

User Extract meps_00012.dat

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§ 1. Document Description

Citation

Title Statement	
Title:	Codebook for an for an IPUMS Health Surveys: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Data Extract
Subtitle:	DDI 2.5 metadata describing the extract file 'meps_00012.dat'
Identification Number:	ddi2-e37070c0-33bf-013c-327e-0242ac1c0004-meps_00012.dat- www.meps.ipums.org
Responsibility Statement	
Authoring Entity:	IPUMS
Affiliation:	University of Minnesota
Production Statement	
Producer:	IPUMS
Affiliation:	University of Minnesota
Role:	Documentation
Date of Production:	October 26, 2023
Place of Production:	IPUMS, 50 Willey Hall, 225 - 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455
Distribution Statement	

Contact Persons:	IPUMS
Affiliation:	University of Minnesota
URI:	https://ipums.org

§ 2. Study Description

Citation

Title Statement	
Title:	User Extract meps_00012.dat
Responsibility Statement	
Authoring Entity:	IPUMS
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Distribution Statement	
Contact Persons:	IPUMS
Affiliation:	University of Minnesota
URI:	https://ipums.org
Version Statement	
Date:	2023-10-26

Study Scope

Subject Information

Topic Classification:	Technical Variables -- PERSON
	Core Demographic Variables -- PERSON
	Ethnicity/Nativity Variables -- PERSON
	Education Variables -- PERSON
	Work Variables -- PERSON
	Income Sources Variables -- PERSON
	Poverty Variables -- PERSON
	Tax Filing Information Variables -- PERSON
	Health Status Variables -- PERSON
	Cancer Variables -- PERSON
	Other Conditions Variables -- PERSON
	Diabetes Variables -- PERSON
	Adult Mental Health Variables -- PERSON
	Total Expenditures Variables -- PERSON
	Emergency Room Visits Variables -- PERSON
	Hospitalizations Variables -- PERSON
	Dental Expenditures Variables -- PERSON
Summary Data Description	
Time Period:	2015
Country:	United States
Summary Data Description	
Time Period:	2016
Country:	United States
Summary Data Description	

Time Period:	2017
Country:	United States
Summary Data Description	
Time Period:	2018
Country:	United States
Summary Data Description	
Time Period:	2019
Country:	United States
Summary Data Description	
Time Period:	2020
Country:	United States
Summary Data Description	
Time Period:	2021
Country:	United States
Notes	
Note:	Additional notes on a sample that is part of this study: 2015 MEPS
	Additional notes on a sample that is part of this study: 2016 MEPS
	Additional notes on a sample that is part of this study: 2017 MEPS
	Additional notes on a sample that is part of this study: 2018 MEPS
	Additional notes on a sample that is part of this study: 2019 MEPS
	Additional notes on a sample that is part of this study: 2020 MEPS
	Additional notes on a sample that is part of this study: 2021 MEPS

Data Access - Use Statement

Confidentiality Declaration

The Public Health Service Act (Section 308 (d)) provides that the data collected by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), may be used only for the purpose of health statistical reporting and analysis. Any effort to determine the identity of any reported case is prohibited by this law. NCHS does all it can to assure that the identity of data subjects cannot be disclosed. All direct identifiers, as well as any characteristics that might lead to identification, are omitted from the data files. Any intentional identification or disclosure of a person or establishment violates the assurances of confidentiality given to the providers of the information.

Therefore, users will:

Use the data in these data files for statistical reporting and analysis only.

Make no use of the identity of any person or establishment discovered inadvertently and advise the Director, NCHS, of any such discovery (301-458-4500).

Not link these data files with individually identifiable data from other NCHS or non-NCHS data files.

By using these data, you signify your agreement to comply with the above-stated statutorily-based requirements.

Contact Persons:	IPUMS Health Surveys: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey
Affiliation:	IPUMS
URI:	http://www.meps.ipums.org/

Citation Requirement

Publications and research reports based on the MEPS database must cite it appropriately. The citation is as follows:

Lynn A. Blewett, Julia A. Rivera Drew, Daniel Backman, Annie Chen, Grace Cooper, Megan Schouweiler, Stephanie Richards and Michael Westberry. IPUMS Health Surveys: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, Version 2.3 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.18128/D071.V2.3>

Please see <http://www.meps.ipums.org/meps/citation.shtml> for precise formatting of the citation.

Conditions

The Public Health Service Act (Section 308 (d)) provides that the data collected by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), may be used only for the purpose of health statistical reporting and analysis. Any effort to determine the identity of any reported case is prohibited by this law. NCHS does all it can to assure that the identity of data subjects cannot be disclosed. All direct identifiers, as well as any characteristics that might lead to identification, are omitted from the data files. Any intentional identification or disclosure of a person or establishment violates the assurances of confidentiality given to the providers of the information.

Therefore, users must:

Use the data in these data files for statistical reporting and analysis only.

Make no use of the identity of any person or establishment discovered inadvertently and advise the Director, NCHS, of any such discovery (301-458-4500).

Not link these data files with individually identifiable data from other NCHS or non-NCHS data files.

By using these data, you signify your agreement to comply with the above-stated statutorily-based requirements.

Furthermore, users of MEPS data must agree to abide by the conditions of use. Users must agree to the following conditions:

- (1) Use the data in these data files for statistical reporting and analysis only
- (2) Make no use of the identity of any person or establishment discovered inadvertently and advise the Director of NCHS of any such discovery (301-458-4500)
- (3) Do not link these data with individually-identifiable data from NCHS or non-NCHS data files
- (4) No fees may be charged for use or distribution of the data. All persons are granted a limited license to use and distribute these data, but you may not charge a fee for the data if you distribute them to others.
- (5) Cite the MEPS appropriately. Publications and research reports based on the database must cite it appropriately. Please see <http://www.meps.ipums.org/meps/citation.shtml>
- (6) MEPS cannot be used to study small geographic areas. The smallest geographical areas identified in the MEPS are regions (groups of states) and a limited number of metropolitan areas.
- (7) This system provides individual-level data only. The MEPS Data Extraction System will not produce tables. You will need to use a statistical software package, such as Stata, SAS, or SPSS, to analyze the downloaded data. Alternatively, you may use the MEPS-SDA tabulator to produce tables online, without making a data extract.

Disclaimer

The user of the data acknowledges that the original collector of the data, the authorized distributor of the data, and the relevant funding agency bear no responsibility for use of the data or for interpretations or inferences based upon such uses.

Study Notes

Notes

Note: User-provided description: Revision of 00011

This extract is a revision of the user's previous extract, ID 5369007.

§ 3. File Description

File

File Name:	meps_00012.dat
Contents of Files:	Microdata records
Type:	rectangular
File Type:	ISO-8859-1 data file
Data Format:	fixed length fields

Place of File Production:

IPUMS, 50 Willey Hall, 225 - 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455

§ 4. Variable Description

Jump to Variable

1. [YEAR](#) (Survey year)
2. [PERNUM](#) (Person number within family/household (from reformatting))
3. [DUID](#) (Dwelling unit ID)
4. [PID](#) (Person number)
5. [MEPSID](#) (MEPS unique identifier (IPUMS generated))
6. [PANEL](#) (Panel)
7. [PSUANN](#) (Annual primary sampling unit (PSU) for variance estimation)
8. [STRATANN](#) (Annual stratum for variance estimation)
9. [PSUPLD](#) (Pooled primary sampling unit (PSU) for variance estimation)
10. [STRATAPLD](#) (Pooled variance stratum)
11. [PANELYR](#) (Year entered MEPS)
12. [RELYR](#) (Relative year 1 or 2 in panel)
13. [PERWEIGHT](#) (Final basic annual weight)
14. [SAQWEIGHT](#) (Self-Administered Questionnaire weight)
15. [DIABWEIGHT](#) (Diabetes care weight)
16. [AGE](#) (Age)
17. [SEX](#) (Sex)
18. [USBORN](#) (Born in the United States)
19. [HIDEG](#) (Highest degree completed)
20. [WORKEV](#) (Ever worked)
21. [INCWAGE](#) (Wage income)
22. [QINCWAGE](#) (Wage income imputation flag)
23. [FOODSTYN](#) (Food stamps (SNAP) receipt)
24. [FILEDYN](#) (Has filed a federal income tax return)
25. [HEALTH](#) (Health status)
26. [CANCEREV](#) (Ever told had cancer)
27. [STROKEAGE](#) (Age at first stroke)
28. [HEARTATTAGE](#) (Heart attack, age at diagnosis)
29. [CNBLAD](#) (Ever had cancer: Bladder)
30. [DIAPILLS](#) (Now taking diabetic pills)
31. [AEFFORT](#) (Felt everything an effort, past 30 days (adults))
32. [AHOPELESS](#) (How often felt hopeless, past 30 days (adults))
33. [ANERVOUS](#) (How often felt nervous, past 30 days (adults))
34. [CHGTOT](#) (Annual total of charges for health care)
35. [ERTOTVIS](#) (Annual total number of visits made to the emergency room)
36. [HPTOTDIS](#) (Annual total number of hospital discharges)
37. [DVEXPTOT](#) (Sum of expenditures for dental care received during the year)

Variable: "YEAR"

Name:	YEAR
Label:	Survey year
Variable Text:	YEAR is a four-digit variable reporting the calendar year (e.g., 2003) the survey was conducted and the data were collected. YEAR indicates the survey year on the person record.
Concept:	Technical Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	1
End Position:	4
Width:	4
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0
Coder Instructions:	This is a 4-digit numeric variable with 0 implied decimal places

Variable: "PERNUM"

Name:	PERNUM
Label:	Person number within family/household (from reformatting)
Variable Text:	PERNUM is an IPUMS MEPS-constructed variable that numbers all persons within each household consecutively (starting with "1") in the order in which they appear in the original MEPS data. PERNUM was created by IPUMS MEPS during the process of reformatting the original MEPS public use files.
Concept:	Technical Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	5
End Position:	6
Width:	2
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0

Coder Instructions:	CodesPERNUM is a 2-digit numeric variable.
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Variable: "DUID"

Name:	DUID
Label:	Dwelling unit ID
Variable Text:	<p>For all persons, DUID reports the identifier assigned by MEPS to the person's Dwelling Unit (DU), sampled for MEPS data collection. DUID is a random ID number assigned after the DU was sampled for MEPS and does not change once assigned. The MEPS sample is a subset of the households that participated in the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).</p> <p>DU definitions are generally consistent with NHIS definitions of households. For example, the 2018 NHIS Survey Description document describes households as "occupied housing units" (p. 10) that exclude "long-term care institutions (for example, nursing homes for the elderly, hospitals for the chronically ill or physically or intellectually disabled, and wards for abused or neglected children), correctional facilities (for example, prisons or jails, juvenile detention centers, and halfway houses)." (p. 8). Additionally, "unless one other family member is a civilian eligible for the survey (for example, a child whose parents are both active-duty military)" (p. 8), housing units occupied by active-duty Armed Forces personnel are also excluded from the survey.</p> <p>From 1996-2017, DUID is unique within panel, but must be combined with PANEL to be unique across panels. Starting in 2018, DUID begins with the 2-digit variable PANEL, making DUID unique across panels. DUID can be combined with PID to uniquely identify each person within the Dwelling Unit. Please see the user note for more information on the relationship between Dwelling Units, families, Reporting Units, and persons.</p>
Concept:	Technical Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	7
End Position:	13
Width:	7
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0
Coder Instructions:	DUID is a numeric variable ranging in width from 1 to 7 digits.

Variable: "PID"

Name:	PID
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Label:	Person number
Variable Text:	<p>For all persons, PID is a within-Dwelling Unit (DU) person identifier assigned in sampling or by the computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) instrument. PID must be combined with DUID and PANEL to uniquely identify persons across all MEPS data. IPUMS MEPS offers the constructed variable MEPSID, created by concatenating the values of DUID, PID, and PANEL.</p> <p>Please see the user note for more information on the relationship between Dwelling Units, families, Reporting Units, and persons.</p>
Concept:	Technical Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	14
End Position:	16
Width:	3
Variable Format:	character
Implied Decimal Places:	0
Coder Instructions:	CodesPID is a 3-digit numeric variable.

Variable: "MEPSID"

Name:	MEPSID
Label:	MEPS unique identifier (IPUMS generated)
Variable Text:	<p>For all persons, MEPSID is a variable that uniquely identifies respondents across MEPS panels. It is created by combining PANEL, DUID, and PID. IPUMS MEPS staff create MEPSID for the 1996-2017 samples to provide a single, universal linking key for MEPS persons. Beginning in 2018, AHRQ modified the identifiers DUID and DUPERSID (which combines DUID with PID) on the original MEPS data files to append information about PANEL to the first two columns. This update makes DUPERSID identical to MEPSID in the IPUMS MEPS extract system for 2018-forward.</p> <p>In earlier versions of IPUMS MEPS, IPUMS MEPS staff created a slightly different version of MEPSID, equivalent to combining DUID, PID, and PANEL. This version has been renamed to MEPSID2 and is only available for 1996-2017.</p>
Concept:	Technical Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	17
End Position:	26

Width:	10
Variable Format:	character
Implied Decimal Places:	0
Coder Instructions:	This is a 10-digit numeric variable with 0 implied decimal places

Variable: "PANEL"

Name:	PANEL
Label:	Panel
Variable Text:	<p>For all persons, PANEL reports the number of the panel of which the person was a member. MEPS began in 1996 with Panel number 1 and the panel number for persons entering the MEPS in each subsequent year increases by 1, so that 1997 had Panels 1 (the panel that entered in 1996, in their second year in 1997) and 2 (the panel newly entering MEPS in 1997), 1998 had Panels 2 and 3, 1999 had Panels 3 and 4, and so on. PANEL can be combined with DUID and PID to uniquely identify individuals across panels. IPUMS MEPS offers the constructed variable MEPSID that is equal to the concatenated values of DUID, PID, and PANEL.</p> <p>For more information on the relationship between calendar year, panel, and round data, please see the IPUMS MEPS Panel Design Documentation.</p>
Concept:	Technical Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	27
End Position:	28
Width:	2
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0

Categories

Value	Label
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Variable: "PSUANN"

Name:	PSUANN
Label:	Annual primary sampling unit (PSU) for variance estimation
Variable Text:	<p>PSUANN is the annual primary sampling unit variable that represents the impact of sample design clustering on the estimates of variance and standard errors. It is appropriate to use PSUANN to generate annual estimates for all years. For pooled analyses including years before 2002 or after 2018, analysts should instead use the pooled primary sampling unit variable, PSUPLD. For analyses limited to years 2002-2018, PSUANN is suitable for use in annual and pooled analyses.</p> <p>PSUANN is constant within a sample design period and changes between sample design periods. For analysis, researchers need to use PSUANN in conjunction with STRATANN to account for stratification and clustering when computing variance estimates with IPUMS MEPS data.</p>
Concept:	Technical Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	29
End Position:	31
Width:	3
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0
Coder Instructions:	<p>CodesPSUANN is a 3-digit numeric variable.</p> <p>000: Not in Universe</p>

Variable: "STRATANN"

Name:	STRATANN
Label:	Annual stratum for variance estimation
Variable Text:	<p>STRATANN is an IPUMS MEPS-constructed variable based on the annual variance estimation strata variable in the public use files. STRATANN represents the impact of sample design stratification on estimates of variance and standard errors. IPUMS staff generate STRATANN by concatenating YEAR and the original AHRQ-provided variance estimation strata variable, VARSTR. It is appropriate to use STRATANN to generate annual estimates for all years. For pooled analyses including years before and after 2002 or before and after 2019, analysts should instead use the pooled variance sampling strata variable, STRATAPLD. For analyses limited to the years 2002-2018 or 2019-forward,</p>

	<p>STRATANN is suitable for use in annual and pooled analyses.</p> <p>From 1996-2001, values of STRATANN were statistically independent from year to year. Between 2002-2018 and for 2019-forward, values of STRATANN are constant within sample design period. For analysis, researchers need to use STRATANN in conjunction with PSUANN to account for stratification and clustering when computing variance estimates with MEPS data using a Taylor-series Linearization approach. For more information, please see our user note on variance estimation using IPUMS MEPS data.</p>
Concept:	Technical Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	32
End Position:	39
Width:	8
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0
Coder Instructions:	CodesSTRATANN is an 8-digit numeric variable, where the first four digits are the same as the YEAR value.

Variable: "PSUPLD"

Name:	PSUPLD
Label:	Pooled primary sampling unit (PSU) for variance estimation
Variable Text:	<p>PSUPLD is the pooled variance primary sampling unit variable that represents the impact of the sample design clustering on the estimates of variance and standard errors. It is appropriate to use PSUPLD instead of the annual primary sampling unit (PSUANN) if the years included in a pooled analysis include survey years 1996-2001 or 2019-forward. When pooling data from only 2002-2018, it is appropriate to use the variable PSUANN, the annual stratum variable for each survey year.</p> <p>For analysis, researchers need to use PSUPLD in conjunction with STRATAPLD to account for stratification and clustering when computing variance estimates with IPUMS MEPS data.</p> <p>PSUPLD should be used when analysts wish to pool together (aka combine) more than one year of MEPS annual data including any years before 2002 or after 2018. In most years, MEPS samples are not completely independent from one another, both because each panel is in the MEPS for two consecutive years and because households are sampled from the same geographic areas in multiple years. However, because MEPS is designed to be nationally representative in every year, multiple sample years can still be pooled. The use of PSUPLD and STRAPLD is necessary to obtain appropriate standard errors by specifying a common variance structure.</p>
Concept:	Technical Variables -- PERSON

Start Position:	40
End Position:	40
Width:	1
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0
Coder Instructions:	CodesPSUPLD is a 1-digit numeric variable. 0: Not in Universe

Variable: "STRATAPLD"

Name:	STRATAPLD
Label:	Pooled variance stratum
Variable Text:	<p>STRATAPLD is the pooled variance sampling strata variable that represents the impact of the sample design stratification on the estimates of variance and standard errors. It is appropriate to use STRATAPLD instead of the annual strata variable (STRATANN) if the years included in a pooled analysis include survey years 1996-2001 or 2019-forward. For pooling data from only 2002-2018, it is appropriate to use the variable STRATANN.</p> <p>For analysis, researchers need to use STRATAPLD in conjunction with PSUPLD to account for stratification and clustering when computing variance estimates with IPUMS MEPS data.</p> <p>STRATAPLD should be used when users wish to pool together (aka combine) more than one year of MEPS annual data including any years before 2002 or after 2018. In most years, MEPS samples are not completely independent from one another, both because each panel is in the MEPS for two consecutive years and because households are sampled from the same geographic areas in multiple years. However, because MEPS is designed to be nationally representative in every year, multiple sample years can still be pooled. The use of STRATAPLD and PSUPLD is necessary to obtain appropriate standard errors by specifying a common variance structure.</p>
Concept:	Technical Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	41
End Position:	44
Width:	4
Variable Format:	numeric

Implied Decimal Places:	0
Coder Instructions:	CodesSTRATAPLD is a 4-digit numeric variable. 0000: Not in Universe

Variable: "PANELYR"

Name:	PANELYR
Label:	Year entered MEPS
Variable Text:	For all persons, PANELYR reports the year that the person started to participate in the MEPS Household Component interviews. PANELYR is identical to YEAR if the person is in their first year of MEPS participation ("relative year 1," captured in RELYR), or the year previous to the one recorded in YEAR if the person is in relative year 2 of the MEPS PANEL. For more information on the relationship between relative year, calendar year, panel, and round data, please see the IPUMS MEPS Panel Design Documentation.
Concept:	Technical Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	45
End Position:	48
Width:	4
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0

Categories													
<table><tr><th>Value</th><th>Label</th></tr><tr><td>1996</td><td>1996</td></tr><tr><td>1997</td><td>1997</td></tr><tr><td>1998</td><td>1998</td></tr><tr><td>1999</td><td>1999</td></tr><tr><td>2000</td><td>2000</td></tr></table>		Value	Label	1996	1996	1997	1997	1998	1998	1999	1999	2000	2000
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2019	2019
2020	2020
2021	2021

Variable: "RELYR"

Name:	RELYR
Label:	Relative year 1 or 2 in panel

Variable Text:	For all persons, RELYR indicates whether they are in their first or second year of participation in the MEPS household component panel. The MEPS panel involves five rounds of interviews over a period of about two years. For more information on the relationship between relative year, calendar year, panel, and round data, please see the IPUMS MEPS Panel Design Documentation.										
Concept:	Technical Variables -- PERSON										
Start Position:	49										
End Position:	49										
Width:	1										
Variable Format:	numeric										
Implied Decimal Places:	0										
Categories											
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Value</th><th>Label</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td><td>Relative year 1</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>Relative year 2</td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>Relative year 3</td></tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>Relative year 4</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Value	Label	1	Relative year 1	2	Relative year 2	3	Relative year 3	4	Relative year 4
Value	Label										
1	Relative year 1										
2	Relative year 2										
3	Relative year 3										
4	Relative year 4										

Variable: "PERWEIGHT"

Name:	PERWEIGHT
Label:	Final basic annual weight
Variable Text:	<p>PERWEIGHT is an IPUMS MEPS-constructed variable based on the Final Person Weight in the original MEPS annual full-year consolidated files. This weight should be used for many cross-sectional analyses at the person level, particularly with variables for which information was collected about all family members. PERWEIGHT represents the inverse probability of selection into the sample, adjusted for non-response with post-stratification adjustments for age, race/ethnicity, and sex using the Census Bureau's population control totals. For each year, the sum of these weights is equal to that year's civilian, non-institutionalized U.S. population.</p> <p>There are instances, however, when the researcher should use a different person-level</p>

	<p>weight, particularly when analyzing variables from the Self-Administered Questionnaire or the Diabetes Care Survey, or when conducting longitudinal analyses with the MEPS data. For example, researchers analyzing variables from the Self-Administered Questionnaire from 2000 forward should use SAQWEIGHT rather than PERWEIGHT.</p> <p>Users should review the documentation for extracted variables--most notably the "Weights" section toward the top of each variable description--to ascertain which weight is the appropriate choice for a given survey year.</p>
Concept:	Technical Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	50
End Position:	61
Width:	12
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	6
Coder Instructions:	CodesPERWEIGHT is a 12-digit numeric variable with 6 implied decimals.

Variable: "SAQWEIGHT"

Name:	SAQWEIGHT
Label:	Self-Administered Questionnaire weight
Variable Text:	<p>SAQWEIGHT is an IPUMS MEPS-constructed variable based on the Final SAQ Weight in the original MEPS annual full-year consolidated files. This weight should be used for many cross-sectional analyses at the person level, particularly with variables for which information was collected about persons selected for the Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ) (see SAQELIG for the person's SAQ eligibility status). For each year, the sum of these weights is equal to that year's civilian, non-institutionalized U.S. population aged 18 and older. SAQWEIGHT adjusts for SAQ non-response.</p> <p>In 2000, SAQWEIGHT also includes weighting information for children under the age of 18 whose parent or guardian completed the Parent Administered Questionnaire (PAQ). For 2000 only, the sum of SAQWEIGHT is equal to the full civilian, non-institutionalized U.S. population. SAQWEIGHT does differ from PERWEIGHT in 2000 because the poststratification age group of 15-19 was partitioned into two groups, 15-17 and 18-19, for SAQWEIGHT to account for the target populations of the SAQ and PAQ.</p> <p>Users should review the documentation for extracted variables, most notably the "Weights" section toward the top of each variable description, to ascertain which weight is the appropriate choice for a given survey year.</p> <p>See the User Notes on the use of sampling weights for additional information.</p>
Concept:	Technical Variables -- PERSON

Start Position:	62
End Position:	73
Width:	12
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	6
Coder Instructions:	CodesSAQWEIGHT is a 12-digit numeric variable with 6 implied decimal places. That is, values of 012345678912 should be interpreted as 12345.678912. The command files delivered with IPUMS extracts automatically divide SAQWEIGHT by 1,000,000, so no further adjustment is needed.

Variable: "DIABWEIGHT"

Name:	DIABWEIGHT
Label:	Diabetes care weight
Variable Text:	<p>For all persons, DIABWEIGHT is an IPUMS MEPS-constructed variable based on the Final Diabetes Care Supplement Weight in the original MEPS annual full-year consolidated files. This weight should be used for many cross-sectional analyses at the person level, particularly with variables for which information was collected about persons selected for the self-administered Diabetes Care Survey (DCS) (individuals who reported that they had ever been told by a health care professional that they had diabetes). DIABWEIGHT adjusts for DCS non-response. For each year, the sum of these weights is equal to that year's estimated U.S. population of civilian, non-institutionalized diabetics aged 18 and older. Only persons who answer "yes" to DCSDIABDX have a positive value for DIABWEIGHT. For more information about the DCS, please see the Diabetes Care Survey user note.</p> <p>Users should review the documentation for extracted variables--most notably the "Weights" section toward the top of each variable description--to ascertain which weight is the appropriate choice for a given survey year.</p>
Concept:	Technical Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	74
End Position:	85
Width:	12
Variable Format:	numeric

Implied Decimal Places:	6
Coder Instructions:	CodesDIABWEIGHT is a 12-digit numeric variable with 6 implied decimal places. That is, a value of 012345678912 should be interpreted as 12345.678912. The command files delivered with IPUMS extracts automatically divide DIABWEIGHT by 1,000,000, so no further adjustment is needed.

Variable: "AGE"

Name:	AGE
Label:	Age
Variable Text:	<p>AGE reports the individual's exact age, calculated from date of birth, as of the last day (12/31) of the survey year.</p> <p>&nbsp; Date of birth and age were asked for each reporting unit member, and then exact age was calculated from date of birth. Where the calculated age and the age provided did not match, inconsistencies were reviewed and resolved. When date of birth was not provided, but age was provided, the month and year of birth were assigned randomly from among the possible valid options. For any cases still not accounted, age was imputed using:</p> <p>(1) the mean age difference between MEPS participants with certain family relationships (where available) or</p> <p>(2) the mean age value for MEPS participants.</p>
Concept:	Core Demographic Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	86
End Position:	88
Width:	3
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0
Coder Instructions:	<p>CodesAGE is a 3-digit-numeric variable.</p> <p>085: Top code for 85 years or older (2001-forward)</p> <p>090: Top code for 90 years or older (1996-2000)</p> <p>996: Missing</p>

Variable: "SEX"

Name:	SEX
Label:	Sex

Variable Text:	<p>SEX indicates whether the person was male or female.</p> <p>Collection of information on SEX in MEPS&nbsp;Data on the sex of each reporting unit (RU) member was determined during the NHIS interview, and was then verified, and, if necessary, corrected during each MEPS interview.</p> <p>If the respondent was a new RU member or their sex was not ascertained in the NHIS interview, MEPS initially used the first name of the respondent to assign their sex. If the first name gave no clear indication of sex, the reported family relationships were used to assign sex. If the sex of the respondent was still unclear, sex was randomly assigned.</p> <p>The NHIS method of ascertaining the sex of the respondent, which primarily informs the MEPS version of SEX, is similar to the MEPS method. First, sex of the respondent was inferred from the individual's first name or family relationships. If the sex of the respondent was unclear, the interviewer was instructed to explicitly ask the person's sex. Beginning in 1998, interviewers were told to "enter your best guess" when the respondent either did not know or refused to answer the direct question that was asked about the person's sex.</p>												
Concept:	Core Demographic Variables -- PERSON												
Start Position:	89												
End Position:	89												
Width:	1												
Variable Format:	numeric												
Implied Decimal Places:	0												
Categories													
<table><tr><th>Value</th><th>Label</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Male</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Female</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>Unknown-refused</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>Unknown-not ascertained</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>Unknown-don't know</td></tr></table>		Value	Label	1	Male	2	Female	7	Unknown-refused	8	Unknown-not ascertained	9	Unknown-don't know
Value	Label												
1	Male												
2	Female												
7	Unknown-refused												
8	Unknown-not ascertained												
9	Unknown-don't know												

Variable: "USBORN"

Name:	USBORN
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Label:	Born in the United States
Variable Text:	<p>For all persons who are not deceased or institutionalized, USBORN indicates whether the respondent was born in the United States (i.e., in one of the 50 states or in the District of Columbia).</p> <p>IPUMS MEPS reports the universe for each variable based on a thorough review of the original MEPS documentation. Investigating the data may reveal cases that do not meet the stated universe. Users are encouraged to validate universes for their analyses.</p> <p>In 2002, 2003, and 2007-2013, USBORN was asked of all persons eligible for the Access to Care section (ACCESSELIG) who were not deceased or institutionalized. The Access to Care section gathers information on usual source of care for all family members, characteristics of usual source of care health providers, and barriers family members have faced in obtaining needed healthcare. From 2002-2013, the Access to Care section also collected information about language and nativity status. Beginning in 2013, USBORN was moved to the Demographic section. Persons in Panel 17 were not asked USBORN in 2013. Instead, their 2012 response to the question from the Access to Care section was simply copied to the 2013 file and persons in Panel 18 were asked USBORN in the Demographic section.</p>
Concept:	Ethnicity/Nativity Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	90
End Position:	91
Width:	2
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0

Categories

Value	Label
10	No
11	No, born in U.S. territory
12	No, born outside U.S. and U.S. territories
20	Yes, born in U.S.
96	NIU
97	Unknown-refused

98	Unknown-not ascertained
99	Unknown-don't know

Variable: "HIDEG"

Name:	HIDEG
Label:	Highest degree completed
Variable Text:	For persons age 16 and older, HIDEG indicates the highest academic degree attained.
Concept:	Education Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	92
End Position:	93
Width:	2
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0

Categories

Value	Label
10	No degree
20	GED
30	High school diploma
40	Bachelor's degree
51	Master's degree
52	Doctorate degree
53	Other degree
96	NIU
97	Unknown--refused

98	Unknown--not ascertained
99	Unknown--don't know

Variable: "WORKEV"

Name:	WORKEV
Label:	Ever worked
Variable Text:	For respondents age 16 and over, WORKEV indicates if the person has ever worked for pay, as of the last day (12/31) of the survey year. This question was asked of everyone who had not previously indicated that they had worked. Those who indicated current employment, or who were employed during any previous rounds, were not asked this question.
Concept:	Work Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	94
End Position:	94
Width:	1
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0

Categories

Value	Label
0	NIU
1	No
2	Yes
7	Unknown-refused
8	Unknown-not ascertained

9

Unknown-don't know

Variable: "INCWAGE"

Name:	INCWAGE
Label:	Wage income
Variable Text:	<p>For all persons, INCWAGE reports the total income they received from wages or salary, tips, commissions, or bonuses during the current calendar year. Using the reported income information, annual income amounts were then edited and imputed for every record on the full-year file. Please refer to the IPUMS user note on Income Data in MEPS for more information on the collection, editing (including top- and bottom-coding), and imputation of income variables in MEPS, as well as changes to the target population for income data collection over time. Users may also be interested in the data quality flag, QINCWAGE, which reports the editing methods used for INCWAGE.</p> <p>If respondents needed more information about what types of income to report as wage and salary income, they were provided with the additional guidance: "This includes all income from wages, salary, commissions, and bonuses and is shown in Box 2 of the tax filer's W-2 form. Tips, scholarships, fellowship grants, and dependent care benefits should also be included." INCWAGE may be edited based on round-level employment data for persons who were both working for pay and reported earning zero dollars of income.</p> <p>Information on the IPUMS defined-universe for this variable&nbsp;Users may wish to note that, while IPUMS defines the universe for this variable as all persons, certain persons were explicitly targeted to answer questions about specific income sources. In addition to the target population of persons who were asked specifically about wage income, all persons in the household were eligible to list additional income from "other" sources, which includes income from sources previously asked about in the survey (such as wage income). It is unclear if wage income reported as an "other" income source is counted in wage income or "other" income. Because all persons could technically report wage income via the "other" income questionnaire item, IPUMS staff report the universe for INCWAGE as being "All Persons." Users may also wish to note that in the original public use MEPS data files, no income variables have cases explicitly coded as out of universe; both persons who directly report earning zero dollars of income from a source and persons who are not explicitly asked about that income source have values of zero.</p>
Concept:	Income Sources Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	95
End Position:	103
Width:	9
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	2

Coder Instructions:	<p>CodesINCWAGE is a 9-digit numeric variable with 2 implied decimals. That is, values of 012345678 should be interpreted as 123456.78. The command files delivered with IPUMS extracts automatically divide INCWAGE by 100, so no further adjustment is needed.</p> <p>9999999.96: Not in Universe 9999999.97: Unknown-refused 9999999.98: Unknown-not ascertained 9999999.99: Unknown-don't know</p>
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Variable: "QINCWAGE"

Name:	QINCWAGE
Label:	Wage income imputation flag
Variable Text:	QINCWAGE is a data quality flag that reports the editing methods for the variable INCWAGE. Please refer to the IPUMS user note on Income Data in MEPS for more information on the collection, editing, and imputation of income variables in MEPS.
Concept:	Income Sources Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	104
End Position:	104
Width:	1
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0

Categories

Value	Label
1	Original response used
2	Bracket converted
3	Missing values set to 0
4	Weeks worked/earnings used
5	Conditional hotdeck

6

Unconditional hotdeck

Notes

Note:

This variable functions as a data quality flag.

Variable: "FOODSTYN"

Name:

FOODSTYN

Label:

Food stamps (SNAP) receipt

Variable Text:

For all persons aged 16 and older, FOODSTYN reports if anyone in the family received benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the state's SNAP name, or from food stamps during the calendar year.

Concept:

Poverty Variables -- PERSON

Start Position:

105

End Position:

105

Width:

1

Variable
Format:

numeric

Implied
Decimal
Places:

0

Categories**Value****Label**

0

NIU

1

No

2

Yes

7

Unknown - Refused

8

Unknown - Not ascertained

9

Unknown -Don't know

Variable: "FILEDYN"

Name:	FILEDYN
Label:	Has filed a federal income tax return
Variable Text:	FILEDYN indicates if the person has filed a federal income tax return for the survey year. This question was asked as part of a series of questions about tax filing. Before being asked these questions, respondents were told it might be useful to have out some of their family's financial records, such as a copy of the family's tax forms or materials used to complete the tax form, such as yearend bank statements, financial summaries, pay stubs, W-2 forms, and the like.
Concept:	Tax Filing Information Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	106
End Position:	106
Width:	1
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0

Categories

Value	Label
0	NIU
1	No
2	Yes
7	Unknown - Refused
8	Unknown - Not ascertained
9	Unknown -Don't know

Variable: "HEALTH"

Name:	HEALTH
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Label:	Health status
Variable Text:	HEALTH rates an individual's general health (as self-reported by the person in question) on a five-point Likert scale, ranging from "excellent" to "poor." HEALTH is one of a set of variables comprising the Veteran's RAND 12-item scale measuring self-rated health, collected on the Adult Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ). For related variables and more information, please see ADDAYA.
Concept:	Health Status Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	107
End Position:	107
Width:	1
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0

Categories

Value	Label
0	NIU
1	Excellent
2	Very Good
3	Good
4	Fair
5	Poor
7	Unknown-refused
8	Unknown-not ascertained
9	Unknown-don't know

Variable: "CANCEREV"

Name:	CANCEREV
Label:	Ever told had cancer
Variable Text:	<p>For persons ages 18 and older who were living at the time of the Round 1 interview, CANCEREV identifies respondents who have been diagnosed with cancer. Respondents were asked if they have ever been told "by a doctor or other health professional that (PERSON) had cancer or a malignancy of any kind?"</p> <p>Beginning in Panel 12, CANCEREV was included as a Priority Condition in the Priority Conditions Enumeration (PE) section. For more information about how the panel design of the MEPS impacts data collection, please see the MEPS Panel Design user note. The PE section was asked in its entirety in Round 1 for all current or institutionalized persons, and in Rounds 2 and 4 only for new reporting unit members. In Rounds 3 and 5, the specific condition questions (except joint pain and chronic bronchitis) were asked only if the person had not reported the condition in a previous round; the joint pain and chronic bronchitis questions were asked in Rounds 3 and 5 for all current or institutionalized persons aged 18 or older, regardless of Round 1, Round 2, and Round 4 responses. However, beginning in 2017, the PE section is no longer asked in Round 5. The conditions included in the PE section are:</p> <p>High blood pressure, including multiple diagnoses (HYPERTENEV)</p> <p>Heart disease (including coronary heart disease, angina, myocardial infarction, and other unspecified heart disease) (CHEARTDIEV)</p> <p>Stroke (STROKEV)</p> <p>Emphysema (EMPHYSEMEV)</p> <p>Chronic Bronchitis</p> <p>High cholesterol, including the age of diagnosis (CHOLHIGHEV, CHOLHIGHAGE)</p> <p>Cancer</p> <p>Diabetes (DIABETICEV)</p> <p>Joint pain</p> <p>Arthritis (ARTHGLUPEV)</p> <p>Asthma (ASTHMAEV)</p> <p>Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder/Attention Deficit Disorder (ADHD/ADD) (ADDEV)</p> <p>These conditions were selected because of their relatively high prevalence, and because generally accepted standards for appropriate clinical care have been developed.</p> <p>Beginning with Panel 12, condition data were collected at the person-by-round level (indicating if the person was ever diagnosed with the condition) and at the condition level. If the person reported having been diagnosed with a condition, the person-by-round variable was set to '1' (Yes) and a condition record for that medical condition was created.</p>
Concept:	Cancer Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	108
End Position:	108

Width:	1														
Variable Format:	numeric														
Implied Decimal Places:	0														
Categories															
<table> <tr> <th>Value</th><th>Label</th></tr> <tr> <td>0</td><td>NIU</td></tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td>No</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr> <td>7</td><td>Unknown-refused</td></tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>Unknown-not ascertained</td></tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>Unknown-don't know</td></tr> </table>		Value	Label	0	NIU	1	No	2	Yes	7	Unknown-refused	8	Unknown-not ascertained	9	Unknown-don't know
Value	Label														
0	NIU														
1	No														
2	Yes														
7	Unknown-refused														
8	Unknown-not ascertained														
9	Unknown-don't know														

Variable: "STROKEAGE"

Name:	STROKEAGE
Label:	Age at first stroke
Variable Text:	<p>For respondents who had ever been told that they have had a stroke (STROKEV), STROKEAGE reports how old the person was when the stroke was first diagnosed.</p> <p>Related Variables&nbsp;STROKEAGE is one of a series of variables reporting age at first diagnosis of specific chronic conditions. Other variables in the series report age at diagnosis of the following conditions:</p> <p>high blood pressure/hypertension (HYPERTENAGE)</p> <p>angina (ANGIPECAGE)</p> <p>heart attack (HEARTATTAGE)</p> <p>coronary heart disease (CHEARTDIAGE)</p> <p>other heart condition (HEARTCONAGE)</p> <p>emphysema (EMPHYSEIMAGE)</p>

	high cholesterol (CHOLHIGHAGE) arthritis (ARTHGLUPAGE) asthma (ASTHMAAGE) adhd/add (ADDAGE)																						
Concept:	Other Conditions Variables -- PERSON																						
Start Position:	109																						
End Position:	110																						
Width:	2																						
Variable Format:	numeric																						
Implied Decimal Places:	0																						
Categories																							
<table><tr><th>Value</th><th>Label</th></tr><tr><td>00</td><td>NIU</td></tr><tr><td>01</td><td>1 year</td></tr><tr><td>02</td><td>2 years</td></tr><tr><td>03</td><td>3 years</td></tr><tr><td>04</td><td>4 years</td></tr><tr><td>05</td><td>5 years</td></tr><tr><td>06</td><td>6 years</td></tr><tr><td>07</td><td>7 years</td></tr><tr><td>08</td><td>8 years</td></tr><tr><td>09</td><td>9 years</td></tr></table>		Value	Label	00	NIU	01	1 year	02	2 years	03	3 years	04	4 years	05	5 years	06	6 years	07	7 years	08	8 years	09	9 years
Value	Label																						
00	NIU																						
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02	2 years																						
03	3 years																						
04	4 years																						
05	5 years																						
06	6 years																						
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88	88 years
89	89 years
90	90 years
91	91 years
92	92 years
93	93 years
94	94 years
95	95 years
96	96 years
97	Unknown-refused
98	Unknown-not ascertained
99	Unknown-don't know

Variable: "HEARTATTAGE"

Name:	HEARTATTAGE
Label:	Heart attack, age at diagnosis
Variable Text:	<p>For respondents who had ever been told that they had a heart attack (HEARTATTEV), HEARTATTAGE reports how old the person was when the heart attack was first diagnosed.</p> <p>Related Variables&nbsp;HEARTATTAGE is one of a series of variables reporting age at first diagnosis of specific chronic conditions. Other variables in the series report age at diagnosis of the following conditions:</p> <p>high blood pressure/hypertension (HYPERTENAGE)</p> <p>coronary heart disease (CHEARTDIAGE)</p> <p>angina (ANGIPECAGE)</p> <p>other heart condition (HEARTCONAGE)</p>

	<p>emphysema (EMPHYSEMAGE)</p> <p>high cholesterol (CHOLHIGHAGE)</p> <p>arthritis (ARTHGLUPAGE)</p> <p>asthma (ASTHMAAGE)</p> <p>adhd/add (ADDAGE)</p>
Concept:	Other Conditions Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	111
End Position:	112
Width:	2
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0
Coder Instructions:	This is a 2-digit numeric variable with 0 implied decimal places

Variable: "CNBLAD"

Name:	CNBLAD
Label:	Ever had cancer: Bladder
Variable Text:	<p>For persons ages 18 and older who have ever been diagnosed as having cancer or a malignancy of any kind (CANCEREV), CNBLAD indicates if the type of cancer diagnosed was cancer of the bladder. CNBLADAG and CNBLAD RMS indicate the age the individual was diagnosed with bladder cancer and whether the cancer is in remission, respectively.</p> <p>AHRQ introduced cancer diagnosis variables to the MEPS in 2008 as part of a series of variables about cancer. All people who indicated that they had been told they had cancer were subsequently asked what kind of cancer they had. From 2008 through 2011, all cancers with a frequency count less than 4 were suppressed from the public data file for confidentiality purposes. Those individuals who indicated having one of the cancers suppressed from the file had their response to CNOTHR ("other type of cancer") recoded to "Yes." For example, information on whether individuals were diagnosed with blood cancer is collected in every year, but the frequency counts only meet the requirements outlined above in 2008 and 2011. So, in 2008 and 2011, there are enough cases of blood cancer for MEPS to release frequencies of blood cancer in the variable CNBLAD, but in every other year, the frequency count of blood cancer cases is too low, and those cases are grouped in CNOTHR.</p> <p>The same recoding process holds for 2012 forward, except that MEPS suppressed from the file the cancers with a frequency count of less than 20 as well as those considered clinically</p>

rare. MEPS defines clinically rare cancers as those that appear on the National Institute of Health's list of rare diseases. For example, blood, bone, esophageal, and kidney cancers were among those included in the 2011 public data file, but were on the 2012 list of clinically rare diseases and therefore suppressed from the 2012 public data file.

Related Variables Other dichotomous variables in this series identify sample adults mentioning the following types of cancer:

Blood cancer (CNBLOD)

Bone cancer (CNBONE)

Brain cancer (CNBRAN)

Breast cancer (CNBRES)

Cervical cancer (CNCERV)

Colon cancer (CNCOLN)

Esophageal cancer (CNESOP)

Kidney cancer (CNKIDN)

Larynx-windpipe cancer (CNLARX)

Leukemia (CNLEUK)

Liver cancer (CNLIVR)

Lung cancer (CNLUNG)

Lymphoma (CNLYMP)

Melanoma (CNMELN)

Mouth, lip, or tongue cancer (CNMOTH)

Other cancer (CNOTHR)

Ovarian cancer (CNOVAR)

Pancreatic cancer (CNPANC)

Prostate cancer (CNPROS)

Rectal cancer (CNRECT)

Skin cancer, non-melanoma (CNSKNM)

	<div>Skin cancer, unknown type (CNSKDK)</div> <div>Soft tissue (muscle or fat) cancer (CNSOFT)</div> <div>Stomach cancer (CNSTOM)</div> <div>Testicular cancer (CNTEST)</div> <div>Throat-pharynx cancer (CNTHRO)</div> <div>Thyroid cancer (CNTHYR)</div> <div>Uterine cancer (CNUTER)</div>														
Concept:	Cancer Variables -- PERSON														
Start Position:	113														
End Position:	113														
Width:	1														
Variable Format:	numeric														
Implied Decimal Places:	0														
Categories															
<table><tr><th>Value</th><th>Label</th></tr><tr><td>0</td><td>NIU</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Not mentioned</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Mentioned</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>Unknown-refused</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>Unknown-not ascertained</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>Unknown-don't know</td></tr></table>		Value	Label	0	NIU	1	Not mentioned	2	Mentioned	7	Unknown-refused	8	Unknown-not ascertained	9	Unknown-don't know
Value	Label														
0	NIU														
1	Not mentioned														
2	Mentioned														
7	Unknown-refused														
8	Unknown-not ascertained														
9	Unknown-don't know														

Variable: "DIAPILLS"

Name:	DIAPILLS
Label:	Now taking diabetic pills
Variable Text:	<p>For all persons given the Diabetes Care Survey (DCS) and have been told by a doctor or health professional that they have diabetes, DIAPILLS indicates whether or not the respondent's diabetes is being treated by medications taken by mouth.</p> <p>DIAPILLS is one of a set of variables comprising the DCS, a supplemental, self-administered pencil-and-paper survey about how respondents treat their diabetes. For related variables and more information, please see DIACONF.</p>
Concept:	Diabetes Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	114
End Position:	114
Width:	1
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0

Categories

Value	Label
0	NIU
1	No
2	Yes
7	Unknown-refused
8	Unknown-not ascertained
9	Unknown-don't know

Variable: "AEFFORT"

Name:	AEFFORT
Label:	Felt everything an effort, past 30 days (adults)

Variable Text:	<p>For sample adults, AEFFORT reports responses to the question, "During the past 30 days, how often did you feel that everything was an effort?"</p> <p>Related Variables</p> <p>AEFFORT is one of a series of six variables whose responses can be summed as a scale measuring nonspecific psychological distress over a 30-day recall period. This scale, developed by Ronald C. Kessler and known as the Kessler 6 Scale (K6), asks about six manifestations of nonspecific psychological distress.</p> <p>&nbsp;Kessler's instrument asks how often, during the past 30 days, the respondent felt:</p> <p>So sad that nothing could cheer you up? (ASAD)</p> <p>Nervous? (ANERVOUS)</p> <p>Restless or fidgety? (ARESTLESS)</p> <p>Hopeless? (AHOPELESS)</p> <p>That everything was an effort? (AEFFORT)</p> <p>Worthless? (AWORTHLESS)</p> <p>As noted above, acceptable responses fell into five categories, ranging from "none of the time" to "all of the time." Scoring Variables&nbsp;Kessler recommends scoring the scale by assigning 0 to 4 points for each of the six questions, based on the reported frequency of the feelings (i.e., 0 for "none of the time"; 1 for "a little of the time"; 2 for "some of the time"; 3 for "most of the time"; and 4 for "all of the time"). The range for summed responses on the K6 Scale is thus 0 to 24, with 0 suggesting the lowest level of nonspecific psychological distress, and 24 suggesting the highest level of nonspecific psychological distress. According to the scoring criteria proposed by Kessler, persons with a score of 13 or greater are likely to be experiencing severe mental illness.</p> <p>The summed score is reported in K6SUM.</p>				
Concept:	Adult Mental Health Variables -- PERSON				
Start Position:	115				
End Position:	115				
Width:	1				
Variable Format:	numeric				
Implied Decimal Places:	0				
Categories					
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Value</th><th>Label</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0</td><td>None of the time</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Value	Label	0	None of the time
Value	Label				
0	None of the time				

1	A little of the time
2	Some of the time
3	Most of the time
4	All of the time
6	NIU
7	Unknown-refused
8	Unknown-not ascertained
9	Unknown-don't know

Variable: "AHOPELESS"

Name:	AHOPELESS
Label:	How often felt hopeless, past 30 days (adults)
Variable Text:	<p>For sample adults, AHOPELESS reports responses to the question, "During the past 30 days, how often did you feel hopeless?"</p> <p>Related Variables</p> <p>AHOPELESS is one of a series of six variables whose responses can be summed as a scale measuring nonspecific psychological distress over a 30-day recall period. This scale, developed by Ronald C. Kessler and known as the Kessler 6 Scale (K6), asks about six manifestations of nonspecific psychological distress.</p> <p>&nbsp;Kessler's instrument asks how often, during the past 30 days, the respondent felt:</p> <p>So sad that nothing could cheer you up? (ASAD)</p> <p>Nervous? (ANERVOUS)</p> <p>Restless or fidgety? (ARESTLESS)</p> <p>Hopeless? (AHOPELESS)</p> <p>That everything was an effort? (AEFFORT)</p> <p>Worthless? (AWORTHLESS)</p> <p>As noted above, acceptable responses fell into five categories, ranging from "none of the time" to "all of the time." Scoring Variables&nbsp;Kessler recommends scoring the scale by assigning 0 to 4 points for each of these six questions, based on the reported frequency of the feelings (i.e., 0 for "none of the time"; 1 for "a little of the time"; 2 for "some of the time"; 3 for "most of the time"; and 4 for "all of the time"). The range for summed responses on the K6 Scale is thus 0 to 24, with 0 suggesting the lowest level of nonspecific psychological distress, and 24 suggesting the highest level of nonspecific psychological distress. According to the scoring criteria proposed by Kessler, persons with a score of 13 or greater are likely to be experiencing severe mental illness.</p> <p>The summed score is reported in K6SUM.</p>

Concept:	Adult Mental Health Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	116
End Position:	116
Width:	1
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0

Categories

Value	Label
0	None of the time
1	A little of the time
2	Some of the time
3	Most of the time
4	All of the time
6	NIU
7	Unknown-refused
8	Unknown-not ascertained
9	Unknown-don't know

Variable: "ANERVOUS"

Name:	ANERVOUS
Label:	How often felt nervous, past 30 days (adults)
Variable Text:	For sample adults, ANERVOUS reports responses to the question, "During the past 30 days, how often did you feel nervous?" Related Variables

ANERVOUS is one of a series of six variables whose responses can be summed as a scale measuring nonspecific psychological distress over a 30-day recall period. This scale, developed by Ronald C. Kessler and known as the Kessler 6 Scale (K6), asks about six manifestations of nonspecific psychological distress.

 Kessler's instrument asks how often, during the past 30 days, the respondent felt:

So sad that nothing could cheer you up? (ASAD)

Nervous? (ANERVOUS)

Restless or fidgety? (ARESTLESS)

Hopeless? (AHOPELESS)

That everything was an effort? (AEFFORT)

Worthless? (AWORTHLESS)

As noted above, acceptable responses fell into five categories, ranging from "none of the time" to "all of the time." Scoring Variables Kessler recommends scoring the scale by assigning 0 to 4 points for each of these six questions, based on the reported frequency of the feelings (i.e., 0 for "none of the time"; 1 for "a little of the time"; 2 for "some of the time"; 3 for "most of the time"; and 4 for "all of the time"). The range for summed responses on the K6 Scale is thus 0 to 24, with 0 suggesting the lowest level of nonspecific psychological distress, and 24 suggesting the highest level of nonspecific psychological distress. According to the scoring criteria proposed by Kessler, persons with a score of 13 or greater are likely to be experiencing severe mental illness.

The summed score is reported in K6SUM.

Concept: Adult Mental Health Variables -- PERSON

Start Position: 117

End Position: 117

Width: 1

Variable Format: numeric

Implied Decimal Places: 0

Categories

Value	Label
0	None of the time
1	A little of the time
2	Some of the time

3	Most of the time
4	All of the time
6	NIU
7	Unknown-refused
8	Unknown-not ascertained
9	Unknown-don't know

Variable: "CHGTOT"

Name:	CHGTOT
Label:	Annual total of charges for health care
Variable Text:	<p>For all persons, CHGTOT captures the sum of fully established charges for care received during the year, excluding those for prescribed medicines. This variable does not usually reflect actual payments made for services, which can be substantially lower due to factors such as negotiated discounts, bad debt, and free care. For more information on how MEPS collects expenditure and charge data, please refer to our user note on medical expenditures.</p> <p>Related variables Variables related to total annual health care charges by source of payment, total annual health care charges by type of medical service, and analogous information for health care expenditures are also available. Please refer to our user note on medical expenditures for a list of these variables.</p>
Concept:	Total Expenditures Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	118
End Position:	124
Width:	7
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0
Coder Instructions:	CodesCHGTOT is a 6-digit numeric variable.

Variable: "ERTOTVIS"

Name:	ERTOTVIS
Label:	Annual total number of visits made to the emergency room
Variable Text:	<p>For all persons, ERTOTVIS captures the total number of emergency room medical provider visits during the year. These are encounters that took place primarily in emergency room settings and clinics, and include visits to both physician and non-physician providers. For a small proportion of sample persons, the sum of the physician and non-physician visit variables is less than the total number of emergency room visits because ERTOTVIS contains reported visits where the respondent did not know the type of provider.</p> <p>Related variables Summary variables related to the total number of emergency room medical encounters are also available broken down by the type of medical provider seen, including physicians, non-physicians, chiropractors, nurse practitioners, optometrists, physician assistants, and physical or occupational therapists.</p>
Concept:	Emergency Room Visits Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	125
End Position:	130
Width:	6
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0

Variable: "HPTOTDIS"

Name:	HPTOTDIS
Label:	Annual total number of hospital discharges
Variable Text:	<p>For all persons, HPTOTDIS captures the total number of hospital discharges the person had during the current calendar year. HPTOTDIS includes hospitalizations where the person was discharged the same day that they were admitted ("zero-night stays," ZNTOTVIS) and hospitalizations where the person spent one or more nights in the hospital before being discharged. To obtain the total number of hospitalizations where persons spent at least one night in the hospital, analysts can subtract ZNTOTVIS from HPTOTDIS.</p>
Concept:	Hospitalizations Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	131
End	136

Position:	
Width:	6
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0

Variable: "DVEXPTOT"

Name:	DVEXPTOT
Label:	Sum of expenditures for dental care received during the year
Variable Text:	<p>For all persons, DVEXPTOT captures the sum of direct payments for dental care, including care provided by general dentists, dental hygienists, dental technicians, dental surgeons, orthodontists, endodontists, and periodontists provided during the year, including out-of-pocket payments and payments by private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, and other sources. Payments for over-the-counter drugs and indirect payments not related to specific medical events, such as Medicaid Disproportionate Share and Medicare Direct Medical Education subsidies, are not included in this amount. For more information on how MEPS collects expenditure data, please refer to our user note on medical expenditures.</p> <p> For a small proportion of sample persons, the sum of the general dentist (DVGTTOTVIS) and orthodontist visit (DVOTOTVIS) variables may not be equal to the total number of dental visits. This result can only occur for persons who were reported to have seen both a general dentist and orthodontist in the same visit(s). When this occurred, expenditures for the visit were included as orthodontist expenses (DVOEXTOT) but not as general dentist expenses (DVGEXTOT).Related variables</p> <p>Variables related to total annual health care expenditures by source of payment, total annual health care expenditures by type of medical service, and total annual health care charges are also available. Please refer to our user note on expenditures for a list of these variables.</p>
Concept:	Dental Expenditures Variables -- PERSON
Start Position:	137
End Position:	142
Width:	6
Variable Format:	numeric
Implied Decimal Places:	0