



**Introduction to the NHES 2016 Data Collection and
the Adult Training and Education Survey**

Module Objectives

- Highlight important differences between the 2016 and 2012 NHES data collections
- Describe the 2016 NHES collection
- Describe the Adult Training and Education Survey (ATES)

Important Changes to NHES in 2016

	NHES 2012	NHES 2016
Topical Surveys	ECPP and PFI	ECPP, PFI, and ATES
Sampling Frame	Not sorted by poverty; sampled all post office boxes	Sorted by Census tract-level poverty indicator; sampled only post office boxes that were the only way a household could get mail
Sample Size	Initial sample of 160,000 households	Initial sample of 206,000 households
Survey Administration Mode	Mail administration	Mail and web administration

2016 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES)

- Conducted from January to August 2016
- 206,000 initial household sample
 - 171,000 mail-administration households
 - 35,000 web-administration households
- Three topical surveys
 - Early Childhood Program Participation (ECPP)
 - Parent and Family Involvement in Education (PFI)
 - Adult Training and Education Survey (ATES)

Adult Training and Education Survey (ATES)

- Data on adults' formal, work-related skills development and credentialing
- Key topics
 - Certifications and licenses
 - Certification or license field, how skills are acquired, perceived usefulness, and relation to job
 - Postsecondary educational certificates
 - Field of study and perceived usefulness
 - Work experience programs (such as internships and apprenticeships)
 - Occupational area, program characteristics, and perceived usefulness
 - Background characteristics
 - Educational attainment, labor force status, occupation, earnings, and demographic characteristics

ATES in the NHES Program

- Replaces previous NHES surveys on adult education
 - Starts new time series
- Target population
 - Adults age 16-65
 - No longer in K-12 education
 - Live at a residential U.S. address
- Unit of analysis: Adult
- Data for 47,744 adults

ATES Weights and Standard Errors

- Final ATES weight on the data file: FAWT
- ATES replicate weights for calculating standard errors using the [Jackknife 1](#) method: FAWT1-FAWT80
- Primary sampling unit (PSU) and strata variables to calculate standard errors using Taylor-series linearization: APSU and ASTRATUM

ATES Sample and Population Characteristics

Characteristic	Sample N	Sample %	Population N	Population %
Total	47,744	100.0	196,342,541	100.0
Sex				
Male	21,794	45.6	91,181,946	46.4
Female	25,950	54.4	105,160,596	53.6
Race/ethnicity				
White, non-Hispanic	34,211	71.7	120,743,652	61.5
Black, non-Hispanic	4,462	9.3	24,033,179	12.2
Hispanic	5,161	10.8	33,545,664	17.1
Asian or Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic	2,470	5.2	12,080,869	6.2
Other or multiple races, non-Hispanic	1,440	3.0	5,939,177	3.0
Highest level of school completed				
High school credential or less	13,879	29.1	73,901,333	37.6
Some college but no bachelor's degree	15,344	32.1	60,131,563	30.6
Bachelor's degree or higher	18,521	38.8	62,309,645	31.7

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Sample data are based on unweighted analyses; population data are based on weighted analyses.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Adult Training and Education Survey of the National Household Education Surveys Program, 2016

ATES Imputed Data

- NHES exceptions to imputed data
 - “Other specify” text strings
 - Race of Hispanic adults
 - Appended non-questionnaire data (such as sampling frame variables)
 - Questions that were skipped based on previous responses
- ATES-specific exceptions to imputed data
 - Field of certification/license
 - Occupation field
 - Industry field

Selected ATES Findings

Among adults ages 16-65 in 2016

- 21 percent had completed a work experience program
 - 11 percent had completed a *paid* work experience program
 - 6 percent had completed a work experience program that *lasted one year or more*
 - The most prevalent fields for work experience programs were health care and teaching
 - Women were more likely to have completed a work experience program than men
 - Two-thirds of adults rated their work experience program as "very useful" for improving their work skills

Public-use and Restricted-use Data Files

- Public-use ATES file
 - Excludes variables that might risk disclosing respondents' identities
 - Excludes write-in responses
- Restricted-use ATES file
 - Allows recoding and analysis of write-in responses
 - Contains more detailed geographic information
- Public-use file available on the [NHES website](#)
- [Apply](#) for a Restricted-use license online

NHES:2016 Data File User's Manual

Provides comprehensive, detailed documentation on all aspects of the 2016 NHES data collection and data files

- Sampling methodology
- Data collection and processing procedures
- Response rates and nonresponse bias analysis
- Weighting and standard error calculations
- Data considerations and anomalies
- Data file layout guide
- Data collection instruments

Module Summary and Resources

Summary

- Highlighted important differences between the 2016 and 2012 NHES data collections
- Described the 2016 NHES collection
- Described the Adult Training and Education Survey (ATES)

Resources

- [NHES website](#)
- [Statistical Analysis of NCES Datasets Employing a Complex Sample Design](#)
- [Restricted-use license](#)