

**NHCS Linked to the NDI  
Mortality Variables**  
Date Created: 30JUN2025  
Number of Variables: 64

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Variable Name	Variable (VAR) Label	VAR Type	Range of Values	Value Description	Notes <sup>1</sup>
SURVEY	Survey Name	Char			The value for this variable is: 'NHCS 2019' or 'NHCS 2020'
PATIENT_ID	Patient Identification Number	Char	ID		Public use identifier assigned by NCHS. Researchers linking to the NHCS analytic file should use PATIENT_ID as the common key.
ELIGSTAT	Linkage Eligibility Status	Num			Survey participants are defined as ineligible for linkage if they had insufficient identifying data to create a NHCS submission record. Please note that all survey participants are included on the linked NHCS files regardless of linkage eligibility.
			0	0: Ineligible	
			1	1: Eligible	
MORTSTAT	Final Mortality Status	Num			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility. The MORTSTAT variable is NCHS's final determination of vital status and should be used as an outcome variable and to calculate survival. Codes are assigned depending on eligibility and vital status.
			0	0: Eligible for data linkage, assumed alive	
			1	1: Eligible for data linkage, assumed deceased based on NDI linkage	
			2	2: Eligible for data linkage, assumed deceased from non-NDI source	
			3	3: Ineligible for data linkage, assumed deceased from non-NDI source	
			Missing	Ineligible for data linkage, no other source of death available	
MORTSRCE_NDI	Mortality Source: NDI Match	Num			MORTSRCE_NDI=1 indicates that mortality status was ascertained through a probabilistic match to a National Death Index (NDI) record.

<sup>1</sup>Annual Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Record Layout Files: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/mortality\\_public\\_use\\_data.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/mortality_public_use_data.htm) (accessed on June 2025)

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			1	1: Mortality status ascertained through a probabilistic match to a NDI record	
			Missing	Assumed alive, ineligible for linkage, or death by source other than NDI linkage	
MORTSRCE_DCL	Mortality Source: Data Collection	Num			MORTSRCE_DCL=1 indicates that death information was obtained from the hospital record.
			1	1: Death information obtained from NHCS data	
			Missing	Assumed alive, ineligible for linkage, or death by source other than data collection	
AGEDEATH	Age at Death	Num			Blank values imply missing date of birth, linkage ineligibility, or assumed alive. Misreporting of date of birth may result in values for age at death that are missing or improbable.
AGEPRALV	Age When Last Presumed Alive	Num			Blank values imply missing date of birth, linkage ineligibility, or assumed deceased. Misreporting of date of birth may result in values for age when last presumed alive that are missing or improbable.
CAUSEAVL	Cause of Death Data Available	Num			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or assumed deceased based on non-NDI source. Death certificate data is available only for cases where the variable MORTSTAT=1. Users should also note that it is possible to have an NDI match but no cause of death data available.
			0	0: No	
			1	1: Yes	
			Missing	Ineligible, assumed alive, or assumed deceased based on non-NDI source	
NUMENTAX	Number of Entity Axis Conditions	Num			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Variable represents the count of entity axis conditions present on the cause of death record (Max of 20).
			0-20	Code range 00 - 20	

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Variable Name	Variable (VAR) Label	VAR Type	Range of Values	Value Description	Notes <sup>1</sup>
			Missing	Assumed alive, ineligible for linkage, or information is unavailable	
COND_1	Entity Axis 1st Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
COND_2	Entity Axis 2nd Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
COND_3	Entity Axis 3rd Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
COND_4	Entity Axis 4th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
COND_5	Entity Axis 5th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
COND_6	Entity Axis 6th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
COND_7	Entity Axis 7th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
COND_8	Entity Axis 8th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.

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Variable Name	Variable (VAR) Label	VAR Type	Range of Values	Value Description	Notes <sup>1</sup>
COND_9	Entity Axis 9th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
COND_10	Entity Axis 10th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
COND_11	Entity Axis 11th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
COND_12	Entity Axis 12th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
COND_13	Entity Axis 13th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
COND_14	Entity Axis 14th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
COND_15	Entity Axis 15th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
COND_16	Entity Axis 16th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
COND_17	Entity Axis 17th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.

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Variable Name	Variable (VAR) Label	VAR Type	Range of Values	Value Description	Notes <sup>1</sup>
COND_18	Entity Axis 18th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
COND_19	Entity Axis 19th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
COND_20	Entity Axis 20th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
DOBDAY	Day of Birth	Num			Day of birth from NHCS record.
			1-31	Day 1 - 31	
			99	99: Unavailable	
DOBMONTH	Month of Birth	Num			Month of birth from NHCS record.
			1	1: January	
			2	2: February	
			3	3: March	
			4	4: April	
			5	5: May	
			6	6: June	
			7	7: July	
			8	8: August	
			9	9: September	
			10	10: October	
			11	11: November	
			12	12: December	

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			99	99: Unavailable	
DOBYEAR	Year of Birth	Num			Year of birth from NHCS record. Improbable years of birth may be present on survey records. A value of 9999 indicates year of birth was unavailable.
DODDAY	Day of Death	Num			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility or assumed alive. Day of death from record indicated by the MORTSRCE variables. If more than one MORTSRCE variable implies mortality, DODDAY was the same in each source.
			1-31	Day 1 - 31	
			99	99: Unavailable	
			Missing	Ineligible or assumed alive	
DODMONTH	Month of Death	Num			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility or assumed alive. Month of death from record indicated by the MORTSRCE variables. If more than one MORTSRCE variable implies mortality, DODMONTH was the same in each source.
			1	1: January	
			2	2: February	
			3	3: March	
			4	4: April	
			5	5: May	
			6	6: June	
			7	7: July	
			8	8: August	
			9	9: September	
			10	10: October	
			11	11: November	
			12	12: December	
			Missing	Ineligible or assumed alive	

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DODYEAR	Year of Death	Num			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility or assumed alive. Year of death reported from record indicated by the MORTSRCE variables. If more than one MORTSRCE variable implies mortality, DODYEAR was the same in each source. 2019 NHCS linkage to NDI years are between 2019-2020 and for the 2020 NHCS linkage to NDI years are between 2020-2021.
			2019-2021		
ICD_10REV	ICD-10 Underlying Cause of Death	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. The underlying cause of death code is coded according to the 10th revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death (ICD-10). The variable ICD_10REV is a four position, left-justified character variable with an alpha character in the first position and an implied decimal point after the third position. For those ICD-10 causes that do not have a 3rd digit, the 4th position of ICD_10REV is blank.
NUMRAXCN	Number of Record Axis Conditions	Num			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Variable represents the count of record axis conditions present on the cause of death record (Max of 20).
			0-20	Code range 00 - 20	
			Missing	Assumed alive, ineligible for linkage, or information is unavailable	
RCOND_1	Record Axis 1st Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
RCOND_2	Record Axis 2nd Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
RCOND_3	Record Axis 3rd Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
RCOND_4	Record Axis 4th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.

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RCOND_5	Record Axis 5th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
RCOND_6	Record Axis 6th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
RCOND_7	Record Axis 7th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
RCOND_8	Record Axis 8th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
RCOND_9	Record Axis 9th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
RCOND_10	Record Axis 10th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
RCOND_11	Record Axis 11th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
RCOND_12	Record Axis 12th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
RCOND_13	Record Axis 13th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.

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RCOND_14	Record Axis 14th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
RCOND_15	Record Axis 15th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
RCOND_16	Record Axis 16th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
RCOND_17	Record Axis 17th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
RCOND_18	Record Axis 18th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
RCOND_19	Record Axis 19th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
RCOND_20	Record Axis 20th Condition	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to table 1 on the annual 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Record' file layouts for additional detailed variable descriptions (See link in footnote below). Note, starting in 2020, table 1 was moved to a separate PDF file.
UCOD_113	ICD-10 Underlying Cause of Death 113 Groups Recode	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to the 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Record Layout' for additional detailed variable descriptions. (See link in footnote below)
			001-135	Code range 001 - 135	
			Missing	Assumed alive, ineligible for linkage, or information is unavailable	

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UCOD_358	ICD-10 Underlying Cause of Death 358 Groups Recode	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to the 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Record Layout' for additional detailed variable descriptions. (See link in footnote below)
			001-456	Code range 001 - 456	
			Missing	Assumed alive, ineligible for linkage, or information is unavailable	
UCOD_39	ICD-10 Underlying Cause of Death 39 Groups Recode	Char			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Please refer to the 'Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Record Layout' for additional detailed variable descriptions. (See link in footnote below)
			001-042	Code range 001 - 042	
			Missing	Assumed alive, ineligible for linkage, or information is unavailable	
DIABETES	Diabetes Flag from Multiple Cause of Death (MCOD)	Num			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Variable indicates if a diagnosis code related to diabetes was identified in cause of death information.
			0	0: No	
			1	1: Yes – Condition listed as a multiple cause of death (MCOD)	
			Missing	Assumed alive, ineligible for linkage, or MCOD not available	
HIPFRACT	Hip Fracture Flag from Multiple Cause of Death (MCOD)	Num			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Variable indicates if a diagnosis code related to hip fracture was identified in cause of death information.
			0	0: No	

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			1	1: Yes – Condition listed as a multiple cause of death (MCOD)	
			Missing	Assumed alive, ineligible for linkage, or MCODE not available	
HYPERTEN	Hypertension Flag from Multiple Cause of Death (MCOD)	Num			Blank values imply linkage ineligibility, assumed alive, or cause of death information unavailable. Variable indicates if a diagnosis code related to hypertension was identified in cause of death information.
			0	0: No	
			1	1: Yes – Condition listed as a multiple cause of death (MCOD)	
			Missing	Assumed alive, ineligible for linkage, or MCODE not available	

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