



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.

# 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**
- **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**

# 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