

THE CDS/TA MAPFILE

This Excel file has one row per CDS child, beginning with the traditional PSID 'primary key' ID for individuals, their 1968 ID and Person number as a pair. As noted in Tutorial #7, the use of the FIMS system is essential for obtaining the full range of mappings between one group of individuals in the PSID with those who are in a relation of interest – such as children to grandparents, or to their cousins, or to their siblings, or to other relatives. For the TA and CDS data, there are several relatives of obvious interest in that they have characteristics which, by their relation to a given TA/CDS child, are likely to be individuals for whom the researcher will want variables describing them as they relate to the CDS/TA child – for example, the education of the child's Primary Caregiver gives rise to an interest in knowing the 68 ID and person number of that person and similarly for the OCG (Other care giver). In addition, the TA/CDS data are a panel in their own right, so we often want to know if the original CDS child from 1997 was successfully followed in 2002/03 and beyond into CDS III (2007/08), and then into TA05 and beyond, depending on the year in which the child 'ages out' of CDS and whether the child was successfully followed. Another perspective on the mapfile is to note that the CDS created a new type of relationship in the PSID. There have always been categories of relationship to head – wife, son, daughter, and many others. The PCG is a relationship to child and is defined by the person so identified at each CDS wave, with priorities as noted in the CDS documentation <http://psidonline.isr.umich.edu/CDS/usergd3.html> .

Across the CDS waves who is the PCG can and often does change and, in addition, the OCG (other caregiver) can and does change. Further, it was often not possible to identify an OCG in any wave of the CDS for a given child. From the perspective of the child, this changing identity of the PCG and OCG can be seen from examining a few rows of the CDS/TA mapfile. Take the very first row of the file. The 68 ID/PN pair is 4 and 37. The child has a parent in the Parent ID file (most do), and the child has a PCG with a 68ID and PN (all do). For 2002/03 the child and PCG/OCG were not successfully re-interviewed. As a result the 68 ID and PN of the 2002/03 PCG and OCG are blank., and similarly for the next row. The third row is for a CDS child where a successful reinterview occurred in 2002/03. There we can see that the relation of the PCG to the child was that of the maternal grandmother (MM). There are cases where the PCG is the father (F). Suppose one wanted to know what factors lead to a PCG who is MM. Here there are some cases – and maybe not enough to support a study of when is MM the PCG. But suppose a project was studying the education of the PCG. Then it would be the mother's education in most bases, but in others it would be the education of the maternal grandmother (MM) and in still other cases it may be the paternal grandfather (FF). Depending on the research question, even though the number of cases is small, one could link to the education of these different individuals to create a variable 'education of the PCG' for all CDS kids as of 1997. Of course here there are judgments, too. The PCG changes in many cases, so is it the education of the PCG as of 1997 or 2002/03 or some average if the PCG changes?

Another value of the mapfile is to underscore the variability on care arrangements over the early childhood. Relatively few rows have an unchanging PCG and OCG across even the first two CDS waves. This can give rise to a research agenda on the role of family stability in the early childhood. Note that as additional TA and CDS waves are posted in the Data Center we will be extending the rows to accommodate the added information on whether respondent and 68 ID and PN of PCG and OCG (for CDS). Finally, we can see that many of the rows are blank for the TA05KID column. This is because either the child was not successfully followed into TA05 or the child had not yet migrated into the TA age range. There is an annual flow of CDS ‘alumni’ into the TA ranks and the TA sample thus builds up over time in this fashion.