IFSS_HYSTMEDFEM: Reason for hysterectomy - medical problems with female organs?

Summary for Variable Group: Sterilizing operations
This variable group provides information on each of five types of sterilizing operations: tubal ligation, hysterectomy, ovary removal (oophorectomy), other female sterilizing operations, and vasectomy. For each type of operation, variables include the date of operation, where it was performed, how it was paid for, and the reason(s) the respondent (or her husband) had the operation. Additional information is provided for tubal ligation and vasectomy reversals, as well as whether the respondent or her partner would like to have her/his operation reversed. The group also includes summary variables on the surgical sterility status of the respondent and her partner. For non-sterile respondents and partners, information is included on whether they will have a sterilizing operation in the future and whether the respondent would terminate future pregnancies.

IFSS_HYSTMEDFEM
Reason for hysterectomy - medical problems with female organs?

Availability
2002 NSFG
1995 NSFG
1988 NSFG
1982 NSFG

Source Variables | Source Questions
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FMEDREAS7 | DB-4 2002 NSFG
EVERHYST | DA-2 2002 NSFG
NEWOPRS | Recode 1995 NSFG
FMEDRE15 | DC-4 1995 NSFG
FMEDRE05 | DC-4 1995 NSFG
EVERHYST | DB-2 1995 NSFG
D6HOP3 | D-6 1988 NSFG
D5COP3 | D-5 1988 NSFG
D5BOP3 | D-5 1988 NSFG
D5AOP3 | D-5 1988 NSFG
D2OP3 | D-2 1988 NSFG
D8_2_3 | D-8 1982 NSFG
D8_2_2 | D-8 1982 NSFG
D8_2_1 | D-8 1982 NSFG
D8_1_3 | D-8 1982 NSFG
D8_1_2 | D-8 1982 NSFG
D8_1_1 | D-8 1982 NSFG
D3_2 | D-3 1982 NSFG
D3_1 | D-3 1982 NSFG

Description
IFSS_HYSTMEDFEM describes whether the respondent reported having a hysterectomy because she had medical problems with her female organs.

General Comparability Notes
Summary: This measure is one of a series that reports on the specific reasons why the respondent had various sterilizing operations. This variable is largely comparable over time, with slight differences in question wording, structure and response options. Universes are highly comparable except for 2002, which only includes operations since 1997.

Once a respondent reported that she had a hysterectomy, she was asked the particular reason or reasons that prompted her decision. (Users should consult the comparability note for IFSS_EVERHYST for more detail about the universe of respondents who reported hysterectomies and the questions they were asked in various surveys to obtain this information. It is important to note while respondents were asked if they had such an operation since the 1960 GAF, they were asked about their reasons for doing so only since the 1982...
NSFG (with the exception of the reason 'had all the children they wanted'). Respondents could provide more than one reason.

In the 1982, 1988 and 1995 National Surveys of Family Growth, this variable applies to all respondents who reported having a hysterectomy (IFSS_EVERHYST=1). In the 2002 NSFG, this variable applies to respondents who reported having a hysterectomy in January, 1997 or later.

In the 2002 NSFG, respondents were presented with a card and asked "Please look at Card 26. Did you have any of these medical reasons for having your hysterectomy?" Respondents could choose up to five medical reasons, including "Medical problems with your female organs," "Pregnancy would be dangerous to your health," "You would probably lose a pregnancy," "You would probably have an unhealthy child," "Some other medical reason" and "No medical reason for operation." Any response of "Medical problems with your female organs" is harmonized as "Mentioned;" responses that do not include any such mention, including not ascertained, refused, and don't know responses, are harmonized as "Not mentioned." The questions about the reasons for sterilizing operations were asked only if the operation took place within the last five years (in January, 1997 or later), so all sterilizing operations prior to 1997 are coded as missing.

In the 1995 NSFG, respondents were first asked "Please look at Card D-3, which lists some reasons that women sometimes give for having sterilizing operations. Which reason or reasons do you believe are closest to your own?" If the answer included a mention of "Medical reasons," the respondent was asked a follow-up question, "Now please look at Card D-4. Which of these medical reasons did you have?" Possible responses were the same as in 2002, and respondents could select up to four reasons. Any response of "Medical problems with female organs" is harmonized as "Mentioned;" responses that do not include any such mention, including not ascertained, refused, and don't know responses, are harmonized as "Not mentioned." In 1995, women who reported having an "other" sterilizing operation (i.e., one that was not a hysterectomy, tubal ligation, or ovary removal) were then prompted for a description of the type of operation. Responses of "Hysterectomy" and "Uterus and ovaries" are both classified as hysterectomies for the purposes of IFSS, and so the reasons for those operations are included here as well as in the relevant variable for other sterilizing operations.

In the 1988 NSFG, respondents were simply asked "Why did (you/he) have the operation?" with the following response options: "Had all the children wanted/did not want any children," "Husband wanted no more children," "Pregnancy could be dangerous to health," "Would probably lose an(other) pregnancy/have an unhealthy child," "Couldn't afford or take care of more children," "Method of birth control was dangerous to health," "Didn't like method of birth control for other reasons," and "Medical problem." Additional responses were volunteered by respondents, including "Cancer (in female organs)," "Endometriosis," "Excess vaginal bleeding," "Fibroid tumors/cysts," "Problems due to ectopic pregnancy," "Problems with uterus (prolap/collapsed/weak)." "To prevent pregnancy," and "Other." Respondents could select up to three reasons. Responses of "Medical problem," "Cancer (in female organs)," "Endometriosis," "Excess vaginal bleeding," "Fibroid tumors/cysts," "Problems due to ectopic pregnancy," and "Problems with uterus (prolap/collapsed/weak)" are harmonized as "Mentioned," all other responses are harmonized as "Not mentioned," including not ascertained, refused, and don't know responses. Note that "Medical problem" does not specifically indicate a medical problem with female organs; however, since this was the most common type of medical problem in other years, it is harmonized here.

In the 1982 NSFG, respondents were first asked if the operation was at least partly for contraceptive reasons. After that, they were asked "What were the (other) important reasons (if any) for having (OPERATION)?" Possible responses were nearly the same as in 1988, with only slight differences in wording including "Pregnancy would be dangerous to health," "Couldn't afford more children," and "Medical problems with female organs." The volunteered reasons included "R didn't want more children," "R didn't want more children, husband ill," "Husband unable to father children," "Divorce, husband left," "Husband had vasectomy, previous marriage," and "No other reasons." Respondents could select up to three reasons. Responses of "Medical problems with female organs" are harmonized as "Mentioned," all other responses are harmonized as "Not mentioned," including not ascertained, refused, and don't know responses.

Users should consult IFSS_MAINREASHYST, which reports the main reason respondents chose for why they had a hysterectomy. Data for this variable is available from the 1988, 1995, and 2002 NSFG surveys and includes all respondents who provided not ascertained, refused or don't know responses.

See Also:
IFSS_EVERHYST
IFSS_CMHYST
IFSS_PLCHYST
IFSS_HYSTPAY1
IFSS_HYSTPAY2