cohabiting or marrying in the future.
- Revised question on age at 1<sup>st</sup> sexual intercourse (AGEFSTSX) to only be asked if the date was not reported.
- Reduced the DK/RF follow-up questions for age at first sex from 2 winnowing questions to a single, categorical question (DKAGFSTSX).
- Revised response categories for relationship type at first and last sex.
- Replaced the continuous “LO” & “HI” DK/RF follow-up questions with a single, categorical question for numbers of sexual partners respondents had in their lifetime (LIFEPRT\_CAT), before they got married (PTSB4MAR\_CAT), and in the past 12 months (MON12PRT\_CAT).

### **Section D: Sterilizing operations and Impaired Fecundity**

- Revised DA series to focus on female sterilization operations and collect less detail:
  - Mo/yr dates now only asked for tubals and hysterectomies
  - Questions on reasons for the operation now only asked for tubals and simplified
- Revised DB series to focus only on vasectomies and collect less detail. Reasons for vasectomies are no longer asked
- Deleted other-specify verbatims for questions asking reasons for fecundity impairments

### **Section E: Contraceptive History & Pregnancy Wantedness**

- Added question about ever use of Natural Cycles app (NATCYCA)
- Deleted reason for using emergency contraception
- Revised to ask about Implant (IMPLANT) and IUD (IUD) separately from residual list of other methods
- Added question if copper IUD was inserted as emergency contraception (EVCIUDEC), added emergency contraception in list of possible reasons for recent IUD use (YUSEIUD)
- Added “Vaginal Film” and “Phexxi Gel” to residual list of other meths ever used (OTHRMETH)
- Revised reasons for discontinuation of methods of contraception (REASCOND, REASPILL, REASCOND, REASIUD) to keep only relevant reasons, deleted other-specify questions
- Deleted LARC removal series

- Deleted place got first method of contraception
- Added reminders for the method history calendar prompts to report continuous method use even if they did not have sexual intercourse in that month
- Deleted question about IUD type at last sex
- Deleted follow-up questions about reason for suppressing edit checks (variable names starting with SU\_ in 2019 and earlier questionnaires)
- Revised EG series on pregnancy wantedness to ask about same pregnancies as covered in the revised BC series (all live births, all 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> pregnancies, and recent pregnancies – see Section B above)
- Revised routing to remove criteria so that broader universe is asked if R stopped using a method before pregnancy (STOPDUSE)
- Changed routing to WTHPART1 and WTHPART2 (wantedness of pregnancy with that partner) to pregnancies resulting in live births (in addition to criteria for pregnancies covered in BC series – see Section B above)
- Deleted questions on difficulties with condom use; still asked in the male questionnaire.

### **Section F: Family Planning and Medical Services**

- Deleted question about abortion in the past 12 months because overlapped with Section B information.
- Updated categories of barriers to family planning services to include responses obtained from previous other specify responses.
- Combined hospital emergency room and hospital regular room into ‘other hospital location including emergency room’ for questions on where obtained FP services.
- Added response of ‘never had sex’ to why did not receive STD test in past 12 months.
- Removed services received at a clinic for R that did not go to a clinic in the past 12 months and that have ever gone to a clinic.
- Deleted questions on when R should receive next Pap, pelvic or HPV test.
- Added 2 new questions on whether would be willing to do self-test for HPV screening and whether would prefer to do test at home or in the clinic.

### **Section H: Medical Help to Have a Baby; General & Reproductive Health**

- Revised HA series to be more inclusive of medical help to have a baby that may be pursued by individual women or those in same-sex couples, and to reduce detail on some services.
- Consolidated response choices from TYPALLPG and OTMEDHEP into a single TYPALLPG question.
- Replaced date of first visit (FSTHLPPG\_M/Y) with age at 1<sup>st</sup> visit.
- Replaced date of last/most recent visit with a yes/no question of whether it was in the past 12 months (LASTHELP).
- Revised response categories for INFRTPRB to reflect more commonly used categories.
- Replaced date when last received treatment for PID with a categorial variable about recency of last treatment (WHENPID).
- Revised GESTDIAB from yes/no responses to clearer responses about gestational diabetes.
- Added selected other drugs to responses on ENDOTREAT and UFTREAT.
- Added AMH to response on blood tests in PCOSSYMP.
- Added new series on menstrual periods including cramps/pain and prescription use for these symptoms.
- Revised the cancer series including adding MAMMOGN & FAMHYSTA, deleting CLINEXAM & BFEEDRISK, revising MAMMOGN, AGEMAMMR, CANCTYPE, and renaming CANCERISK to BCANCRISK.
- Revised question on whether received any dose of the HPV vaccine (EVERVACC).
- Added new questions on whether and how often R monitors blood pressure at home

- Deleted question about sources of nutritional information for R's children under age 5

**Section J:** Self-administered section for those interviewed in-person; no change for web respondents

- Deleted questions re-asking women about pregnancies they have had.
- Revised question wording for ABNHPV to say "a positive HPV test as part of cervical cancer screening."

### Changes affecting only the male questionnaire

**Section B: Sex Communication; Ever Sex with a Female Partner; Number of Female Sexual Partners, Enumeration and Relationship with Up to 3 Recent (or Last) Female Sexual Partner(s)**

- Reduced vasectomy questions to only ask year of vasectomy (VASEC\_Y) and reversal (VASREV\_Y) rather than mo/yr.
- Reduced response categories for where vasectomy was done (PLCSTROP).
- Revised questions about number of female sexual partners in BC series to ask for a number and then use a categorical follow-up for DK/RF responses.

**Section C: Current Spouse of Cohabiting Partner**

- Revised the CA & CB series (key dates and partner characteristics) to include a current same-sex spouse or partner. Scaled back detail collected, including deletion of spouse/partner's mo/yr of birth.
- After this point in Section C all questions are limited to current spouses and cohabiting partners who are female because the questions are related to contraceptive use and current pregnancy.
- Deleted separate series asking about biological and nonbiological children men have with current wife/partner. All information on children now collected in Section F.

**Section D: Up to 3 Recent Female Sexual Partners in Last Year or Last Female Partner Ever (if none in last year)**

- Consolidated all marriage ending dates into 1 date question regardless of how marriage ended (divorce, death, annulment).
- Deleted separate series asking about biological and nonbiological children men have with each partner covered in Section D. All information on children now collected in Section F

**Section E: First Former Wife and First Female Former Cohabiting Partner; First Female Sexual Partner**

- Reduced series on former wives to ask only about 1<sup>st</sup> former wife, rather than all former wives. Also reduced detail collected about these women, including deletion of their mo/yr of their birth.
- Consolidated all marriage ending dates into 1 date question regardless of how marriage ended (divorce, death, annulment).
- Deleted separate series asking about biological and nonbiological children men have with 1<sup>st</sup> former wife or 1<sup>st</sup> former cohab partner. All information on children now collected in Section F.
- Relocated series on 1<sup>st</sup> female sexual partner ever to this section (formerly in section D) and reduced some detail formerly collected.

**Section F: Biological Children Ever Fathered; Non-biological Children Living with R; Other Pregnancies Fathered**

- Instead of asking about biological children in the context of specific relationships as in prior NSFGs, all information on R's biological children is now collected in FA series:
  - Reduced detail asked for each biological child
  - Adapted question used in SIPP to assess men's multi-partner fertility
- FB series now asks a simpler set of questions about men's other nonbiological children they currently live with, rather than all whom he may ever have lived with or raised. Added question on "ever adopted" to account for information no longer collected on child-specific basis.
- FC series on other pregnancies the R has fathered has been simplified to get a total number, not broken down by type of non-live birth outcomes.

### **Section G: Activities with Coresidential and Non-Coresidential Children**

- Due to the changes in Section F, the GB series is now limited to the respondent's biological children aged 18 or younger who no longer live with him. The series does not include adopted children aged 18 or younger who no longer live with him.
- Deleted questions about child support amount and payment

### **Section I: Health Conditions and Health Services**

- Updated and revised questions in the cancer series to yield more useful responses with less confusion.
- Updated categories of barriers to visiting a doctor in the past 12 months to include responses obtained from previous other specify responses.
- Added questions (as asked of female respondents) on the HPV vaccine.
- Revised series on medical services to have a baby to apply to all adult men regardless of whether they had sexual intercourse with a woman. Also deleted question on mo/yr of his last such visit and replaced with a question asking if had a visit in the past 12 months.

### **Section K: Self-administered section for those interviewed in-person; no change for web respondents**

- Deleted questions re-asking men about pregnancies fathered.
- Deleted question asking men what happened if/when they were ever told they made someone pregnant