A Panel Study of Income Dynamics:
2005 Parent Identification File Documentation

(Version 2)

Survey Research Center

Institute for Social Research
The University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section I: Overview of the 2005 Parent Identification File
Sources of Parental Identifier Information
How to Obtain the File and Whom to Contact About Questions

Section II: Structure of the File
Number of Records
Sort Order of the File
Variables on the File

Section III: Idiosyncracies, Data Cleaning and Variable Detail

Section IV: Linking Records

Section V: Codebook

Section I: Overview of the 2005 Parent Identification File

The Parent Identification File synopsizes information collected about parent-child relationships from various sources since the 1983 wave of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID). This file consists of identifier variables that link children with their parents.

The data records are short. They contain relevant identifiers for the child, his or her birth and adoptive parents, and information source indicators. The file is intended to be used to facilitate linking children's and parents' data records from the 1968-2005 Individual File. Linkages can be done from either the child's or a parent's standpoint.

Sources of Parental Identifier Information

Parent-child information has been collected in many different ways since the PSID began, and this file exploits most of those sources.

For the 1983 and 1984 waves, interviewers were asked to indicate the names of birth mothers on the family listings for each person then associated with a responding family unit. The information was checked by PSID staff, and the mothers' identifiers were coded during family composition editing. Beginning in 1985 and continuing through the present, retrospective childbirth and adoption histories have been asked for many individuals. See the 1968-2005 Childbirth and Adoption History File documentation for details about qualifying persons.

In the 1988 wave, a supplement about time and money help given to and received by the family was added to the usual questionnaire schedule. Part of this supplement included collecting the names of the Head's and Wife's/"Wife's" parents, regardless of whether any transfer of help had occurred. Some of the parents were or had been PSID family members, but others had never been part of the study. During family composition

editing, individual identifiers were assigned to each of the parents. If a parent had ever been in the study, then his or her identifiers were coded; a "new" parent was given his or her own unique values. These unique identifiers for all parents of the 1988 Head and Wife/"Wife" were never released by the PSID, although the 1988 Family File includes a lot of information about those parents and their assets and a concurrent linking identifier to the parents' family data if they were response in 1988.

In a related piece of the 1988 supplement, individual identifiers were coded for other people outside the family unit who had given or received help. Some of these individuals were children of the Head or Wife/"Wife". Data for all givers and receivers, including records and identifiers for parents and children, were released as the 1988 Time and Money Transfers File.

Interviewers' thumbnail sketches and marginal notes can be precious sources of incidental information about family relationships. They have been remarkably useful to PSID staff during family composition editing for unusual cases in which youngsters, e.g., grandchildren, appear in a family unit but for whom no parental acknowledgement exists on the Childbirth and Adoption History File. Since PSID samplehood depends on ancestral antecedents (staff have termed this "carrying the sample gene"), knowledge of parentage is crucial in determining sample membership and followability. Beginning in 1996, staff have been coding parental identifiers for some individuals whose progenitors were not established through the birth history reports but were named in interviewer notes.

In a procedure related to the PSID's Child Development Supplement (CDS) in 1997 and continued for 1999, interviewers were instructed to indicate mother and/or father for each child in the family unit if the parent was included in the same family unit. This information was used to determine whether a CDS absent parent interview was called for, and additionally to invoke a set of questions about child support if one or both parents were not part of the same family unit as the child. In 1999 these questions were not used for additional data such as child support or the CDS, but they provided some verification of parenthood and are being continued in anticipation of future waves of CDS.

The 1997 child support sequences identified the person in the family who received support for a co-resident child, usually a parent. Additionally, they included asking whether any family member was responsible for children who were not currently co-resident in the family unit. If such a family member existed, then he or she was identified, and the names of the children were collected. During 1997 family composition editing, individual identifiers were assigned to the children.

A large source of potential information about parents is the annual relationship to head coding on the cross-year individual files. As of this writing, the PSID has not yet plumbed these variables to generate and check child-parent pairs; the huge potential for individual file cleaning was beyond our present means. However, we do plan to use this source of information. When this is done, the information will be integrated into the Parent Identification File.

How to Obtain the File and Whom to Contact About Questions

The 2005 Parent Identification File is available through the Internet. The URL (Uniform Resource Locator), or location of the PSID home page, is:

http://www.psidonline.isr.umich.edu

If you have questions that are not answered by this documentation, you can contact PSID staff through our website; click on "Contact Us" under "PSID Guide" on our home page.

Section II: Structure of the File

Number of Records

The 2005 Parent Identification File contains a total of 81,257 records. Included are all individuals from the 1968-2005 Individual File and, additionally, records for known children from the Childbirth and Adoption File and the 1988 Time and Money Transfers File. Children in this latter group have never been included in a PSID family.

Sort Order of the File

The file is sorted, in ascending order, by "1968 Interview Number of Individual" (PID1) and "Person Number of Individual" (PID2). These two variables taken together constitute a unique identifier for each person and record.

Variables on the File

The file contains 30 variables. Besides the pair of identifier variables for the child, four more sets of parental identifiers are present, one set each for birth and adoptive mothers and fathers. Variables indicating the source of the parental information are also included.

Child-specific information:

PID1	1968 Interview Number of Individual
PID2	Person Number of Individual

Mother-specific information:

PID3	1968 Interview Number of Birth Mother
PID4	Person Number of Birth Mother
PID5	1968 Interview Number of Adoptive Mother
PID6	Person Number of Adoptive Mother
PID7	Wtr Birth Mom Coded in 1983/84 IW
PID8	Wtr Birth Mom Coded in Fam Comp
PID9	Wtr Adoptive Mom Coded in Fam Comp
PID10	Wtr Mom Indicated by Interviewer
PID11	Wtr Mom Coded as 1997 Support Receiver
PID12	Wtr Mom Coded as 1997 Support Payer

PID13 Wtr Mom Coded in 1988 Parent Supp
PID14 Wtr Mom from 1988 Time/Money Supp
PID15 Wtr Birth Mom Record in Birth History
PID16 Wtr Adoptive Mom Record in Birth History

Father-specific information:

PID17 1968 Interview Number of Birth Father
PID18 Person Number of Birth Father
PID19 1968 Interview Number of Adoptive Father
PID20 Person Number of Adoptive Father
PID21 Wtr Birth Dad Coded in Fam Comp
PID22 Wtr Adoptive Dad Coded in Fam Comp
PID23 Wtr Dad Indicated by Interviewer
PID24 Wtr Dad Coded as 1997 Support Receiver
PID25 Wtr Dad Coded as 1997 Support Payer
PID26 Wtr Dad Coded in 1988 Parent Supp
PID27 Wtr Dad from 1988 Time/Money Supp
PID28 Wtr Birth Dad Record in Birth History
PID29 Wtr Adoptive Dad Record in Birth History

Other Variable:

PID30 Release Number

Section III: Idiosyncracies, Data Cleaning and Variable Detail

Some people whose existence has been reported by PSID respondents do not have a record on this file. These "missing persons" are forever-absent spouses who have never been named as children by anyone in the study, and some other individuals (e.g., siblings, nephews or nieces, grandchildren) listed in the 1988 Time and Money Transfers File.

Of the 81,257 individuals who do have records on the Parent Identification File, approximately two thirds of the records contain identifiers for at least one natural or adoptive parent. Some of the remaining individuals, those with no identified parent, will acquire known parents in future waves.

Parent and child identifiers from the various sources were checked against each other for inconsistent parent reports. In addition, because the parent identifiers are gender-specific, they were checked against the Individual File's Sex of Individual variable, V32000 (or ER32000).

Parental reports from the Childbirth and Adoption History File and parent coding by PSID staff in 1983-1984 and anecdotally from 1996 onward differentiate between birth and adoptive parents, but none of the other sources specify whether a reported parent is biological or adoptive. For the purpose of file creation, all parents were assumed to be birth parents unless contradicted by one of the differentiated sources.

The 2005 Parent Identification File matches the 1968-2005 Public Release I Individual File exactly. If you attempt to merge the 2005 PIF with an earlier release, some cases on the Individual File will NOT match and may ascribe erroneous parent information to a person! See the next section for

details.

Section IV: Linking Records

The Parent Identification File is designed to be linked to PSID Individual data for analysis purposes. The Parent Identification File consists only of identifiers for child and parent, plus the dummy variables indicating sources of reports. The analyst most definitely must access the substantive data available for many of these individuals on the Family and Individual Files. Those files can provide abundant information for many individuals dating back to 1968 when the PSID began, but for others the span of available data is more limited or nonexistent.

When matching the 2005 Parent Identification File to individual data, only the 1968-2005 Individual File should be used. During file merging and cleaning, a number of unique individual identifiers were corrected. Special care was taken to ensure perfect correspondence in individual identifiers between this file, the 1985-2005 Childbirth and Adoption History File, and the 1968-2005 Individual File.

Because of the corrections, do not attempt to match this file with any other PSID data file or a subset derived therefrom using these identifiers. Non-matches in individual records definitely will occur if any other file besides the above-named is used.

Data processing is required to link records between these two files. To accomplish linkages, one must match on the unique individual-specific identifier. This unique identifier is a combination of two variables: "1968 Family Interview Number" and "Person Number" (e.g., PID1 and PID2 for a child). The corresponding variables for this unique identifier on the cross-year Individual File are V30001 and V30002 (or ER30001 and ER30002). In doing this matching, care must be taken with regard to the proper files to use and the choice of individuals on the Parent Identification File for whom matches are attempted.

Children and parents vary substantially in terms of which years they have been present in PSID family units over the course of the study. Even though people have records on the 1968-2005 Individual File, that file does not necessarily contain data for them for all years of the study. Some first entered the study in, e.g., 1990, and thus only have data since that year. Others have logged more than 30 years of inclusion in the study.

This affects the availability of data for them on the main files because valid information is available on those files only in the years that the individual is present in a PSID family unit. For more details about PSID tracking procedures and classification of people into family units, see the discussion in Section 8 on "Family Composition and Change", p. 55, in A PANEL STUDY OF INCOME DYNAMICS: A USER'S GUIDE, by Martha Hill (Sage Publications, 1992).

If a person, either child or parent, has a record on the 1968-2005 Individual File but less than the full 34-wave range of data in that record, variables in the waves when he or she was not present in a PSID family unit mostly contain zero values, and the individual-level variable

"Type of Individual Data Record" in that year indicates that he or she is nonresponse. As noted among the cautions in Section III, many children and parents do not have records on that file, since indeed they have never been in a PSID family unit at any time during the course of the study. Parents or children who have been present in a PSID family at some time since the study began have Person Number values in the range 001-399. Those who have never been present have values of 900-996.

For persons with records on both the Parent Identification File and the Individual File, linkages rely on a match of individual-specific identifier variables that appear on both files. As noted earlier, the unique identifier involves two variables: "1968 Family Interview Number" and "Person Number". The corresponding set of variables on the two files must match for proper linkage to an individual's records from the two sources. The variable names for these two variables are V30001 and V30002 (or ER30001 and ER30002) on the Individual File. On the Parent Identification File, they are PID1 and PID2, respectively, for the child and PID3 and PID4, PID5 and PID6, PID17 and PID18, or PID19 and PID20 for a parent.

Section V: Codebook

The item-by-item descriptions for all of the variables in the Parent Identification File follow. Unweighted frequencies were calculated for each variable.