



AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY



# MEPS-HC Jobs file

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# Employment Section Design

- **Variables on the JOBS file come from the Employment section of the HC**
- **Emphasis on having a continuous time line of employment history over the Panel for each person**
  - ▶ **Need complete information on employer-based health insurance**
- **Also interested in:**
  - ▶ **Indicators of job quality**
  - ▶ **Employment data that relates to earnings**

# The Basics 1

- **Employment data is collected for each person age 16 and older in each round**
- **Employment status (EMPST31/42/53):**
  - 1 = “currently employed” if job at interview date;
  - 2 = “has job to return to” if did not work during the reference period but had a job to return to as of the interview date;
  - 3 = “employed during the reference period” if no job at the interview date but did work during the round;
  - 4 = “not employed with no job to return to” if the person did not have a job at the interview date, did not work during the reference period, and did not have a job to return to.
- **Categories are mutually exclusive**

# The Basics 2

- **Most workers have only one job at time of initial interview**
- **If more than one job**
  - ▶ Respondent designates one as **Current Main Job**
  - ▶ Other jobs are **Current Miscellaneous Jobs**
- **Job held in the round that ended before interview date is “Former” job**

# Employment Updates

- **Special update module used in Rounds 2-5**
  - ▶ If Current job continues from prior round, limited update
- **If person not working in previous round, asked if working in current round**
  - ▶ If yes, then collect complete information

# JOBBS File

- **Each JOBS file covers one calendar year**
- **All jobs included on file**
  - ▶ **Population/Consolidated files only have Current Main Job**
- **Limited editing done to JOBS variables**
- **No weights on file**
  - ▶ **Must link to file with weights**

# JOB S Records

- **Records are at person/round/job level**
  - ▶ **If same job continues for more than one round, then separate record for each round on file**
  - ▶ **Person reporting on multiple jobs in round will have one record per job on the file for that round**

# JOBIDX Variable

- **JOBIDX (e.g., 22722011013101) is unique identifier for each record**
  - ▶ **Person identifier (DUID & PID): 2272201101**
  - ▶ **Round (RN): 3**
  - ▶ **Job number (JOBNUM): 101**



# Changes to JOBSIDX for 2018

- **JOBSIDX has changed for 2018 and includes 3 digits more than prior 2018:**
  - ▶ **DUID now includes 2 digits to identity the panel**
  - ▶ **JOBNUM (3 digits) is new for 2018 and replaces JOBSN (2 digits)**
- **Use variable JOBSIDX\_17 to link 2017 and 2018 JOBS file**
  - ▶ **Appendix 1 & 2 in the JOBS file documentation include sample SAS & STATA code to link files**

# Changes to JOBSIDX for 2018

Prior to 2018:

**JOBSDIX:** 72201101301

DUID (72201) + PID (101) + Round (3) + JOBSN (01)  
(5 bytes)                      (3 bytes)                      (1 byte)                      (2 bytes)

Beginning in 2018:

**JOBSIDX:** 22722011013101

DUID (2272201) + PID (101) + Round (3) + JOBNUM (101)  
(7 bytes)                      (3 bytes)                      (1 byte)                      (3 bytes)

# JOBNUM Variable

- **JOBNUM is unique to the *reporting unit* (RU); JOBSN was not unique to the RU and not always unique to the person**
- **JOBNUM is assigned using 3 digits**
  - ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> digit identifies the RU where the job was first reported, with 1=RU A, 2=RU B, 3=RU C, and so on for each RU in the dwelling unit
  - ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> digits count the number of jobs in the RU
  - ▶ If new job reported in round, then its JOBNUM set to one greater than highest JOBNUM for a job in that RU
  - ▶ If job continues for more than one round, JOBNUM does not change

# Example

- 2 person dwelling unit, each person in their own RU.  
Person 201 changes job in round 5:

DUID	PID	DUPERSID	RU	RN	JOBNUM	JOBSIDX
2272201	101	2272201101	A	3	101	22722011013101
		2272201101	A	4	101	22722011014101
		2272201101	A	5	101	22722011015101
	201	2272201201	B	3	201	22722012013201
		2272201201	B	4	201	22722012014201
		2272201201	B	5	202	22722012015202

# Continuing Jobs

- **STILLAT (Main) and STILLWRK (Misc.)** indicate if job continues from prior round
- **For jobs that continue from a prior round many variables coded as -1 (inapplicable)**
  - ▶ **Look back to prior round's data if -1 in current round**
  - ▶ **For a current main job (CMJ) continuing into the second year of the panel, RNDFLG31 indicates the round in which the CMJ was first reported**

# Job SUBTYPE Variable

- **SUBTYPE indicates job type**
  - ▶ **1 = Current Main Job**
  - ▶ **2 = Current Miscellaneous Job**
  - ▶ **3 = Former Main Job**
  - ▶ **4 = Former Miscellaneous Job**
  - ▶ **5 = Last Job**
  - ▶ **6 = Retirement Job**

# Earnings Data

- Earnings data on file reflect variety of ways that people are paid
- Earnings variables can be reported as gross salary, bonuses, tips, etc.
- Job may have more than one type of earnings associated with it
  - ▶ Hourly wage plus tips
  - ▶ Annual salary plus commission

# Job Quality Indicators

- If person's current main job is not self-employed questions related to job quality are asked:
  - ▶ Paid leave to visit a doctor (PAYDR31, PAYDR42, PAYDR53)
  - ▶ Paid sick leave (SICPAY31, SICPAY42, SICPAY53)
  - ▶ Paid vacation (PAYVAC31, PAYVAC42, PAYVAC53)
  - ▶ Pension plan (RETPLN31, RETPLN42, RETPLN53)



# Thank you!



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