



AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

MEPS DATA USERS' WORKSHOP TWO-DAY COMPUTER HANDS-ON CONDITIONS, EXPENDITURES, AND UTILIZATION AHRQ CONFERENCE CENTER

SEPTEMBER 15–16, 2010

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**AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY
TWO-DAY COMPUTER HANDS-ON
CONDITIONS, EXPENDITURES, AND UTILIZATION**

**AHRQ CONFERENCE CENTER
September 15–16, 2010**

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

AHRQ will conduct a two-day workshop to facilitate the use of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, Household Component (MEPS-HC) by the health services research community. The workshop, designed for those with an interest in using national health surveys, will be held at the Eisenberg Building, located at 540 Gaither Road in Rockville, Maryland. At this workshop, participants will have the opportunity to bring up specific research questions of interest to them.

Purpose

The purpose of this two-day workshop is to facilitate the use of the Medical MEPS-HC public use medical expenditures and conditions data files by the health services research community by providing both practical information about MEPS files and an opportunity to construct analytic files with the assistance of AHRQ staff. The workshop can accommodate a maximum of **35** participants.

Who should attend?

This workshop is designed for health services researchers who have a background or interest in medical expenditures and conditions. The lectures will include topics such as utilization, estimation, medical conditions file, prescription medicines file, and State estimates. Individuals whose primary interest is in State or local area analyses or clinical research would not benefit from this workshop. Given the nature and pace of the workshop, it would be beneficial for attendees to have some SAS knowledge.

Program requirements

All participants would benefit from reading the MEPS workbook (available on the MEPS Web site) prior to attending the workshop. The workbook provides concise information about the HC survey design and file content. All work on the PCs will be conducted in SAS. Because the main purpose of this workshop is to provide participants with an opportunity to construct analytic files, participants with a working knowledge of SAS will benefit most from the hands-on portion of the workshop. It is recommended that participants bring their specific research questions to be programmed and answered in order to benefit fully from Day 2 of the hands-on workshop. A removable media with the analytical file (in various stages of development) can also be brought to the workshop.

Program description

This workshop will provide a one-day orientation to MEPS utilization, expenditures, and conditions related data products, and one day for hands-on construction of data files on the computers. The first day will consist of lectures on practical information about the survey design, file content, and the construction of analytic files by data users and the knowledge necessary to formulate research plans utilizing the various MEPS-HC files and linkage capabilities. Instructional and reference materials will be distributed and discussed as necessary. All 2007 full-year public use data files will be available on each participant's PC. (Please note that non-public use data will not be available at the workshop.) File documentation, codebooks, and the MEPS survey instrument will be available electronically. If participants prefer hard copies of these materials, they can download these from the MEPS Web site and bring them to the workshop. Participants will utilize the second day for hands-on construction of data files and programming their own questions/research problems pertaining to MEPS data. AHRQ staff will be on-site to answer questions and provide programming assistance.

Contact information

For program questions, or to request any special accessibility requirements (sign interpretation, wheelchair ramp access, etc.), e-mail: workshopinfo@ahrq.gov

**AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY
TWO-DAY COMPUTER HANDS-ON
MEPS DATA USERS' WORKSHOP**

September 15–16, 2010

Workshop at-a-Glance

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Introduction and Lectures
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Lectures

Thursday, September 16, 2010

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. SAS Exercises
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Hands-on Computer Lab

Registration fee: No charge

Registration deadline: August 27, 2010 (or when the maximum number of participants is reached)

Complimentary refreshments will be available both days.

Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis with a maximum of 35 participants. In order to attend the hands-on training on Day 2, participants must attend the lectures on Day 1 of the workshop. Registration confirmation will be sent via e-mail within two business days. Your registration is not confirmed until you receive the confirmation notification. There is NO on-site registration.

AHRQ is offering this workshop free of charge to participants. Please be considerate and do not reserve a space unless you actually plan to attend. If plans change after the registration, please notify us as soon as possible, so the space can be offered to someone else.

Please e-mail, fax, or mail the completed registration form to:

Diana Brown
Social & Scientific Systems, Inc.
Support Contractor to the AHRQ
8757 Georgia Avenue, 12th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Telephone: 301-628-3118
Fax: 301-628-3101
E-mail: dbrown@s-3.com

**AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY
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MEPS DATA USERS' WORKSHOP**

September 15–16, 2010

REGISTRATION FORM

Please print. You can also type the information directly into this form.

Prefix: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. Other (please specify) _____ Degree(s): _____

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Professional Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Special Accessibility Requirements: _____
(sign language interpretation, wheelchair, etc.)

Please indicate if you can use other statistical software besides SAS (specify): _____

In order to accommodate the needs of all workshop participants, please provide the following information to assist in planning the workshop:

1. SAS is the only statistical package available at the workshop. Please indicate your level of proficiency using that statistical software:

Expert: Intermediate: Beginner:

2. Indicate your level of proficiency using MEPS-HC data:

Advanced user:

Intermediate user (some MEPS data experience):

Beginner (no MEPS data experience):

3. Indicate if there is a MEPS topic in which you are especially interested:

Insurance: Utilization: Prescription Medications: Elderly:

Medical Conditions: State-Level Estimates: Other: (please specify)

Location: AHRQ Conference Center
540 Gaither Road
Rockville, MD 20850-6649
Phone: 301-427-1406
Fax: 301-427-1276

For security purposes, please be prepared to show a photo ID to enter the AHRQ facility.

Participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements, hotel accommodations, and meals. There is a break room at AHRQ with vending machines. There are places for lunch either within walking distance or via the AHRQ shuttle. Directions will be provided at the check-in.

Hotel Accommodations: There are many hotels within a one-mile radius of the AHRQ building that can be found by searching on the Internet. Some local hotels offer shuttle service to the nearby Shady Grove Metro station and may also offer shuttle service from your hotel to AHRQ. Confirm shuttle arrangements when making hotel reservations.

Ground Transportation: If you take **METRO** (the subway system for the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area), use the free AHRQ shuttle leaves from the Shady Grove Metro station during the morning at :15 minutes and :45 minutes past the hour starting at 6:45 am and will bring you directly to the AHRQ building. To reach the AHRQ shuttle, turn **left** after exiting the Metro fare gates at the Shady Grove Metro station, go up the escalator—the shuttle will park to your immediate right. If you decide to take MetroBus instead of the AHRQ shuttle, take the route 63 or 66 bus from the Shady Grove station. The AHRQ building is located across the parking lot from the Market Place corner store at the corner of Redland Boulevard and Gaither Road (see the last page for a link to a map of the immediate area).

If you drive, **pay parking** is available at the AHRQ building. The lot is only accessible through the entrance on Gaither Road. Maximum daily cost is \$4.

Driving Directions: **From Baltimore:** Take I-95 South to I-495 West. Then follow directions from Prince George's County below.

From Prince George's County: Take I-495 West (toward Bethesda) to the I-270 North exit. Take I-270 North to Shady Grove Road East (Exit 8), immediately bear right to Redland Boulevard. Continue on Redland Boulevard through the traffic light and turn right into the Redland Center parking lot.

From Virginia and South: Take I-495 North to the I-270 North exit. Take I-270 North to Shady Grove Road East (Exit 8), immediately bear right to Redland Boulevard through the traffic light and turn right into the Redland Center parking lot.

From Route 355 North (Rockville Pike): Turn left on Redland Boulevard and turn left at the intersection of Redland Boulevard and Gaither Road. From Gaither Road, turn right into the Redland Center parking lot.

From Route 355 South (Rockville Pike): Turn right on Redland Boulevard and turn left at the intersection of Redland Boulevard and Gaither Road. From Gaither Road, turn right into the Redland Center parking lot.

From Frederick County: Take I-270 South to Shady Grove Road East (Exit 8). Travel east about .06 miles and turn right on Gaither Road. Travel south and cross Redland Boulevard. From Gaither Road, turn right into the Redland Center parking lot.

From Hubert H. Humphrey Building: Go West on Independence Avenue S.W. (toward Washington Avenue S.W.). Turn left onto ramp. Stay straight to 9th Street S.W. Take I-395 South ramp (toward Virginia) and merge onto I-395 (toward Richmond). Take George Washington Memorial Parkway North (Exit 10C, toward Arlington Cemetery). Take I-495 North (toward Maryland). Follow directions from Virginia and South.

Shuttle/Taxi Services from Airports:

From **Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA)**, **Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD)**, and **Baltimore Washington Thurgood Marshall International Airport (BWI)**:

- **SuperShuttle** 1-800-BLUE VAN (1-800-258-3826): Reservations should be made **in advance**.
- **The Airport Shuttle** 1-800-776-0323 or 410-381-2772: Reservations should be made **in advance**.
- **Taxicab:** Taxis are readily available outside the baggage claim areas of all local airports.

A direct trip from any of the three airports takes approximately one hour, depending on traffic. Allow slightly more time to/from BWI and slightly less to/from DCA.

Metro Subway Services:

Metro fare cards are magnetic cards purchased from machines located at the entrance of each station. The fares between stations are listed at the station entrance. Fare cards can be purchased for any amount of money up to \$20.

From **Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA)**: Board the Metro **Yellow Line** going toward *Mt. Vernon Sq 7th St-Convention Center* station. Transfer at the *Gallery Place-Chinatown* station to the **Red Line** going toward *Shady Grove*. Exit at the *Shady Grove* Metro station. Travel time is approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes.

From **Union Station/Amtrak**: Board the Metro **Red Line** toward *Shady Grove* and exit at the *Shady Grove* station. Travel time is approximately 50 minutes. Once at Shady Grove Station, follow the directions provided in the Ground Transportation section above for free AHRQ shuttle service to the AHRQ Eisenberg Office Building.

An interactive map of the Metro subway system is available on the Internet at <http://www.wmata.com/rail/maps/map.cfm>.