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| **Domain:** | Reproductive Health |
| **Measure:** | Sexual History |
| **Definition:** | The purpose of these questions is to ascertain the participants' sexual history. |
| **Purpose:** | The purpose of these questions is to determine participants' sexual history. Sexual history information can help determine risk factors for sexually transmitted diseases. Chromosomal differences may affect sexual behavior and orientation, and may be differentially expressed as a result of environmental factors (e.g., endocrine disruptors). |
| **Essential PhenX Measures:** | Current Age |
| **Related PhenX Measures:** |  |
| **Collections:** | Other Behaviors Sex and Reproduction Pregnancy and Fertility History Personal Characteristics Risks to Pregnancy |
| **Keywords:** | Reproductive health, sexual history, sexuality, sexual preference, sexual orientation, intercourse, condom use, The National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles, National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, AddHealth |

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| **Protocol Release Date:** | February 26, 2010 |
| **PhenX Protocol Name:** | Sexual History |
| **Protocol Name from Source:** | The Expert Review Panel has not reviewed this measure yet. |
| **Description:** | The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (AddHealth) questions were conducted via CAPI (computer-assisted personal interviewing). The participant answers a question about whether she/he has ever had vaginal intercourse. If the respondent answers no, the respondent skips to question 6. If the respondent answers yes, the respondent proceeds to the next questions (e.g., age at first intercourse, number of total partners, number of different partners, and condom use).  The National STD and Behavior Measurement Experiment (NSBME) questions were conducted using T-ACASI (telephone audio computer assisted self-interviewing) and ask participants about their same-gender sexual history and experiences. |
| **Specific Instructions:** | It is recommended that lay definitions be provided for intercourse. Definitions for sexual contact and experience are embedded in Question 6. |
| **Protocol:** | 1. Have you ever had vaginal intercourse? (Vaginal intercourse is when a man inserts his penis into a woman's vagina.) \_\_ (If no, skip to question 6.)  2. How old were you the first time you had vaginal intercourse? \_\_  3. With how many partners have you ever had vaginal intercourse, even if only once? \_\_  4. With how many different partners have you had vaginal intercourse in the past 12 months? / How many times have you had vaginal intercourse in the past 12 months? \_\_  5. On how many of these occasions did {YOU/YOUR PARTNER} use a condom? [reference period is last 12 months] \_\_  6. The next question asks about your level of sexual attraction to BOTH males and females. Please consider the response choices carefully, as it is important that you understand them and are as honest as you can be in your answer. To whom have you felt sexually attracted, even if you did not take any action based on feeling attracted?  [ ] 1. Only to females, never to males  [ ] 2. Mostly to females, and at least once to a male  [ ] 3. About equally often to females and to males  [ ] 4. Mostly to males, and at least once to a female  [ ] 5. Only to males, never to females  [ ] 6. I have never felt sexually attracted to anyone at all  **NOTE** - For female participants, answer categories one to five were presented in reverse order.  7. Same-gender sexual experience The next question asks about any sexual contact or experience. This is a wide term and can include just kissing and cuddling, not necessarily leading to genital contact or intercourse. Have you ever had any kind of sexual experience or sexual contact with a female [male]?  [ ] Yes  [ ] No  If yes:  8. Same-gender genital contact:  (For females) Have you ever had sex with a woman involving genital area/vaginal contact? [Yes/No]  (For males) Have you ever had sex with a man involving genital area/penis contact? [Yes/No]  If yes:  When was the last occasion?  [ ] 1. In the last 7 days  [ ] 2. Between 7 days and 4 weeks ago  [ ] 3. Between 4 weeks and 6 months ago  [ ] 4. Between 6 months and 1 year ago  [ ] 5. Between 1 year and 5 years ago  [ ] 6. Longer than 5 years ago |
| **Selection Rationale:** | These instruments were chosen, after careful vetting of numerous national surveys, because of their specificity in describing intercourse (i.e., vaginal) and detail regarding same-sex attraction and behavior. |
| **Source:** | National Institutes of Health, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, et al. National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (AddHealth), Wave III, 2001-2002. AddHealth (Wave3ndx) H3SE1 (question 1), H3SE2 (question 2), H3SE3 (question 3), H3SE4 / H3SE6 (question 4), H3SE8 (question 5).  Villarroel MA, Turner CF, Rogers SM, Roman AM, Cooley PC, Steinberg AB, et al. (2008). T-ACASI reduces bias in STD measurements: the National STD and Behavior Measurement Experiment. Sex Transm Dis., 35(5):499-506. (questions 6-8) |
| **Life Stage:** | Adolescent Adult |
| **Language of source:** | English |
| **Participant:** | Add Health participants were adolescents in grades 7-12 in 1994-1995.  NSBME participants were aged 18-45.  The PhenX Working Group would recommend asking these questions of participants ages 12-45. |
| **Personnel and Training Required:** | The questions for AddHealth may be self-administered (as in the source protocol with computer-assisted interview) or administered by an interviewer. The interviewer must be trained to conduct personal interviews with individuals from the general population. The interviewer must be trained and found to be competent (i.e., tested by an expert) at the completion of personal interviews. The interviewer should be trained to prompt participants further if a "don't know" response is provided.  For the purposes of the article (Villarroel, et al.) the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles was administered via T-ACASI. |
| **Equipment Needs:** | If a computer-assisted instrument is used, computer software may be necessary to develop the instrument. The interviewer will require a laptop computer/handheld computer to administer a computer-assisted questionnaire. |
| **Standards:** | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Standard** | **Name** | **ID** | **Source** | | Common Data Element (CDE) | Person Sex Behavior History | 3007496 | [CDE Browser](https://cdebrowser.nci.nih.gov/CDEBrowser/search?elementDetails=9&FirstTimer=0&PageId=ElementDetailsGroup&publicId=3007496&version=1.0) | | Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC) | Sexual history proto | 62674-7 | [LOINC](http://s.details.loinc.org/LOINC/62674-7.html?sections=Web) | |
| **General references:** | Kan ML, Cheng YH, Landale NS, McHale SM. (2010) Longitudinal predictors of change in number of sexual partners across adolescence and early adulthood. J Adolesc Health, 46(1):25-31. Epub 2009 Jul 12. PubMed PMID: 20123254; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2817988. |
| **Mode of Administration:** | Interviewer-administered questionnaire |
| **Derived Variables:** | None |
| **Requirements:** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Requirement Category** | **Required** | | Major equipment | No | | Specialized training | No | | Specialized requirements for biospecimen collection | No | | Average time of greater than 15 minutes in an unaffected individual | No | |
| **Process and Review:** | The Expert Review Panel has not reviewed this measure yet. |