



Working together. Saving lives.

700 North 4th Street, Richmond, VA 23219
P.O. Box 2484, Richmond, VA 23218
tel: 804-782-4800
fax: 804-782-4816
www.unos.org

Brian M. Shepard
Executive Director & CEO

TO: UNOS STAR File Requestor
FROM: UNOS Research Department
RE: STAR File Documentation
Date: September 2014

This document explains how to use the [STAR File Documentation.xls](#) which is located within the **IMPORTANT DOCUMENTATION** folder. This is the data file documentation or data dictionary for using the files, variables, and lookup values/SAS formats located on the disc.

The first worksheet, “**Contents**”, provides links to [all of the worksheets](#) and the name of each worksheet with a [description of the contents for each file](#).

The second worksheet, “**File formats**”, provides a description of the formats within each folder (zipped on disc). See “Recommended use” for suggested data format.

Every disc contains the following folders:

- Delimited Text File (.DAT extension)
 - Tab delimited file
- SAS Dataset (.sas7bcat extension)
 - SAS raw file (v9.03.01M2)

One of the following folders is included, depending on software selected at time of request:

- SAS CPORT File (.CPT extension)
 - SAS transport file
- SAS Export to STATA (.DTA extension)
 - SAS file exported to STATA

The third worksheet, “**Main Documentation**”, provides information about the main folders and files within each main folder (Delimited Text File, SAS Dataset, SAS CPORT File, and SAS Export to STATA). The column “FILE NAME” lists every file available and hyperlinks to the corresponding worksheet within the workbook. Each corresponding worksheet includes the variables, data collection details, and SAS formats or lookup values specific to the individual file.

For example, the first file listed, “DECEASED_DONOR_DATA”, links to the worksheet “DECEASED_DONOR_DATA”. “KIDPAN_DATA” links to the worksheet “KIDPAN_DATA”.

On the linked worksheet “KIDPAN_DATA”, the variable name, description, form section, variable start date, variable end date, data type, SAS analysis format (or lookup values), SAS system data length, SAS format, SAS variable label, and any additional comments with information about the field are provided.

The fourth worksheet, **“Formats (Lookup Values)”** provides information about the folder named **“CODE DICTIONARY – FORMATS”**. This folder includes SAS format values or lookup values for variables. The **“FILE NAME”** column links to the worksheets with the workbook including the same information found within the folder (Data Field Formatted Value, SAS analysis format, data type, and Data Field Value).

For example, the KIDPAN_DATA formats are included in the KIDPAN_FORMATS_FLATFILE worksheet and file. If the variable on the KIDPAN_DATA file lists a SAS analysis format, the lookup value is located within the KIDPAN_FORMATS_FLATFILE. The variable ABO_MAT lists the SAS analysis format \$ABOMAT. The data field values of ‘ ‘, ‘1’, ‘2’, ‘3’ match to formatted values of ‘Unknown’, ‘Identical’, ‘Compatible’, and ‘Incompatible’.

Note: All format files are located on the worksheet **“Formats (Lookup Values)”** and in the folder named **“CODE DICTIONARY – FORMATS”**.

The remaining worksheets include all the individual files and formats linked in other worksheets.

If you have any questions, please email STARFile@unos.org or call 804-782-2970 and leave a message. (Email is preferred method of contact as the mailbox is monitored daily by Research staff.)

Special Considerations When Using OPTN Data in a Manuscript (including Abstracts) or Presentation

- 1. Citing Data Obtained Through the Data Request System.** Please cite in the text or graphic presentation, the date and source of the data. This information can be found on the cover of DVD, and on the DVD label itself. For example, “Based on OPTN data as of October 12, 2012.” Additionally, please add the following statement as an acknowledgment: “This work was supported in part by Health Resources and Services Administration contract 234-2005-370011C. The content is the responsibility of the authors alone and does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.”
- 2. IRB Approval.** If these data are to be used as part of a presentation or manuscript (including abstracts), you must check with your institution to see whether IRB approval (expedited or otherwise) is required.

Please note: The UNOS Research Department requests that any UNOS staff member who makes a significant intellectual contribution to a study abstract, presentation, or manuscript be offered the opportunity to be included as an author. UNOS staff may not be listed as study authors without obtaining written permission from the appropriate staff member(s).