



AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY



MEPS Data Tools and Programming Overview

Emily M. Mitchell, PhD

Table of Contents



Data Tools

Public Use Files (PUFs)

Programming Example (SAS, Stata, R)

Table of Contents (cont.)



Data Tools

Public Use Files (PUFs)

Programming Example (SAS, Stata, R)

MEPS Data Tools

<https://datatools.ahrq.gov>



[MEPS Home](#)

[About MEPS](#)

- [:: Survey Background](#)
- [:: Workshops & Events](#)
- [:: Data Release Schedule](#)

[Survey Components](#)

- [:: Household](#)
- [:: Insurance/Employer](#)
- [:: Medical Provider](#)
- [:: Survey Questionnaires](#)

[Data and Statistics](#)

- [:: Data Overview](#)
- [:: MEPS Topics](#)
- [:: Publications Search](#)
- [:: MEPS Data Tools - NEW!](#)
- [:: Summary Data Tables](#)
- [:: MEPSnet Query Tools](#)
- [:: Data Files](#)
- [:: Data Centers](#)

The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) is a set of large-scale surveys of families and individuals, their medical providers, and employers across the United States. MEPS is the most complete source of data on the cost and use of health care and health insurance coverage. [Learn more about MEPS.](#)

[Contact MEPS](#)

[New to MEPS?](#)

- Select a profile:
- [• General user](#)
 - [• Researcher](#)
 - [• Policymaker](#)
 - [• Media](#)
 - [• Survey participant](#)

MEPS Topics

- [▪ Access to Health Care](#)
- [▪ Children's Health](#)
- [▪ Children's Insurance Coverage](#)
- [▪ Elderly Health Care](#)
- [▪ Health Care Costs/Expenditures](#)
- [▪ Health Care Disparities](#)
- [▪ Health Insurance](#)
- [▪ Medical Conditions](#)
- [▪ Medicare/Medicaid/SCHIP](#)
- [▪ Men's Health](#)
- [▪ Mental Health](#)
- [▪ Obesity](#)
- [▪ Prescription Drugs](#)
- [▪ Projected Data/Expenditures](#)
- [▪ Quality of Health Care](#)
- [▪ State and Metro Area Estimates](#)
- [▪ The Uninsured](#)
- [▪ Women's Health](#)

[Click here for full topic list ...](#)



MEPS Data Tools (cont.)

<https://datatools.ahrq.gov>



Agency for Healthcare
Research and Quality

AHRQ Data Tools

Not sure where to start?

Click the dropdown for Topic Areas to help get you to the data you are looking for.

Topic Area

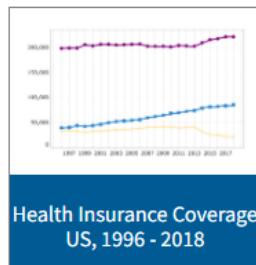
Select



Go

Search Across Data Tools

Featured Dashboard



Health Insurance Coverage
US, 1996 - 2018

AHRQ Priority Topic



OPIOID
Data and Re
sources

Explore the AHRQ Data Tools

Medical Coverage and Expenditures

The **Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)** helps researchers and the public explore health insurance coverage, access to care, quality of care, healthcare use, and expenditures.

Healthcare | MEPS-HC

Household Component

For the U.S. civilian population, explore topics like:

- Healthcare use and spending
- Health insurance coverage
- Access to care, quality of care, and diabetes care
- Treated medical conditions
- Prescribed drugs

START

Health Insurance | MEPS-IC

Insurance Component

Explore national and state-level employer-based health insurance:

- Employer characteristics/offerings
- Employee take-up
- Premiums
- Contributions
- Cost-sharing

National- and state-level statistics and trends about employer-based health insurance

START

Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) Household Component (HC)

Information on the health status of Americans, health insurance coverage, and access, use, and cost of health services.

Legacy Sites:

- [MEPSnet](#)
- [MEPS HC Summary Tables](#)

AHRQ Data Tools



MEPS Home

Data Files



Educational Links



MEPS GitHub Repository



Publications

Workshops

Explore the MEPS-HC Data Tools

The MEPS Household Component collects data on all members of sample households from selected communities across the United States. These data can be used to produce nationally representative estimates of medical conditions, health status, use of medical care services, charges and payments, access to care, experience with care, health insurance coverage, income, and employment.

The summary tables provide frequently used summary estimates for the U.S. civilian non-institutionalized population.

This tool is provided as a convenience. It is the responsibility of the user to review the results for statistical significance and overall reasonableness.

Use, Expenditures, and Population

Utilization, spending, and population totals by demographic attributes, event type, or source of payment.

START

Health Insurance

Number and percentage of people by insurance coverage and demographic attributes.

START

Accessibility and Quality of Care

Information on access to care, preventive care, diabetes care, and patient-reported quality of doctor's visits.

START

Medical Conditions

Utilization, spending, and number of people with care for medical conditions by demographic attributes.

START

Prescribed Drugs

Purchases and spending by prescribed drug or therapeutic class.

START

Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) Household Component (HC)

Information on the health status of Americans, health insurance coverage, and access, use, and cost of health services.

Legacy Sites:

- [MEPSnet](#)
- [MEPS HC Summary Tables](#)

AHRQ Data Tools

[MEPS Home](#)[Data Files](#)[Educational Links](#)[MEPS GitHub Repository](#) [Publications](#)[Workshops](#)

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[Use, Expenditures, and Population](#)[Health Insurance](#)[Accessibility and Quality of Care](#)[Medical Conditions](#)[Prescribed Drugs](#)

Statistics on the number of people with care for **medical conditions**, health care utilization, total expenditures, and mean expenditures per person by medical condition. Data can be viewed over time or for a single year by event type (such as prescription medicines or outpatient events), source of payment (such as Medicare or Medicaid), or demographic characteristics (such as age, race, or sex).

Select the **Download Data** button for an accessible MS Excel version of the data visualization. The file size will depend on parameters selected.

Medical Conditions

Medical Conditions

Trends

Cross-sectional

Estimates:

Total expenditures (\$)

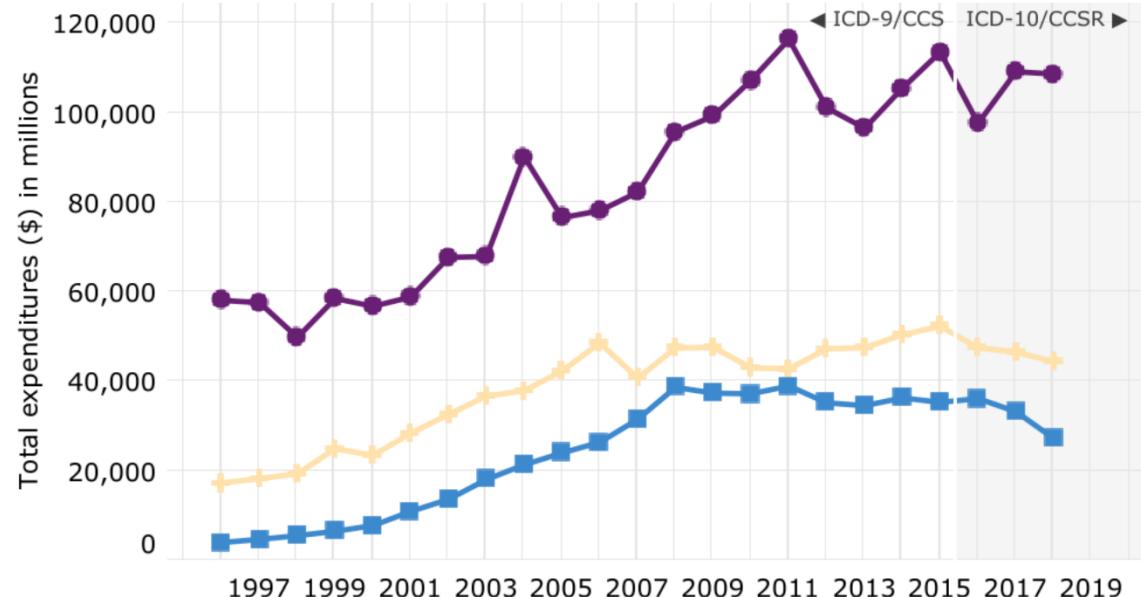
Start Year End Year

1996 2018

Show SE/95% CI

Search by medical condition:
(press enter to search)

Total expenditures (\$) in millions by condition, United States, 1996 to 2018



Select a condition in the legend to filter graph and table.

Legend

Heart disease

Hyperlipidemia

Hypertension

Starting in 2016, coding of household-reported medical conditions transitioned from ICD-9/CCS to ICD-10/CCSR codes. Take caution when comparing data before and after this transition. Refer to the Notes section for details.

Select from rows in the table below to graph data.

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Acute Bronchitis and URI	6,491	5,676	5,594	7,317	5,469	8,190	9,289	8,636	7,387
Allergic reactions	1,095	860	1,529	1,469	1,388	1,633	1,714	1,802	1,951
Anemia and other deficiencies	4,002*	--	1,499*	2,430*	1,088	2,976	3,097	2,769	3,269
Back problems	12,138	12,983	15,086	17,214	17,464	18,448	22,818	24,950	29,625
Cancer	37,696	45,526	35,433	32,125	38,901	45,141	48,425	48,428	62,230
Cataract	4,914	4,679	4,674	5,086	4,093	4,295	6,403	5,120	5,927

Medical Conditions

Trends

Cross-sectional

Estimates:

Total expenditures (\$)

Group by:

Age groups

Group Levels:

(All)

Years:

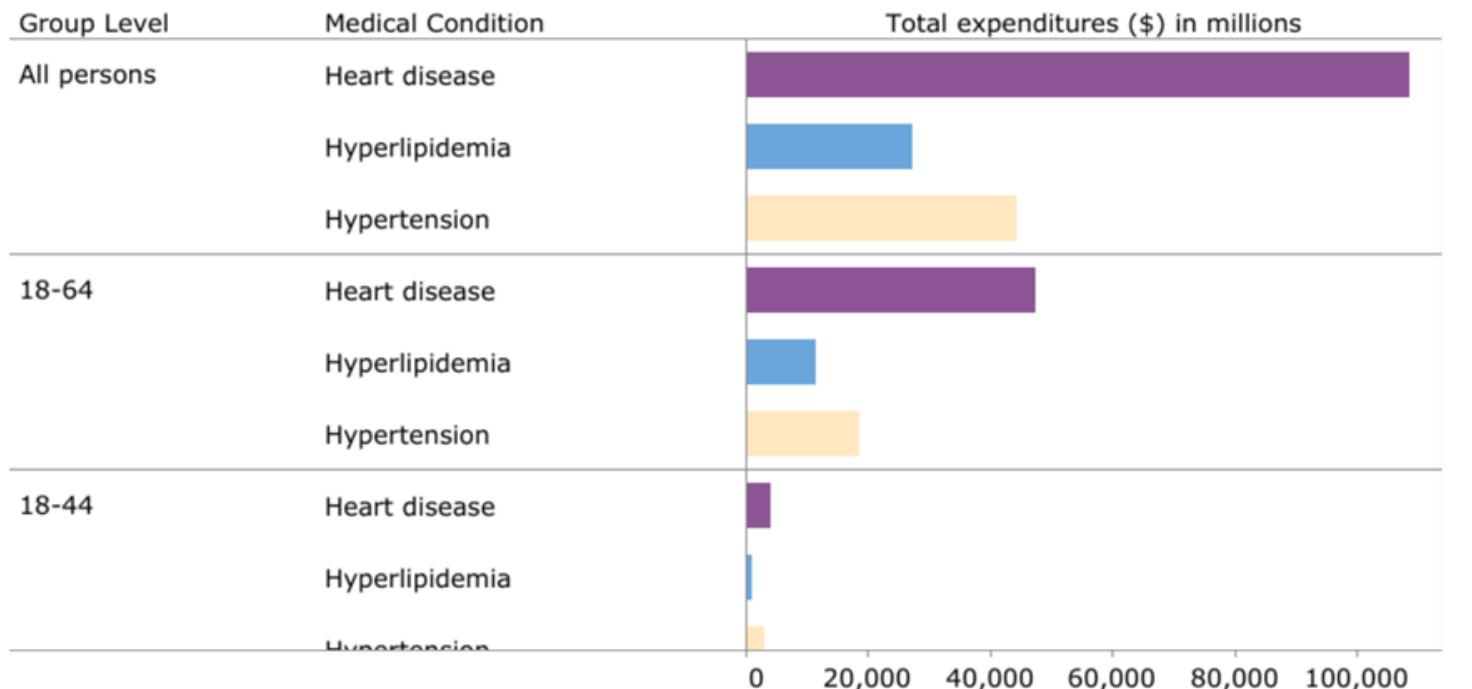
2018

Show SE/95% CI

Search by medical condition:
(press enter to search)

Clear Selected

Total expenditures (\$) in millions



Select from rows in the table below to graph data.

	All persons	Under 18	Under 5	5-17	18-64	18-44
Acute Bronchitis and URI	14,112	2,868	1,442	1,425	8,160	4,480
Allergic reactions	12,760	3,180	846*	2,334	6,289	2,916
Anemia and other deficiencies	2,890	--	--	--	1,366*	665*
Back problems	44,279	--	--	--	27,097	7,885
Cancer	112,512	--	--	--	55,751	8,305

- Employment Variables (2000-2013)** - Supplemental release of fully-imputed versions of selected employment variables
- Food Security Files (2016-2017)** - Data pertaining to food security
- Longitudinal Data Files** - A two-year longitudinal file representing each Panel in the MEPS survey
- Medical Organization Survey (2015-2016)** - Characteristics for usual source of care providers
- Pooled Linkage Variance Structure** - Standardized variance strata and PSU variables for a pooled analysis that includes data from the years 1996-2001
- Preventive Care SAQ (2014)** - Contains various person-level preventive health care data for adults

Go

Reset

MEPS-HC Variable Explorer Tool: Annual/Main Public Use Files (PUFs) 1996 - 2018

Quick Search

Search Table

educ

Advanced Search

Variable

educ

Data File:

(All)

Description

Years

(All)

Selecting a variable under years will navigate to the codebook on the AHRQ Medical Expenditure Panel Survey website. **Tip:** To access the codebook for variables limited to a one-year collection period, select anywhere in the variable row.

Variable	Data	Description	2018	2017	2016	2015	
EDRECODE	FYC	EDUCATION RECODE (EDITED)				EDRECODE	ED
EDRECODE	PIT	EDUCATION RECODE (EDITED)				EDRECODE	
EDUCYEAR	FYC	YEARS OF EDUC WHEN FIRST ENTERED MEPS					
EDUCYR	FYC	YEARS OF EDUC WHEN FIRST ENTERED MEPS	EDUCYR	EDUCYR	EDUCYR	EDUCYR	E
EDUCYR	PIT	YEARS OF EDUC WHEN FIRST ENTERED MEPS	EDUCYR	EDUCYR	EDUCYR	EDUCYR	
EDUCYR1	FYC	COMPLETED YEARS OF EDUCATION-RD1					

- Employment Variables (2000-2013)** - Supplemental release of fully-imputed versions of selected employment variables
- Food Security Files (2016-2017)** - Data pertaining to food security
- Longitudinal Data Files** - A two-year longitudinal file representing each Panel in the MEPS survey
- Medical Organization Survey (2015-2016)** - Characteristics for usual source of care providers
- Pooled Linkage Variance Structure** - Standardized variance components for all variables
- Preventive Care SAQ (2014)** - Contains various personal and household preventive care questions

Go

Reset

MEPS-HC Variable Explorer

Quick Search

Search Table

educ

Advanced Search

Variable

educ

Selecting a variable under years will navigate to the codebook for variables limited to a one-year collection.

Variable	Data	Description
EDRECODE	FYC	EDUCATION RECODE (EDUCYR)
EDRECODE	PIT	EDUCATION RECODE (EDUCYR)

VALUE	UNWEIGHTED	WEIGHTED
-15 CANNOT BE COMPUTED	16	83,298
-8 DK	214	1,785,607
-7 REFUSED	39	211,893
-1 INAPPLICABLE	2,351	24,676,544
0 NO SCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN ONLY	1,038	9,649,672
1 - 8 ELEMENTARY GRADES 1 - 8	4,705	42,597,954
9 - 11 HIGH SCHOOL GRADES 9 - 11	3,151	28,459,122
12 GRADE 12	7,107	69,084,970
13 1 YEAR COLLEGE	1,505	18,183,501
14 2 YEARS COLLEGE	2,992	37,774,994
15 3 YEARS COLLEGE	746	9,239,804
16 4 YEARS COLLEGE	3,996	51,333,881
17 5+ YEARS COLLEGE	2,601	33,246,650
TOTAL	30,461	326,327,888

EDUCYEAR	FYC	YEARS OF EDUC WHEN FIRST ENTERED MEPS	EDUCYR	EDUCYR	EDUCYR	EDUCYR	EDUCYR
EDUCYR	FYC	YEARS OF EDUC WHEN FIRST ENTERED MEPS	EDUCYR	EDUCYR	EDUCYR	EDUCYR	EDUCYR
EDUCYR	PIT	YEARS OF EDUC WHEN FIRST ENTERED MEPS	EDUCYR	EDUCYR	EDUCYR	EDUCYR	EDUCYR
EDUCYR1	FYC	COMPLETED YEARS OF EDUCATION-RD1					

Table of Contents



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MEPS Public Use Data Files

https://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_stats/download_data_files.jsp



:: Data Files

:: Data Centers

Communication

:: What's New

:: Mailing List

:: Discussion Forum

:: Participants' Corner

Select by year and/or data file type

Year: [All available years ▾](#)

Data file types to include in search (check all that apply). Click information icon ⓘ for file details. Click link for full list of file types in category.

[Search all data files ⓘ](#)

[Household Component Full-Year files ⓘ](#)

Expenditure and utilization data for the calendar year from several rounds of data collection.

[Full-Year Consolidated Data files](#)

[Full-Year Population Characteristics files](#)

[Full-Year Medical Organizations Survey Final file](#)

[Full-Year Medical Organizations Survey Preliminary file](#)

[Medical Conditions files](#)

[Risk Adjustment Scores files](#)

[Employment Variables file](#)

[Jobs files](#)

[Person Round Plan files](#)

[What's New](#)[Mailing List](#)[Discussion Forum](#)[Participants' Corner](#)

Update notes

Documentation

File type

Documentation

[PDF](#) (540 KB) / [HTML](#)

Codebook

[PDF](#) (212 KB) / [HTML*](#)

SAS Programming Statements

[TXT](#) (74 KB)

SPSS Programming Statements

[TXT](#) (6.2 KB)

STATA Programming Statements

[TXT](#) (8.4 KB)

R Programming Statements

[TXT](#) (5.3 KB)

Data

File type**

Data File, ASCII format

[ZIP](#) (1.3 MB) / [EXE](#) (1.8 MB)

Data File, SAS transport format

[ZIP](#) (1.5 MB) / [EXE](#) (2.0 MB)

Data File, SAS V9 format

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Data File, XLSX format

[ZIP](#) (6.9 MB)**Questionnaires — see [Survey Questionnaires](#)**

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[ZIP](#) (6.9 MB)**Questionnaires — see [Survey Questionnaires](#)**

<u>DVTTCH18</u>	3886	3890	TOTAL DENTAL CARE VISIT CHARGES 18
<u>DVTTRI18</u>	3919	3922	ALL DENTAL CARE - TRICARE AMT 18
<u>DVTVA18</u>	3915	3918	ALL DENTAL CARE - VA/CHAMPVA AMT 18
<u>DVTWCP18</u>	3931	3933	ALL DENTAL CARE - WORKERS COMP AMT 18
<u>EATHLT42</u>	546	548	DR ADVISE EAT HEALTHY (2-17)-R4/2
<u>EDUCYR</u>	234	236	YEARS OF EDUC WHEN FIRST ENTERED MEPS
<u>ELGRND18</u>	163	163	ELIGIBILITY STATUS AS OF 12/31/18
<u>ELGRND31</u>	160	160	ELIGIBILITY - R3/1
<u>ELGRND42</u>	161	161	ELIGIBILITY - R4/2
<u>ELGRND53</u>	162	162	ELIGIBILITY - R5/3
<u>EMPHAGED</u>	355	356	AGE OF DIAGNOSIS-EMPHYSEMA
<u>EMPHDX</u>	352	354	EMPHYSEMA DIAGNOSIS (>17)
<u>EMPST31</u>	1131	1133	EMPLOYMENT STATUS RD 3/1
<u>EMPST31H</u>	1434	1435	EMPLOYMENT STATUS RD 3/1 (IMP)
<u>EMPST42</u>	1134	1136	EMPLOYMENT STATUS RD 4/2
<u>EMPST42H</u>	1436	1437	EMPLOYMENT STATUS RD 4/2 (IMP)
<u>EMPST53</u>	1137	1139	EMPLOYMENT STATUS RD 5/3
<u>EMPST53H</u>	1438	1439	EMPLOYMENT STATUS RD 5/3 (IMP)

[DVTTCH18](#)[DVTTRI18](#)[DVTVA18](#)[DVTWCP18](#)[EATHLT42](#)[EDUCYR](#)[ELGRND18](#)[ELGRND31](#)[ELGRND42](#)[ELGRND53](#)[EMPHAGED](#)[EMPHDX](#)[EMPST31](#)[EMPST31H](#)[EMPST42](#)[EMPST42H](#)[EMPST53](#)[EMPST53H](#)

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[EMPST31](#) 1131 1133 EMPLOYMENT STATUS RD 3/1[EMPST31H](#) 1434 1435 EMPLOYMENT STATUS RD 3/1 (IMP)[EMPST42](#) 1134 1136 EMPLOYMENT STATUS RD 4/2[EMPST42H](#) 1436 1437 EMPLOYMENT STATUS RD 4/2 (IMP)[EMPST53](#) 1137 1139 EMPLOYMENT STATUS RD 5/3[EMPST53H](#) 1438 1439 EMPLOYMENT STATUS RD 5/3 (IMP)

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Update notes

Documentation

File type

Documentation

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New for
Data Year
2018

Questionnaires — see [Survey Questionnaires](#)

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For loading ASCII (.dat)
fixed-width files

Data

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New for
Data Year
2018

Questionnaires — see [Survey Questionnaires](#)

MEPS Public Use Data Files (cont.)



!!!

1996–2017

**Excluding 2017 Full-Year
Consolidated (FYC) file**

ASCII (.dat)

BEST

SAS transport (.ssp)

2018 and later

+2017 FYC file

ASCII (.dat)

~~SAS transport (.ssp)~~

BEST

SAS V9 (.sas7bdat)

BEST

Stata (.dta)

Excel (.xlsx)

<https://github.com/HHS-AHRQ/MEPS>



Search or jump to...



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HHS-AHRQ / MEPS

Unwatch 23

Unstar 89

Fork 53

Code

Pull requests

Actions

Security

Insights

Settings

master

1 branch

0 tags

Go to file

Add file

Code

About



e-mitchell Merge branch 'new_readmes'

07b9e7d yesterday

305 commits



Quick_Reference_Guides

Adding new file names

2 days ago



R

Updating READMEs with new file info

yesterday



SAS

Updating READMEs with new file info

yesterday



Stata

Updating READMEs with new file info

yesterday



_images

Updating READMEs with new file info

yesterday



README.md

Minor wording change

16 days ago

This repository provides example code for loading and analyzing data from AHRQ's Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS). More information about the survey and access to public use data files is available on our website

meps.ahrq.gov

r

stata

sas

survey-data

meps

ahrq

21

[https://github.com/HHS-AHRQ/MEPS \(cont.\)](https://github.com/HHS-AHRQ/MEPS)



Search or jump to...

Pull requests Issues Marketplace Explore

HHS-AHRQ / MEPS

Unwatch 23 Unstar 89 Fork 53

Code Pull requests Actions Security Insights Settings

master 1 branch 0 tags Go to file Add file Code

About

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e-mitchell Merge branch 'new_readmes' 07b9e7d yesterday 305 commits

Quick_Reference_Guides	Adding new file names	2 days ago
R	Updating READMEs with new file info	yesterday
SAS	Updating READMEs with new file info	yesterday
Stata	Updating READMEs with new file info	yesterday
_images	Updating READMEs with new file info	yesterday
README.md	Minor wording change	16 days ago

r stata sas survey-data meps ahrq

22

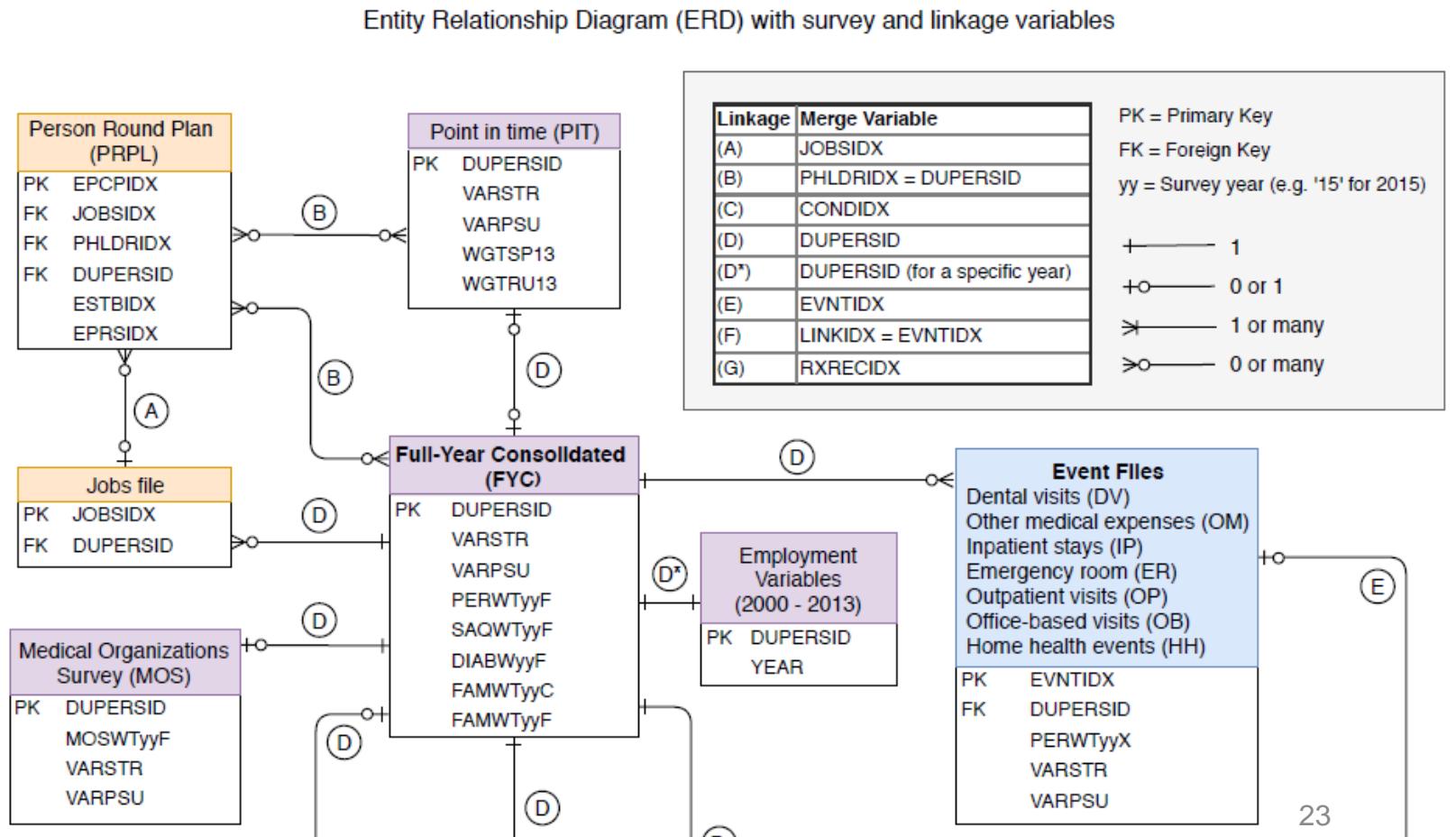
Quick Reference Guides



FYC	Conditions	PMED Events	Events	Jobs	PRPL	Longitudinal
h12	h06r	h10a	h10*f1	h07	h24	-
h20	h18	h16a	h16*f1	h19	h47f1	h23
h28	h27	h26a	h26*f1	h25	h47f2	h35
h38	h37	h33a	h33*	h32	h47f3	h48
h50	h52	h51a	h51*	h40	h47f4	h58
h60	h61	h59a	h59*	h56	h57	h65
h70	h69	h67a	h67*	h63	h66	h71
h79	h78	h77a	h77*	h74	h76	h80
h89	h87	h85a	h85*	h83	h88	h86

MEPS Public Use Files (PUFs)

Entity Relationship Diagram (ERD) with survey and linkage variables



Record Level and Identifiers



Person level

- ▶ FYC file
- ▶ Longitudinal files
- ▶ Point-in-Time file
- ▶ Medical Organizations Survey

Event level

- ▶ ER visits
- ▶ Inpatient stays
- ▶ Outpatient visits
- ▶ Office-based visits
- ▶ Dental visits
- ▶ Prescribed medicines
- ▶ Other medical expenses
- ▶ Home health

Conditions level

- ▶ Medical Conditions file

Jobs/Insurance-level

- ▶ Jobs file
- ▶ Person Round Plan file

Record Level and Identifiers (cont.)

Person-level files

PANEL	DUID	PID	DUPERSID
22	<u>2290001</u>	101	<u>2290001101</u>
22	<u>2290001</u>	102	<u>2290001102</u>
22	<u>2290002</u>	101	<u>2290002101</u>

Event files

DUPERSID	EVNTIDX
2290001101	<u>2290001101003301</u>
2290001101	<u>2290001101003401</u>
2290002101	<u>2290002101002601</u>
2290002101	<u>2290002101205301</u>

Conditions file

DUPERSID	CONDN	CONDIDX
2290001102	3	<u>2290001102003</u>
2290002101	2	<u>2290002101002</u>
2290002101	8	<u>2290002101008</u>
2290002101	11	<u>2290002101011</u>

Jobs file

DUPERSID	RN	JOBNUM	JOBSIDX
2290001101	3	101	<u>22900011013101</u>
2290001101	3	104	<u>22900011013104</u>
2290001101	4	104	<u>22900011014104</u>
2290001102	3	103	<u>22900011023103</u>

Record Level and Identifiers (cont.)

Person-level files

PANEL	DUID	PID	DUPERSID
22	<u>2290001</u>	101	<u>2290001101</u>
22	<u>2290001</u>	102	<u>2290001102</u>
22	<u>2290002</u>	101	<u>2290002101</u>

Event files

DUPERSID	EVNTIDX
2290001101	<u>2290001101003301</u>
2290001101	<u>2290001101003401</u>
2290002101	<u>2290002101002601</u>
2290002101	<u>2290002101205301</u>

Conditions file

DUPERSID	CONDN	CONDIDX
2290001102	3	<u>2290001102003</u>
2290002101	2	<u>2290002101002</u>
2290002101	8	<u>2290002101008</u>
2290002101	11	<u>2290002101011</u>

Jobs file

DUPERSID	RN	JOBNUM	JOBSIDX
2290001101	3	101	<u>22900011013101</u>
2290001101	3	104	<u>22900011013104</u>
2290001101	4	104	<u>22900011014104</u>
2290001102	3	103	<u>22900011023103</u>

Record Level and Identifiers (cont.)

Person-level files

PANEL	DUID	PID	DUPERSID
22	<u>2290001</u>	101	<u>2290001101</u>
22	<u>2290001</u>	102	<u>2290001102</u>
22	<u>2290002</u>	101	<u>2290002101</u>

Event files

DUPERSID	EVNTIDX
2290001101	<u>2290001101003301</u>
2290001101	<u>2290001101003401</u>
2290002101	<u>2290002101002601</u>
2290002101	<u>2290002101205301</u>

Conditions file

DUPERSID	CONDN	CONDIDX
2290001102	3	<u>2290001102003</u>
2290002101	2	<u>2290002101002</u>
2290002101	8	<u>2290002101008</u>
2290002101	11	<u>2290002101011</u>

Jobs file

DUPERSID	RN	JOBNUM	JOBSIDX
2290001101	3	101	<u>22900011013101</u>
2290001101	3	104	<u>22900011013104</u>
2290001101	4	104	<u>22900011014104</u>
2290001102	3	103	<u>22900011023103</u>

Record Level and Identifiers (cont.)

2017

Person-level files

PANEL	DUID	PID	DUPERSID
22	<u>90001</u>	101	<u>90001101</u>
22	<u>90001</u>	102	<u>90001102</u>
22	<u>90002</u>	101	<u>90002101</u>

Jobs file

DUPERSID	RN	JOBSN	JOBSIDX
90001101	3	1	<u>90001101</u> <u>301</u>
90001101	3	4	<u>90001101</u> <u>304</u>
90001101	4	4	<u>90001101</u> <u>404</u>
90001102	3	3	<u>90001102</u> <u>303</u>

2018

Person-level files

PANEL	DUID	PID	DUPERSID
22	<u>2290001</u>	101	<u>2290001101</u>
22	<u>2290001</u>	102	<u>2290001102</u>
22	<u>2290002</u>	101	<u>2290002101</u>

Jobs file

DUPERSID	RN	JOBNUM	JOBSIDX
2290001101	3	101	<u>2290001101</u> <u>3101</u>
2290001101	3	104	<u>2290001101</u> <u>3104</u>
2290001101	4	104	<u>2290001101</u> <u>4104</u>
2290001102	3	103	<u>2290001102</u> <u>3103</u>

Variable Naming Conventions



Edited variables end in “X”

RACEX

Year-specific variables use last two digits of year

TOTEXP19
PERWT19F

Round-specific variables use two-digit round

- Some questions only asked in certain rounds, e.g., the Self-Administered Questionnaire in rounds 2 and 4

AGE31X
AGE42X
AGE53X

2018 design changes indicated by “_M18” suffix

JTPAIN31M18

Estimation Variables



Weight Variables

- ▶ Person-level (e.g., PERWT19F, DIABW19F, SAQWT19F)
- ▶ Family-level (e.g., FAMWT19F, FAMWT19C)
- ▶ Longitudinal (e.g., LONGWT)

Variance-Estimation Variables (Stratum and PSU)

- ▶ Data after FY 2002: VARSTR, VARPSU
- ▶ FY 1996–2001 data: VARSTRyy, VARPSUyy
 - When calculating variances with *pooled data*, use STRA9619, PSU9619 in data file HC-036

MEPS Reserve Codes



-1	Inapplicable	Question was not asked due to skip pattern
-7	Refused	Question was asked and respondent refused to answer
-8	Don't know	Question was asked and respondent did not know answer
-9	Not ascertained	Interviewer did not record the data
-15	Cannot be computed	Value cannot be derived from data
-10	Top-coded	Variable was top-coded for confidentiality (e.g., hourly wage)

New starting in
Data Year 2018

Table of Contents



Data Tools

Public Use Files (PUFs)

Programming Example (SAS, Stata, R)

Programming Example



Compare average medical expenses for persons under age 65 vs. 65 and older in 2018.*

* Not including people that have \$0 in expenses

Process



Compare average medical expenses for persons under 65 vs. 65 and older in 2018.

1. Load datasets.
2. Create new variables.
3. Run survey procedure.
4. Examine results.

Process (cont.)



Compare average medical expenses for persons under 65 vs. 65 and older in 2018.

- 1. Load datasets.**
2. Create new variables.
3. Run survey procedure.
4. Examine results.

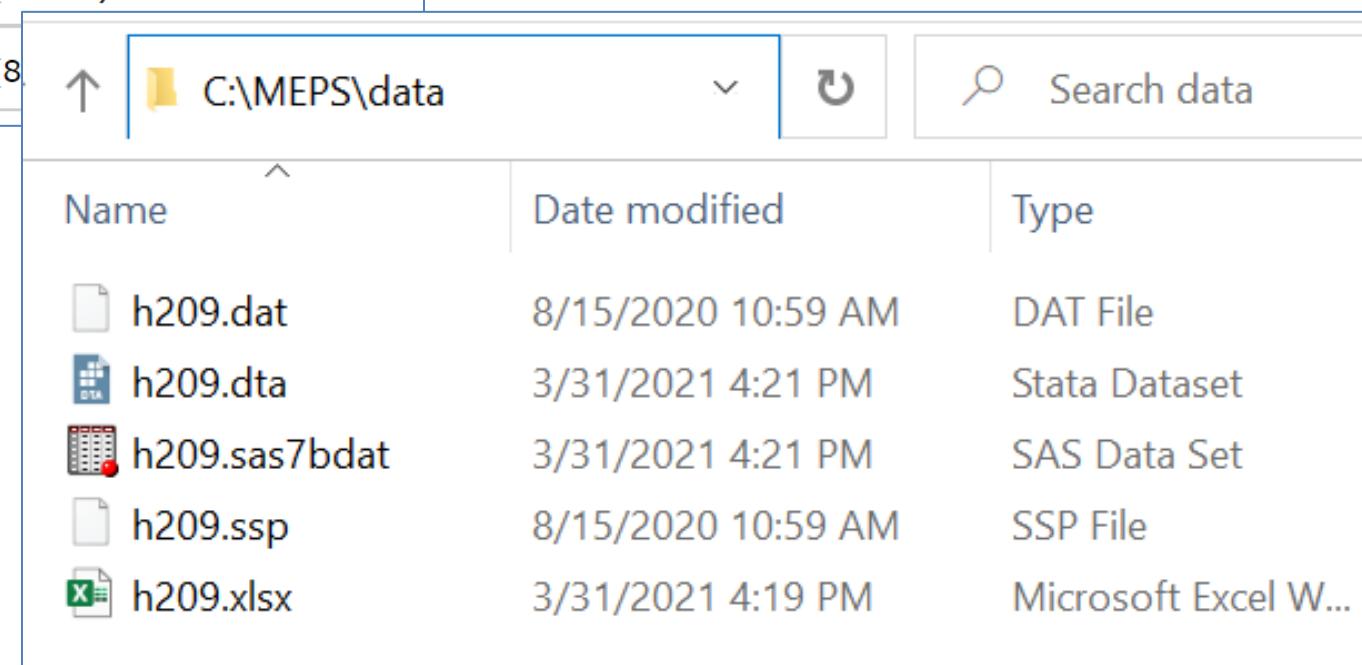
2018 Full-Year Consolidated file
Person-level

Load Datasets

Data

File type**

Data File, ASCII format	ZIP (11 MB) / EXE (12 MB)
Data File, SAS transport format	ZIP (11 MB) / EXE (12 MB)
Data File, SAS V9 format	ZIP (13 MB)
Data File, Stata format	ZIP (13 MB)
Data File, XLSX format	ZIP (8



Name	Date modified	Type
h209.dat	8/15/2020 10:59 AM	DAT File
h209.dta	3/31/2021 4:21 PM	Stata Dataset
h209.sas7bdat	3/31/2021 4:21 PM	SAS Data Set
h209.ssp	8/15/2020 10:59 AM	SSP File
h209.xlsx	3/31/2021 4:19 PM	Microsoft Excel W...

Load Datasets (cont.)

SAS

1996–2017
Excluding 2017 FYC file

```
FILENAME in1 'C:\MEPS\data\h192.ssp';
proc xcopy in = in1 out = WORK IMPORT;
run; /* creates dataset WORK.h192 */
```

Stata

```
import sasxport5 "C:\MEPS\data\h192.ssp"
rename *, lower
```

R

```
install.packages("foreign")
library(foreign)

h192 = read.xport("C:/MEPS/data/h192.ssp")
```

2018 and later

+2017 FYC file

```
data WORK.h209;
set "C:\MEPS\data\h209.sas7bdat";
run;
```

```
use "C:\MEPS\data\h209.dta", clear
rename *, lower
```

```
install.packages("haven")
library(haven)
```

```
h209 = read_dta("C:/MEPS/data/h209.dta")
```

Load Datasets (cont.)

<https://github.com/HHS-AHRQ/MEPS>



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HHS-AHRQ / MEPS Unwatch 23 Unstar 89 Fork 53

Code Pull requests Actions Security Insights Settings

master 1 branch 0 tags Go to file Add file Code

Branch	Commit Message	Date
e-mitchell	Merge branch 'new_readmes'	07b9e7d yesterday 305 commits
Quick_Reference_Guides	Adding new file names	2 days ago
R	Updating READMEs with new file info	yesterday
SAS	Updating READMEs with new file info	yesterday
Stata	Updating READMEs with new file info	yesterday
_images	Updating READMEs with new file info	yesterday
README.md	Minor wording change	16 days ago

About This repository provides example code for loading and analyzing data from AHRQ's Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS). More information about the survey and access to public use data files is available on our website meps.ahrq.gov

r stata sas survey-data
meps ahrq

38

Process



Compare average medical expenses for persons under 65 vs. 65 and older in 2018.

1. Load datasets.
2. Create new variables.
3. Run survey procedure.
4. Examine results.

Age groups:
AGELAST < 65
AGELAST \geq 65

Any expenditures:
TOTEXP18 > 0

Create New Variables

SAS

```
data h209;  
set h209;  
  
if 0 <= AGELAST <= 64 then agecat = 1;  
else if AGELAST > 64 then agecat = 2;  
  
if TOTEXP18 > 0 then has_exp = 1;  
else if TOTEXP18 = 0 then has_exp = 0;  
run;
```

Stata

```
gen agecat = 1  
replace agecat = 2 if agelast > 64  
  
gen has_exp = 1  
replace has_exp = 0 if (totexp18 <= 0)
```

R

```
install.packages("dplyr")  
library(dplyr)  
  
h209 = h209 %>% mutate(  
  agecat = ifelse(AGELAST > 64, 2, 1),  
  has_exp = ifelse(TOTEXP18 <= 0, 0, 1) )
```

Create New Variables (cont.)

Quality check on new variables

agecat	AGELAST		
	Min	Mean	Max
1 (< 65)	0	31.6	64
2 (65+)	65	73.8	85

has_exp	TOTEXP18		
	Min	Mean	Max
0	0	0	0
1	1	7,183	807,611

SAS

proc means
proc freq

Stata

bys
sum

R

group_by
summarise

Process



Compare average medical expenses for persons under 65 vs. 65 and older in 2018.

1. Load datasets.
2. Create new variables.
3. Run survey procedure.
4. Examine results.

Mean TOTEXP18
- by Age groups
- if has_exp == 1

Run Survey Procedure



!!!

SAS

```
proc surveymeans data = h209 mean;  
    stratum VARSTR;  
    cluster VARPSU;  
    weight PERWT18F;  
    var TOTEXP18;  
    domain has_exp * AGECAT;  
run;
```

R

```
install.packages("survey")  
library(survey);  
options(survey.lonely.psu='adjust');  
  
mepsdsgn = svydesign(  
    id = ~VARPSU, strata = ~VARSTR, weights = ~PERWT18F,  
    data = h209, nest = TRUE)  
  
svyby(~TOTEXP18, by = ~agecat, FUN = svymean,  
    design = subset(mepsdsgn, has_exp==1))
```

Stata

```
svyset [pweight=perwt18f], strata(varstr) psu(varpsu) vce(linearized) singleunit(missing)  
  
svy, subpop(if has_exp==1): mean totexp18, over(agecat)
```

Run Survey Procedure (cont.)



has_exp	agecat	totexp18	
		Mean	Std. Err.
1	1 (< 65)	5,650	133.2
	2 (65+)	12,866	329.0

Why Survey Procedures?



Correct Analysis

has_exp	agecat	Mean	Std. Err.
1	1 (< 65)	5,650	133.2
	2 (65+)	12,866	329.0

Why Survey Procedures? (cont.)

Correct Analysis

has_exp	agecat	Mean	Std. Err.
1	1 (< 65)	5,650	133.2
	2 (65+)	12,866	329.0

**Ignoring VARSTR,
VARPSU**

has_exp	agecat	Mean	Std. Err.
1	1 (< 65)	5,650	133.9
	2 (65+)	12,866	339.5

Why Survey Procedures? (cont.)

Correct Analysis

has_exp	agecat	Mean	Std. Err.
1	1 (< 65)	5,650	133.2
	2 (65+)	12,866	329.0

**Ignoring VARSTR,
VARPSU**

has_exp	agecat	Mean	Std. Err.
1	1 (< 65)	5,650	133.9
	2 (65+)	12,866	339.5

**Ignoring VARSTR,
VARPSU, and
PERWT**

has_exp	agecat	Mean	Std. Err.
1	1 (< 65)	5,639	120.8
	2 (65+)	13,123	312.8

Process

Compare average medical expenses for persons under 65 vs. 65 and older in 2018.

1. Load datasets.
2. Create new variables.
3. Run survey procedure.
4. Examine results.



Examine Results



Does output make sense?

- ▶ Population estimates
- ▶ Inflation adjustment?

Consistent with other published results?

- ▶ Statistical Briefs
- ▶ MEPS-HC Data Tools

Are estimates reliable?

- ▶ Sample size ($n > 60$)
- ▶ Standard errors ($RSE < 0.3$)

Programming Checklist



- Well-defined question
- Checked documentation
- Reserve codes addressed
(-1, -9, -15, etc.)
- Datasets merged correctly
- Adequate sample size/
precision
- Survey procedures
 - PERWT, VARSTR, VARPSU
 - Using correct weights
(PERWT / FAMWT / LONGWT)
 - “Domain” analysis for subsets (SAS)
- Results make sense

Exercises (★ difficulty level)



SAS / Stata / R

<https://github.com/HHS-AHRQ/MEPS-workshop>

1. National healthcare expenses ★
2. Purchases and expenses for narcotic analgesics ★★
3. Pooling multiple years of MEPS data ★★★
4. Logistic regression ★★★

Thank you!



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