

How to Read in Your PUF Data

If you have used the SAS, SPSS, or STATA scripts for previous analyses using PUF data, do not re-use the old scripts for new PUF data. Please use the new script provided in your download, as the alignment of the variables has changed, and new variables have been added. Please note we no longer provide STATA scripts.

NCDB PUF data files are provided to investigators in a flat text file format and can be read with any standard statistical software package of the investigator's choosing. Refer to the Quick Start Data Structure document for variable lengths, and labels, if you use software other than SAS or SPSS, and need to create your own script.

Included in your zip folder that you have just downloaded are "parsing" scripts for SAS and SPSS. These files permit investigators to import the PUF file and assign value and variable labels. The item and variable names in the scripts are the same as those documented in the online PUF Data Dictionary.

Investigators must have SAS or SPSS/PASW software installed on your computer to be able to use these scripts. The syntax in these scripts is applicable only to files from the PUF 2004-2021 PUF. If you have more than one PUF data file, you will have to use this process for each data file.

The first step is to save the data file (the .dat file) somewhere that isn't a downloads or temporary folder. Then follow the instructions for the software you will be using.

SAS Instructions:

To use this script, modify the line in the SAS syntax that reads *LIBNAME library 'Z:\MyData'* so that the text *'Z:\MyData'* instead contains the location in which you want the SAS labels library to be saved. Now modify the line that reads *INFILE 'Z:\MyData\NCDBPUF_X.X.20XX.0.dat'* so that *Z:\MyData* instead has the path file where your .dat file is saved, and the text *NCDBPUF_X.X.20XX.0* has the actual name of the .dat file.

SPSS Instructions:

To use this script, modify the line in the SPSS syntax that reads */FILE = 'Z:\MYDATA\NCDBPUF_XXX.X.20XX.0.dat'* so that the text *Z:\MyData* instead has the location where your .dat file is saved, and the text *NCDBPUF_X.X.20XX.0* has the actual name.

IMPORTANT: Please read in and save every one of your .dat files with the software you will

be using to analyze the data now to ensure that the data files were properly downloaded. If

you have any issues reading in the data, please contact ncdb_puf@facs.org as soon as

possible.