



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):**
 - “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

- **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**

JOB File

- **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**

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**

JOBSDX Variable

- 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

- **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

- **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

- **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