

# NHATS Online Cross-Year Searchable Database Technical Guide

## Introduction

Colectica Portal offers an online cross-year, searchable database of metadata from the National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS). This database contains item numbers, variable names, labels, values and value labels, and question text to facilitate multi-round analysis. This document provides an overview of the different pages within Colectica and how to use them.

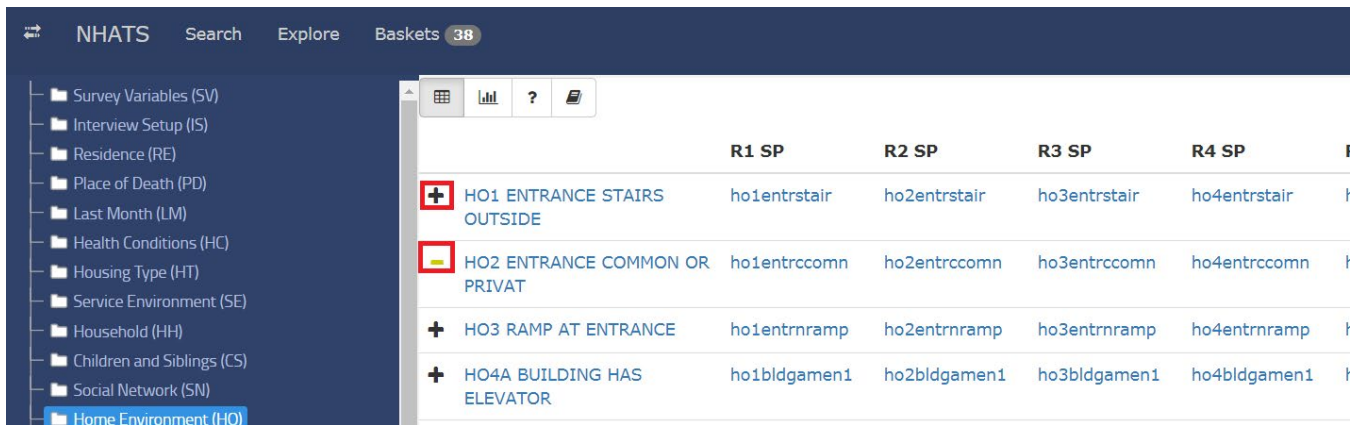
## Log-in





The NHATS Colectica Portal can be accessed at <https://nhats.colectica.org>. You first must create an account to use Colectica. To do this, simply click the “Register as a new user” link on the login page. Enter the required information, click the register button, and then you will be brought directly to the NHATS Colectica homepage. A confirmation email will be sent to the email address provided. If you have previously registered, you can log in using the email and password associated with your account.

The screenshot shows the NHATS Colectica Portal login interface. At the top, a dark blue navigation bar contains the text "NHATS", "Search", "Explore", and "Baskets 0". Below this, the page title "Log in" is displayed. The login form includes two input fields: "Email" and "Password". Below the password field is a checked checkbox labeled "Remember me". A blue button labeled "Log in" is positioned below the "Remember me" checkbox. A red-bordered link labeled "Register as a new user?" is located below the "Log in" button. At the bottom of the form, there is a link labeled "Forgot your password?".

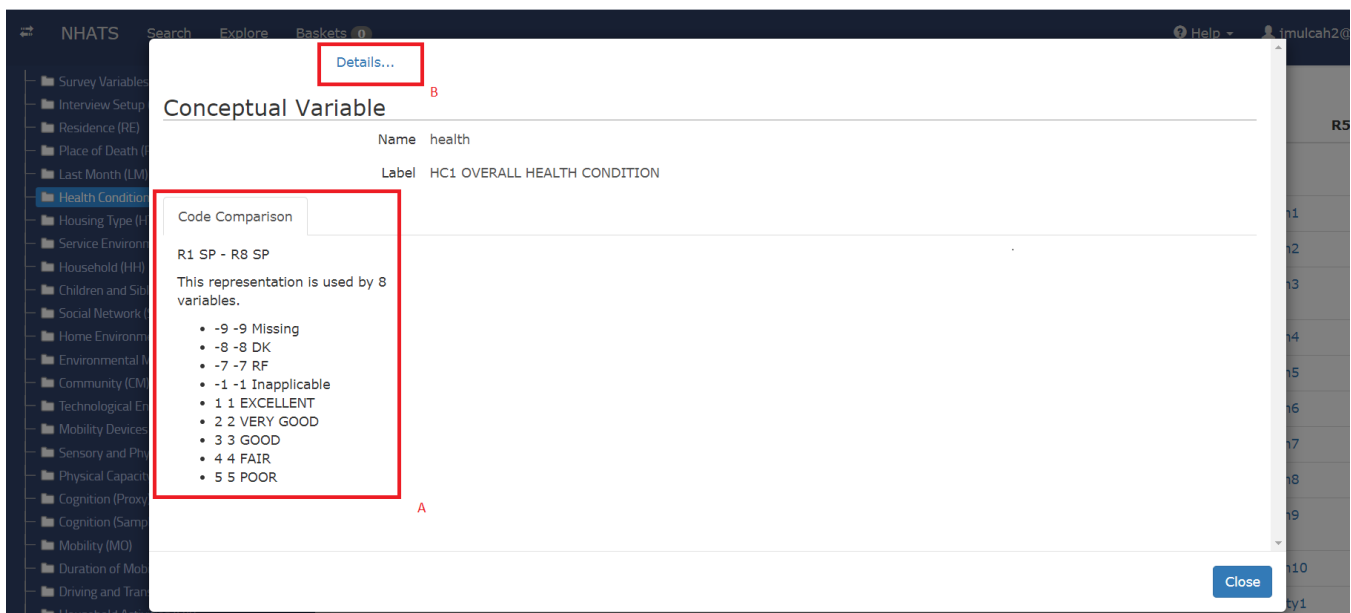
## Explore Page

After logging in, you will be brought to the Explore page. This page allows you to look at each NHATS section individually and examine variables across rounds. The side bar found on the left-hand side of the screen lists all NHATS sections. Clicking a section will open a grid in the right-hand side of the screen. The left most column contains what is called a “concordance variable”: this links the variables across rounds. To the left of each question there is a “+” symbol; clicking the “+” symbol will add the associated variables to your basket (see Basket section for more information). After clicking the “+” symbol it will change to a “-” symbol. Clicking the “-” symbol will remove the item from your basket. The top row represents the round and data file in which the variables appear.



	R1 SP	R2 SP	R3 SP	R4 SP	
 HO1 ENTRANCE STAIRS OUTSIDE	ho1entrstair	ho2entrstair	ho3entrstair	ho4entrstair	
 HO2 ENTRANCE COMMON OR PRIVAT	ho1entrccomn	ho2entrccomn	ho3entrccomn	ho4entrccomn	
 HO3 RAMP AT ENTRANCE	ho1entrnramp	ho2entrnramp	ho3entrnramp	ho4entrnramp	
 HO4A BUILDING HAS ELEVATOR	ho1bldgamen1	ho2bldgamen1	ho3bldgamen1	ho4bldgamen1	

Clicking the concordance variable link will open a pop-up window. This window contains the concordance variable name and label. Clicking the Code Comparison button (A) will expand the view to include variable values and value labels for each round in which the variable appears. The same information will appear in a new tab of your browser if you click the Details button (B) in this pop-up window.



Conceptual Variable

Name health

Label HC1 OVERALL HEALTH CONDITION

Code Comparison

R1 SP - R8 SP

This representation is used by 8 variables.

- 9 -9 Missing
- 8 -8 DK
- 7 -7 RF
- 1 -1 Inapplicable
- 1 1 EXCELLENT
- 2 2 VERY GOOD
- 3 3 GOOD
- 4 4 FAIR
- 5 5 POOR

Details...

Close

If you click on a variable in the right-hand side of the screen in the explore page, a new tab will open with the question name and label, data file in which the variable appears, possible values and value labels, question text, and concordance information.

The screenshot shows the NHATS Explore page. The top navigation bar includes 'NHATS', 'Search', 'Explore', and 'Baskets 0'. The left sidebar shows a tree view under 'Appears Within' with categories: Series, National Health and Aging Trends Study, Studies, Round 1, Data Files, and R1 SP. The main content area is titled 'R1 HC2 SP HAS HIGH BREAD PRESS' and shows the breadcrumb path: National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS) > Round 1 > R1 SP. Below this, there are navigation buttons for 'hc1disescn2' and 'R1 SP (28 of 1219)'. The 'Variable Description' section lists: Name: hc1disescn3, Label: R1 HC2 SP HAS HIGH BLOOD PRESS, Dataset: NHATS\_Round\_1\_SP\_File. The 'Representation' section shows: Type: Code List, Selection Style: SelectOne, and a list of values: -9 Missing, -8 DK, -7 RF, -1 Inapplicable, 1 YES, 2 NO. It also indicates Temporal: False, Geographic: False, and Represented Variable: HC2 SP HAS HIGH BLOOD PRESS.

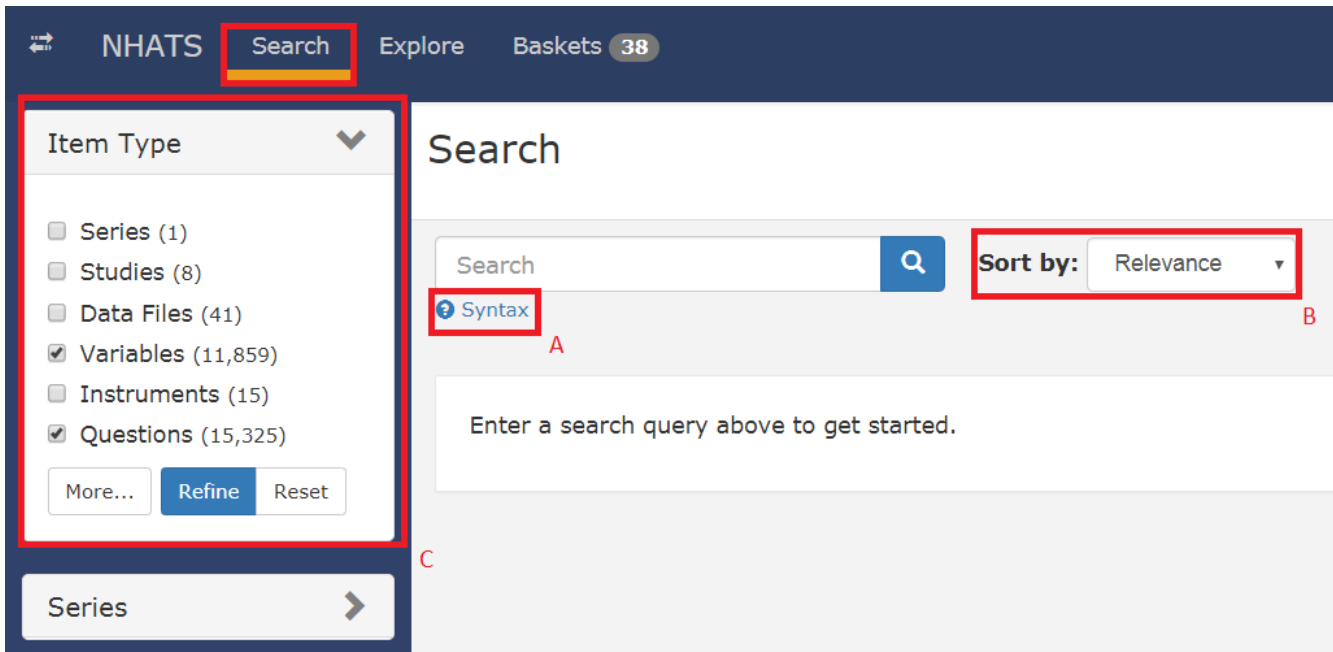
The Explore page can be accessed by clicking either “NHATS” or “Explore” in the top menu.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the NHATS Explore page. The 'NHATS' and 'Explore' buttons are highlighted with red boxes. The 'Search' button is also visible. The 'Baskets 0' indicator is present. Below the navigation bar, a sidebar menu lists various categories: Survey Variables (SV), Interview Setup (IS), Residence (RE), Place of Death (PD), Last Month (LM), and Health Conditions (HC). A tooltip is visible over the sidebar menu with the text 'Select an item on the left.' and icons for a grid, bar chart, question mark, and document.

## Search Page

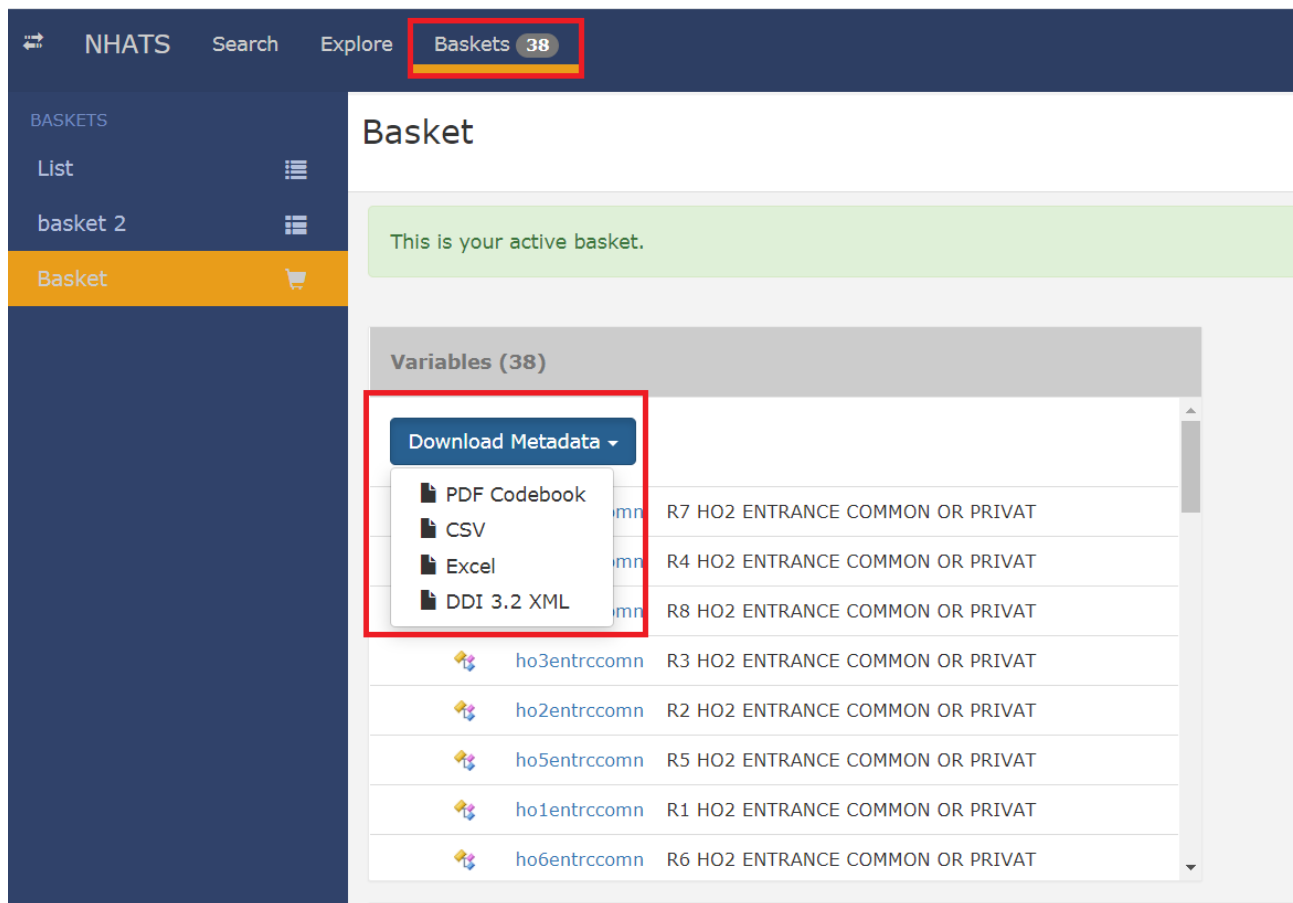
The variables, questions, and data files found using the Explore page can also be accessed through Colectica’s search function. Clicking “Syntax” (A) under the search box provides guidance on how to enter search terms. The search results can be sorted in a variety of ways using the “Sort by” (B) drop down menu.

You can also filter results based on data type by checking boxes on the left-hand side of the screen (C). If you do not filter the results, the search will return all matching item types. We recommend that most analysts select Variables and Questions under Item Type so that only these items will appear in the search results.



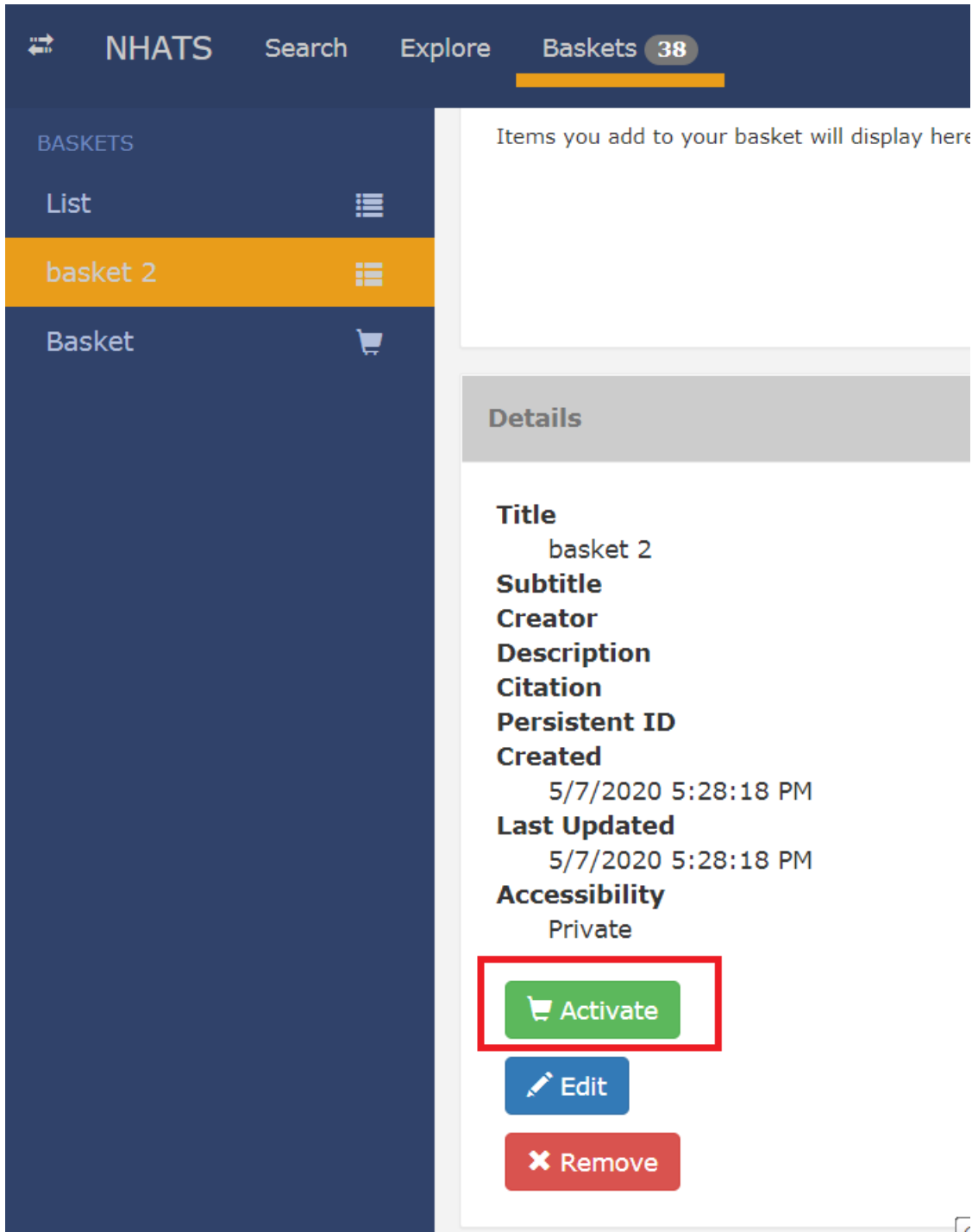
## Basket Page

The basket lets you save variables, questions, or other items that interest you. The basket page displays items that you have added to your basket while using the Explore page. Clicking on the basket tab in the top left of the screen will bring you to your basket list. Clicking on a basket name in the list will allow you to view the contents of your basket, edit the name and other attributes of your basket, delete your basket, and download the contents of your basket. You can download your basket in PDF, CSV, Excel, or Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) 3.2 XML format.



The screenshot shows the NHATS interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'NHATS', 'Search', 'Explore', and 'Baskets (38)'. The 'Baskets' tab is highlighted. On the left sidebar, there are options for 'BASKETS', 'List', 'basket 2', and 'Basket'. The main content area is titled 'Basket' and contains a message: 'This is your active basket.' Below this, there is a section for 'Variables (38)'. A dropdown menu is open over the 'Download Metadata' button, showing options for 'PDF Codebook', 'CSV', 'Excel', and 'DDI 3.2 XML'. The list of variables includes items like 'ho3entrccomn', 'ho2entrccomn', 'ho5entrccomn', 'ho1entrccomn', and 'ho6entrccomn', each with a description: 'R3 HO2 ENTRANCE COMMON OR PRIVAT', 'R2 HO2 ENTRANCE COMMON OR PRIVAT', 'R5 HO2 ENTRANCE COMMON OR PRIVAT', 'R1 HO2 ENTRANCE COMMON OR PRIVAT', and 'R6 HO2 ENTRANCE COMMON OR PRIVAT'.

You can create multiple baskets to organize your items. After creating a new basket, it will become your “Active” basket, meaning it will be the basket variables are added to when using the explore tab. If you want to change your active basket, select the basket you want to activate on the left-hand side of the screen, and scroll down to click the Activate button on the right-hand side of the screen.



## Help

If at any time you are confused about a Colectica page or want additional information, you can click the Help button at the top right of the web page. This will give you three options. The “Tour this Page” option highlights specific sections of the page and provides pop-up explanations. Clicking “Help for this Page” will open the Colectica manual in a web browser and bring you to the section relevant to your current page. Finally, the “General Help” option will open the Colectica manual at the beginning.



Please note that since Colectica is a customized product, not all features mentioned in the tour or online manual are applicable to the NHATS Colectica portal. For instance, while the tour and manual mention summary statistics, NHATS has disabled the summary statistics feature in Colectica.

## Feedback

Feedback or questions regarding the use of Colectica in your NHATS analyses can be sent to [nhatsdata@westat.com](mailto:nhatsdata@westat.com). More information about using Colectica can be found at <https://docs.colectica.com/portal/>.