Introduction to National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG)

Hsueh-Sheng Wu CFDR Workshop Series May 23, 2022



Outline

- Aims of NSFG
- NSFG study design
- 2017-2019 NSFG data files
- Contents in 2017-2019 NSFG Public Data
- Examples of faculty's work using NSFG
- Navigate NSFG website
 - Questionnaire
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 - Data
- Sample Stata code for:
 - Reading NSFG data file into Stata
 - Linking a female respondent file with a pregnancy file
 - Pooling men and women data from the same cycle
 - Pooling data from multiple years
 - Using weight variables in the analysis
- Conclusions

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Aims of NSFG

- Address Sec 306 of the Public Health Service Act: "National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) shall collect statistics on... family formation, growth, and dissolution."
 - Provide reliable national data on marriage, divorce, sexual activity, contraception, pregnancy, sterilization, and infertility
 - Describe attitudes of sex, marriage, cohabitation, and parenthood
 - Monitor health risks, sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV), and the health of infants, women, and men
 - Policies can be made to meet the needs of families
 - Service agencies can design health and service programs



NSFG Study Design

Name	Year	Target po	int	n-institutionalized people he U.S. ting the criteria	Survey Design (repeated cross-sectional survey)	N
		Gender	Age Range	marital or parental status		
Cycle 1	1973	women	15-44	 ever married or have offspring in the household 	Interviews completed in a year	9,797
Cycle 2	1976	women	15-44	 ever married or have offspring in the household 	Interviews completed in a year	8,61:
Cycle 3	1982	women	15-44		Interviews completed in a year	7,969
Cycle 4	1988	women	15-44		Interviews completed in a year	8,450
Cycle 5	1995	women	15-44		Interviews completed in a year	10,84
Cycle 6	2002	women men	15-44		Interviews completed in a year	12,57 W=7,6 M=4,9
006-2010 NSFG	2006-2010	women men	15-44		Interviews spread over several years	22,68 W=12,2 M=10,4
011-2013 NSFG	2011-2013	women men	15-44		Interviews spread over several years	10,41 W=5,6 M=5,8
013-2015 NSFG	2013-2015	women men	15-44		Interviews spread over several years	10,20 W=5,6 M=4,5
015-2017 NSFG	2015-2017	women men	15-49		Interviews spread over several years	10,09 W=5,5 M=4,5
017-2019 NSFG	2017-2019	women men	15-49		Interviews spread over several years	11,34 W=6,14 M=5,2

NSFG Study Design (Continued)

Table 1. Study I	Designs of NSFG	(Continued)
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Name	Year	Sampling Method	Over-Sampled groups	Data Collection Methods
Cycle 1	1973	multistage probability sampling	Black women	Personal interview
Cycle 2	1976	multistage probability sampling	Black women	face-to-face interview
Cycle 3	1982	multistage area probability sampling	Black women & Teens	face-to-face interview
Cycle 4	1988	Using Households used in National Health Interview Survey	Black women	face-to-face interview
Cycle 5	1995	Using Households used in National Health Interview Survey	Black and hispanic women	Computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI)
Cycle 6	2002	multistage area probability sampling	Blacks, Hispanics, & Teens	Interviewer administered CAP self-administered ACAPI
2006-2010 NSFG	2006-2010	multistage area probability sampling	Blacks, Hispanics, & Teens	Interviewer administered CAF self-administered ACAPI
2011-2013 NSFG	2011-2013	multistage area probability sampling	Blacks, Hispanics, & Teens	Interviewer administered CAF self-administered ACAPI
2013-2015 NSFG	2013-2015	multistage area probability sampling	Blacks, Hispanics, & Teens	Interviewer administered CAF self-administered ACAPI
2015-2019 NSFG	2015-2019	multistage area probability sampling	Blacks, Hispanics, & Teens	Interviewer administered CAI self-administered ACAPI

Demographic Research

2017-2019 NSFG Data Files

The 2017-2019 NSFG survey have public data and restricted data

Public-use data

- Public-used data can be directly downloaded form the NSFG website
- The data files are (1) Female respondent data file, (2) Female pregnancy data file, (3) Male respondent data file
- The values of some variables are collapsed, modified, or suppressed to protect the confidentiality of the respondents. For example, the century month data values for marriages, divorces, pregnancies, cohabitations, educational degrees, military services, and selected health services are suppressed.
- Some variables are constructed (e.g., inter-pregnancy interval variables), so researchers can still address important research questions without the exact information on the century months of the pregnancies.

Restricted data

- Restricted-use data can only be accessed from research data centers (RDC) of National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). The locations of these centers can be found at <u>https://www.cdc.gov/rdc/leftbrch/locaterdc.htm</u> and <u>https://www.census.gov/about/adrm/fsrdc/locations.html</u>
- With restricted-used data, researchers have the access to some important variables, such as the century months of the pregnancies and the region of residence for the respondents.
- To access the restricted data, researchers need to follow the application process that NCHS specifies in <u>https://www.cdc.gov/rdc/b3prosal/pp300.htm</u>

Contents in 2017-2019 NSFG Public Data

Section	Female Respondent data	Male Respondent Data
A	Calendar Instructions; Demographic Characteristics; Household Roster; Childhood Background	Demographic Characteristics; Household Roster; Childhood Background; Marital/Cohabiting Status
В	Pregnancy & Birth History; Adoption & Nonbiological Children	Ever Sex, Sex Communication and Education, Vasectomy and Physical Ability to Father Children, Number of Sexual Partners, Enumeration and Relationship With Up To 3 Recent (Or Last) Sexual Partner(s)
С	Marital and Relationship History	Current Wife or Cohabiting Partner
D	Sterilizing Operations and Impaired Fecundity	Recent (Or Last) Sexual Partner(s) and First Sexual Partner
E	Contraceptive History and Pregnancy Wantedness	Former Wives and First Cohabiting Partner
F	Family Planning and Medical Services	Other Biological Children, Other Adopted Children, Other Pregnancies
G	Desires and Intentions for Future Births	Fathering
н	Infertility Services and Reproductive Health	Desires and Intentions for Future Biological Children
I	Insurance; Residence and place of birth; Religion; Past and current work (R and current H/P); Attitudes	Health Conditions and Health Services
L	Audio CASI	Residence and place of birth; Religion; Military service; Past and current work (R and current wife/partner); Attitudes
к		Audio CASI
R	Recode Variables and Imputation Flags	Recode Variables and Imputation Flags
W	Weights and Other Variables	Weights and Other Variables

Table 2. The Topics Covered in the Male and Female Respondent Data files in 2011

Contents in 2017-2019 NSFG Public Data (Continued)

Table 3. The file index of the Pregnancy Data in the 2017-2019 NSFG

- 1. Respondent ID and Pregnancy Order
- 2. Section B raw variables
- 3. Section E raw variables
- 4. Section B and E pregnancy-based recodes
- 5. Selected respondent file variables
- 6. Pregnancy recode imputation flags
- 7. Respondent recode imputation flags included on pregnancy file
- 8. Weights and related variables
- 9. Date of interview, key reference dates, and fieldwork variables



Examples of Faculty's Work Using NSFG

Guzzo K. B. (2017). Is stepfamily status associated with cohabiting and married women's fertility behaviors? *Demography*, *54*, 45-70.

Lamidi E.O⁻, Manning W. D., Brown S.L. (2019). Change in the stability of first premarital cohabitation among women in the United States, 1983-2013. *Demography*, *56*, 427-450.

Manning, W. D., & Cohen, J. A. (2012). Premarital cohabitation and marital dissolution: An examination of recent marriages. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *74*, 377–387.

Manning W.D., & Brown, S. L. (2014). Two decades of stability and change in age at first union formation. *Journal of Marriage and Family,* 76, 247-260.

Stykes, J. B., Manning, W. D., & Brown, S. L. (2013). Nonresident fathers and formal child support: Evidence from the CPS, NSFG, and SIPP. *Demographic Research*, 29,1299-1330



Navigate NSFG Website

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg/index.htm

CDC Centers for Disease Control CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People	Search	A-Z In Search NCHS	
		Advanced Sea	
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A National Survey of Family Growth			
About NSFG	National Survey of Family C	arowth	
What's New	National Survey of Family G	rowth	
Questionnaires, Datasets, and + Related Documentation	The National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) gathers information on family life, marriage and divorce, pregnancy,	What's New	
Key Statistics from NSFG +	infertility, use of contraception, and men's and women's health. The survey results are used by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and others to plan health	Data Releases 2017-2019 NSFG Publi 	ic Use Data Files (10/2020)
Publications and Information Products	services and health education programs, and to do statistical studies of families, fertility, and health. Links to some of those studies are included on this web site. under	Publications <u>2015-2019 NSFG Key S</u> 	<u>Statistics</u> (11/2021)
Bibliography	"Publications and Information Products."	<u>Current Contraceptive</u> <u>15–49: United States, 2</u>	<u>- Status Among Women Aged</u> 2017–2019 (10/2020)
Research Conferences			n Menarche in the United 013–2017 🔁 [PDF – 366 KB]
Survey Participants		(9/2020) Sexual Activity and Con <u>Teenagers Aged 15–19</u> 2017 (5/2020)	ntraceptive Use Among 9 in the United States, 2015–

Navigate NSFG Website (Continued)

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Navigate NSFG Website (Continued)

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About NSFG			
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What's New	2017-2019 NSFG: Public-Use Data F	iles, Codeboo	ks,
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2017-2019 NSFG Webpage

NSFG website provides important information on each NSFG survey.

Take 2017-2019 NSFG as an example, the website (<u>https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg/nsfg_2017_2019_puf.htm</u>) provides:

- Codebooks and Documentation
- Design and Data Collection Methods
- Variance Estimation Examples
- Design and Weight Variables
- Questionnaires
- Informed Consent Materials
- Downloadable Data Files
- Program Statements for SAS, Stata, and/or SPSS.
- Other Data Files

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Questionnaire

NSFG Questionnaire provides comprehensive specifications of each question that NSFG staff provide to the computer programmers to create the CAPI instrument.

C_INTRO1

CA-0. The next questions are about your marriages and other relationships.

ENTER [1] to continue

{ Asked if R has ever been married

TIMESMAR

CA-1. IF FMARIT = 1 or 4 (married or separated), ASK: Including your present marriage, how many times have you been married?

ELSE IF FMARIT = 2 or 3 (widowed or divorced), ASK: How many times have you been married?

ENTER number

[HELP AVAILABLE]

Number

UNDERLYING RANGE: 1 to 95 (But we want to allow space for only 6 husbands in looping)

FLOW CHECK C-4: IF MARSTAT = 1 (married) AND 1 LE TIMESMAR LE 6, ASK CA-2 HUSBNAMEX FOR EACH FORMER HUSBAND IF ANY (up to TIMESMAR-1) AND THEN ASK CA-2b HSEVERIF TO VERIFY NAME OF CURRENT HUSBAND.

> ELSE IF 2 LE CA-1 TIMESMAR LE 6 OR (CA-1 TIMESMAR = 1 AND AD-7b MARSTAT NE 1), ASK CA-2 HUSBNAMEX FOR EACH OF THE [TIMESMAR] FORMER (or currently separated) HUSBANDS.

ELSE IF MARSTAT = 1 (married) AND 1 LE TIMESMAR LE 6 AND CHFMAMME = "YOUR HUSBAND", ASK CA-2 HUSBNAMEX FOR EACH FORMER HUSBAND IF ANY (up to TIMESMAR-1) AND THEN GO TO CA-2c CHVENIFY TO FIND OUT NAME OF CURRENT HUSBAND.

ELSE IF TIMESMAR = DK OR RF, GO TO CA-2c CHVERIFY TO FIND OUT NAME OF CURRENT OR MOST RECENT HUSBAND (BASED ON MARSTAT VALUE).

ELSE IF TIMESMAR GT 6 AND MARSTAT = 1 (married), ASK HUSBNAMEX FOR HER FIRST 5 FORMER HUSBANDS AND THEN ASK CA-2c CHVERIFY OR CA-2b HSBVERIF (as appropriate based on CHPNAME value) ABOUT R's CURRENT HUSBAND. (For currently married women with more than 6 marriages, we will only ask about her 1st 5 husbands and her current husband.)

ELSE IF TIMESMAR GT 6 AND MARSTAT NE 1 (married), ASK

HUSBNAMEX FOR HER FIRST 6 FORMER HUSBANDS. (For currently unmarried women with more than 6 marriages, we will only ask about her 1^{st} 6 marriages.)

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B Demograpine Research

Codebook

Female Respondent File Codebook :: SECTION C: Marital and Relationship History :: (CA) Number of marriages

TIMESMAR(231-232)

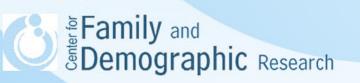
Variable Type : raw

CA-1 : (Including your present marriage, how / How) many times have you been married?

value	label	Total
	INAPPLICABLE	3419
1	1 TIME	2288
2	2 TIMES	358
3	3 TIMES	61
4	4 TIMES	12
98	Refused	2
99	Don't know	1
	Total	6141

Universe : Applicable if R has ever been married (fmarit = 1, 2, 3, or 4)

Notes : use recode FMARNO



Download Data

 NSFG data can be downloaded from the NSFG Website site under the sectdion "Downloadable Data Files."

Downloadable Data Files

- Female Respondent Data File (2017_2019_FemRespData.dat)
- Female Pregnancy Data File (2017_2019_FemPregData.dat)
- Male Respondent Data File (2017_2019_MaleData.dat)
- Additional Weight variables for data from multiple cycles are available at <u>https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg/nsfg_2011_2019_combined_files.ht</u> <u>m</u>.

2011-2019 Combined Files: Selected Data and Documentation

This page is intended to provide information for users who wish to combine NSFG data from multiple 2-year file releases from 2011-2019 for their research.

Within this page are also descriptions of special supplementary data files for the periods 2011-2015 and 2015-2019, featuring restricted-use Interviewer Observations data and Paradata files.

<u>Combining Data across NSFG File Releases from 2011-2019</u>

Weighting in NSFG Analyses

NSFG analysis needs to be weighted to adjust for:

- Complex survey design (not a simple random sampling)
- Oversample sub-populations
- Screener and interview non-response
- Estimate characteristics of population from the Census Bureau

The name of the weight variables may change across NSFG cycles.

Table 4. Weight Variables for NSFG from 2002-20119							
Design variable	2002	2006-2010	2011–2013	2013–2015	2015-2017	2017-2019	
Stratum variable	SEST	SEST	SEST	SEST	SEST	SEST	
Four Cluster/Panel Variable	SECU_R (fem resp) SECU_P (fem preg) SECU (male resp)	SECU	SECU	SECU	SECU	SECU	
Final post- stratified, fully adjusted case weight	FINALWGT	WGTQ1Q16	WGT2011_2013	WGT2013_2015	WGT2015_2017	WGT2017_2019	
Note:							

1. There is no weight variables for single year estimate because of insufficeint statistical power

2. The 4-year weight variables (WGT2011_2015, WGT2013_2017, WGT2015_2019), 6-year weight variables

(WGT2011_2017 and WGT2013_2019(and 8-year weight variables (WGT2011_2019) should e used when

researchers combined NSFG data across the different spans of years (see

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg/nsfg_combining_data.htm)

Reading NSFG 2017-2019 Data

Stata : Add one line of codes and Modify three other lines in the Stata command file download to the from the NSFG website.

 Insert this line of codes before the local macro variables and it defines where the data and dictionary files are and where to save the final outcome file

cd "C:\nsfg\"

 Input the names of data, dictionary, and the output files for the three Stata local macro variables

local raw_data "2017_2019_FemPregData.dat" local dict "2017_2019_FemPregSetup" local outfile "2017_2019_FemPregData.dta"



Linking A Female Respondent File with A Pregnancy File

* Sort the female respondent data by ID

use 2017_2019_FemRespSetup.dta, clear sort caseid save, replace

* Sort the pregnancy data by ID and pregnancy order

use 2017_2019_FemPregData.dta, clear sort caseid pregordr save, replace

* Merge and save data

use 2017_2019_FemRespSetup.dta, clear merge 1:m caseid using 2011_2013_FemPregData.dta

save 2017_2019_fem_pregnancy.dta, replace

Pooling Men and Women Data from the Same Time Period

* Select variables from the male file

use 2017_2019_MaleSetup.dta, clear keep caseid rscrninf wgt2017_2019 secu sest save temp1.dta, replace

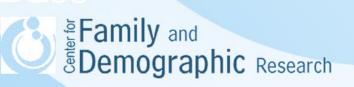
* Select variables from the female file

use 2017_2019_FemRespSetup.dta, clear keep caseid rscrninf wgt2017_2019 secu sest save temp2.dta, replace

* Pool two data sets together

use temp1.dta, clear append using temp2.dta

save 2017_2019_male_female.dta, replace



Using Weight Variables in the Analysis

NSFG Website provides three examples of incorporating weight variables into the analysis (<u>https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg/nsfg_2017_2019_puf.htm</u>)

Example 1: Percentage of Women Ages 15-49 Currently Using the Oral Contraceptive Pill, by Age

* Read in the data use "EX1.DTA"

* Specify how data should be weighted svyset [pweight=WGT2017_2019], strata(sest) psu(secu)

* Generate the variable of age groups generate agerx=1 if ager <=19 replace agerx=2 if ager >=20 & ager <=24 replace agerx=3 if ager >=25 & ager <=29 replace agerx=4 if ager >=30 & ager <=34 replace agerx=5 if ager >=35 & ager <=39 replace agerx=6 if ager >=40

* Add value labels label define agerx 1 "15-19" 2 "20-24" 3 "25-29" 4 "30-34" 5 "35-39" 6 "40-49«

label value agerx agerx

• Generate the variable describing whether respondents currently use the oral contraceptive pill

generate cpill=2 replace cpill=1 if CONSTAT1==6 Family and Defonducation analysisearch svy: tab agerx cpill, row se percent

umber of	strata = PSUs =			Number of obs Population size Design df	
		cpill			
agerx	1	2	Total		
15-19	19.51 (1.867)		100		
20-24	23.78 (2.171)	76.22 (2.171)	100		
25-29	19.69 (2.277)		100		
30-34	15.28 (1.755)		100		
35-39	6.497 (.9895)	93.5 (.9895)	100		
40-49	6.522 (1.003)	93.48 (1.003)	100		
Total	13.95 (.829)	86.05 (.829)	100		
	w percenta inearized		rror of row	percentage)	

Section 2 Sectio

Example 2: Mean Number of Children Ever Born, by Hispanic Origin and Race for Women 15-49 Years of Age

* Read in the data use "EX2.DTA"

* Specify how data should be weighted svyset [pweight=WGT2017_2019], strata(sest) psu(secu)

* Conduct the analysis svy: mean parity, over(HISPRACE2)



svy: mean parity, over(HISPRACE2) (running mean on estimation sample) Survey: Mean estimation Number of obs = Number of strata = 6,141 18 Number of PSUs 72 Population size = 72,671,926 Design df 54 Hispanic: HISPRACE2 = Hispanic subpop 2: HISPRACE2 = Non-Hispanic White, Single Race subpop 3: HISPRACE2 = Non-Hispanic Black, Single Race subpop 4: HISPRACE2 = Non-Hispanic Other or Multiple R Linearized Std. Err. [95% Conf. Interval] Over Mean parity Hispanic 1.544184 .0825869 1.378607 1.709761 subpop 2 .0379518 1.001285 1.077374 1.153462 subpop 3 1.541307 1.400032 .0704658 1.258757 subpop 4 1.067237 .0964947 .8737773 1.260698

Semographic Research

Example 3: Percentage of Men 20-49 Years of Age Who Have Ever Had One or More Biological Children, by Hispanic Origin and Race

* Read in the data use "EX3.DTA"

* Specify how data should be weighted svyset [pweight=WGT2017_2019], strata(sest) psu(secu)

* Generate a variable showing if respondents have biological kid(s). generate biokidsx=0 replace biokidsx=1 if biokids>0

* create a dichotomous variable for the subpopulation of ages 20 and older.

generate agepop=0 replace agepop=1 if ager>=20

* Conduct the analysis svy, subpop(agepop) row percent se: tab HISPRACE2 biokidsx



. svy, sub				tab HISPRACE2 biokidsx	
(running ca	abulace on	estimatio	on sampre	=)	
Number of a Number of D				Number of obs Population size	= 72,221,885
				Subpop. no. obs	
				Subpop. size	
				Design df	= 54
Race &					
Hispanic					
origin of responden					
t - 1997					
OMB					
standards		biokidsx			
(RECODE)	0		Total		
<u> </u>					
Hispanic	41.75	58.25	100		
	(2.41)	(2.41)			
Non-Hisp	50.05	49.95	100		
	(2.535)	(2.535)			
Non-Hisp	45.98		100		
	(3.226)	(3.226)			
	50.00	43 53			
Non-Hisp	58.29		100		
	(4.598)	(4.598)			
Total	48.68	51.32	100		
Total		(2.116)	100		
	(2.110)	(2.110)			
Key: rot	w percenta	ge			
_			error of	row percentage)	
Pearson:					
Uncorre	ected ch	i2(3)		45.7307	
Design	-based F(2.89, 156.	.14) =	4.9479 P = 0.0030	

Conclusions

- Since 2002, NSFG provides data from a nationally representative sample of men and women aged 15-44. The age range has been expanded to 15-49 in the 2015-2017 NSFG survey that is currently in the field.
- NSFG provides a unique opportunity to study life events (marriage, cohabitation, and fertility) and attitudes toward marriage and family. New NSFG data should come out this fall and will be great for new research project.
- Users should always use recoded variables, instead of raw variables because recoded variables had been corrected for possible errors and inconsistencies.
- Users should always include weight variables in the analyses to take into account NSFG's complex sample design.
- NSFG uses a repeated cross-sectional study design and respondents were not followed over time. In addition, female respondents and male respondents in the NSFG were selected from different households and are not couples.
- If you have any questions about using NSFG data. Please feel free to contact Hsueh-Sheng Wu @372-3119 or wuh@bgsu.edu