

**NHANES 2001-2002 Data Release  
May 2004  
Sample Person Questionnaire**

**Balance (BAQ\_B)**

Survey Years Included in this File: 2001-2002

**Questionnaire Section Characteristics:**

**Questionnaire Section Description:**

The Balance Questionnaire (variable name prefix BAQ) provides sample person interview data on the self-reported prevalence of balance, dizziness, and falls. This is of importance because of the increasing morbidity and mortality associated with balance disorders among older persons in the U.S.

**Interview Setting:**

Home Interview

**Mode of administration:**

In-person

**Topics Included in the Section:**

- 1 month period prevalence of dizziness, balance problems and falls
- Duration of the balance problems listed above
- Self-reported reason for balance or dizziness problem
- History of medical treatment for balance/dizziness, type and outcome
- Family history of balance, dizziness or falling problem

**Eligible sample and any section-specific exclusion criteria:**

All sample persons 40 years of age and older were asked these questions. There were no exclusions for this questionnaire segment.

**Questionnaire Source(s):**

All the questions in the current NHANES balance questionnaire were newly developed for this survey in consultation with expert consultants from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communications Disorders (NIDCD).

### **Links to examination and laboratory data:**

Balance Physical Examination data are found in the Balance Section of the NHANES 2001-2002 Examination Files.

### **Quality Control During Data Collection:**

Balance questionnaire data was systematically reviewed for logical, processing and data input errors on a periodic basis during the process of data collection.

### **Data Processing and Editing:**

The 2001-2002 Balance Questionnaire data was verified prior to public release.

### **Analytic Notes:**

Balance data analysis is a complex, and requires knowledge of the specialty content area for valid results to be obtained. If an analyst does not have professional experience in this area, it is recommended that specialty consultation be obtained to help formulate and review the results of the analysis.

### **Data Access:**

The BAQ data are publicly available at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm) except for detailed data for BAQ080B and BAQ080C. Requests for this data should be made to the NHCS Research Data Center.

### **Reference:**

Newman CW, Jacobson GP. Application of self-report scales in balance function handicap assessment. *Seminars in Hearing*, 1993; 14:363-376.