

New Immigrant Survey
Introduction to Questionnaires NIS 2003-1

The New Immigrant Survey is a new plan for nationally representative, longitudinal studies of immigrants and their children that promises to provide new kinds of data that will help answer many of the important questions about immigration and concomitantly shed light on basic aspects of human development.

The NIS sampling design includes two samples, an Adult Sample and a Child Sample. The baseline round of the first full cohort of the NIS, NIS-2003, includes completed interviews with 8,573 respondents in the Adult Sample and with 810 parents or guardians of children in the Child Sample. In addition to interviews with the sampled adult and parent of the sampled child, the NIS includes interviews with their spouses.

The accompanying questionnaires are hard copy versions of the CAPI-administered interview. They should accurately reflect all programming instructions in place at the beginning of fieldwork. They do not serve as the exact codebook for the public release data file, however. In order to protect respondent confidentiality not all variables are able to be released.

SECTION SUMMARIES FOR THE ADULT QUESTIONNAIRE

Section A, Demographic: Information about the respondent and each member of the respondent's household is gathered in this section. Questions on the respondent's military, marriage, and fertility histories are also asked.

Section B, Pre-Immigrant Experiences: Includes questions on sponsorship and the respondent's employment history before coming to the United States.

Section C, Employment: The respondent's current employment situation and salary and benefits are covered in this section.

Section D, Health: Questions about the respondent's health history and activities such as smoking, drinking, and exercise habits are asked in this section.

Section E, Insurance: Questions about the respondent's health insurance and household coverage and life insurance are asked in this section.

Section F, Health Care Utilization and Daily Activities: Information on the respondent's experiences with health care within the past 12 months and whether or not such activities were covered by their insurance is gathered.

Section G, Income Part I: This section is administered to the person (main respondent or spouse) most knowledgeable of the household's finances. Questions pertain to income derived from a variety of sources such as wages, tips, social security, and pensions.

Section H, Assets and Income Part II: This section is also administered to the most financially knowledgeable household member. Information on home ownership, savings and investments, and any other assets is gathered in this section.

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Section I, Transfers: Questions in this section cover financial assistance given and received by the respondent.

Section J, Social Variables: Questions on languages spoken, religious traditions, and the experience of becoming a legal permanent resident are asked in this section.

Section K, Migration: Information on significant movement inside and outside the United States is gathered.

Section L, Parent/Guardian Questionnaire: Questions in this section are asked of the parent/guardian of two randomly-selected co-resident children older than five but younger than 18 who are either: (1) the biological, step or adopted children of the sampled immigrant, or (2) the sampled child immigrant and a randomly selected sibling of his/hers in the appropriate age range.

Section M, HOME: Questions included in this section are from the NLSY79 1998 Mother Supplement. This section is completed either by the female respondent, if present, about their co-resident children younger than 18 years of age.

Section N, Appendix: This section includes locating questions to help locate respondents in the planned subsequent rounds of the survey.

Section R, Interviewer Comments: Main Respondent: Interviewer remarks about the sampled adult immigrant or Child Proxy interviews are gathered in this section.

Section S, Interviewer Comments: Spouse of Main Respondent: Interviewer remarks about the interview with the spouse of the sampled adult immigrant or Child Proxy respondent are gathered in this section.

GUIDE TO PATHS THROUGH THE ADULT QUESTIONNAIRE

There are four main paths through the New Immigrant Survey: Main Immigrant (IM), Overseas (OS), Child Proxy (CP), and Spouse (SP).

Certain sections in the instrument are skipped depending on the path (IM, OS, CP, SP). Individual items skipped by a particular path are indicated between curly brackets {} (for example, {IM} indicates that the sampled adult immigrant should skip the question). If there are further instructions in the curly brackets then only that type of interview path follows those instructions. For example, {SP – IF A145_X=UNITED STATES GO TO D4} indicates that the skip only applies if the provision is met in the spouse path.

The Main Immigrant path is followed by sampled adult respondents living in the United States. These respondents answer all sections A-N except as indicated below for the spouse path. If the respondent does not have children in the appropriate age ranges or his/her spouse is selected to answer questions about the children, the respondent skips sections L and M.

The Overseas path is followed by sampled adult immigrants who are not currently living in the United States and were not be in the United States for the duration of the fieldwork period. The OS interview was administered over the telephone and is comprised of a subset of questions administered to the main immigrants. Individual items skipped by the overseas respondents are marked in the questionnaire with an {OS}.

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The Child Proxy path is followed, in most cases, by the sponsor/parent of the sampled immigrant when the sampled immigrant is not yet 18 and has never been married. This path contains many text substitutions for questions to make them applicable to the Child Proxy respondents. Like the OS path, the Child Proxy respondent skips individual items marked with a {CP}.

The Spouse path is followed by the spouse of the sampled adult immigrant or child proxy. The spouse case is spawned from the main respondent interview and several sections and questions are skipped. Section A is always skipped by the spouse; Section B is skipped if the spouse is not foreign-born; Sections G, H, and I are skipped unless the main respondent indicated that the spouse was more financially knowledgeable (in this case, the main respondent would skip G, H, and I); Section J is always skipped, Section K is skipped if the spouse is not foreign-born; if there are no children in the household or the main respondent answered the questions about children, Sections L and M are skipped; Section N is always skipped.

SECTION SUMMARIES FOR THE ELEMENTS ADMINISTERED TO CHILDREN

Section Z, Child Section: Questions in this section were asked of up to two randomly-selected children ages eight through twelve, inclusive, who are either: (1) the biological, step or adopted children of the sampled immigrant, or (2) the sampled child immigrant and a randomly selected sibling of his/hers in the appropriate age range.

Woodcock Johnson III, Tests 1,5,9, and 10 of Achievement: For tests 1 and 10, the co-resident biological, adopted and stepchildren of the sampled adult immigrant or the Child Proxy who were ages three through twelve, inclusive, were assessed. For tests 5 and 9, the co-resident biological, adopted and stepchildren of the sampled adult immigrant or the Child Proxy who were ages six through twelve, inclusive, were assessed.

Digit Span for Memory: The co-resident biological, adopted and stepchildren of the sampled adult immigrant or the Child Proxy who were ages three through twelve were assessed.