

January, 2016

PANEL STUDY OF INCOME DYNAMICS
1994 PUBLIC RELEASE I FAMILY FILE

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Release 6 notes: January 2016: Added generated variables splitoff indicator (ER2005F), 1968 Family Identifier (ER2005G), Collapsed Beale Code (ER4157F), Number of Individual records (ER2005H), DE1 Checkpoint (ER2561A) and F1 Checkpoint (ER3054A). In addition we corrected the top code amount for A20 (ER2033) and A21 (ER2033) to match the codebook values.

Release 5 notes: December 2013: Added generated variables such as Family Composition Change (ER2005A), DUFU variables (ER4159F-ER4159R), Splitoff variables (ER4159D-ER4159E), Births to HD/WF/OFUM (ER4159S-ER4159V), Generated Marital Status (ER4159A), Change in Marital Status (ER4159B), Couple status of Head (ER4159C), Region where HD grew up (ER4157C), Head Geographic Mobility (ER4157D), and Current Region (ER4157E). Interview length, mode of interview, language of interview, calls for iw (ER2005B-ER2005E). Added additional KL variables that were missing: L2 State Father Grew up (ER3917A), L3 State Mother Grew up (ER3917B), and L8 State Head Grew up (ER3919A). Brought forward the background section for old Heads and Wives in section KL. Added missing variable E66A UNEMPLOYED FEB (ER2932A).

I. Introduction

A. What's New for 1994

Questions about the number of persons employed at Head and/or Wife's/"Wife's" work location (BD11b) and the number of persons employed at all locations of Head and/or Wife's/"Wife's" employer (BD11c) were dropped for 1994.

Release 4 of the 1994 Public Release I Family File incorporates variables that had been available previously in supplemental files: Head and Wife/"Wife" occupation and industry codes, reason a job ended, industry codes for businesses owned, Head and Wife/"Wife" field of certificates earnings, Head's father's occupation, Head's first occupation, Head and Wife/"Wife" work hours and work weeks, Head, Wife/"Wife" annual income variables, needs standards, state code, completed education of Head and Wife/"Wife", and a recalculated 1994 core family longitudinal weight (for details about the construction of this weight, go to the PSID website, psidonline.isr.umich.edu: select 'Data & Documentation', then select 'Sample Weights', then 'PSID Longitudinal Weights;', and 'PSID Revised Longitudinal Weights 1993-2005').

1. Wealth Supplement

For the most part, the wealth questions in the 1994 wealth supplement parallel those included in the 1984 and 1989 questionnaires. When combined with information on holdings of wealth in 1984 and 1989, these questions provide data on household saving over the ten-year period.

2. Head's Military Service Supplement

A series of questions about their experiences on active duty in the military were asked about male Heads.

3. Expectations Questions

Head or Wife/"Wife" were asked about the chances of various events happening to them. The questions covered expectations about events such as longevity, giving and receiving financial help, leaving an inheritance, moving to a nursing home, and working.

II. Characteristics

The 1994 Public Release I Family Data file contains almost 11,000 data records. Data from the Core and Latino samples are included.

Beginning with the 1993 wave, the data were collected using CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing). This means that information about each question is collected electronically by the interviewer and in effect is coded at the time of collection. Because of the way in which questions are asked and responses are given, the data much more closely resemble answers to questionnaire questions. For example, rent costs now exist as two variables: one for the dollar amount and one for the time unit, e.g., \$400 per month and \$100 per week are typical of responses to the question about rent payments.

Beginning with the 1990 data, we faced problems with our merged record formats, i.e., the cross-year distribution files would exceed a logical record length of 32,767, the maximum allowed on most systems

(including our own). So, in contrast to the structure of the cross-year family and cross-year family-individual files issued prior to 1990, family-level data files have NOT been merged across waves to form a single data record. Thus the analyst must merge the necessary information from the appropriate files. This is not difficult since the needed family identification numbers appear both in the cross-year individual file and in the single-year family data files. Detailed instructions for the merging process are located in the 1990 through 1992 family documentation and are not repeated here.

A. Variable Numbers, Positions and Generated Variables

All variable numbers for both family public release I file are prefaced with "ER", rather than "V", to assist both users and study staff in the future to determine whether reference is to the early release. The 1994 public release I family-level variables are in the range ER2001 through ER4162

Background information is not asked about Heads and Wives/"Wives" each and every year. We ask the questions about new Heads and new Wives/"Wives" only. If a female Head marries and becomes a Wife, then she is re-asked the background information, and her new husband, the Head, is also asked. During processing, we have traditionally brought forward the background information from previous waves for Heads or Wives/"Wives" who are the same persons as in the prior year. In every wave, each set of background variables is preceded by a variable indicating whether data need to be brought forward.

For Release 5, the background section has been brought forward for all Heads and Wives/"Wives".

B. Documentation and Codes

The codebook for the 1994 Public Release I Family File is part of the zip package, and is titled FAM1994ER_CODEBOOK.PDF. Unweighted frequencies are to the left of the variable codeframes in the codebook.

In general, codes follow our traditional structure, although "don't know" responses are now largely distinguished from other missing data responses. If the questionnaire does not indicate otherwise, code 8 (or 98 or 998, etc.) represents "don't know" and code 9 represents a refusal or other missing data. Inappropriate questions are padded with zeroes. A few fields contained non-numeric characters, and these have also been converted to zeros for the early release file. If a variable contains a code value that is neither included in the questionnaire nor one of the zero, eight or nine codes just mentioned, assume missing data for that value. We will clean such cases for final release, but time constraints do not permit this sort of cleaning for early release. The inevitable exception: codes 21 through 24 for month variables in event dating questions were not printed in the questionnaire but were used throughout the CATI application to indicate mentions of season only. These codes follow:

21. DK month, but season was winter
22. DK month, but season was spring
23. DK month, but season was summer
24. DK month, but season was autumn

C. Problem Variables and Missing Variables

The 1994 file includes many series of variables concerning monthly dating of events during the prior calendar year. For example, ER2119-ER2130 indicate the months during which the Head worked on his or her present main job in 1993 (questionnaire question B39). The "strings" consist of a set of twelve dummy

variables, one for each month. Essentially, a code value of 0 indicates that the activity did not occur during this month; a code value of 1 indicates that it did. The month of January in each monthly "string" is suspect because it can contain a value of 1 when the value should be 0. This implies that incomes could be miscalculated if the monthly string is used for computation.

The employment statuses of Head and Wife/"Wife" are available on the family file (ER2068-ER2071 and ER2562-ER2565, respectively). Some other variables are missing from the 1994 early release file: question G113, the number of persons dependent on this family for more than half of their support; and questions G9a-G9d, whether Head and Wife/ "Wife" spent time working at a business and, if so, whether they reported those work hours.

D. Files and Format

The 1994 Public Release I Family File is an ASCII data file. We have also included files with SAS, SPSS, and STATA data definition statements, a codebook with frequencies in PDF format.

The SAS, SPSS, and STATA statements are NOT intended to represent completed and full programs for the respective statistical program packages to run extracts, analysis, etc. You must provide all other statements needed to complete a program.

E. Additional Notes: Sample Supplements in 1993 and 1994

We had added a Latino sample of 2,043 families to the PSID for 1990. This sample is described in detail in the 1990 documentation, but, briefly, the Temple University Institute for Survey Research selected and interviewed this sample for the Latino National Political Survey (LNPS). The Latino addition was made congruent with our usual ID scheme and unique identifier formats, and these cases are easily identified at the family and individual levels by the code values for 1968 ID Number (V20302 for 1992 family data and V30001 for the individual file): the values for their 1968 IDs are in the range 7001 to 9043.

In 1992 several different kinds of recontacts were attempted. These are described in detail in the 1992 family documentation, but briefly, three groups were followed: all 1991 nonresponse; a random subset of SRC and Census sample members who had become nonresponse in 1990 or earlier; and all of Temple University's Latino sample persons who were not successfully interviewed by us in 1990. The successfully recontacted Latino families have 1968 ID Numbers are in the range 9244-9308.

The 1993 and 1994 waves included a change in PSID following rules. We now follow all sample persons who leave home, regardless of age. So, for example, when a sample male Head leaves his nonsample spouse with their children, we attempt an interview not only with him but also with her because her household contains sample members.

Our recontact effort for 1993 included the resurrection of many nonresponse sample persons who shared a 1968 ID number with families still responding in 1992, similar to the second group selected for 1992 as described above. But in contrast to this 1992 group, priority was given to families with connected individuals under age 18 at the time of nonresponse. All sample individuals within such a family were selected for recontact, even if they themselves were older.

The main thrust of the 1994 recontact effort was to follow some nonsample ex-spouses of sample members; these ex-spouses had had one or more children with the sample members, and at least one of those children was expected to be under age 18 by 1994. In addition, recontacts were attempted with 1992 and 1993 nonresponse and also with families with no remaining response individuals. Some of these latter families had become nonresponse as early as 1969.