
PLCO BRIEF SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE USER GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

The Brief Survey Questionnaire (BCQ*) was administered in 2017 and 2018. The questionnaire asked the participant to provide updates to select characteristics like smoking status, height and weight, physical activity and health, and screening history. Information in the provided data is self-reported only, and is not validated against medical records.

The population was surveyed at median age 80 (IQR = 77 - 84). As of 2021, follow-up time starting at BCQ is very limited, if available at all.

The BCQ was administered to a group of PLCO participants as described here: Beginning in 2010, several years before the BCQ, the PLCO screening centers ceased trial data collection. In 2011 and 2012, trial participants could consent to continue active follow-up through a Central Data Collection Center (CDCC). All participants who consented to CDCC active follow-up, and who were still presumed alive, were eligible to receive the BCQ.

COMPLETION

Only participants who returned the BCQ are included in this dataset.

The time of completion is reported in variable `bcq_days` as the number of days elapsed since randomization into the PLCO trial. As mentioned above, as of 2021 very few events are known to have occurred after this date.

VARIABLE NAMING CONVENTION

There are two prefixes used for BCQ variable names, one for variables collecting information only from the BCQ and one for variables that compare the BCQ answers to earlier forms (BQ, SQX or MUQ). Variables with either prefix refer to an assessment of that information at the time the BCQ was administered. The two prefixes encountered in the provided data are:

- `BCQ_` - Limited to information collected on BCQ.
- `ALLQX_` - Uses earlier form self-reports to inform the status at the time of the BCQ.

Further detail for specific variables can be found in the data dictionary.

SMOKING DATA

The first question on the BCQ asks if the participant currently smokes cigarettes and does not indicate which non-smokers are former smokers. The distinction between former and never smokers can be determined from other responses and is provided in variables `BCQ_CIG_STAT` and `ALLQX_CIG_STAT`. For `BCQ_CIG_STAT`, smoking status remains "Not Current" if it can't be determined from BCQ questions 1, 1a and 2 that the participant is a former smoker. For `ALLQX_CIG_STAT`, prior questionnaires are used to determine whether the participant previously smoked.

For former smokers, the BCQ captured years since quit in 4 groups: less than 1 year ago, 1 to 5 years ago, 5 to 10 years ago, more than 10 years ago. These categories are presented in variable `BCQ_CIG_WHEN_QUIT_F`. For estimated precise years since quit, refer to variable `ALLQX_CIG_STOP`. This variable imputes the number of years from age quit as reported on the BQ or SQX, or from the midpoint between last self-reported smoking and self-reported not smoking.

** The initials BCQ refer to an obsolete name for the form. The proper name for the form is the Brief Survey Questionnaire, but the initialism BCQ is used for continuity.*

MISSING CODES

CODE	FORMAT	FURTHER EXPLANATION
.A	Ambiguous	Contradictory information resulted in an unclear conclusion.
.G	Wrong Gender	The variable only pertains to one gender.
.M	Missing/Not Answered	The question was not answered or data are otherwise missing.
.N	Not Applicable	The variable did not apply to this participant.
.R	Out of Range	The value was considered either too extreme or impossible.