



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

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# **MEPS-HC Jobs file**

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# Employment Section Design

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- **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

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- **Employment data is collected for each person age 16 and older in each round**
- **Employment status (EMPST31/42/53):**
  - “currently employed” if job at interview date;
  - “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;
  - “employed during the reference period” if no job at the interview date but did work during the round;
  - “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

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- **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

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- **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**



# **JOB**S File

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



# **JOBS Records**

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- **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**

# **JOBSIDX Variable**

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- **JOBSIDX (e.g., 00002025501) is unique identifier for each record**
  - ▶ **Person identifier (DUID & PID): 00002025**
  - ▶ **Round (RN): 5**
  - ▶ **Job number (JOBSN): 01**





# **JOB SN Variable**

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- **JOB SN is assigned using 2-digit counter**
  - ▶ **If job continues for more than one round, JOB SN does not change**
  - ▶ **If new job introduced in round, then its JOB SN set to one greater than highest JOB SN for a job in round for that person**



# Continuing Jobs

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- **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**



# Job SUBTYPE Variable

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- **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

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- **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**