

**Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Household Component:
Public Use File 1**

MEPS HC-001: 1996 Panel Round 1 Population Characteristics

File Documentation

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**Agency for Health Care Policy and Research
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A. Data Use Agreement

Individual identifiers have been removed from the micro-data contained in these data files. Nevertheless, under sections 308 (d) and 903 (c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242m and 42 U.S.C. 299 a-1), data collected by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) and /or the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) may not be used for any purpose other than for the purpose for which it was supplied; any effort to determine the identity of any reported persons or establishments, is prohibited by law.

Therefore in accordance with the above referenced Federal Statute, it is understood that:

1. No one is to use the data in this data set in any way except for statistical reporting and analysis; and
2. If the identity of any person or establishment should be discovered inadvertently, then (a) no use will be made of this knowledge, (b) The Director Office of Management AHCPR will be advised of this incident, (c) the information that would identify any individual or establishment will be safeguarded or destroyed, as requested by AHCPR, and (d) no one else will be informed of the discovered identity.
3. No one will attempt to link this data set with individually identifiable records from any data sets other than Medical Expenditure Panel Survey or the National Health Interview Survey.

By using this data you signify your agreement to comply with the above stated statutorily based requirements with the knowledge that deliberately making a false statement in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the Federal Government violates 18 U.S.C. 1001 and is punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 or up to 5 years in prison.

The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research requests that users cite AHCPR and the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey as the data source in any publications or research based upon these data.

B. Background

This documentation describes one in a series of public use files from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS). The survey provides a new and extensive data set on the use of health services and health care in the United States.

The MEPS is the third in a series of national probability surveys conducted by AHCPR on the financing and utilization of medical care in the United States. The National Medical Care Expenditure Survey (NMCES, also known as NMES-1) was conducted in 1977, the National Medical Expenditure Survey (NMES-2) in 1987. Beginning in 1996, the MEPS continues this series with design enhancements and efficiencies that provide a more current data resource to capture the changing dynamics of the health care delivery and insurance system.

The design efficiencies incorporated into the MEPS are in accordance with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Survey Integration Plan of June 1995, which focused on consolidating the Department's surveys, achieving cost efficiencies, reducing respondent burden, and enhancing analytical capacities. To accommodate these goals, new design features in the current MEPS include linkage with the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), from which the sampling frame for the MEPS HC is drawn, and a change to continuous longitudinal data collection for core survey components. The MEPS HC augments the NHIS by continuing to collect data on a subset of NHIS respondents and links this information to data collected from the respondents' medical providers, employers, and insurance providers.

The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) is conducted to provide nationally representative estimates of health care utilization, expenditures, sources of payment, and insurance coverage for the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population. The MEPS also includes a nationally representative survey of nursing homes and their residents, as well as medical providers and establishments. The MEPS is co-sponsored by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) and the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).

The MEPS comprises four component surveys: the Household Component (HC), the Medical Provider Component (MPC), the Insurance Component (IC), and the Nursing Home Component (NHC). The HC serves as the core survey from which the MPC sample and part of the IC sample are based. These are supplemented by the NHC. Together these surveys yield comprehensive data that provide national estimates of the level and distribution of health care use and expenditures, support health services research, and assess health care policy implications.

1. Household Component

The MEPS HC is a nationally representative survey of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population which collects medical expenditure data at both the person and household levels. The focus of the MEPS HC is to collect detailed data on demographic characteristics, health

conditions, health status, use of medical care services, charges and payments, access to care, satisfaction with care, health insurance coverage, income, and employment.

The MEPS HC collects data through an overlapping panel design. In this design, data are collected through a preliminary contact followed by a series of six rounds of interviews over a two-and-a-half year period. Two calendar years of medical expenditures and utilization are collected from each household and are captured using computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) technology. This series of data collection rounds is launched again each subsequent year on a new sample of households to provide overlapping panels of survey data, which when combined with other ongoing panels will provide continuous and current estimates of health care expenditures.

The sampling frame for the MEPS HC is drawn from respondents to the NHIS, conducted by the NCHS. The NHIS provides a nationally representative sample of the U.S. civilian non-institutionalized population and reflects an oversampling of Hispanics and blacks. A subsample of 10,500 households was drawn from the NHIS sampling frame for the initial 1996 MEPS HC panel. Every five years the MEPS HC sample size is increased and targets oversampling of policy-relevant population subgroups, beginning with the 1997 panel. Initially these subgroups will include: 1) adults with functional impairments; 2) children with limitations; 3) individuals between the ages of 18-64 predicted to have high levels of medical expenditures; and 4) individuals with family incomes less than 200 percent of the poverty level.

2. Medical Provider Component

To supplement and validate information on medical care events reported in the MEPS HC, the MPC of the MEPS contacts those medical providers identified by MEPS household respondents. The MEPS MPC sample includes all reported hospitals, hospital physicians, home health agencies, and pharmacies. Also included in the MPC are all office-based physicians providing care for HC respondents receiving Medicaid, office-based physicians associated with a 75 percent sample of households receiving care through an HMO or managed care plan, and a 25 percent sample of remaining households.

The 1996 sample is projected to provide data from approximately 2,700 hospitals, 12,400 office-based physicians, 7,000 separately billing doctors, and 500 home health providers. Data are collected in the MPC on medical and financial characteristics of medical events reported by HC respondents, including diagnoses (ICD-9s and DSM-IVs), physician procedure codes (CPT-4s), inpatient stay codes (DRGs), charges, payments, and the reasons for any difference between charges and payments. The MPC is conducted through telephone interviews and mailed survey materials.

3. Insurance Component

The MEPS IC collects data on health insurance plans obtained through employers, unions, or other private health insurance sources. Data obtained in the MEPS IC include the number and types of private insurance plans offered, benefits associated with these plans, premiums, contributions by employer vs. employee, eligibility requirements, and employer characteristics.

Establishments participating in the MEPS IC are selected through four sampling frames: 1) a list of employers or other insurance providers identified by respondents in the MEPS HC who report having private health insurance at the Round 1 interview; 2) a Census Bureau list frame of private sector business establishments; 3) the Census Bureau's Census of Governments; and 4) an Internal Revenue Service list of the self-employed.

To provide an integrated picture of health insurance, data collected from the first sampling frame (i.e., employers and insurance providers) are linked back to data provided by the HC respondents. Data from the other three sampling frames are collected to provide annual national and state estimates on the supply of private health insurance available to American workers and to evaluate policy issues pertaining to health insurance.

Designed as an annual panel survey, each year the MEPS IC sample includes approximately 7,000 establishments identified through the MEPS HC, 27,000 identified through the business establishments list frame, 1,900 governments from the Census of Governments, and 1,000 self-employed persons. Data are collected from the selected organizations through a prescreening telephone interview, a mailed questionnaire, and a nonresponse telephone follow up.

4. Nursing Home Component

The 1996 NHC of the MEPS is a survey of nursing homes and persons resident in or admitted to nursing homes at any time during calendar year 1996. The MEPS NHC gathers information on the demographic characteristics, residence history, health and functional status, use of services, use of prescription medications, and health care expenditures of nursing home residents. Nursing home administrators and designated staff also provide information on facility size, ownership, certification status, services provided, revenues and expenses, and other facility characteristics. A community questionnaire obtains data from next of kin or other knowledgeable persons in the community on income, assets, family relationships, and care-giving information for the sampled nursing home resident. Under the DHHS Survey Integration Plan, the MEPS NHC is designed to be conducted every five years.

The 1996 NHC sample was selected using a two-stage stratified probability design. The first stage was used to select facilities; the second stage sampled facility residents, selecting from both persons in residence on January 1, 1996, and those admitted between January 1 and December 31, 1996. The sample frame for facilities was derived from the National Health Provider Inventory, which is updated periodically by NCHS. MEPS NHC data were collected in person in three

rounds of data collection using the CAPI system over a year-and-a-half period. Community data were collected by telephone using computer-assisted survey interviewing (CASI) technology. At the end of data collection, the sample will consist of approximately 800 responding facilities, 3,100 January 1 residents, and approximately 2,200 eligible admissions.

5. Survey Management

MEPS data are collected under the authority of the Public Health Service Act and are being edited and published in accordance with the confidentiality provisions within this act and those of the Privacy Act. Consultation and technical assistance are received from the NCHS.

Data collection is conducted under contract by Westat, Inc., Rockville, MD; the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago; and through an interagency agreement with Bureau of the Census. Technical consultation is provided by Medstat, Inc., Boston, MA. Data processing support is provided under contract by Social & Scientific Systems, Inc., Bethesda, MD.

As soon as data collection and editing are completed, the MEPS survey data are released to the public in staged releases of summary reports and micro data files. Summary reports are made available as hard copy documents and as electronic files. Micro data files are released on CD-ROM and/or electronic files. Hard copy documents and CD-ROMs will be available free of charge through the AHCPR Publications Clearinghouse at 1-(800) 358-9295, or can be purchased from the National Technical Information Services (NTIS) at (703) 487-4650. The mailing address is 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA, 22161. If calling from outside the U.S., dial (410) 381-3150. Selected electronic files will be available on the Internet in the MEPS section of the AHCPR home page: <http://www.ahcpr.gov>.

Additional information on MEPS is available from the MEPS project manager or the MEPS public use data manager at the Center for Cost and Financing Studies, Agency for Health Care Policy and Research

C. Technical and Programming Information

1. General Information

This documentation describes the first public use data file to be released from the 1996 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Household Component (MEPS HC). Released as an ASCII file (with related SAS programming statements), this public use file provides information collected on a nationally representative sample of the civilian non-institutionalized population of the United States during the first part of 1996. This file consists of data obtained in Round 1 of the survey and contains variables pertaining to survey administration, demographics, employment, health status, and health insurance. The data are being released prior to final data cleaning and editing in order to provide the research and policy community prompt access to MEPS data. Analysts should consider this data as preliminary as they have not been subject to the same level of quality control procedures which are usually performed on products of this type. Future plans include a capability of linking this data file to the 1995 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). Information on merging to NHIS data files will be provided in future data releases.

The following documentation offers a brief overview of the types and levels of data provided, the content and structure of the files and the codebook, and programming information. It contains the following sections:

- Data File Information
- Survey Sample Information
- Programming information
- Codebook
- Variable/Questionnaire Crosswalk

Detailed information on sample design and data collection methods can be found in Appendices 1 and 2, Sample Design of the 1996 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Household Component and Design and Methods of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Household Component. The individual questionnaires used in Round 1 to collect the information on this file are also included (see README2.TXT file).

2. Data File Information

This public use dataset contains variable and frequency distributions for a total of 24,676 persons from the MEPS Household Component of the 1996 Panel of the Medical Panel Expenditure Survey. This count includes all household survey respondents who resided in eligible responding households. Of these persons 23,612 were assigned a positive person level weight. For each variable both weighted and unweighted frequencies are provided. In conjunction with the weight

variable (WGTSP1) provided on this file, data for these persons can be used to make estimates for the civilian noninstitutionalized U. S. population as of the first half of 1996.

The records on this file can be linked to all MEPS public use data sets by the sample person identifier (DUPERSID).

2.1 Codebook Structure

The codebook and data file sequence lists variables in the following order:

- Unique person identifiers
- Demographic variables
- Employment variables
- Health Status variables
- Health Insurance variables
- Weight and variance estimation variables

2.2 Reserve Codes

The following reserve code values are used:

VALUE	DEFINITION
-1 INAPPLICABLE	Question was not asked due to skip pattern
-6 INAPPLICABLE	Question was not asked due to person being under age 5
-7 REFUSED	Question was asked and respondent refused to answer question.
-8 DK	Question was asked and respondent did not know answer
-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	Interviewer did not record the data

2.3 Codebook Format

This codebook describes an ASCII data set and provides the following programing identifiers for each variable:

IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION
Name	Variable name (maximum of 8 characters)
Description	Variable descriptor (maximum 40 characters)
Format	Number of bytes
Type	Type of data: numeric (indicated by NUM) or character (indicated by CHAR)
Start	Beginning column position of variable in record
End	Ending column position of variable in record
Question Number	Denotes variable source

2.4 Variable Naming

In general, variable names reflect the content of the variable, with an 8 character limitation. Edited variables end in an X, and are so noted in the variable label. Variables contained in this delivery were derived either from the questionnaire itself or from the CAPI. For variables coming directly from one question, the question number will appear in the question number field. For variables which were constructed from multiple questions, the question numbers can be found in Section E - Variable/Question Crosswalk. Variables which were derived from CAPI have no corresponding question.

2.5 File Contents

2.5.1 Survey Administration Variables

The survey administration variables contain information related to conducting the interview, household and family composition, and person-level status codes. Data for the survey administration variables were derived from the sampling process, the CAPI programs, or were computed based on information provided by the respondent in the re-enumeration section of the questionnaire.

Detailed information on the sampling process, including the link to the National Health Interview Survey, is found in Section 3 and Appendix 1.

Dwelling Units, Reporting Units, Families, and Persons

The definitions of Dwelling Units (DUs) and Group Quarters in the MEPS Household Survey are generally consistent with the definitions employed for the National Health Interview Survey. The dwelling unit ID (DUID) is a five-digit random ID number assigned after the case was sampled for MEPS. The person number (PID) uniquely identifies all persons within the dwelling unit. The variable DUPERSID is the combination of the variables DUID and PID.

A Reporting Unit (RU) is a person or group of persons in the sampled dwelling unit who are related by blood, marriage, adoption or other family association, and who are to be interviewed as a group in MEPS. Thus, the RU serves chiefly as a family-based "survey operations" unit rather than an analytic unit. Members of each RU within the DU are identified by the variable RULETTER. Regardless of the legal status of their association, two persons living together as a "family" unit were treated as a single reporting unit if they chose to be so identified. Examples of different types of reporting units are:

1. A married daughter and her husband living with her parents in the same dwelling constitute a single reporting unit.
2. A husband and wife and their unmarried daughter, age 18, who is living away from home at college constitute two reporting units.
3. Three unrelated persons living in the same dwelling unit would each constitute a distinct reporting unit, three reporting units in all.

Unmarried college students under 24 years of age who usually live in the sampled household, but were living away from home and going to school at the time of the Round 1 MEPS interview, were treated as a Reporting Unit separate from that of their parents for the purpose of data collection. The variable RUSIZE indicates the number of persons in each RU, treating students as RUs separate from their parents. However, for many analytic objectives, the student reporting units would be combined with their parents' reporting unit, treating the combined entity as a single family.

The variable FAMID1 identifies a family (i.e. persons related to one another by blood, marriage, adoption or foster care). FAMID1 differs from RU in that it combines student reporting units with their parent reporting unit. The variable UNITSIZE indicates the RU size when students are combined back into their associated parent RUs for analytical purposes. Family-level analyses should use the UNITSIZE variable.

Note: the variables RUSIZE and UNITSIZE exclude ineligible (ELIGRND1=2) persons; analysts should exclude such persons from all family-level analyses.

There are several other variables that characterize the reporting unit. RUCLASS indicates whether the RU was fielded as a standard, new or student RU. The variables REGION and MSA indicate the geographic location of the dwelling unit. REGION is coded according to the Census regions, and MSA reflects the June 30, 1996 definition of metropolitan statistical areas.

Administration Dates

A number of variables containing date information are included on each record. These variables were derived in CAPI at the family level and then moved to the person-level. The day on which the interview was conducted is provided in month, day and year format (RUENDMMM, RUENDDDD, and RUENDYY). All Round 1 interviews were conducted between March and August of 1996.

Reference Period Dates

The beginning and ending reference period dates are included for each person (BEGREFMM, BEGREFDD, BEGREFYY, ENDREFMM, ENDREFDD, and ENDREFYY). The reference period is the period of time for which data were collected in Round 1 and it was determined during the interview for each person by the CAPI program. The reference period for most persons identified at NHIS began on January 1, 1996 and ended on the date of the Round 1 interview. In some instances the beginning of the reference period was set by CAPI to be later than January 1 based on the date the person entered the RU. The end date of the reference period is prior to the date of the interview if the person was deceased during the round, left the RU, or was institutionalized prior to the Round 1 interview.

Respondent Identifiers

The respondent for the Round 1 interview is identified in RND1RESP. Only one respondent is identified for each RU. In instances where the interview was completed in more than one session, only the first respondent is indicated. The variable PROXY indicates whether the respondent for the RU was a proxy or another RU member.

Person Status

The variables INSCOPE, KEYNESS, ELIGRND1, and PSTATUS describe the overall status of each person for the Round 1 data collection. These variables are set based on sampling information and responses provided in the re-enumeration section.

Through the re-enumeration section of the Round 1 questionnaire, each member of a reporting unit was classified as "key" or "non-key", "in-scope" or "out-of-scope", and "eligible" or "ineligible" for MEPS data collection. To be included in the set of persons used in the derivation of MEPS person level estimates, a person had to be a member of the civilian non-institutionalized

population for some period of time in the Round 1 reference period. Because a person's eligibility for the survey might have changed since the NHIS interview, a sampling re-enumeration of household membership was conducted at the start of the MEPS Round 1 interview (and at the start of each subsequent interview). Only persons who were "in-scope", "key", and "eligible for data collection" were assigned person level weights and thus are to be used in the derivation of person level national estimates from the MEPS.

In-Scope

A person was classified as in-scope (INSCOPE) if he or she was a member of the U.S. civilian, non-institutionalized population at some time during the Round 1 interview.

Keyness

The term "keyness" is related to an individual's chance of being included in MEPS. A person is key if that person is appropriately linked to the set of 1995 NHIS sampled households designated for inclusion in MEPS. Specifically, a key person either was a member of an NHIS household at the time of the NHIS interview, or became a member of such a household after being out-of-scope prior to joining that household (examples of the latter situation include newborns and persons returning from military service, an institution, or living outside the United States.).

A non-key person is one whose chance of selection for the NHIS (and MEPS) was associated with a household eligible but not sampled for the NHIS, who happened to have become a member of a MEPS reporting unit by the time of the MEPS round 1 interview. MEPS data, (e.g., utilization and income) were collected for the period of time a non-key person was part of the sampled unit to permit family level analyses. However, non-key persons who leave a sample household would not be recontacted for subsequent interviews. Non-key individuals are not part of the target sample used to obtain person level national estimates.

It should be pointed out that a person may be key even though not part of the civilian, non-institutionalized portion of the U.S. population. For example, a person in the military may be living with his or her civilian spouse and children in a household sampled for the 1995 NHIS. The person in the military would be considered a key person for MEPS. However, such a person would not receive a person-level sample weight so long as he or she was in the military. All key persons who participated in the first round of the 1996 MEPS received a person level sample weight except those who were in the military. The variable indicating "keyness" is KEYNESS.

Eligibility

The eligibility of a person for MEPS pertains to whether or not data were to be collected for that person. All key, in-scope persons of a sampled RU were eligible for data collection. The only non-key persons eligible for data collection were those who happened to be living in the same RU

as one or more key persons, and their eligibility continued only for the time that they were living with a key person. The only out-of-scope persons eligible for data collection were those who were living with key in-scope persons, again only for the time they were living with a key person. Only military persons meet this description. A person was considered eligible if they were eligible at any time during Round 1. The variable indicating "eligibility" is ELIGRND1, where 1 is coded for persons eligible for data collection for at least a portion of the Round 1 reference period, and 2 is coded for persons not eligible for data collection at any time during the first round reference period.

Person Disposition Status

Person disposition status (PSTATUS) is a variable which indicates a person's status with respect to response and eligibility at the time of the interview. It describes the reasons for either going forward with data collection or terminating data collection for each person in the MEPS. Using PSTATUS, one could identify persons who moved during the reference period, died, were born, institutionalized or who were in the military.

The following codes specify the value labels for the PSTATUS codes:

- 0 Incorrectly listed in RU at NHIS
- 11 Person in household, not full-time active-duty military
- 12 Person in household, full-time active-duty military, out-of-scope
- 13 Moved, full-time student living away from home
- 14 Person in original household, full-time active duty, in-scope for part of Round
- 31 Deceased in reference period
- 32 Institutionalized in health care facility in reference period
- 33 Institutionalized in non-health care facility in reference period
- 34 Moved outside U.S. in reference period
- 35 Moved, full-time active duty in reference period
- 36 Institutionalized (type unknown) in reference period
- 41 Moved within U.S. in reference period
- 42 Person who joined RU in reference period
- 51 Newborn in reference period
- 61 Deceased prior to reference period
- 62 Institutionalized prior to reference period
- 63 Move prior to reference period
- 64 Full-time military at military facility, moved prior to reference period
- 81 Moved, full-time student, no response, data imputed

Implications of these Characterizations of Sampled Persons

Person level weights were created for responding persons who were key, eligible, and in-scope. The only "non-respondents" to receive person level weights were college aged students living away from home during the school year who were key, eligible, and in-scope and whose parents or guardians were MEPS Round 1 respondents. In general, data were imputed for these college students.

Persons who were non-key and/or out-of-scope but who were eligible for data collection and were part of a responding family (reporting unit) are considered part of the family for analysis purposes and have an associated family level weight. In a small number of these cases, there are missing data. Future data releases will contain imputed data for these cases.

Thus, persons in the military who are members of an RU will have received a family level weight but not a person level weight. Persons who join an RU who were previously in-scope and thus had their chance for participation in MEPS associated with a household not selected for the 1995 NHIS also will have received a family level weight but not a person level weight. Persons who joined an RU as civilians and who were out-of-scope prior to joining the RU and thus did not have a chance for selection for the 1995 NHIS will have received both a family level weight and a person level weight.

2.5.2 Demographic Variables

These variables provide information about the demographic characteristics of each person. As noted below, some variables have edited and imputed values.

Sex

The sex of each RU member (SEX), as collected during the NHIS interview, was verified and, if necessary, corrected during the Round 1 MEPS interview. The sex of each new RU member (persons who were not members of the RU at the time of the NHIS interview) was also obtained during the Round 1 interview. When sex was not available from the NHIS interview and was not ascertained during the Round 1 interview, it was assigned in the following way. If available in the edited/imputed NHIS data, sex was assigned from that source. If not available from that source, the first name of the person was used to assign sex, if obvious. If the sex of the individual was still not determined, sex was randomly assigned. Assignment was made in this way for nine persons: for six nonresponding students, two siblings, and one newborn.

Age

The date of birth and age of each RU member were asked during the Round 1 MEPS interview (DOBMM, DOBY, AGE1X). When age was not reported, an age value was obtained through the following steps. If available, age was obtained from the originally collected 1995 NHIS data; if not available from the data as collected, age as edited/imputed for NHIS was used. If the NHIS age data were used, one year was added to the NHIS age to obtain the MEPS age, accounting for the time elapsed between the two surveys. If not available from that source, the mid-point of the age interval of the RU member estimated by the MEPS Round 1 respondent was used (see question RE57B). If not available there, age was imputed as the mid-point of the interval estimated by the Round 1 MEPS interviewer (see question RE57C). If not available from that source, demographic information and relationships of all members of the RU were reviewed to determine a reasonable value to assign for age. For purposes of confidentiality, the variable AGE1X was top coded at 90 years.

Race, Race/Ethnicity, Hispanic Ethnicity, and Hispanic Ethnicity Group

Race (RACEX) and Hispanic ethnicity (HISPANX) were asked for each RU member during the Round 1 MEPS interview. When race and/or ethnicity was not reported in the Round 1 interview, values for these variables were obtained in the following sequence. When available, they were obtained from the originally collected NHIS data. If not available from this source, edited/imputed NHIS data were used. If not ascertained from the edited/imputed NHIS data, the race, ethnicity, and relationships of all members of the RU were used to impute race or ethnicity. This approach was used to resolve a residual group of 20 cases, 14 of which were missing both race and ethnicity and six of which were missing only race. The variable RACETHNX indicating both race and ethnicity (e.g., with categories such as "Hispanic" and "black but not Hispanic") reflects the imputations done for RACEX and HISPANX. The specific Hispanic ethnicity group is given in the unedited variable HISPCAT.

Student Status and Educational Attainment

The variable FTSTUD1 indicates whether the person is currently a full-time student. This variable has valid values only for persons between the ages of 17 - 23 who are not living away at school and not in grades 1-12. Completed years of education is given in the variable EDUCYR1. Information was obtained from questions RE 103-105. Children who are 5 years of age or older and who never attended school were coded as 0; children under the age of 5 years were coded as -6 "under age 5-inapplicable" regardless of whether they attended school or not.

The variable indicating highest degree (HIGHDEG1) was obtained from two questions: high school diploma (RE 104) and highest degree (RE 105). Persons under 16 years of age were coded as 8 "inapplicable". In cases where the response to the highest degree question was "no degree" and highest grade was 13 through 17, the variable was coded as 3 "high school diploma".

If highest grade completed for those with a “no degree” response was "refused" or "don't know", the variable was coded as 1 "no degree".

Marital Status and Spouse ID

Marital status was collected in RE13 and RE97 and reported as MARRY1X. Persons under the age of 16 were coded as 6 "under 16 - inapplicable". Those whose marital status changed during the round were identified through edits where inconsistencies were detected between the reported marital status of partners. In instances where there were discrepancies, other person-level variables were reviewed to determine the edited marital status. For example, when one partner was reported as married and the other partner reported as widowed, the data were reviewed to determine if one partner should be coded as 8 "widowed in Round 1".

The spouse's ID is reported in SPOUSID1. This is the PID of the person identified as the spouse. If no spouse was identified in the household, the value was coded as 995 "no spouse in household". Those with unknown marital status are coded as 996. Persons under the age of 16 are coded as 997 "inapplicable".

The SPOUSIN1 variable indicates whether a person's spouse is present in the RU. If the person has no spouse in the household, the value was coded as 2. For persons under the age of 16 the value was coded as 3.

Military Service and Service Era

The variable DIDSERVE indicates if the person ever served in the Armed Forces. Persons under the age of 16 were coded as 3 "under 16-inapplicable". Persons currently on full time active duty status are identified in the variable ACTDUTY1. Those under 16 years of age were coded as 3 "under 16-inapplicable" and those over the age of 59 were coded as 4 "over 59-inapplicable". Service in specific eras was coded according to the responses to RE 96 in the variables VETWW (either World War I or World War II), VETKOR (Korean War era), VETVIET (Vietnam War era), VETPVIET (Post-Vietnam War era), VETOTH (other service era). Those under the age of 16 were coded as 3 "under 16-inapplicable" and those who never served in the military were coded as 4 "never in military".

Relationship to the Reference Person within Reporting Units

The variable REFREL1X indicates the relationship of each individual to the reference person of the reporting unit (RU). For the reference person, this variable is coded to the value "self"; for all other persons in the RU, relationship to the reference person is indicated by codes representing "husband/spouse", "wife/spouse", "son", "daughter", "female partner", "male partner" etc. If the relationship of an individual to the reference person was not ascertained during the Round 1 interview, relationships between other RU members were used where possible to assign a

relationship to the reference person. If Round 1 data were not sufficient to identify the relationship of an individual to the reference person, relationship variables from the 1995 NHIS data were used to assign a relationship. A code of 91, meaning "other related", was used to indicate infrequently observed relationship descriptions such as "mother of partner". In the event that a meaningful value could not be determined, the relationship variable was assigned a missing value code. For 340 cases, the relationship codes were changed to agree with reported marital status.

2.5.3 Employment Variables

Round 1 employment edits focused on the construction of a person-level hourly wage variable and on logical editing of the employment section health insurance variables. Preliminary logical editing of several other employment variables was also carried out. The primary focus of these edits was to assure the correct assignment of "missing" and "Inapplicable" values to specific observations. Very broadly, missing values could occur when an individual had been asked a question during the interview, but gave a "don't know" answer or refused to respond to the question. "Inapplicable" codes were assigned when an individual was never asked a particular question because of the skip patterns in the survey (e.g., individuals who indicated that they were not employed were not asked questions about their wages or hours worked).

Employment Status and Self-Employment

Before a logically-edited hourly wage variable could be constructed for persons holding a current main job who were not self-employed, it was necessary to construct logically-edited variables for employment status (EMPST1) and self-employment (SELFCM). All persons age 16 and over were asked if they were currently employed for pay. Subjects could respond that they were currently employed for pay, that they were not currently employed but had a job to return to, that they were not currently employed but had a job during the reference period, or that they were not currently employed and did not have a job during the reference period. The flow of the employment questionnaire ensured that these are mutually exclusive categories. Thus, the inapplicable group for the employment status variable included only those who were less than 16 years of age. Persons responding that they were currently employed were asked to identify their current main job, and current main job holders were asked whether they were self-employed or worked for someone else. Thus, the inapplicable category for the current main job self-employment variable (SELFCM) included persons under age 16 and all persons age 16 or older who were not currently employed.

Current main job holders were asked a variety of additional questions about health insurance, other benefits, and other job characteristics such as number of persons employed at the establishment. Certain questions, namely those regarding benefits, were not asked of the self-

employed. These current main job variables are discussed later in this section. The major focus of the Round 1 editing, however, was the construction of an edited hourly wage variable for non self-employed current main job holders. Note that any individuals in the "not ascertained" category for current main job holder status are also categorized as "not ascertained" for other variables based on the current main job.

Finally, two variables that relate to jobs other than the current main job and one variable that relates to all jobs were also edited for release in the Round 1 file. The first two variables contain information on whether the employee held (HELDNM1X) or was offered (OFERNM1X) health insurance through a job other than the current main job. The variable that relates to all jobs indicates whether an individual ever retired from any job (RETIRED). More detailed descriptions of these variables follow.

Hourly Wage

The Round 1 hourly wage variable (HRWAGEX) was constructed for persons age 16 or older who were currently employed, but not self-employed, at their current main job. The construction of an hourly wage for the current main job was complicated by the large number of potential source variables that fed into it. Individuals may be paid by the hour, they may be salaried with their salary based on different time periods (e.g., monthly, bimonthly, weekly), or they may be paid on the basis of piecework, commission, or bonuses. In addition, some individuals initially refused to provide a wage or salary estimate. Sample members who initially refused to answer the hourly wage question were subsequently asked to indicate the range in which their wage fell. The hourly wages for individuals who responded to the bracketed wage questions were imputed using the median wage for hourly wage respondents having wages in each of the respective wage brackets, disaggregated by sex.

Subjects who indicated that they were paid by salary, but refused to provide a salary amount, were asked to provide an hourly wage. If they also refused to provide an hourly wage, they were asked the series of bracketed wage questions.

Hourly wage for the current main job was constructed for 9,447 cases. Values for hourly wage varied from approximately 5 cents per hour to \$2,125 per hour. These minimum and maximum values, however, were extreme outliers; the 1st percentile was \$2.1/hour and the 99th percentile was \$43.75/hour. The median wage was \$11.00/hour. For confidentiality reasons, HRWAGEX has been rounded to the nearest 5 cents.

How the Hourly Wage was Edited

Given the complexity of the algorithms used to construct the hourly wage, a variable was created which summarized the basic pathways used to estimate hourly wages for the current main job. This variable (HRWAY) is included on the file.

In the simplest case, hourly wage was reported directly by the respondent. For other individuals, construction of the hourly wage was based upon their salary, the time period on which the salary was based, and the number of hours worked per time period. The number of hours worked per time period was not always available; when this occurred it was assumed that individuals worked the equivalent of 40 hours per week during the relevant time period. (These individuals are separately identified by the variable.) Note that this inflates the number of hours worked per week for those who, in fact, worked less than 40 hours per week. Analysts should also be aware that two measures of hours were collected in the Employment Section of the interview: (1) the hours on which the employee's wages or salary was based, and (2) the hours usually worked. Measure (1) was used in calculating hourly wage whenever it was available from the respondent. When measure (1) was not available, measure (2) was used.

Individuals who initially refused to provide a wage (or salary amount that enabled hourly wage to be calculated) were asked if their wages fell within certain brackets (less than \$4.25, \$4.25 or higher but less than \$10.00, \$10.00 or higher but less than \$15.00, \$15.00 or higher). Respondents in each of these wage brackets were then imputed the median wage for the corresponding brackets from the initial respondents by sex. Finally, some individuals indicated that they were paid by piecework, commission, or bonus. If this was the *only* manner in which they were paid, income received from these sources was used to construct hourly wage. If they received income directly from wages or salary, however, income from these other sources was not used in constructing hourly wage.

Since HRWAY is essentially a variable that indicates the manner in which HRWAGEX was constructed, the inapplicable and undetermined categories of HRWAY match those of HRWAGEX.

Hours Worked Per Week

All individuals who indicated that they were employed were asked to indicate the number of hours they worked per week whether they were wage earners or self-employed. As mentioned above, MEPS contains two measures of hours per week: usual hours worked per week, and contractual hours per week. For most cases, hours worked per week (HRPRWK1X) is based on usual hours per week. The CAPI programming was such that usual hours worked per week was not available for all employed persons; when it was not available the contractual hours variable was used. This occurred when the value for the variable HRWAY was 3 or 8. The inapplicable category for HRPRWK1X includes all persons under age 16 and all persons age 16 and over who are not currently employed. The "not determined" category for HRPRWK1X includes persons age 16 and over who are "not determined" on employment status, as well as employed persons who refused to indicate how many hours per week they worked or said that they "didn't know" how many hours per week they worked.

Employment Related Health Insurance Variables

Five health insurance variables were edited for the Round 1 release:

1. Health insurance held from current main job (HELDCM1X);
2. Health insurance offered from the current main job (OFERCM1X);
3. Health insurance held from non-current main job (HELDM1X);
4. Health insurance offered from non-current main job (OFERNM1X); and
5. Health insurance disavowed (DISVOW1).

The most straightforward health insurance variables were health insurance actually held from the current main job (HELDCM1X) and health insurance offered from the current main job (OFERCM1X). The first editing task for these variables was properly distinguishing between missing and inapplicable code values. Inapplicable values were appropriate for persons under age 16, or persons age 16 or older who did not hold a current main job, or were self-employed with no employees. Individuals who report obtaining health insurance through a job that is self-employed with no employees can be identified with the variable HPRIVS1 (see section 2.5.5).

As with the health insurance variables for current main jobs, the editing of the health insurance variables for non current main jobs focused on distinguishing nonresponse from inapplicable. However, the definition of the inapplicable group for the non current main jobs was more complex than for the current main jobs. In addition to the inapplicable group defined for the current main job health insurance variables, the inapplicable group for the non current main job health insurance variables included those with only a current main job.

More than 700 individuals reported in the Employment Section of the interview that they received health insurance coverage from a job, but indicated later in the Health Insurance Section that they did not receive health insurance from that job. Nearly 80 percent of these cases occurred in reference to health insurance coverage from non-current main jobs. There are a variety of reasons why this might have happened, including differences in the flow of the Health Insurance and Employment Sections of the instrument or reporting errors in the Employment Section which were revealed by responses in the Health Insurance Section (e.g., respondents could have been offered health insurance on a non current main job, but actually obtained it through their spouse's job and only realized this when asked questions in the health insurance part of the interview).

To allow analysts to identify these individuals easily, a variable (DISVOW1) was constructed that flags those individuals with differences in health insurance coverage between the Employment and Health Insurance sections.

Responses for health insurance held in the employment section (HELDCM1X and HELDM1X) were recoded to be consistent with the variables indicating hospital/physician coverage in the Health Insurance Section of the survey. Note, however, that the health insurance offered variables (OFERCM1X and OFERNM1X) were set to "not ascertained" for these persons. This

is because the questions about whether health insurance was offered by an employer were skipped in the employment section for those who had already indicated that they held insurance from that employer.

Employment Benefit Variables

Four employee benefit variables were edited for the initial Round 1 release:

1. Paid sick leave for doctor visits at current main job (PAYDRVS),
2. Paid sick leave at current main job (SICPAY),
3. Paid vacation at current main job (PAYVAC), and
4. Pension plan at current main job (RETPLN).

The inapplicable groups for all of these variables are those under age 16, those age 16 or older without a current main job, and those 16 or older who are self-employed at their current main job.

Other Employment Variables

Several other employment variables were edited for the Round 1 release. With the exception of a retirement variable, all of these variables pertained to the current main job:

1. Organization type at current main job (JOBORG),
2. More than one location of business at current main job (MORELOC),
3. Labor union member at current main job (UNION),
4. Self-employed at current main job (SELFCM), and
5. Number of employees at location of current main job (NUMEMP).

With the exception of JOBORG and NUMEMP, these variables are largely self-explanatory. The main point to note about JOBORG is that the private and public categories refer to wage earners, whereas sole proprietorship, partnership, and incorporated pertain to self-employed individuals.

NUMEMP has been top-coded at 500 for confidentiality reasons. Consequently, all individuals working for an establishment with 500 or more employees have a NUMEMP value of 500. Except for MORELOC, which includes the self-employed in the inapplicable category, these current main job variables include self-employed workers in the universe. Thus, the inapplicable category is somewhat narrower than the non self-employed current main job variables discussed earlier.

Finally, Round 1 includes a retirement status variable (RETIRED). RETIRED is coded as 1 if the individual retired from any job. The universe for this variable is all persons age 55 or older who had a job; consequently, the inapplicable group consists of respondents less than age 55 and those over 55 who never held a job.

2.5.4. Health Status Variables

The Round 1 Health Status edits involved the construction of person-level variables based on information collected in the Condition Enumeration and Health Status sections of the questionnaire. The majority of Health Status questions were initially asked at the family level to ascertain if anyone in the household had a particular problem or limitation. These were followed up with questions to determine which household member had each problem or limitation. In addition, logical edits were performed in constructing the person-level variables to assure that family-level and person-level values were consistent. Particular attention was given to cases where missing values were reported at the family level to ensure that appropriate information was carried to the person level. Inapplicable cases were those where a question was never asked because of a skip patterns in the survey (e.g., individuals who were 13 years of age or older were not asked some follow-up verification questions). Fifty individuals who either died during 1996 prior to the Round 1 interview or who were non-responding students were coded as inapplicable on the health status variables.

Perceived Health Status and Mental Health Status

Perceived health status (RTEHLTH1) and mental health status (MNTHLTH1) were collected in the Condition Enumeration section. These questions (CE 01 and CE 02) asked the respondent to rate each person in the family according to the following categories: excellent, very good, good, fair, and poor. No editing was done to these variables.

IADL and ADL Help/Supervision

The Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) Help or Supervision variable (IADLHLP1) was constructed from a series of three questions. The initial question (HE01) determined if anyone in the family received help or supervision with IADLs such as using the telephone, paying bills, taking medications, preparing light meals, doing laundry, or going shopping. If the response was "yes," a follow-up question (HE02) was asked to determine which household member received this help or supervision. For persons under age 13, a final verification question (HE03) was asked to confirm that the IADL help or supervision was the result of an impairment or physical or mental health problem. If the response to the final verification question was "no," IADLHLP1 was coded as "no" for persons under the age of 13.

If no one in the family was identified as receiving help or supervision with IADLs, all members of the family were coded as receiving no IADL help or supervision. In cases where the response to the family-level question was "don't know," "refused," or otherwise missing, all persons were coded according to the family-level response. In cases where the response to the family-level question (HE01) was "yes" but no specific individuals were identified in the follow-up question as having IADL difficulties, all persons were coded as "don't know."

The Activities of Daily Living (ADL) Help or Supervision variable (ADLHELP1) was constructed in the same manner as IADLHLP1, but using questions HE04-HE06.

Use of Assistive Technology, Functional Difficulties, and Social/Recreational Limitations

The variables indicating use of assistive technology (AIDHELP1, from question HE07), functional difficulties (WALKLIM1, from question HE09), and social/recreational limitations (SOCLIMT1, from question HE22) were collected initially at the family level. If there was a "yes" response to the family-level question, a second question identified which individual had the difficulty. Each individual identified as having the difficulty was coded "yes" on the appropriate variable; all remaining family members were coded "no." If the family-level response was "don't know," "refused," or otherwise missing, all persons were coded with the family-level response. In cases where the family-level response was "yes" but no specific individual was identified as having difficulty, all family members were coded as "don't know."

Work, Housework, and School Limitations

The variable indicating limitations in work, housework, or school (ACTLIMT1) was constructed in the same manner as AIDHELP1, using questions HE19-HE20. If ACTLIMT1 was "yes" and the person was 5 years of age or older, a follow-up question (HE20A) was asked to identify the specific limitation or limitations for each person. These included working at a job (WRKLIMT1), doing housework (HSELIMT1), or going to school (SCHLIMT1). WRKLIMT1, HSELIMT1, and SCHLIMT1 have values of "yes" or "no" only if ACTLIMT1 was "yes;" they were all coded as inapplicable if ACTLIMT1 was "no," "refused," or otherwise missing. When ACTLIMT1 was "don't know," these variables were all coded as "don't know."

Cognitive Limitations

The variable (COGLIMT1) was collected at the family level as a three-part question (HE24-01 to HE24-03) indicating if any of the adults in the family (1) experience confusion or memory loss, (2) have problems making decisions, or (3) require supervision for their own safety. If a "yes" response was obtained to any item, the persons affected were identified in HE25 and COGLIMT1 was coded as "yes." Remaining family members not identified were coded as "no" for COGLIMT1.

If responses to HE24-01 through HE24-03 were all "no," or if two of three were "no" and the remaining was "don't know," "refused," or otherwise missing, all family members were coded as "no." If responses to the three questions were combinations of "don't know," "refused," and missing, all persons were coded as "don't know." If the response to any of the three questions was "yes" but no individual was identified in HE25, all persons were coded as "don't know."

2.5.5 Health Insurance Variables

Constructed variables are provided for each source of health insurance coverage collected during the MEPS Round 1 interview. With the exception of Medicaid and Medicare, the constructed variables represent sources of insurance as reported by respondents. Minimal editing was performed on the Medicare and Medicaid variables to assign persons to coverage from these sources. All other coverage types are unedited and unimputed. Observations that contain edits can be identified by comparing the edited and unedited versions of the Medicaid and Medicare variables.

Public sources include Medicare, CHAMPUS/CHAMPVA (CHMPNOW1), Medicaid and other public hospital/physician coverage. State-specific program participation (STATPROG1) was also identified but is not considered health insurance for the purpose of this survey. The Medicare and CHAMPUS/CHAMPVA variables indicate coverage at the time of the Round 1 interview date. All other public sources of insurance (including STATPROG1) indicate coverage at any time during Round 1.

Medicare

Medicare (MCARNOW1) coverage was edited (MCARNW1X) for persons age 65 or over. Within this age group, individuals were assigned Medicare coverage if:

1. They answered yes to a follow-up question on whether or not they received Social Security benefits; or
2. They were covered by Medicaid, other public hospital/physician coverage or Medigap coverage; or
3. Their spouse was covered by Medicare.

Medicaid and Other Public Hospital/Physician Coverage

Questions about other public hospital/physician coverage were asked in an attempt to identify Medicaid recipients who may not have recognized their coverage as Medicaid. These questions were asked only if a respondent did not report Medicaid directly. Respondents reporting other public hospital/physician coverage were asked follow-up questions to determine if their coverage was through a specific Medicaid HMO or if it included some other managed care characteristics. Respondents who identified managed care from either path were asked if they paid anything for the coverage and/or if a government source paid for the coverage. In an attempt to identify coverage through Medicaid expansion programs, persons with private insurance that was not employment-related were also asked if any government agency contributed toward their premium.

The Medicaid variable (MCAID1) has been edited (MCAID1X) to include persons who paid nothing for their other public hospital/physician insurance when such coverage was through a Medicaid HMO or reported to include some other managed care characteristics. In addition, a

small number of persons reporting AFDC or SSI coverage (questions included in the Round 1 interview for this purpose) were assigned Medicaid coverage.

To assist users in further editing sources of insurance, this tape contains variables constructed from the other public hospital/physician series that measure whether:

1. The respondent reported some type of managed care and paid something for the coverage (OTPUBA1);
2. The respondent did not report any managed care (OTPUBB1);
3. A federal, state or local government paid anything toward the cost of the managed care coverage (OTGOVPY1).

Variables are also included from the private insurance series that identify whether the federal government (PRGVPYA1) or a state/local government (PRGVPYB1) contributed toward the private non-employment related insurance. The variables OTPUBA1, OTPUBB1, OTGOVPY1, PRGVPYA1, PRGVPYB1 are provided only to assist in editing and should not be used to make insurance estimates.

Private Insurance

Variables identifying private insurance in general (PRIV1) and specific private insurance sources [employer group (PRIVEG1); union group (PRIVU1); non-group (PRIVNG1); and other group (PRIVOG1)] were constructed. Private insurance sources identify coverage in effect at any time during Round 1. Separate variables identify covered persons and policyholders (policyholder variables begin with the letter "H"). These variables indicate coverage or policyholder status within a source and do not distinguish between persons who are covered or are policyholders on one or more than one policy within a given source. In some cases, the respondent was unable to characterize the source of insurance (PRIVDK1). Covered persons (but not policyholders) are identified when the policyholder is living outside the RU (PRIVOUT1). A source was considered to provide insurance if, at a minimum, coverage was provided for hospital and physician services. Sources of insurance with missing information regarding the type of coverage were assumed to contain hospital/physician coverage. Persons without private hospital/physician insurance were not counted as privately insured.

Health insurance through a job (PRIVEG1, PRIVU1, PRIVS1) was initially asked about in the Employment Section of the interview and later confirmed in the Health Insurance Section. Respondents also had an opportunity to report employer group (PRIVEG1) and union sponsored (PRIVU1) insurance for the first time in the Health Insurance Section, but this insurance was not linked to a specific job. Insurance that was initially reported in the Employment Section contained information on whether the insurance was sponsored through the employer, a union or both. If

both the employer and union or the employer alone sponsored the insurance through a particular job that insurance is classified as employer group insurance only. If the insurance was sponsored solely through a union it was classified as union sponsored insurance.

All insurance reported to be through a job classified as self-employed, with firm size of 1 (PRIVS1) was initially reported in the Employment Section and verified in the Health Insurance Section. Unlike the other employment-related variables (PRIVEG1 and PRIVU1), self-employed-firm size 1 (PRIVS1) health insurance could not be reported in the Health Insurance section for the first time. The variable PRIVS1 has been constructed to allow users to determine if the insurance should be considered employment-related.

Insurance initially reported in the Employment Section but not confirmed in the Health Insurance Section can be identified using the variable DISVOW1 (see Section 2.2.3). A value of 1 or 2 for this variable identifies disavowal of a specific insurance source only and does not necessarily imply that a person is uninsured.

Private insurance that was not employment-related (PRIVOG1, PRIVNG1, PRIVDK1, and PRIVOUT1) was reported in the Health Insurance Section only.

Public Insurance Coverage and Any Insurance in Round 1

Persons identified as insured in Round 1 are those reporting coverage under Medicare, Medicaid, CHAMPUS/CHAMPVA, other public hospital/physician or private hospital/physician insurance (including Medigap plans). A person is considered uninsured if not covered by one of these insurance sources.

Persons covered only by state-specific programs (STATPROG1), for example, Maryland Kidney Disease Program or Colorado Child Health Plan and those without hospital/physician benefits (for example, private insurance for dental or vision care only, accidents or specific diseases) were not considered to be insured when constructing the variables INSURED1 and PUBLIC1.

3. Survey Sample Information

3.1 Sample Design and Response Rates

The MEPS is designed to produce estimates at the national and regional level over time for the civilian, non-institutionalized population of the United States and some subpopulations of interest. The data in the Round 1 file pertain to approximately the first third of calendar year 1996. Two more rounds of data collection will cover the remainder of 1996 while a fourth round will follow the same sample into 1997.

The 1996 MEPS sample consisted of a subsample of households (occupied dwelling units) that responded to the 1995 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) in the two panels reserved for the MEPS. Analysis can be undertaken using both the individual and the family as units of analysis.

For detailed information on the sample design, see Appendix 1.

MEPS--Linked to the National Health Interview Survey

The sample of 10,639 households (occupied dwelling units) for the 1996 Panel of MEPS consisted of a nationally representative subsample of the households responding to the 1995 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). The NHIS sample design has three stages of sample selection: an area sample of PSUs; a sample of segments (single or groups of blocks or block equivalents) within sampled PSUs; and a sample of housing units within segments. Among initially sampled households, those containing Hispanics and blacks were oversampled at rates of approximately 2 and 1.5, respectively, times the rate of remaining households. These same rates of oversampling are reflected in the MEPS sample of households. The only major difference in the definition of a household between NHIS and MEPS is that college aged students living away from home during the school year were interviewed at their place of residence for the NHIS but were identified by and linked to their parents' household for MEPS.

Response Rates

Since the 1996 MEPS Household Survey sample was selected from a nationally representative sub-sample of households who were part of the 1995 NHIS, the overall response was derived from three component response rates. The NHIS response rate achieved for the households eligible for the MEPS was 93.9 percent. Of the 10,639 responding NHIS dwelling units eligible for the MEPS, 99.6 percent were identified with sufficient information to permit MEPS data collection. Within these dwelling units, there were 11,429 eligible reporting units targeted for interviews in Round 1, of which 83.1 percent responded to the first core MEPS interview. Two percent of the reporting units fielded in Round 1 could not be located; 15 percent were located and declined to participate in the MEPS interview, accounting for the 17 percent reporting unit nonresponse. Overall, the joint NHIS - Round 1 response rate for the 1996 MEPS household survey was 77.7 percent (.939 x .996 x .831).

3.2 Sample Weights and Variance Estimation

3.2.1 Sample Weighting

The use of sample weights permits the derivation of estimates for the U.S. civilian, non-institutionalized population and subgroups of this population based on the sample data. Two weights are provided on the public use file: a person level weight and a family level weight.

The Person Level Weight

The name of the person level weight variable is WGTSP1. A person level weight was assigned to all key, eligible members of the U.S. civilian, non-institutionalized population for whom data were collected in the first Round of data collection for the 1996 MEPS. This weight reflects the original household probability of selection for the NHIS, ratio-adjustment to NHIS national population estimates at the household level, adjustment for non-participation in MEPS at the dwelling unit level, and poststratification to figures obtained from March, 1996 Current Population Survey data at the family and person level. The person level poststratification reflected population distributions across census region; race/ethnicity (Hispanic, black/non-Hispanic, other); sex; and age. Overall, the weighted population estimate is 263,515,813 for the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

The Family Level Weight

The name of the family level weight is WGTRU1. A family was defined to be two or more persons living together who are related by blood, marriage, adoption, or foster care. The members of a "family" unit can vary over time due to births, deaths, and migration in and out of family units. For the purposes of assigning a family level weight for the first round of MEPS, a family unit was defined as the set of related people living together during the reference period for whom data were collected (from January 1, 1996 to the date of the Round 1 interview). Persons who died during the reference period were considered to be Round 1 family members, as were people for whom data could be collected for a portion of the round if a person left the civilian, non-institutionalized population later in the round (i.e., if a person was institutionalized, left the country, or joined the military). College age students living away from home during the school year also were considered family members. A family member need not be key nor in-scope. Such persons are family members for the "snapshot" of the family represented by the Round 1 period of time and may have made important contributions to such items as a family's income or health care coverage.

All responding family units with at least one key, eligible, in-scope person as well as reporting units consisting of a single key, in-scope, eligible respondent received a family level weight. At the family level, poststratification to March, 1996 CPS figures was undertaken reflecting factors

such as family type (reference person married, spouse present, male reference person, no spouse present, female reference person, no spouse present), size of family, age of reference person, location of family (census region and MSA status), and race/ethnicity of reference person. The weighted estimate of the number of family units (including single person units) containing at least one member of the U.S. civilian non-institutionalized population is 110,206,950.

NOTE: Analysts should exclude ineligible persons (ELIGRND1=2) from all family level analyses.

3.2.2 Variance Estimation

To obtain estimates of variability (such as the standard error of sample estimates or corresponding confidence intervals) for estimates based on MEPS survey data, one needs to take into account the complex sample design of MEPS for both person and family level analyses. Various approaches can be used to develop such estimates of variance, using a Taylor series method for variance estimation or alternative replication methodologies. Replicate weights have not been developed for the Round 1 MEPS data; the focus here is to identify the variables needed to implement a Taylor series estimation approach.

Using such an approach, variance estimation strata and the variance estimation PSUs within these strata must be specified. The corresponding variables on the MEPS Round 1 data base are VARSTR1 and VARPSU1, respectively. Specifying a "with replacement" design in a computer software package such as SUDAAN should provide estimated standard errors appropriate for assessing the variability of MEPS survey estimates. It should be noted that the number of degrees of freedom associated with estimates of variability indicated by such a package may not appropriately reflect the number available. For MEPS sample estimates for characteristics generally distributed throughout the country (and thus the sample PSUs), a reasonable rule of thumb is that there are roughly 170 degrees of freedom associated with the corresponding estimates of variance.

4. Programming Information

Description: MEPS 1996 Panel Round 1 Population Characteristics

File Name: HC001.DAT

Number of Observations: 24,676

Number of Variables: 111

Record Length: 264

Record Format: fixed

Record Identifier and Sort Key: DUPERSID

D. Codebook

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

CODEBOOK

This codebook contains weighted and unweighted frequencies for person-level record identifiers, demographic, employment and health status variables for round 1 of the 1996 MEPS Household Component. Weighted frequencies were derived using the appropriate weight listed at the end of this codebook. All estimates must be weighted in order to obtain unbiased national estimates. The source of each variable is identified in the column labeled "question number". For CAPI derived enumeration items, there will be an N/A in the question-number column. For variables coming directly from one question, the question number will appear in the question-number field. If a variable has been constructed from two or more questions, the word "constructed" will appear in the question-number column. A crosswalk that indicates source questions for these variables appears at the end of this codebook. Edited variables end in an X, and are so noted in the variable label. Imputed variables are so noted in the variable label. It should be noted that for the small number of persons who have zero weights, but reside in units with positive unit weights, a small amount of missing data remain. General information on file content, variable construction, and programming is provide in the codebook documentation.

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

DATE: March 4, 1997

ALPHABETICAL AND POSITIONAL LISTING OF VARIABLES

-----ALPHABETICAL LISTING OF VARIABLES-----

<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
97	98	ACTDUTY1	IS PERSON MILITARY FULL TIME ACTIVE DUTY
168	169	ACTLIMT1	LTC FLAG: WORK/HOUSEWORK/SCHOOL LIMIT
162	163	ADLHELP1	LTC FLAG: ADL HELP/SUPERVISION
66	67	AGE1X	AGE (EDITED/IMPUTED)
164	165	AIDHELP1	LTC FLAG: USE AIDS/SPECIAL EQUIPMENT
43	44	BEGREFDD	REFERENCE PERIOD BEGIN DATE: DAY
45	46	BEGREFMM	REFERENCE PERIOD BEGIN DATE: MONTH
47	50	BEGREFYY	REFERENCE PERIOD BEGIN DATE: YEAR
180	181	CHMPNOW1	PID COV BY CHAMPUS/VA - RD1 INT DATE
178	179	COGLIMT1	LTC FLAG: COGNITIVE LIMITATION
95	96	DIDSERVE	EVER SERVED IN ARMED FORCES
133	134	DISVOW1	HI DISAVOWED IN HI SECTION
68	69	DOBMM	DATE OF BIRTH: MONTH
70	73	DOBY1	DATE OF BIRTH: YEAR
1	5	DUID	DU ID
9	16	DUPERSID	SAMPLE PERSON ID (DN+PN) FOR PUBLIC USE
84	85	EDUCYR1	COMPLETED YEARS OF EDUCATION
60	60	ELIGRND1	ELIGIBILITY: ELIGIBLE/NOT ELIGIBLE
111	112	EMPST1	PERSON EMPLOYMENT STATUS (EDITED)
51	52	ENDREFDD	PERSON REF PERIOD END DATE-DAY
53	54	ENDREFMM	PERSON REF PERIOD END DATE-MONTH
55	58	ENDREFYY	PERSON REF PERIOD END DATE-YEAR
17	18	FAMID1	FAMILY IDENTIFIER (W/ STUDENT MERGED IN)
82	83	FTSTUD1	CURRENTLY A FULL-TIME STUDENT
125	126	HELDCM1X	HI HELD FROM CURRENT MAIN JOB (EDITED)
127	128	HELDCM1X	HI HELD FROM NON-CURRENT MAIN JOB (ED)
86	87	HIGHDEG1	HIGHEST DEGREE
78	79	HISPANX	HISPANIC ETHNICITY (EDITED/IMPUTED)
80	81	HISPCAT	SPECIFIC HISPANIC ETHNICITY GROUP
220	221	HPRIV1	PID IS HOLDER OF PRIV INS PLAN - RD1
232	233	HPRIVDK1	PID IS HOLDER OF PRIV DK PLAN -RD1
222	223	HPRIVEG1	PID IS HOLDER OF EMP GROUP PLAN - RD1
230	231	HPRIVNG1	PID IS HOLDER OF NONGROUP PLAN - RD1
228	229	HPRIVOG1	PID IS HOLDER OF OTH GROUP PLAN - RD1
226	227	HPRIVS1	PID IS HOLDER OF SELF-EMP-1 INS - RD1
224	225	HPRIVU1	PID IS HOLDER OF UNION GRP PLAN - RD1
122	124	HRPRWK1X	HOURS PER WEEK CURRENT MAIN JOB (EDITED)
113	119	HRWAGEX	HOURLY WAGE CURRENT MAIN JOB (EDITED)
120	121	HRWAY	HOW WAGE WAS EDITED
172	173	HSELIMT1	LIMITED ABILITY DOING HOUSEWORK
160	161	IADLHLP1	LTC FLAG: IADL HELP/SUPERVISION
61	61	INSCOPE	INSCOPE
234	235	INSURED1	PID IS INSURED - RD1
135	136	JOBORG	ORGANIZATION TYPE AT CURRENT MAIN JOB
59	59	KEYNESS	PERSON KEY STATUS
88	89	MARRY1X	MARITAL STATUS (EDITED/IMPUTED)
182	183	MCAID1	PID COVERED BY MEDICAID - RD 1
184	185	MCAID1X	PID COVERED BY MEDICAID - RD1 (EDITED)
196	197	MCARNOW1	PID COV BY MEDICARE - RD1 INT DATE
198	199	MCARNW1X	PID COV BY MEDICARE-RD1 INT DATE (ED)
158	159	MNTHLTH1	PERCEIVED MENTAL HEALTH STATUS
137	138	MORELOC	MORE THAN 1 LOCATION AT CURRENT MAIN JOB
35	35	MSA	MSA
139	141	NUMEMP	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AT LOCATION OF CMJ
129	130	OFERCM1X	HI OFFERED FROM CURRENT MAIN JOB (ED)
131	132	OFERNM1X	HI OFFERED FR NON-CURRENT MAIN JOB (ED)
194	195	OTGOVPY1	ANY GOVT PAYS PART MCAID HMO PREM - RD 1
186	187	OTPUBA1	PID COV BY/PAYS OTH GOV MCAID HMO - RD1
188	189	OTPUBB1	PID COV BY OTH PUB NOT MCAID HMO - RD1
142	143	PAYDRVS	PAID SICK LEAVE TO VISIT DOCTOR AT CMJ
146	147	PAYVAC	PAID VACATION AT CURRENT MAIN JOB
6	8	PID	PERSON NUMBER (PN)
212	213	PRGVPYA1	NON-EMP PRIV COV FEDS PAY PART - RD1
214	215	PRGVPYB1	NON-EMP PRIV COV OTH GOV PAYS PART - RD1
200	201	PRIV1	PID HAS PRIV HLTH INS COVERAGE - RD1

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

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ALPHABETICAL AND POSITIONAL LISTING OF VARIABLES

-----ALPHABETICAL LISTING OF VARIABLES-----

<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
216	217	PRIVDK1	PID HAS COV FRM PRIV DK PLAN - RD1
202	203	PRIVEG1	PID HAS COV FRM EMP GROUP PLAN - RD1
210	211	PRIVNG1	PID HAS COV FRM NONGROUP PLAN - RD1
208	209	PRIVOG1	PID HAS COV FRM OTH GROUP PLAN - RD1
218	219	PRIVOUT1	PID HAS COV FRM HOLDER OUTSIDE RU - RD1
206	207	PRIVS1	PID HAS COV FRM SELF-EMP-1 PLAN - RD1
204	205	PRIVU1	PID HAS COV FROM UNION GROUP PLAN - RD1
41	42	PROXY	WAS RESPONDENT A PROXY
62	63	PSTATUS	PERSON DISPOSITION STATUS
192	193	PUBLIC1	PID COV FRM PUBLIC INS PLAN - RD1
76	77	RACETHNX	RACE/ETHNICITY (EDITED/IMPUTED)
74	75	RACEX	RACE (EDIT/IMPUTED)
109	110	REFRELX	RELATION TO REF PERSON (EDITED/IMPUTED)
34	34	REGION	CENSUS REGION
152	153	RETIRED	RETIRED FROM ANY JOB
148	149	RETPLN	PENSION PLAN AT CURRENT MAIN JOB
36	38	RND1REF	REFERENCE PERSON AT ROUND 1
39	40	RND1RESP	1ST RESPONDENT INDICATOR FOR RND 1
156	157	RTEHLTH1	PERCEIVED HEALTH STATUS
33	33	RUCLASS	RU FIELDED AS: STANDARD, NEW OR STUDENT
23	24	RUENDDD	DATE OF INTERVIEW (DATE STARTED: DAY)
21	22	RUENDMM	DATE OF INTERVIEW (DATE STARTED: MONTH)
25	28	RUENDYY	DATE OF INTERVIEW (DATE STARTED: YEAR)
29	30	RULETTER	RU LETTER
31	32	RUSIZE	RU SIZE
174	175	SCHLIMT1	LIMITED ABILITY GOING TO SCHOOL
154	155	SELFCM	SELF-EMPLOYED AT CURRENT MAIN JOB
64	65	SEX	SEX (EDITED/IMPUTED)
144	145	SICPAY	PAID SICK LEAVE AT CURRENT MAIN JOB
176	177	SOCLIMT1	LTC FLAG: SOCIAL LIMITATIONS
90	92	SPOUSID1	SPOUSE ID
93	94	SPOUSIN1	MARITAL STATUS W/PRESENCE OF SPOUSE
190	191	STATPRG1	PID COV FRM STATE-SPECIFIC PROG - RD1
150	151	UNION	LABOR UNION MEMBER AT CURRENT MAIN JOB
19	20	UNITSIZE	UNITSIZE OF THE RU
251	252	VARPSU1	VARIANCE ESTIMATION PSU
248	250	VARSTRT1	VARIANCE ESTIMATION STRATUM
101	102	VETKOR	SERVED IN KOREAN WAR ERA
107	108	VETOTH	SERVED OTHER PERIOD
105	106	VETPVLET	SERVED IN POST VIETNAM ERA
103	104	VETVIET	SERVED IN VIETNAM WAR ERA
99	100	VETWW	SERVED IN WWI OR WWII ERA
166	167	WALKLIM1	LTC FLAG: WALK/BEND/STOOP DIFFICULTIES
236	247	WGTRU1	FAMILY LEVEL ROUND 1 WEIGHT
253	264	WGTSP1	PERSON ROUND 1 WEIGHT
170	171	WRKLIMT1	LIMITED ABILITY TO WORK

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

DATE: March 4, 1997

ALPHABETICAL AND POSITIONAL LISTING OF VARIABLES

-----POSITIONAL LISTING OF VARIABLES-----

<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	5	DUID	DU ID
6	8	PID	PERSON NUMBER (PN)
9	16	DUPERSID	SAMPLE PERSON ID (DN+PN) FOR PUBLIC USE
17	18	FAMID1	FAMILY IDENTIFIER (W/ STUDENT MERGED IN)
19	20	UNITSIZE	UNITSIZE OF THE RU
21	22	RUENDMM	DATE OF INTERVIEW (DATE STARTED: MONTH)
23	24	RUENDDDD	DATE OF INTERVIEW (DATE STARTED: DAY)
25	28	RUENDYY	DATE OF INTERVIEW (DATE STARTED: YEAR)
29	30	RULETTER	RU LETTER
31	32	RUSIZE	RU SIZE
33	33	RUCLASS	RU FIELDED AS: STANDARD, NEW OR STUDENT
34	34	REGION	CENSUS REGION
35	35	MSA	MSA
36	38	RND1REF	REFERENCE PERSON AT ROUND 1
39	40	RND1RESP	1ST RESPONDENT INDICATOR FOR RND 1
41	42	PROXY	WAS RESPONDENT A PROXY
43	44	BEGREFDD	REFERENCE PERIOD BEGIN DATE: DAY
45	46	BEGREFMM	REFERENCE PERIOD BEGIN DATE: MONTH
47	50	BEGREFYY	REFERENCE PERIOD BEGIN DATE: YEAR
51	52	ENDREFDD	PERSON REF PERIOD END DATE-DAY
53	54	ENDREFMM	PERSON REF PERIOD END DATE-MONTH
55	58	ENDREFYY	PERSON REF PERIOD END DATE-YEAR
59	59	KEYNESS	PERSON KEY STATUS
60	60	ELIGRND1	ELIGIBILITY: ELIGIBLE/NOT ELIGIBLE
61	61	INSCOPE	INSCOPE
62	63	PSTATUS	PERSON DISPOSITION STATUS
64	65	SEX	SEX (EDITED/IMPUTED)
66	67	AGE1X	AGE (EDITED/IMPUTED)
68	69	DOBMM	DATE OF BIRTH: MONTH
70	73	DOBY	DATE OF BIRTH: YEAR
74	75	RACEX	RACE (EDIT/IMPUTED)
76	77	RACETHNX	RACE/ETHNICITY (EDITED/IMPUTED)
78	79	HISPANX	HISPANIC ETHNICITY (EDITED/IMPUTED)
80	81	HISPCAT	SPECIFIC HISPANIC ETHNICITY GROUP
82	83	FTSTUD1	CURRENTLY A FULL-TIME STUDENT
84	85	EDUCYR1	COMPLETED YEARS OF EDUCATION
86	87	HIGHDEG1	HIGHEST DEGREE
88	89	MARRY1X	MARITAL STATUS (EDITED/IMPUTED)
90	92	SPOUSID1	SPOUSE ID
93	94	SPOUSIN1	MARITAL STATUS W/PRESENCE OF SPOUSE
95	96	DIDSERVE	EVER SERVED IN ARMED FORCES
97	98	ACTDUTY1	IS PERSON MILITARY FULL TIME ACTIVE DUTY
99	100	VETWW	SERVED IN WWI OR WWII ERA
101	102	VETKOR	SERVED IN KOREAN WAR ERA
103	104	VETVIET	SERVED IN VIETNAM WAR ERA
105	106	VETPVJET	SERVED IN POST VIETNAM ERA
107	108	VETOTH	SERVED OTHER PERIOD
109	110	REFREL1X	RELATION TO REF PERSON (EDITED/IMPUTED)
111	112	EMPST1	PERSON EMPLOYMENT STATUS (EDITED)
113	119	HRWAGEX	HOURLY WAGE CURRENT MAIN JOB (EDITED)
120	121	HRWAY	HOW WAGE WAS EDITED
122	124	HRPRWK1X	HOURS PER WEEK CURRENT MAIN JOB (EDITED)
125	126	HELDCM1X	HI HELD FROM CURRENT MAIN JOB (EDITED)
127	128	HELDNM1X	HI HELD FROM NON-CURRENT MAIN JOB (ED)
129	130	OFERCM1X	HI OFFERED FROM CURRENT MAIN JOB (ED)
131	132	OFERNM1X	HI OFFERED FR NON-CURRENT MAIN JOB (ED)
133	134	DISVOW1	HI DISAVOWED IN HI SECTION
135	136	JOBORG	ORGANIZATION TYPE AT CURRENT MAIN JOB
137	138	MORELOC	MORE THAN 1 LOCATION AT CURRENT MAIN JOB
139	141	NUMEMP	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AT LOCATION OF CMJ
142	143	PAYDRVS	PAID SICK LEAVE TO VISIT DOCTOR AT CMJ
144	145	SICPAY	PAID SICK LEAVE AT CURRENT MAIN JOB
146	147	PAYVAC	PAID VACATION AT CURRENT MAIN JOB
148	149	RETPLN	PENSION PLAN AT CURRENT MAIN JOB
150	151	UNION	LABOR UNION MEMBER AT CURRENT MAIN JOB

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

DATE: March 4, 1997

ALPHABETICAL AND POSITIONAL LISTING OF VARIABLES

-----POSITIONAL LISTING OF VARIABLES-----

<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
152	153	RETIRED	RETIRED FROM ANY JOB
154	155	SELFCM	SELF-EMPLOYED AT CURRENT MAIN JOB
156	157	RTEHLTH1	PERCEIVED HEALTH STATUS
158	159	MNTHLTH1	PERCEIVED MENTAL HEALTH STATUS
160	161	IADLHLP1	LTC FLAG: IADL HELP/SUPERVISION
162	163	ADLHELP1	LTC FLAG: ADL HELP/SUPERVISION
164	165	AIDHELP1	LTC FLAG: USE AIDS/SPECIAL EQUIPMENT
166	167	WALKLIM1	LTC FLAG: WALK/BEND/STOOP DIFFICULTIES
168	169	ACTLIMT1	LTC FLAG: WORK/HOUSEWORK/SCHOOL LIMIT
170	171	WRKLIMT1	LIMITED ABILITY TO WORK
172	173	HSELIMT1	LIMITED ABILITY DOING HOUSEWORK
174	175	SCHLIMT1	LIMITED ABILITY GOING TO SCHOOL
176	177	SOCLIMT1	LTC FLAG: SOCIAL LIMITATIONS
178	179	COGLIMT1	LTC FLAG: COGNITIVE LIMITATION
180	181	CHMPNOW1	PID COV BY CHAMPUS/VA - RD1 INT DATE
182	183	MCAID1	PID COVERED BY MEDICAID - RD 1
184	185	MCAID1X	PID COVERED BY MEDICAID - RD1 (EDITED)
186	187	OTPUBA1	PID COV BY/PAYS OTH GOV MCAID HMO - RD1
188	189	OTPUBB1	PID COV BY OTH PUB NOT MCAID HMO - RD1
190	191	STATPRG1	PID COV FRM STATE-SPECIFIC PROG - RD1
192	193	PUBLIC1	PID COV FRM PUBLIC INS PLAN - RD1
194	195	OTGOVPY1	ANY GOVT PAYS PART MCAID HMO PREM - RD 1
196	197	MCARNOW1	PID COV BY MEDICARE - RD1 INT DATE
198	199	MCARNW1X	PID COV BY MEDICARE-RD1 INT DATE (ED)
200	201	PRIV1	PID HAS PRIV HLTH INS COVERAGE - RD1
202	203	PRIVEG1	PID HAS COV FRM EMP GROUP PLAN - RD1
204	205	PRIVU1	PID HAS COV FROM UNION GROUP PLAN - RD1
206	207	PRIVS1	PID HAS COV FRM SELF-EMP-1 PLAN - RD1
208	209	PRIVOG1	PID HAS COV FRM OTH GROUP PLAN - RD1
210	211	PRIVNG1	PID HAS COV FRM NONGROUP PLAN - RD1
212	213	PRGVPYA1	NON-EMP PRIV COV FEDS PAY PART - RD1
214	215	PRGVPYB1	NON-EMP PRIV COV OTH GOV PAYS PART - RD1
216	217	PRIVDK1	PID HAS COV FRM PRIV DK PLAN - RD1
218	219	PRIVOUT1	PID HAS COV FRM HOLDER OUTSIDE RU - RD1
220	221	HPRIV1	PID IS HOLDER OF PRIV INS PLAN - RD1
222	223	HPRIVEG1	PID IS HOLDER OF EMP GROUP PLAN - RD1
224	225	HPRIVU1	PID IS HOLDER OF UNION GRP PLAN - RD1
226	227	HPRIVS1	PID IS HOLDER OF SELF-EMP-1 INS - RD1
228	229	HPRIVOG1	PID IS HOLDER OF OTH GROUP PLAN - RD1
230	231	HPRIVNG1	PID IS HOLDER OF NONGROUP PLAN - RD1
232	233	HPRIVDK1	PID IS HOLDER OF PRIV DK PLAN -RD1
234	235	INSURED1	PID IS INSURED - RD1
236	247	WGTRU1	FAMILY LEVEL ROUND 1 WEIGHT
248	250	VARSTR1	VARIANCE ESTIMATION STRATUM
251	252	VARPSU1	VARIANCE ESTIMATION PSU
253	264	WGTSPI	PERSON ROUND 1 WEIGHT

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
<u>DUID</u>	<u>DU ID</u>	<u>5.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	NA
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	0-99999 ODU ID	24,676		263,515,813		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>PID</u>	<u>PERSON NUMBER (PN)</u>	<u>3.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	NA
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	0-999 PID	24,676		263,515,813		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>DUPERSID</u>	<u>SAMPLE PERSON ID (DN+PN) FOR PUBLIC USE</u>	<u>8.0</u>	<u>CHAR</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>16</u>	NA
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	0-999999999 PERSON ID	24,676		263,515,813		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>FAMID1</u>	<u>FAMILY IDENTIFIER (W/ STUDENT MERGED IN)</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>CHAR</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	NA
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	A FAMILY LETTER=A	23,581		253,191,511		
	B FAMILY LETTER=B	974		9,383,557		
	C FAMILY LETTER=C	98		787,679		
	D FAMILY LETTER=D	23		153,066		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>UNITSIZE</u>	<u>UNITSIZE OF THE RU</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	NA
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	1 1 PERSON	2,691		35,816,584		
	2 2 PERSONS	5,504		66,282,117		
	3 3 PERSONS	4,590		48,036,588		
	4 4 PERSONS	5,834		59,161,603		
	5 5 PERSONS	3,305		31,718,409		
	6 6 PERSONS	1,493		13,422,380		
	7 7 PERSONS	562		4,188,398		
	8 8 PERSONS	307		1,977,085		
	9 9 PERSONS	227		1,696,099		
	10 10 PERSONS	80		751,744		
	11 11 PERSONS	44		313,686		
	12 12 PERSONS	12		56,412		
	13 13 PERSONS	13		45,883		
	14 14 PERSONS	14		48,824		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

DATE: March 4, 1997

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
RUENDMM	DATE OF INTERVIEW (DATE STARTED: MONTH)	2.0	NUM	21	22	NA
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>			
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	10	143,354			
	3 MARCH	8,448	90,570,078			
	4 APRIL	7,762	83,693,276			
	5 MAY	4,506	47,030,448			
	6 JUNE	2,739	28,598,609			
	7 JULY	1,131	12,668,090			
	8 AUGUST	80	811,957			
	TOTAL	24,676	263,515,813			
RUENDD	DATE OF INTERVIEW (DATE STARTED: DAY)	2.0	NUM	23	24	NA
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>			
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	10	143,354			
	1 - 31 DAY	24,666	263,372,459			
	TOTAL	24,676	263,515,813			
RUENDYY	DATE OF INTERVIEW (DATE STARTED: YEAR)	4.0	NUM	25	28	NA
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>			
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	10	143,354			
	1996	24,666	263,372,459			
	TOTAL	24,676	263,515,813			
RULETTER	RU LETTER	2.0	CHAR	29	30	NA
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>			
	A RU LETTER = A	23,470	251,616,241			
	B RU LETTER = B	1,069	10,732,775			
	C RU LETTER = C	113	1,004,986			
	D RU LETTER = D	24	161,811			
	TOTAL	24,676	263,515,813			
RUSIZE	RU SIZE	2.0	NUM	31	32	NA
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>			
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202	0			
	1 1 PERSON IN RU	2,747	37,521,098			
	2 2 PERSONS IN RU	5,506	66,903,209			
	3 3 PERSONS IN RU	4,587	48,230,994			
	4 4 PERSONS IN RU	5,684	57,520,464			
	5 5 PERSONS IN RU	3,230	31,056,578			
	6 6 PERSONS IN RU	1,470	13,224,357			
	7 7 PERSONS IN RU	560	4,188,398			
	8 8 PERSONS IN RU	320	2,133,318			
	9 9 PERSONS IN RU	207	1,520,847			
	10 10 PERSONS IN RU	80	751,744			
	11 11 PERSONS IN RU	44	313,686			
	12 12 PERSONS IN RU	12	56,412			
	13 13 PERSONS IN RU	13	45,883			
	14 14 PERSONS IN RU	14	48,824			
	TOTAL	24,676	263,515,813			

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

DATE: March 4, 1997

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
<u>RUCLASS</u>	<u>RU FIELDLED AS: STANDARD, NEW OR STUDENT</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>NA</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	1 STANDARD	23,671		254,014,835		
	2 NEW RU	883		7,750,397		
	3 STUDENT RU	122		1,750,581		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>REGION</u>	<u>CENSUS REGION</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>NA</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	1 NORTHEAST	4,916		51,464,265		
	2 MIDWEST	5,314		61,827,772		
	3 SOUTH	8,604		91,854,957		
	4 WEST	5,842		58,368,819		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>MSA</u>	<u>MSA</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>NA</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	1 MSA	19,559		210,639,533		
	2 NONMSA	5,117		52,876,280		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>RND1REF</u>	<u>REFERENCE PERSON AT ROUND 1</u>	<u>3.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	0-999 PID	24,676		263,515,813		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>RND1RESP</u>	<u>1ST RESPONDENT INDICATOR FOR RND 1</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	15,411		155,119,381		
	1 YES	9,265		108,396,432		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>PROXY</u>	<u>WAS RESPONDENT A PROXY</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>RE 2</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	11		148,888		
	1 RESPONDENT IS RU MEMBER	24,506		261,752,196		
	2 RESPONDENT IS A PROXY	159		1,614,729		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

DATE: March 4, 1997

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
BEGREFDD	REFERENCE PERIOD BEGIN DATE: DAY	2.0	NUM	43	44	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	9		0		
	-8 DK	1		3,861		
	-7 REFUSED	1		0		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	171		0		
	1 - 31 DAY	24,494		263,511,952		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
BEGREFMM	REFERENCE PERIOD BEGIN DATE: MONTH	2.0	NUM	45	46	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	8		0		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	171		0		
	1 JANUARY	24,142		262,679,508		
	2 FEBRUARY	114		357,800		
	3 MARCH	107		223,326		
	4 APRIL	76		130,834		
	5 MAY	39		60,783		
	6 JUNE	18		63,562		
	7 JULY	1		0		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
BEGREFYY	REFERENCE PERIOD BEGIN DATE: YEAR	4.0	NUM	47	50	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	8		0		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	171		0		
	1996	24,497		263,515,813		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
ENDREFDD	PERSON REF PERIOD END DATE-DAY	2.0	NUM	51	52	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	3		19,288		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	174		0		
	1 - 31 DAY	24,499		263,496,525		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
ENDREFMM	PERSON REF PERIOD END DATE-MONTH	2.0	NUM	53	54	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	2		4,901		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	174		0		
	1 JANUARY	23		238,276		
	2 FEBRUARY	25		251,996		
	3 MARCH	8,407		90,618,899		
	4 APRIL	7,704		83,645,459		
	5 MAY	4,454		46,915,002		
	6 JUNE	2,699		28,485,897		
	7 JULY	1,110		12,567,193		
	8 AUGUST	78		788,191		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

DATE: March 4, 1997

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
<u>ENDREFY1</u>	<u>PERSON REF PERIOD END DATE-YEAR</u>	<u>4.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>58</u>	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	174		0		
	1996	24,502		263,515,813		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>KEYNESS</u>	<u>PERSON KEY STATUS</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>59</u>	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	1 KEY	23,757		263,515,813		
	2 NOT KEY	919		0		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>ELIGRND1</u>	<u>ELIGIBILITY: ELIGIBLE/NOT ELIGIBLE</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>60</u>	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	1 YES	24,474		263,515,813		
	2 NO	202		0		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>INSCOPE</u>	<u>INSCOPE</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>61</u>	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	1 YES	24,458		263,515,813		
	2 NO	218		0		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>PSTATUS</u>	<u>PERSON DISPOSITION STATUS</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>63</u>	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	0 INCORRECTLY LISTED IN RU AT NHIS	65		0		
	11 PERSON IN HOUSEHLD, NOT FT ACTIVE MIL	22,168		247,352,593		
	12 PERSON IN HOUSEHLD, FT MIL DUTY-OUT-SCOPE	24		0		
	13 MOVED, FT STUDENT LIVING AWAY FROM HOME	100		1,421,434		
	14 PERSON IN ORIG HH, FT ACTIVE DUTY-INSCOP	1		16,594		
	31 DECEASED	46		510,470		
	32 INSTITUTIONALIZED IN HEALTH CARE FAC	6		76,506		
	33 INSTITUTIONALIZED IN NON-HEALTH CARE FAC	7		67,067		
	34 MOVED OUTSIDE U.S.	10		84,939		
	35 MOVED, FT ACTIVE DUTY	7		12,732		
	36 INSTITUTIONALIZED (TYPE UNKNOWN)	2		26,432		
	41 MOVED WITHIN U.S.	549		6,337,303		
	42 PERSON WHO JOINED RU	1,300		4,620,956		
	51 NEWBORN IN REF PERIOD	271		2,834,949		
	61 DECEASED PRIOR TO REF PERIOD	50		0		
	62 INSTITUTIONALIZED PRIOR TO REF PERIOD	14		0		
	63 MOVE PRIOR TO REF PERIOD	37		0		
	64 FT MIL AT MIL FAC MOVED PRIOR TO REF PER	8		0		
	81 MOVED, FT STUD, NO RESP, DATA IMPUTED	11		153,836		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

DATE: March 4, 1997

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
<u>SEX</u>	<u>SEX (EDITED/IMPUTED)</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 UNKNOWN	4		0		
	1 MALE	11,825		128,383,237		
	2 FEMALE	12,847		135,132,576		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>AGE1X</u>	<u>AGE (EDITED/IMPUTED)</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 UNKNOWN	22		0		
	0 - 4	1,911		19,882,259		
	5 - 17	5,232		51,538,452		
	18 - 24	2,343		25,088,254		
	25 - 44	7,579		82,898,113		
	45 - 64	4,852		52,269,251		
	65-120	2,737		31,839,485		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>DOBMM</u>	<u>DATE OF BIRTH: MONTH</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-8 DK	5		0		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	17		0		
	1 JANUARY	2,001		21,508,706		
	2 FEBRUARY	1,965		20,939,227		
	3 MARCH	2,061		21,961,259		
	4 APRIL	1,904		20,511,394		
	5 MAY	1,943		21,269,877		
	6 JUNE	2,044		22,086,751		
	7 JULY	2,146		22,754,901		
	8 AUGUST	2,205		23,549,455		
	9 SEPTEMBER	2,191		23,507,313		
	10 OCTOBER	2,114		22,656,963		
	11 NOVEMBER	2,010		21,054,662		
	12 DECEMBER	2,070		21,715,303		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>DOBY</u>	<u>DATE OF BIRTH: YEAR</u>	<u>4.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-8 DONT KNOW	5		0		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	17		0		
	1880 - 1919	993		11,463,148		
	1920 - 1939	3,384		38,036,066		
	1940 - 1959	6,583		72,013,350		
	1960 - 1979	7,185		76,912,894		
	1980 - 1998	6,509		65,090,355		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

DATE: March 4, 1997

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
<u>RACEX</u>	<u>RACE (EDIT/IMPUTED)</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 UNKNOWN	32		0		
	1 AMERICAN INDIAN	361		3,190,415		
	2 ALEUT	21		234,240		
	3 ASIAN	713		9,500,408		
	4 BLACK	3,613		34,459,726		
	5 WHITE	19,856		215,545,710		
	91 OTHER	80		585,314		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>RACETHNX</u>	<u>RACE/ETHNICITY (EDITED/IMPUTED)</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	32		0		
	1 HISPANIC	5,184		28,384,339		
	2 BLACK, NOT HISPANIC	3,390		32,974,563		
	3 OTHER	16,070		202,156,911		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>HISPANX</u>	<u>HISPANIC ETHNICITY (EDITED/IMPUTED)</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 UNKNOWN	33		0		
	1 HISPANIC	5,184		28,384,339		
	2 NOT HISPANIC	19,459		235,131,474		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>HISPCAT</u>	<u>SPECIFIC HISPANIC ETHNICITY GROUP</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	18		72,012		
	-8 DK	42		163,778		
	-7 REFUSED	7		15,592		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	23		0		
	1 PUERTO RICAN	604		3,501,653		
	2 CUBAN	219		1,198,347		
	3 MEXICAN/MEXICAN AMERICAN/MEXICANO/CHICAN	3,542		18,319,119		
	4 OTHER LATIN AMERICAN/OTHER SPANISH	807		5,350,414		
	5 NON-HISPANIC	19,414		234,894,898		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>FTSTUD1</u>	<u>CURRENTLY A FULL-TIME STUDENT</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-8 DK	1		2,156		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	23,702		251,998,891		
	1 FULL TIME	764		9,322,085		
	2 NOT FULL TIME	209		2,192,682		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
<u>EDUCYR1</u>	<u>COMPLETED YEARS OF EDUCATION</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	25		214,082		
	-8 DK	179		1,462,902		
	-7 REFUSED	20		195,724		
	-6 UNDER AGE 5-INAP	1,901		19,838,969		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	201		0		
	0 NEVER ATTEND SCH	1,103		10,464,360		
	1 - 8 GRADES 1-8	4,953		46,442,473		
	9 - 11 GRADES 9-11	3,310		33,095,552		
	12 GRADE 12	5,897		65,383,927		
	13 1 YEAR COLLEGE	1,178		13,955,311		
	14 2 YEARS COLLEGE	1,760		20,656,293		
	15 3 YEARS COLLEGE	660		8,012,532		
	16 4 YEARS COLLEGE	2,118		26,390,887		
	17 5+ YEARS COLLEGE	1,371		17,402,801		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>HIGHDEG1</u>	<u>HIGHEST DEGREE</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	117		894,441		
	-8 DK	21		189,426		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	199		0		
	1 NO DEGREE	4,547		41,828,800		
	2 GED	867		8,929,303		
	3 HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	8,151		93,066,306		
	4 BACHELOR'S DEGREE	2,327		29,004,106		
	5 MASTER'S DEGREE	809		10,250,080		
	6 DOCTORATE DEGREE	212		2,702,615		
	7 OTHER DEGREE	1,084		12,839,961		
	8 UNDER 16 - INAP	6,342		63,810,775		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>MARRY1X</u>	<u>MARITAL STATUS (EDITED/IMPUTED)</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	16		138,553		
	-8 DK	8		78,873		
	-7 REFUSED	6		58,349		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	211		143,354		
	1 MARRIED	9,816		105,998,464		
	2 WIDOWED	1,123		12,577,417		
	3 DIVORCED	1,296		14,717,275		
	4 SEPARATED	276		2,495,711		
	5 NEVER MARRIED	4,607		52,645,177		
	6 UNDER 16 - INAPP	6,347		63,823,778		
	7 MARRIED IN RD 1	274		3,023,623		
	8 WIDOWED IN RD 1	126		1,312,114		
	9 DIVORCED IN RD 1	365		4,369,477		
	10 SEPARATED IN RD 1	205		2,133,648		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
<u>SPOUSID1</u>	<u>SPOUSE ID</u>	<u>3.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	000-994 VALID SPOUSE ID	9,850		106,766,008		
	995 NO SPOUSE IN HOUSE	8,238		92,510,058		
	996 MARITAL STATUS UNKNOWN	40		419,130		
	997 UNDER 16 - INAP	6,346		63,820,617		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>SPOUSIN1</u>	<u>MARITAL STATUS W/PRESENCE OF SPOUSE</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	16		138,553		
	-8 DK	8		78,873		
	-7 REFUSED	6		58,349		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	212		143,354		
	1 SPOUSE IN HOUSE	9,849		106,762,847		
	2 NOT MARR/NO SP	8,238		92,510,058		
	3 UNDER 16 - INAP	6,347		63,823,778		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>DIDSERVE</u>	<u>EVER SERVED IN ARMED FORCES</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	13		83,789		
	-8 DK	13		65,358		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	200		143,354		
	1 YES	2,215		26,447,611		
	2 NO	15,839		172,922,596		
	3 UNDER 16 - INAP	6,347		63,823,778		
	4 NOW ACTIVE DUTY	49		29,326		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>ACTDUTY1</u>	<u>IS PERSON MILITARY FULL TIME ACTIVE DUTY</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	2		0		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	190		0		
	1 YES - ACTIVE DUTY	49		29,326		
	2 NO - NOT FT ACTIVE DUTY	14,484		157,842,445		
	3 UNDER 16 - INAP	6,347		63,823,778		
	4 OVER 59 - INAP	3,604		41,820,264		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
VETWW	SERVED IN WWI OR WWII ERA	2.0	NUM	99	100	RE 96
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	13		83,789		
	-8 DK	29		196,628		
	-7 REFUSED	1		0		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	214		194,641		
	1 YES - SERVED	542		7,045,034		
	2 NO - DID NOT SERVE	1,692		19,259,830		
	3 UNDER 16 - INAP	6,347		63,823,778		
	4 NEVER IN MILITARY	15,838		172,912,113		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
VETKOR	SERVED IN KOREAN WAR ERA	2.0	NUM	101	102	RE 96
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	13		83,789		
	-8 DK	29		196,628		
	-7 REFUSED	1		0		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	214		194,641		
	1 YES - SERVED	418		4,963,084		
	2 NO - DID NOT SERVE	1,816		21,341,779		
	3 UNDER 16 - INAP	6,347		63,823,778		
	4 NEVER IN MILITARY	15,838		172,912,113		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
VETVIET	SERVED IN VIETNAM WAR ERA	2.0	NUM	103	104	RE 96
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	13		83,789		
	-8 DK	29		196,628		
	-7 REFUSED	1		0		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	214		194,641		
	1 YES - SERVED	720		8,487,795		
	2 NO - DID NOT SERVE	1,514		17,817,068		
	3 UNDER 16 - INAP	6,347		63,823,778		
	4 NEVER IN MILITARY	15,838		172,912,113		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
VETPVIET	SERVED IN POST VIETNAM ERA	2.0	NUM	105	106	RE 96
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	13		83,789		
	-8 DK	29		196,628		
	-7 REFUSED	1		0		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	214		194,641		
	1 YES - SERVED	429		4,790,980		
	2 NO - DID NOT SERVE	1,805		21,513,883		
	3 UNDER 16 - INAP	6,347		63,823,778		
	4 NEVER IN MILITARY	15,838		172,912,113		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
VETOTH	SERVED OTHER PERIOD	2.0	NUM	107	108	RE 96
	<u>VALUE</u>			<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>	
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED			13	83,789	
	-8 DK			29	196,628	
	-7 REFUSED			1	0	
	-1 INAPPLICABLE			214	194,641	
	1 YES - SERVED			372	4,088,579	
	2 NO - DID NOT SERVE			1,862	22,216,284	
	3 UNDER 16 - INAP			6,347	63,823,778	
	4 NEVER IN MILITARY			15,838	172,912,113	
	TOTAL			24,676	263,515,813	

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
REFREL1X	RELATION TO REF PERSON (EDITED/IMPUTED)	2.0	NUM	109	110	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>			<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>	
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED			5	49,596	
	-8 DK			4	53,980	
	-1 INAPPLICABLE			193	0	
	0 SELF			9,495	111,145,190	
	1 MOTHER			185	1,291,941	
	2 FATHER			57	430,412	
	3 SISTER/STEP/HALF			119	844,000	
	4 BROTHER/STEP/HALF			136	1,056,124	
	5 DAUGHTER/ADOPTED DAUGHTER			3,941	39,846,605	
	6 SON/ADOPTED SON			4,124	44,429,341	
	7 WIFE/SPOUSE			3,840	42,302,951	
	8 HUSBAND/SPOUSE			945	9,486,513	
	9 MOTHER-IN-LAW			64	614,637	
	10 FATHER-IN-LAW			21	194,656	
	11 SISTER-IN-LAW			31	127,486	
	12 BROTHER-IN-LAW			47	309,976	
	13 DAUGHTER-IN-LAW			37	214,550	
	14 SON-IN-LAW			33	216,943	
	15 STEPMOTHER			1	15,881	
	16 STEPFATHER			8	48,549	
	17 STEPDAUGHTER			31	243,532	
	18 STEPSON			58	397,003	
	19 GRANDMOTHER			12	56,754	
	20 GRANDFATHER			3	4,057	
	21 AUNT			9	30,944	
	22 UNCLE			10	33,124	
	23 NIECE			67	470,133	
	24 NEPHEW			79	578,515	
	25 COUSIN			71	352,271	
	26 GRANDSON			263	2,127,165	
	27 GRANDDAUGHTER			247	1,861,378	
	28 FEMALE PARTNER			228	1,817,849	
	29 MALE PARTNER			213	2,222,281	
	30 MOTHER'S PARTNER			4	0	
	32 DAUGHTER OF PARTNER			13	90,085	
	33 SON OF PARTNER			22	126,119	
	34 FOSTER CHILD			18	137,178	
	37 GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER			11	80,624	
	38 GREAT GRANDSON			7	60,684	
	(CONT'D ON NEXT PAGE)					

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
<u>REFREL1X</u>	<u>RELATION TO REF PERSON (EDITED/IMPUTED)</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>110</u>	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	(CONT'D FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)					
	91 OTHER RELATED	19		146,784		
	99 NOT RELATED	5		0		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>EMPST1</u>	<u>PERSON EMPLOYMENT STATUS (EDITED)</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>112</u>	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	108		1,096,547		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	6,562		63,979,029		
	1 CURRENTLY EMPLOYED	11,403		128,619,395		
	2 NOT EMPLOYED, HAS JOB TO RETURN TO	118		1,293,846		
	3 NOT EMPLOYED, EMPLOYED IN REF	479		5,295,644		
	4 NOT EMPLOYED, NOT EMPLOYED IN REF	6,006		63,231,351		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>HRWAGEX</u>	<u>HOURLY WAGE CURRENT MAIN JOB (EDITED)</u>	<u>7.2</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>119</u>	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	651		7,196,246		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	14,681		151,386,406		
	0 - 9999999.99 HOURLY WAGE	9,344		104,933,162		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>HRWAY</u>	<u>HOW WAGE WAS EDITED</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>121</u>	EW 2
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	651		7,196,246		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	14,681		151,386,406		
	1 HOURLY WAGE	5,210		56,904,821		
	2 RANGE SERIES	1,124		12,333,449		
	3 SALARY	2,547		30,295,127		
	4 BY DAY	35		420,198		
	5 PIECEWORK	221		2,491,601		
	6 COMMISSION	102		1,294,049		
	7 BONUS	3		48,815		
	8 SALARY (ASSUMING 40 HR WEEK)	102		1,145,101		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>HRPRWK1X</u>	<u>HOURS PER WEEK CURRENT MAIN JOB (EDITED)</u>	<u>3.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>124</u>	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	427		4,632,324		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	13,165		133,799,871		
	0 - 999 HOURS PER WEEK	11,084		125,083,618		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
HELDCM1X	HI HELD FROM CURRENT MAIN JOB (EDITED)	2.0	NUM	125	126	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	110		1,099,253		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	13,784		141,059,859		
	1 YES	5,663		65,901,164		
	2 NO	5,119		55,455,537		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
HELDM1X	HI HELD FROM NON-CURRENT MAIN JOB (ED)	2.0	NUM	127	128	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	9		88,928		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	18,018		188,869,690		
	1 YES, FROM 1 OR MORE RETIREMENT JOBS	756		9,411,797		
	2 YES, FROM 1 OR MORE NON-RETIREMENT JOBS	393		4,716,080		
	3 NO	5,500		60,429,318		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
OFERCM1X	HI OFFERED FROM CURRENT MAIN JOB (ED)	2.0	NUM	129	130	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	575		5,748,317		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	13,784		141,059,859		
	1 YES	6,838		79,203,073		
	2 NO	3,479		37,504,564		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
OFERNM1X	HI OFFERED FR NON-CURRENT MAIN JOB (ED)	2.0	NUM	131	132	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	692		7,551,259		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	18,018		188,869,690		
	1 YES, AT 1 OR MORE	2,258		26,500,680		
	2 NOT YES, NO AT 1 OR MORE	3,708		40,594,184		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
DISVOW1	HI DISAVOWED IN HI SECTION	2.0	NUM	133	134	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	108		1,096,547		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	17,027		174,469,414		
	1 DISAVOWED AT CURRENT MAIN JOB	172		1,864,606		
	2 DISAVOW 1 OR MORE NOT CURRENT MAIN JOB	547		6,065,908		
	3 NEVER DISAVOWED	6,822		80,019,337		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

DATE: March 4, 1997

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
<u>JOBORG</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION TYPE AT CURRENT MAIN JOB</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	241		2,432,083		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	13,047		132,506,025		
	1 PRIVATE, NOT SELF-EMPLOYED	8,039		90,034,366		
	2 PUBLIC	1,852		21,174,596		
	3 SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP, SELF-EMPLOYED	912		10,621,628		
	4 PARTNERSHIP, SELF-EMPLOYED	174		1,834,674		
	5 INCORPORATED, SELF-EMPLOYED	411		4,912,441		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>MORELOC</u>	<u>MORE THAN 1 LOCATION AT CURRENT MAIN JOB</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>EM 93</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	367		3,366,801		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	14,680		151,375,151		
	1 YES	6,304		72,136,148		
	2 NO	3,325		36,637,713		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>NUMEMP</u>	<u>NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AT LOCATION OF CMJ</u>	<u>3.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	686		6,920,802		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	13,047		132,506,025		
	0 - 99999 NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	10,943		124,088,986		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>PAYDRVS</u>	<u>PAID SICK LEAVE TO VISIT DOCTOR AT CMJ</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>EM 103</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	477		4,809,392		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	14,681		151,386,406		
	1 YES	4,880		56,425,406		
	2 NO	4,638		50,894,610		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>SICPAY</u>	<u>PAID SICK LEAVE AT CURRENT MAIN JOB</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>EM 107</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	360		3,487,403		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	14,681		151,386,406		
	1 YES	5,696		65,840,669		
	2 NO	3,939		42,801,335		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
<u>PAYVAC</u>	<u>PAID VACATION AT CURRENT MAIN JOB</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>EM 109</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	309		3,052,295		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	14,681		151,386,406		
	1 YES	6,850		78,100,770		
	2 NO	2,836		30,976,342		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>RETPLN</u>	<u>PENSION PLAN AT CURRENT MAIN JOB</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>EM 110</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	448		4,421,083		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	14,681		151,386,406		
	1 YES	4,941		57,776,695		
	2 NO	4,606		49,931,629		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>UNION</u>	<u>LABOR UNION MEMBER AT CURRENT MAIN JOB</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>151</u>	<u>EM 116</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	221		2,066,043		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	13,195		133,940,244		
	1 YES	1,448		16,098,069		
	2 NO	9,812		111,411,457		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>RETIRED</u>	<u>RETIRED FROM ANY JOB</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED AT ALL	4		41,479		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	20,525		215,584,776		
	1 YES, AT 1 OR MORE	2,065		24,621,021		
	2 NOT YES, NO AT 1 OR MORE	2,082		23,268,537		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>SELFCEM</u>	<u>SELF-EMPLOYED AT CURRENT MAIN JOB</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	118		1,211,351		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	13,165		133,799,871		
	1 YES	1,516		17,586,535		
	2 NO	9,877		110,918,056		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
<u>RTEHLTH1</u>	<u>PERCEIVED HEALTH STATUS</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>156</u>	<u>157</u>	<u>CE 1</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	15		157,507		
	-8 DK	22		327,628		
	-7 REFUSED	11		130,022		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	1,082		586,000		
	1 EXCELLENT	8,247		95,602,424		
	2 VERY GOOD	6,893		78,524,536		
	3 GOOD	5,524		58,640,893		
	4 FAIR	2,122		21,320,848		
	5 POOR	760		8,225,956		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>MNTHLTH1</u>	<u>PERCEIVED MENTAL HEALTH STATUS</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>CE 2</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	15		157,507		
	-8 DK	29		411,471		
	-7 REFUSED	12		150,569		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	1,082		586,000		
	1 EXCELLENT	11,018		126,798,094		
	2 VERY GOOD	6,508		73,118,118		
	3 GOOD	4,670		48,331,508		
	4 FAIR	1,057		10,943,206		
	5 POOR	285		3,019,340		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>IADLHLP1</u>	<u>LTC FLAG: IADL HELP/SUPERVISION</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>161</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	7		61,874		
	-8 DK	4		50,838		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	1,083		596,482		
	1 YES	726		8,047,414		
	2 NO	22,856		254,759,205		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>ADLHELP1</u>	<u>LTC FLAG: ADL HELP/SUPERVISION</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>162</u>	<u>163</u>	<u>HE 6</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	7		61,874		
	-8 DK	5		56,236		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	1,083		596,482		
	1 YES	390		4,294,048		
	2 NO	23,191		258,507,172		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
AIDHELP1	LTC FLAG: USE AIDS/SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	2.0	NUM	164	165	HE 8
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	5		48,006		
	-8 DK	4		50,838		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	1,083		596,482		
	1 YES	784		9,154,935		
	2 NO	22,800		253,665,551		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
WALKLIM1	LTC FLAG: WALK/BEND/SOOP DIFFICULTIES	2.0	NUM	166	167	HE 10
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	5		48,006		
	-8 DK	4		50,838		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	1,083		596,482		
	1 YES	2,209		25,317,897		
	2 NO	21,375		237,502,589		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
ACTLIMT1	LTC FLAG: WORK/HOUSEWORK/SCHOOL LIMIT	2.0	NUM	168	169	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	6		53,336		
	-8 DK	8		110,396		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	2,922		20,478,740		
	1 YES	1,656		18,834,115		
	2 NO	20,084		224,039,226		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
WRKLIMT1	LIMITED ABILITY TO WORK	2.0	NUM	170	171	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-8 DK	10		129,366		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	23,011		244,560,820		
	1 YES	1,389		15,728,505		
	2 NO	266		3,097,122		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
HSELIMT1	LIMITED ABILITY DOING HOUSEWORK	2.0	NUM	172	173	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-8 DK	10		129,366		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	23,011		244,560,820		
	1 YES	1,056		12,157,088		
	2 NO	599		6,668,539		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

DATE: March 4, 1997

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
SCHLIMT1	LIMITED ABILITY GOING TO SCHOOL	2.0	NUM	174	175	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-8 DK	10		129,366		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	23,011		244,560,820		
	1 YES	523		5,916,007		
	2 NO	1,132		12,909,620		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
SOCLIMT1	LTC FLAG: SOCIAL LIMITATIONS	2.0	NUM	176	177	HE 23
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	7		61,874		
	-8 DK	17		185,593		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	1,083		596,482		
	1 YES	975		11,235,576		
	2 NO	22,594		251,436,288		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
COGLIMT1	LTC FLAG: COGNITIVE LIMITATION	2.0	NUM	178	179	HE 25
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-8 DK	149		1,751,499		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	1,083		596,482		
	1 YES	732		8,066,977		
	2 NO	22,712		253,100,855		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
CHMPNOW1	PID COV BY CHAMPUS/VA - RD1 INT DATE	2.0	NUM	180	181	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	347		4,044,550		
	2 NO	24,127		259,471,262		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
MCAID1	PID COVERED BY MEDICAID - RD 1	2.0	NUM	182	183	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	3,099		26,401,665		
	2 NO	21,375		237,114,148		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
MCAID1X	PID COVERED BY MEDICAID - RD1 (EDITED)	2.0	NUM	184	185	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	3,240		27,818,340		
	2 NO	21,234		235,697,473		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

DATE: March 4, 1997

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
<u>OTPUBA1</u>	<u>PID COV BY/PAYS OTH GOV MCAID HMO - RD1</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>187</u>	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	55		644,770		
	2 NO	24,419		262,871,043		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>OTPUBB1</u>	<u>PID COV BY OTH PUB NOT MCAID HMO - RD1</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>188</u>	<u>189</u>	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	257		2,930,181		
	2 NO	24,217		260,585,632		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>STATPRG1</u>	<u>PID COV FRM STATE-SPECIFIC PROG - RD1</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>191</u>	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	109		1,156,980		
	2 NO	24,365		262,358,832		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>PUBLIC1C1</u>	<u>PID COV FRM PUBLIC INS PLAN - RD1</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>192</u>	<u>193</u>	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	6,304		64,285,069		
	2 NO	18,170		199,230,744		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>OTGOVPY1</u>	<u>ANY GOVT PAYS PART MCAID HMO PREM - RD 1</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>194</u>	<u>195</u>	HX 47
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	24,621		262,871,043		
	1 YES	39		457,017		
	2 NO	16		187,753		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>MCARNOW1</u>	<u>PID COV BY MEDICARE - RD1 INT DATE</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>196</u>	<u>197</u>	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	2,842		33,388,458		
	2 NO	21,632		230,127,355		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
MCARNW1X	PID COV BY MEDICARE-RD1 INT DATE (ED)	2.0	NUM	198	199	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	2,990		34,977,422		
	2 NO	21,484		228,538,391		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
PRIV1	PID HAS PRIV HLTH INS COVERAGE - RD1	2.0	NUM	200	201	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	15,280		178,820,270		
	2 NO	9,194		84,695,543		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
PRIVEG1	PID HAS COV FRM EMP GROUP PLAN - RD1	2.0	NUM	202	203	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	12,839		149,644,262		
	2 NO	11,635		113,871,551		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
PRIVU1	PID HAS COV FROM UNION GROUP PLAN - RD1	2.0	NUM	204	205	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	580		6,724,015		
	2 NO	23,894		256,791,798		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
PRIVS1	PID HAS COV FRM SELF-EMP-1 PLAN - RD1	2.0	NUM	206	207	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	87		1,140,278		
	2 NO	24,387		262,375,534		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
PRIVOG1	PID HAS COV FRM OTH GROUP PLAN - RD1	2.0	NUM	208	209	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	409		4,927,169		
	2 NO	24,065		258,588,644		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

DATE: March 4, 1997

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
<u>PRIVNG1</u>	<u>PID HAS COV FRM NONGROUP PLAN - RD1</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>211</u>	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	1,137		13,512,369		
	2 NO	23,337		250,003,444		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>PRGVPYA1</u>	<u>NON-EMP PRIV COV FEDS PAY PART - RD1</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>212</u>	<u>213</u>	HX 63
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	354		4,054,191		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	22,538		237,870,250		
	1 YES, AT 1 OR MORE	86		1,054,735		
	2 NO AT 1 OR MORE, NOT YES AT ANY	1,698		20,536,637		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>PRGVPYB1</u>	<u>NON-EMP PRIV COV OTH GOV PAYS PART - RD1</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>214</u>	<u>215</u>	HX 63
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-9 NOT ASCERTAINED	354		4,054,191		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	22,538		237,870,250		
	1 YES, AT 1 OR MORE	54		674,130		
	2 NO AT 1 OR MORE, NOT YES AT ANY	1,730		20,917,241		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>PRIVDK1</u>	<u>PID HAS COV FRM PRIV DK PLAN - RD1</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>217</u>	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	202		2,397,336		
	2 NO	24,272		261,118,477		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>PRIVOUT1</u>	<u>PID HAS COV FRM HOLDER OUTSIDE RU - RD1</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>218</u>	<u>219</u>	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	321		3,914,454		
	2 NO	24,153		259,601,358		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>HPRIV1</u>	<u>PID IS HOLDER OF PRIV INS PLAN - RD1</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>221</u>	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	8,003		94,640,963		
	2 NO	16,471		168,874,850		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
HPRIVEG1	PID IS HOLDER OF EMP GROUP PLAN - RD1	2.0	NUM	222	223	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	6,532		76,820,851		
	2 NO	17,942		186,694,961		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
HPRIVU1	PID IS HOLDER OF UNION GRP PLAN - RD1	2.0	NUM	224	225	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	287		3,269,636		
	2 NO	24,187		260,246,177		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
HPRIVS1	PID IS HOLDER OF SELF-EMP-1 INS - RD1	2.0	NUM	226	227	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	49		646,116		
	2 NO	24,425		262,869,697		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
HPRIVOG1	PID IS HOLDER OF OTH GROUP PLAN - RD1	2.0	NUM	228	229	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	289		3,489,085		
	2 NO	24,185		260,026,728		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
HPRIVNG1	PID IS HOLDER OF NONGROUP PLAN - RD1	2.0	NUM	230	231	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	823		10,099,385		
	2 NO	23,651		253,416,428		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
HPRIVDK1	PID IS HOLDER OF PRIV DK PLAN -RD1	2.0	NUM	232	233	CONSTRUCTED
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	135		1,660,274		
	2 NO	24,339		261,855,539		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		

MEPS 1996 PANEL ROUND 1 POPULATION

DATE: March 4, 1997

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FORMAT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBER</u>
<u>INSURED1</u>	<u>PID IS INSURED - RD1</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>234</u>	<u>235</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTED</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	-1 INAPPLICABLE	202		0		
	1 YES	19,614		218,759,542		
	2 NO	4,860		44,756,271		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>WGTRU1</u>	<u>FAMILY LEVEL ROUND 1 WEIGHT</u>	<u>12.6</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>236</u>	<u>247</u>	<u>NA</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	0 - 99999.999999 WEIGHT	24,676		263,515,813		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>VARSTR1</u>	<u>VARIANCE ESTIMATION STRATUM</u>	<u>3.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>248</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>NA</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	1 - 140 STRATA FOR VARIANCE ESTIMATION	24,676		263,515,813		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>VARPSU1</u>	<u>VARIANCE ESTIMATION PSU</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>251</u>	<u>252</u>	<u>NA</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	1 - 45 PSU	24,676		263,515,813		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		
<u>WGTSP1</u>	<u>PERSON ROUND 1 WEIGHT</u>	<u>12.6</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>253</u>	<u>264</u>	<u>NA</u>
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>		<u>WEIGHTED BY WGTSP1</u>		
	0 - 99999.999999 WEIGHT	24,676		263,515,813		
	TOTAL	24,676		263,515,813		

E. Crosswalk of Variables to Variable Source

SURVEY ADMINISTRATION VARIABLES - PUBLIC USE

VARIABLE	LABEL	SOURCE
DUID	Dwelling Unit ID	Assigned in sampling
PID	Person Number (PN)	Assigned in sampling or by CAPI
FAMID1	Family Identifier	Assigned by CAPI
DUPERSID	Sample Person ID (DU + PN) for Public Use	Assigned in sampling
RUENDMM	Date of Interview (Date Started: Month)	CAPI Derived
RUENDDD	Date of Interview (Date Started: Day)	CAPI Derived
RUENDYY	Date of Interview (Date Started: Year)	CAPI Derived
RULETTER	RU Letter	CAPI Derived
RUSIZE	RU Size	CAPI Derived
RUCLASS	RU Fielded As: Standard, New, or Student	CAPI Derived
UNITSIZE	RU Size-Includes Students	CAPI Derived
REGION	Census Region	Assigned in sampling
MSA	MSA	Assigned in sampling
RND1REF	Reference Person at Round 1	RE 42-45
RND1RESP	1st Respondent Indicator for Round1	RE 6, 8
BEGREFDD	Reference Period Begin Date: Day	CAPI Derived
BEGREFMM	Reference Period Begin Date: Month	CAPI Derived
BEGREFYY	Reference Period Begin Date: Year	CAPI Derived
ENDREFDD	Reference Period End Date: Day	CAPI Derived
ENDREFMM	Reference Period End Date: Month	CAPI Derived
ENDREFYY	Reference Period End Date: Year	CAPI Derived
KEYNESS	Person Key Status	RE Section
ELIGRND1	Eligibility: Eligible / Not Eligible	RE Section
INSCOPE	Inscope	RE Section
PSTATUS	Person Disposition Status	RE Section

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES - PUBLIC USE

VARIABLE	LABEL	SOURCE
SEX	Sex	RE 12, 57, 61
AGE1X	Age (Edited/Imputed)	RE 12, 57-66

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES - PUBLIC USE (CONTINUED)

VARIABLE	LABEL	SOURCE
DOBMM	Date of Birth: Month	RE 12, 57-66
DOBYY	Date of Birth: Year	RE 12, 57-66
RACEX	Race (Edited/Imputed)	RE 101, 102
RACETHNX	Race/Ethnicity (Edited/Imputed)	RE 98-102
HISPANX	Hispanic Ethnicity (Edited/ Imputed)	RE 98-100
HISPCAT	Specific Hispanic Ethnicity Group	RE 98-100
FTSTUD1	Currently a Full-Time Student	RE 11A, 108
EDUCYR1	Completed Years of Education	RE 103-105
HIGHDEG1	Highest Degree	RE 104-105
MARRY1X	Marital Status (Edited)	RE 13, 97
SPOUSID1	Spouse ID	RE 13, 97
SPOUSIN1	Marital Status W/Presence of Spouse	RE 13, 97
DIDSERVE	Ever Served in Armed Forces	RE 18, 95
ACTDUTY1	Is Person Military Full Time Active Duty	RE 14, 96A
REFREL1X	Relation to Reference Person (Edited/Imputed)	RE 76-77

EMPLOYMENT VARIABLES - PUBLIC USE

VARIABLE	LABEL	SOURCE
EMPST1	Person Employment Status (Edited)	EM 1, 2, and 3
HRWAGEX	Person Hourly Wage (Edited)	EW 1-24
HRWAY	How Wage was Edited	EW 1-24
HRPRWK1X	Hours per Week (Edited)	EM 104, 105; EW 117
HELDCM1X	HI Held from Current Main Job (Edited)	EM 113; HX 2, 48
HELDNM1X	HI Held from Non-Current Main Job (Edited)	EM 17, 26, 39, 52, 69, 81 HX 2, 48
OFERCM1X	HI Offered from Current Main Job (Edited)	EM 113, 114; HX 2, 48
OFERNM1X	HI Offered from Non-Current Main Job (Edited)	EM 17, 26, 39, 52, 69, 81 HX 2, 48
DISVOW1	HI Disavowed in HI Section	HELDCM1X, HELDNM1X HX 2
JOBORG	Organization Type at Current Main Job	EM 94-96
NUMEMP	Number of Employees at Location of CMJ	EM 91, 92
RETIRED	Retired from Any Job	EM 77- 80
SELFCM	Self-Employed at Current Main Job	EM 1, 4, 5, 11, 12

HEALTH STATUS VARIABLES - PUBLIC USE

VARIABLE	LABEL	SOURCE
IADLHLP1	LTC Flag: IADL Help/Supervision	HE 1-3
ADLHELP1	LTC Flag: ADL Help/Supervision	HE 4-6
AIDHELP1	LTC Flag: Use Aids/Special Equipment	HE 7-8
WALKLIM1	LTC Flag: Walk/Bend/Stoop Difficulties	HE 9-10
ACTLIMT1	LTC Flag: Work/Housework/School Limit	HE 19, 20
WRKLIMT1	Limited Ability to Work	HE 19-20, 20A
HSELIMT1	Limited Ability Doing Housework	HE 19-20, 20A
SCHLIMT1	Limited Ability Going to School	HE 19-20, 20A
SOCLIMT1	LTC Flag: Social Limitations	HE 22-23
COGLIMT1	LTC Flag: Cognitive Limitations	HE 24-25

HEALTH INSURANCE VARIABLES - PUBLIC USE

VARIABLE	LABEL	SOURCE
CHMPNOW1	PID Cov by CHAMPUS/VA - RD 1 Int Date	RE 14, 96A; HX 13; HQ 1-2; HX 12 (RU level)
MCAID1	PID Covered by MEDICAID - RD 1	HX 11, 10 (RU level)
MCAID1X	PID Covered by MEDICAID - RD 1 (Edited)	HX 11, 15, 18-19, 41-43, 45 HX 10, 14, 16 (RU level)
OTPUBA1	PID Covered by/Pays Other Gov MCAID HMO - RD 1	HX 15, 41-43, 45, 14 (RU level)
OTPUBB1	PID Covered by Other Public Not MCAID HMO - RD 1	HX 15, 41-43, 14 (RU level)
STATPRG1	PID Covered from State-Specific Prog - RD 1	HX 17, 19, 16 (RU level)
PUBLIC1	PID Covered from Public Ins Plan - RD 1	CHMPNOW1; MCAID1X; OTPUBA1; OTPUBB1; MCARNW1X
MCARNOW1	PID Covered by MEDICARE - RD 1 Int Date	HX 6-7
MCARNW1X	PID Covered By MEDICARE - RD 1 Int Date (Edited)	HX 7, 9, 11, 15 (PRIV1 and HX 48); HX 6, 10, 14 (RU level)

HEALTH INSURANCE VARIABLES - PUBLIC USE (CONTINUED)

VARIABLE	LABEL	SOURCE
PRIV1	PID has Private Health Ins Coverage - RD 1	PRIVEG1; PRIVU1; PRIVS1; PRIVOG1; PRIVNG1; PRIVDK1; PRIVOUT1
PRIVEG1	PID has Cov from Emp Group Plan - RD 1	HX 2, 23, 48; HP 9, 11, 15, 16 HELDCM1X, HELDNM1X, EM 117
PRIVU1	PID has Cov from Union Group Plan - RD 1	HX 2, 3, 23, 48; HP 9, 11, 15, 16; HELDCM1X, HELDNM1X, EM 117
PRIVS1	PID has Cov from Self-Emp-1 Plan - RD 1	HX 3, 48; EM 17, 18, 26, 27, 39, 40, 52, 53, 69, 70, 81, 82, 91, 92; HP 9, 15-16
PRIVOG1	PID has Cov from Other Group Plan - RD 1	HX 23, 48; HP 1, 2, 11, 15-16
PRIVNG1	PID has Cov from Nongroup Plan - RD 1	HX 23, 48; HP 11, 15-16
PRIVDK1	PID has Cov from Private DK Plan - RD 1	HX 23, 48; HP 11, 15-16
PRIVOUT1	PID has Cov from Holder Outside RU - RD 1	HX 23, 48; HP 15-16
HPRIV1	PID is Holder of Private Ins Plan - RD 1	HPRIVEG1; HPRIVOG1; HPRIVS1; HPRIVU1; HPRIVNG1; HPRIVDK1
HPRIVEG1	PID is Holder of Emp Group Plan - RD 1	PRIVEG1; HP 9, 11
HPRIVU1	PID is Holder of Union Group Plan - RD 1	PRIVU1; HP 9, 11
HPRIVS1	PID is Holder of Self-Emp-1 Ins - RD 1	PRIVS1; HP 9
HPRIVOG1	PID is Holder of Other Group Plan - RD 1	PRIVOG1; HP 11
HPRIVNG1	PID is Holder of Nongroup Plan - RD 1	PRIVNG1; HP 11
HPRIVDK1	PID is Holder of Private DK Plan - RD 1	PRIVDK1; HP 11
INSURED1	PID is Insured - RD 1	PUBLIC1; PRIV1

WEIGHTS - PUBLIC USE

VARIABLE	LABEL	SOURCE
WGTSPI	Person Round 1 Weight	Constructed
WGTRU1	Family Level Round 1 Weight	Constructed
VARSTR1	Variance Estimation Stratum	Constructed
VARPSU1	Variance Estimation PSU	Constructed

F. Appendices

Appendix 1

Household Survey Sample Design Report

Sample Design of the 1996 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey
Household Component

March 1997

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1.0 Introduction

The Household Component of the 1996 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) was designed to produce national and regional estimates of the health care utilization, expenditures, sources of payment, and insurance coverage of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population. The MEPS includes surveys of medical providers, employers, and other health insurance providers to supplement the data provided by household respondents. The design of the MEPS permits both person-based and family-level estimates. The scope and depth of this data collection effort reflects the needs of government agencies, legislative bodies, and health professionals for the comprehensive national estimates needed in the formulation and analysis of national health policies.

The MEPS collects data on the specific health services that Americans use, how frequently they use them, the cost of these services and how they are paid, as well as data on the cost, scope, and breadth of private health insurance held by and available to the U.S. population. The MEPS is unparalleled for the degree of detail in its data, as well as its ability to link health service medical expenditures and health insurance data to the demographic, employment, economic, health status, utilization of health services, and other characteristics of survey respondents. Moreover, the MEPS is the only national survey that provides a foundation for estimating the impact of changes in sources of payment and insurance coverage on different economic groups or special populations of interest, such as the poor, elderly families, veterans, the uninsured, and racial and ethnic minorities.

In this paper, the sample design of the MEPS, initially referred to as the National Medical Expenditure Survey (NMES-3), is described. The 1996 MEPS used the 1995 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) as the sample frame for the survey. The redesigned MEPS reflects the first stage of implementation of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Survey Integration Plan, which provides directives targeted to improve the analytic capacity of programs, fill major data gaps, and establish a framework in which DHHS data activities are streamlined and rationalized. Through this effort, specifically through a linkage to the NHIS, the MEPS has achieved a number of significant design improvements and analytic enhancements.

Attention is given to the resultant design efficiencies and enhancements in analytical capacity that have been and will be realized through the MEPS sample design integration with the NHIS. The report includes a summary of sample size specifications and precision targets for national population estimates and health care expenditure estimates for policy-relevant population subgroups. A discussion is also provided regarding the modification of the MEPS from a periodic annual survey to an ongoing continuous data collection effort with each expenditure panel of households followed for two years.

2.0 Redesign of the Medical Expenditure Survey as a Component of the DHHS Survey Integration Plan

As part of the Reinventing Government Part II (REGO II) activities, the DHHS targeted the improvement of the analytical capacity of DHHS programs, the filling of major data gaps, and the establishment of a survey consolidation framework in which DHHS data activities are streamlined and rationalized. A Survey Consolidation Working Group was charged with developing a consensus plan for meeting these objectives (Hunter, Arnett, Mathiowetz, et al., 1995; Arnett, Hunter, and Cohen, et al., 1996). A major concentration of the Survey Integration Plan was the redesign of the health care expenditure and insurance studies conducted by the DHHS which include the National Medical Expenditure Survey (NMES), the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS), the National Employer Health Insurance Survey (NEHIS), and the NHIS. The proposed integrated survey design was specified to achieve significant cost efficiencies by eliminating duplicative efforts and reducing overall respondent burden. Furthermore, by virtue of integrating the design features of the component surveys, their respective analytical capacities are enhanced. A number of survey design enhancements were also proposed to improve upon current survey design capabilities. These included considering an ongoing longitudinal survey effort and allowing for a future capacity to derive state-specific health care estimates. Consideration was also given to the inclusion of a periodic institutional component in the survey to provide national use and expenditure estimates for the population residing in nursing homes (Hunter, Arnett, Mathiowetz, et al., 1995).

2.1 Design Enhancements and Efficiencies to be Achieved Through Survey Integration

One of the attractions of the DHHS Survey Integration Plan was the enhanced analytical capacity that would be achieved by the distinct surveys that would be linked through design integration. This could be realized by sample size expansions that would occur through survey mergers such as the planned integration between the MEPS and the MCBS and the consolidation of employer surveys conducted by the DHHS. Also, use of the NHIS as a sample frame for the MEPS would increase the analytical content of the resultant linked surveys. Through design integration of the respective surveys sponsored by the DHHS, inefficiencies associated with duplicative survey efforts would be significantly reduced. Another goal was to achieve reductions in survey design costs by the implementation of a uniform framework for DHHS-sponsored surveys with overlapping analytical focus with respect to questionnaire content, data editing, imputation, estimation, database structure, and development of analytic files. Additional efficiencies in survey operations are anticipated in future years as a consequence of conducting an annual medical expenditure survey rather than one every decade.

By moving to this integrated, annual household data collection effort, the DHHS expands and enhances its analytic capabilities as described below:

- Retains the design of the core NHIS household interview. This core will provide cross-sectional population statistics on health status and health care utilization with sufficient sample size to allow for analyses based on detailed breakdowns of age, race, sex, income, and other sociodemographic characteristics. The core will also allow the use of data on a broad range of topics currently provided by the NHIS.
- Retains the analytical capacity to obtain both annual and quarterly population estimates of health care utilization and the prevalence of health conditions, for the nation and for policy-relevant population subgroups.
- Provides the ability to model individual (and family-level) health status, access to care and use, expenditure, and insurance behavior over the year and examine the distribution of these measures across individuals. The longitudinal feature of the MEPS to collect data over multiple years further enhances the capacity to model behavior over time.
- Provides the ability to relate data from a detailed sample (e.g., MEPS) to a larger sample (e.g., NHIS) to enhance the utility of the MEPS for national health account estimation and microsimulation modeling, including disaggregation by age group or geographic area.
- Provides the potential to expand to state-level estimates for marginal costs using the enhanced 358 PSU sample design of the NHIS.
- The longitudinal (over several years) aspect of the MEPS integrated data collection effort provides the following:
 - An increase in statistical power to examine change or make comparisons over time;
 - The capacity to examine changes over time as well as changes in the relationship among measures of health status, access to care, health care use, expenditures, health insurance coverage, employment, functional limitations and disabilities, and demographic characteristics.

2.2 MEPS Household Component

The original NMES-3 sample design called for an independent screening interview to identify a nationally representative sample and facilitate oversampling of policy-relevant population subgroups. Data collection and training costs associated with this independent screening interview were projected to exceed \$8 million. As part of the DHHS Survey Integration Plan, the separate screening interview to identify the expenditure survey sample was eliminated. As an alternative, the NHIS was specified as the sampling frame for the medical expenditure survey, MEPS. The NHIS is an ongoing annual household survey of approximately

42,000 households (109,000 individuals) conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) to obtain national estimates for the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population on health care utilization, health conditions, health status, insurance coverage, and access. In addition to the cost savings achieved by the substitution of the NHIS as the MEPS sample frame, the design modification will result in an enhancement in analytical capacity of the resultant survey data. Use of the 1995 NHIS data in concert with the data collected for the 1996 MEPS provides an additional capacity for longitudinal analyses not available in the original (NMES-3) design. Furthermore, the greater number and dispersion of the sample PSUs that comprise the MEPS national sample should result in improvements in precision over the original design specifications.

To fill major data gaps identified by the DHHS, the MEPS is specified as a continuous survey with sample peaks at five year intervals. The initial sample of 10,597 NHIS dwelling units selected for the 1996 MEPS is reduced from the original 1996 plan to also permit estimates for calendar year 1997. An overlapping panel design will be adopted for the MEPS, where the 1996 panel will be followed for data collection through 1997. A new nationally representative sample of 6,300 dwelling units will be selected from the 1996 NHIS to supplement the 1996 MEPS panel in order to meet the original precision specifications for the specified policy-relevant population subgroups for calendar year 1997, with the exception of the elderly. These policy-relevant population subgroups consist of:

- Adults (18+) with functional impairments.
- Children with limitations of activity.
- Individuals predicted to incur high medical expenditures.
- Individuals predicted to have incomes less than 200% of the poverty level. (Cohen, 1996).

A preliminary contact with the NHIS responding households selected for the MEPS study was made prior to the start of the MEPS, to announce the survey and introduce record-keeping activities. The revised study design of the MEPS includes several components: the Household Component (HC) consisting of an overlapping panel design in which any given sample panel is interviewed a total of six times over three consecutive years to yield annual data for two calendar years; the Medical Provider Component (MPC) with a sample of medical providers that treated HC persons; and the Insurance Component (IC) with a sample of employers and other sources of health insurance of HC persons. The survey is co-sponsored by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) and the NCHS. Westat and the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) are the data collection organizations for the 1996 MEPS Household Component.

2.3 MEPS Household Component Sample Design

The 1996 MEPS Household Component sample was selected from households that responded to the 1995 NHIS. The NHIS has been designed to permit nationally representative subsamples to be selected by restricting the sample to one of four distinct panels. Any

combination of one to four panels will provide a nationally representative sample of households. Furthermore, each NHIS panel subsample for a given quarter of a calendar year is nationally representative. The 1996 MEPS household sample linked to the 1995 NHIS was selected from two of the four 1995 NHIS panels and encompassed half of the households in the NHIS sample during the second and third quarters of 1995.

The complete 1995 NHIS sample (panels 1-4) consists of 358 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs, e.g., counties or groups of contiguous counties) with a targeted sample of approximately 42,000 responding households. The sample PSUs selected for the NHIS were stratified by geographic (Census region and state), metropolitan status, and sociodemographic measures (Judkins, Marker, and Waksberg, 1994). Within sample PSUs, a sample of blocks (segments) were selected after being stratified by measures of minority population density which allowed for an oversample of areas with high population concentrations of blacks and Hispanics. A nationally representative sample of approximately 71,000 addresses within sampled blocks was selected and targeted for further screening to facilitate an oversample of blacks and Hispanics as part of the 1995 NHIS interview.

The 1995 NHIS subsample selected for the 1996 MEPS consists of 195 PSUs. In the two targeted quarters of 1995 these PSUs include approximately 1,675 sample segments (second stage sampling units) and 10,597 responding NHIS households. This NHIS sample reflects an oversample of households with Hispanics and blacks at the following approximate ratios of representation relative to the remaining households (Hispanics 2.0:1, blacks 1.5:1). This 1996 MEPS sample will constitute a panel that will be surveyed to collect annual data for two consecutive years.

A new 1997 MEPS panel sample will be selected as a nationally representative subsample from households that respond to the 1996 NHIS. More specifically, the 1997 MEPS sample linked to the 1996 NHIS will be selected from two of the four NHIS panels and will reflect additional disproportionate sampling in order to satisfy the precision requirements specified for the 1997 MEPS household survey, which generally coincide with the original plan for the 1996 survey (Cohen, 1996). As in 1995, the complete 1996 NHIS sample will consist of 358 PSUs with a targeted sample of approximately 42,000 responding households. The nationally representative 1996 NHIS subsample reserved for the 1997 MEPS prior to additional subsampling will be obtained from the same 195 PSUs selected for the 1996 MEPS household sample and include approximately 21,000 responding NHIS households as eligible for sample selection. Once again, this NHIS sample reflects an oversample of Hispanics and blacks at the following approximate ratios of representation relative to the remaining households (Hispanics 2.0:1, Blacks 1.5:1). A nationally representative subsample of approximately 6,300 NHIS responding households (6,480 reporting units) will be selected for the new 1997 MEPS panel. This sample will consist of an oversample of the following policy-relevant subgroups:

- Adults (18+) with functional impairments.

- Children with limitations of activity.
- Individuals predicted to incur high medical expenditures.
- Individuals predicted to have incomes less than 200% of the poverty level.

An oversample of non-functionally impaired elderly individuals was not planned for the 1997 survey, given the availability of the 1997 MCBS and the planned future consolidation of the MCBS and the MEPS. The MCBS is an annual person-based survey to obtain the same types of estimates derivable from the MEPS household survey on the health care utilization, expenditures, sources of payment, and health insurance coverage for Medicare beneficiaries. The new 1997 MEPS panel will be fielded to collect annual data for two consecutive years.

As part of the redesign, the 1997 MEPS Household Component sample will consist of the new nationally representative 1997 MEPS panel in combination with the second year of the 1996 MEPS sample. Overall, the 1997 MEPS household sample will consist of approximately 13,700 reporting units (total adjusted for MEPS Round 1 "split-offs," though not reflecting new split-offs in Rounds 2 and 3) completing the full series of MEPS interviews to obtain calendar year use and expenditure data for calendar year 1997. Sample selection procedures for the 1997 MEPS sample will be implemented in-house by AHCPR staff, based on data keyed from the 1996 NHIS interviews.

In 1998, a new MEPS sample of approximately 5,200 households (5,350 reporting units) will be selected as a nationally representative subsample of households that responded to the 1997 NHIS. In addition, the entire 1997 panel of 5,397 reporting units will be continued to obtain calendar year 1998 data on health care use and expenditures (with a targeted round-specific response rate of 97 percent). Consequently, the MEPS sample for 1998 will consist of approximately 9,500 reporting units (adjusted for split-offs in Round 1) completing three core rounds of data collection to obtain calendar year data (4,457 households from the new sample, 5,078 from the 1997 MEPS sample). In 1998, the 1996 MEPS panel will be retired.

For years 1998-2001, the survey will scale back to an overall sample of approximately 9,500 reporting units completing three core rounds of data collection to obtain calendar year data on health care utilization and expenditures, with approximately 5,000 continuing from the previous year for each of the years. In 2002, the survey would begin the five year cycle again with an increase to 13,700 reporting units (adjusted only for Round 1 split-offs) completing three core rounds of data collection to obtain calendar year data on health care utilization and expenditures. Coupled with data from the MCBS, this would provide the DHHS with the analytic capabilities first proposed for the 1996 NMES-3 with respect to sample size.

2.4 Dwelling Units, Reporting Units, and Other Definitions

The definitions for Dwelling Units and Group Quarters in the MEPS Household Component are generally consistent with the definitions employed for the NHIS. A Reporting

Unit is a person or group of persons in the sampled dwelling unit that are related by blood, marriage, adoption or other family associations, who are to be interviewed at the same time in MEPS. Examples of discrete reporting units are:

- (1) a married daughter and her husband living with her parents in the same dwelling are considered one reporting unit.
- (2) a husband and wife and their unmarried daughter, age 18, who is living away from home at college constitute one family, but two reporting units.
- (3) three unrelated persons living in the same dwelling unit would be three reporting units.

College students under 24 years of age who usually live in the sampled household, but are currently living away from home and going to school, will be treated as separate reporting units for the purpose of data collection.

The 1996 MEPS sample consisted of households (dwelling units) that responded to the 1995 NHIS in the two panels reserved for the MEPS, with the basic analysis unit defined as the person. Analysis is planned with both the individual and the family as units. Through the reenumeration section of the Round 1 questionnaire, the status of each individual sampled at the time of the NHIS interview is classified as “key” or “non-key,” “in-scope” or “out-of-scope,” and “eligible” or “ineligible” for MEPS data collection. For an individual to be in-scope and eligible for person-level estimates derived from the MEPS household survey, the person needs to be a member of the civilian noninstitutionalized population for some period of time in the calendar year of analytical interest. Because a person's eligibility for the survey may have changed since the NHIS interview, sampling reenumeration takes place in each subsequent reinterview for persons in all households selected into the core survey. The keyness, in-scope, and eligibility indicators, together, define the target sample to be used for person-level national estimates. Only persons who are key, in-scope, and eligible for data collection will be considered in the derivation of person-level national estimates from the MEPS.

Key Persons: Key survey participants are defined as all civilian non-institutionalized individuals who resided in households that responded to the nationally representative NHIS subsample reserved for the MEPS (e.g. approximately 10,600 households from the 1995 NHIS), with the exception of college students interviewed at dormitories. Members of the armed forces that are on full time active duty and reside in responding NHIS households which include other family members who are civilian non-institutionalized individuals are also to be defined as key persons, but will be considered out of scope for person-level estimates derived for the survey.

All other individuals who join the NHIS reporting units that define the 1996 MEPS household sample (in Round 1 or later MEPS rounds) and did not have an opportunity for

selection during the time of the NHIS interview will also be considered key persons. These include newborn babies, individuals who were in an institution or outside the country moving to the United States, and military personnel previously residing on military bases who join MEPS reporting units to live in the community.

College students under 24 years of age interviewed at dormitories in the 1995 NHIS will be considered ineligible for the 1996 MEPS sample and not included in that sample. Furthermore, any unmarried college students under 24 years of age that responded to the 1995 NHIS interview while living away at school (not in a dormitory) will be excluded from the sample if it is determined in the MEPS Round 1 interview that the person is unmarried, under 24 years of age, and a student with parents living elsewhere who resides at his/her current housing only during the school year. If, on the other hand, the person's status at the time of the MEPS Round 1 interview is no longer that of an unmarried student under 24 years of age living away from home, then the person will be retained in the 1996 MEPS sample as a key person.

Alternatively, at the time of the MEPS Round 1 interview with NHIS sample respondents, a determination will be made if there are any related college students under 24 years of age who usually live in the sampled household, but are currently living away from home and going to school. These college students are considered key persons and will be identified and interviewed at their college address, but linked to the sampled household for family analyses. Some of these college students living away from home at the time of the Round 1 interview will have been identified as living in sampled household at the time of the 1995 NHIS interview. The remainder will be identified at the time of the MEPS Round 1 interview with the NHIS sampled households.

Non-key Persons: Persons who were not living in the original sampled dwelling unit at the time of the 1995 NHIS interview and who had a non-zero probability of selection for that survey will be considered non-key. If such persons happen to be living in sampled households (in Round 1 or later rounds), MEPS data (e.g., utilization and income) will be collected for the period of time they are part of the sampled unit to permit family analyses. Non-key persons who leave any sampled household will not be recontacted for subsequent interviews. Non-key individuals are not part of the target sample used to obtain person-level national estimates.

In situations where key persons from the NHIS sampled household selected for MEPS move out (in Round 1 or later rounds) and join or create another family, data on all members of this new household who are related by blood, marriage, adoption or foster care to the persons from the NHIS sampled household will be obtained from the point in time that the NHIS sampled person joined that new household. Similarly, data will be collected (in Round 1 and later rounds) on all related persons who join NHIS sampled households selected into the MEPS.

Persons in NHIS sampled households selected in the MEPS who subsequently enter an institution and leave the civilian, noninstitutionalized population of the United States will require data collection during their stay in institutions that are nursing homes. Alternatively, persons in

NHIS sampled households selected in the MEPS who subsequently enter institutions that are not nursing homes and leave the civilian, noninstitutionalized population of the United States do not require any data collected in these institutions that are not nursing homes (this also applies for military service or moving out of the U.S.), but their whereabouts must be monitored during the field period. Upon their return to the U.S. civilian noninstitutional population, these persons shall once again be subject to HC data collection.

MEPS Data Collection Eligibility: In order for a MEPS reporting unit to be eligible for data collection, the unit must include at least one individual who is key and in-scope for some period of time during the reference period for a given round of data collection. If this condition holds, the persons who are key and in-scope and all other individuals who are members of the reporting unit (living together and related by blood, marriage, adoption or other family associations) are eligible for data collection in a given round of the MEPS.

2.5 Sample Size Targets and Precision Requirements

The 1996 MEPS sample size targets require approximately 9,000 reporting units yielding the complete series of core interviews (i.e., Rounds 1-3) to obtain use and expenditure data for calendar year 1996. The expected yield at each of the stages of data collection for each new MEPS sample linked to the NHIS is: (1) a NHIS response rate of 94 percent at the household level; (2) a response rate of 85 percent (83 percent achieved for the 1996 MEPS) among reporting units at Round 1 (conditioned on a completed NHIS interview); a round-specific response rate of 95 percent among reporting units at Rounds 2; a round-specific response rate of 97.5 percent among reporting units at Round 3; a round-specific response rate of 97 percent among reporting units at Rounds 4 and 5; and a round-specific response rate among reporting units of 98 percent at Round 6 (See Table 1). Consequently, the targeted response rate for obtaining calendar year 1996 data on health care utilization and expenditures from the 1996 MEPS sample is 77 percent, conditioned on response to the NHIS (interviews for Rounds 1-3), or 72 percent overall.

The response rate target for the core MEPS household survey for obtaining calendar year 1997 data on health care utilization and expenditures from the new 1997 MEPS sample is 79 percent conditioned on response to the NHIS (interviews for Rounds 1-3), or 74 percent overall (See Table 1). Furthermore, the minimum acceptable response rate target for the core MEPS household survey within a PSU is 65 percent for calendar year 1997 data from the new MEPS panel, conditioned on NHIS response (interviews for Rounds 1-3), and is 60 percent for calendar years 1996 and 1997 for the 1996 MEPS panel (interviews for Rounds 1-5, conditioned on response to the NHIS).

It should be noted that the 1995 NHIS response rate achieved for the households eligible for the MEPS was 94 percent. Of 10,639 responding NHIS dwelling units eligible for the MEPS, 99.6 percent were identified with the necessary information to facilitate MEPS data collection. Of

the 11,424 eligible reporting units targeted for interviews in Round One, 9,488 responded to the first core MEPS interview (83.1 percent). Overall, the joint NHIS - Round One response rate for the 1996 MEPS household survey was 77.7 percent (.939 x .996 x .831).

Table 1. Expected number of responding reporting units and associated response rate for each round of data collection of the 1996 and the 1997 MEPS Household Component.

	1995 NHIS Linked Sample	Calendar Year 1996		Calendar Year 1997		Calendar Year 1998	
		Round 1A	Round 2A	Round 3A	Round 4A	Round 5A	Round 6A
1996 MEPS Panel							
Responding Reporting Units (by Round)	¹ 11,424 ² 10,800	¹ 9,488	³ 9,018	³ 8,792	³ 8,528	³ 8,272	³ 8,106
(Response rate by Round)	(94%)	(83%)	(95%)	(97.5%)	(97%)	(97%)	(98%)

	1996 NHIS Linked Sample			Calendar Year 1997		Calendar Year 1998	
				Round 1B	Round 2B	Round 3B	Round 4B
1997 MEPS Panel							
Responding Reporting Units (by Round)	¹ 6,857 ² 6,480			¹ 5,828	³ 5,536	³ 5,397	³ 5,235
(Response rate by Round)	(94%)			(85%)	(95%)	(97.5%)	(97%)

¹ Includes Round 1 "splits-offs" (family member(s) that move apart from the originally sampled household) in Round 1 of the 1996 and 1997 MEPS panels.

² Original sample of Reporting Units.

³ Does not include new split-offs after Round 1 in counts.

The estimates of response rates in Table 1 are for the original sample of NHIS responding reporting units, with the inclusion of split-offs in Round 1. The rates specified in the table are also expected to apply to split-offs in subsequent rounds, i.e., households that will be created in the course of the survey field period as a result of key persons moving away from originally sampled NHIS households.

Source: Agency for Health Care and Policy Research. 1996 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey--Household Component.

The sample size specifications have been set to meet precision requirements developed for the MEPS. Given the major changes in the design of the survey that were required as a consequence of the DHHS Survey Integration Plan, the sample size constraints placed on the MEPS as a consequence of restricting the sample to the 195 PSU NHIS subsample, and use of the first quarter of the 1995 NHIS sample for inclusion in a Disability Survey sponsored by the Assistant Secretary of Planning and Evaluation, DHHS, the precision requirements for the first

year of the MEPS were relaxed relative to the original design specifications of the NMES-3 (Cohen, 1996; DiGaetano, 1994).

For the 1996 MEPS sample, the relative standard error for a population estimate of 20 percent for the overall population at the family level was specified to be no more than 2.7 percent; and the relative standard error for a population estimate of 20 percent for the overall population at the person level was specified to be no more than 1.7 percent. For example, if it was determined that the national population estimate of the percentage of the population ever uninsured in 1996 was 20 percent, the standard error of the estimate should not exceed 0.34 percent. That would translate to a 95 percent confidence interval of (19.33%, 20.67%) for the insurance coverage estimate that characterized the nation at the person level. Preliminary design work suggested that a 1996 MEPS sample selected from a nationally representative 1995 NHIS subsample characterized by 195 PSUs, 1,675 segments, and approximately 9,000 responding households at the end of Round 3, with disproportionate sampling rates that ranged from 1.0 to 0.5, should yield average design effects for MEPS survey estimates of annual use and expenditure measures in the 1.5-1.6 range.

The 1996 MEPS sample linked to the NHIS was designed to produce unbiased estimates for the four Census regions. This NHIS linked sample reflects an oversample of Hispanics and blacks at the following ratios of representation relative to the remaining households (Hispanics 2.0:1, blacks 1.5:1). The overall expected sample yield after three rounds of data collection at the person level is approximately 22,000 overall, with 3,400 black/non-Hispanic individuals and 4,200 Hispanic individuals. The average design effect target for survey estimates for the 1996 MEPS is 1.6. The sample design should satisfy the following precision requirements for mean estimates of the following measures of health care utilization and expenditures at the person level: (total health expenditures; utilization and expenditure estimates for inpatient hospital stays; physician visits; dental visits and prescribed medicines).

Demographic group	Persons at the end of Round 3	Average relative standard error
1. Black/Non-Hispanics	3,400	.065
2. Hispanics	4,200	.055
3. Overall Population	22,000	.025

2.6 Procedures for Data Collection

For a description of the preliminary contact with households responding to the NHIS and subsampled as part of a MEPS panel, see “Design and Methods of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, Household Component” by Joel Cohen.

HC Main Rounds 1-5

Five interviews will be conducted with each NHIS panel selected for the MEPS at three- to four-month intervals over an approximately 24-month field period. The first three of these rounds (Rounds 1A-3A) define the 1996 MEPS Household Component, and will collect the main body of annual utilization and expenditure data for calendar year 1996. Rounds 3A-5A of the 1996 MEPS panel will be combined with Rounds 1B-3B of the 1997 MEPS panel to yield the sample base for the 1997 MEPS Household Component and the source of annual estimates for that calendar year. All interviews will be conducted in person through a Computer-assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) as the principal data collection mode. Round 1 will ask about the period since January 1 of the MEPS year to the date of that interview; Round 2 will ask about the time since the Round 1 interview through the date of the Round 2 interview; and Round 3 will collect data since the date of the Round 2 interview through the date of the Round 3 interview in 1997.

Questionnaires for these field rounds will parallel those used in 1987 NMES with some modifications implemented for the 1992 Feasibility Study and with further changes indicated by the latter experience and the FAMES (NMES-3) pretest. The instruments contain items that are asked once in the life of the study, items that are asked repeatedly in each round, and items that are updated in later rounds. Questions asked only once include basic sociodemographic characteristics. Core questions asked repeatedly include health status, health insurance coverage, employment status, days of restricted activity due to health problems, medical utilization, hospital admissions, and purchase of medicines. For each health encounter identified, data will be obtained on the nature of health conditions, the characteristics of the provider, the services provided, the associated charges, and sources and amounts of payment.

Permission forms for medical providers and for sources of employment and private health insurance coverage will be collected in the field. Under this design, anyone who reports being employed but not covered by private health insurance will be asked to sign a permission form that will allow contact with the employer. A sample of medical providers identified by MEPS respondents will be contacted in the survey of medical providers, MPC, to verify and supplement information provided by the family respondent in the household interview; employers and other health insurance providers will be contacted in the survey of health insurance providers, IC, to verify analogous insurance information and to collect other information on insurance characteristics that household respondents would not typically know.

As a consequence of a successful test in the Feasibility Study, copies of policies providing private insurance coverage to sampled persons will be collected from household respondents. These requests will be initiated in Round 1 and will be followed up in Round 2 for eligible individuals who have not provided copies of their policies at the time of the first request. Sampled persons will be asked to provide the policies directly or to obtain them from their health insurance providers. A description of the type of documents to be collected, a list of the policies

identified by the respondent, and request forms to be given to providers will be given to interviewing staff to assist in this effort.

HC Main Round 6

Round 6 is concerned with obtaining valuable ancillary information before a MEPS panel is retired. For the 1997 MEPS, it will take place after April 15, 1998 and ask for tax filing information details. Comparable information will be collected for the 1996 panel in Round 4 after April 15, 1997. Administration of the majority of Round 6 interviews will be by telephone from the interviewers' homes; in-person interviews will be conducted for those respondents without access to a suitable telephone or for those for whom telephone administration is not feasible, e.g., respondents with hearing or comprehension problems.

3.0 Summary

The benefits of the redesigned MEPS include significant cost savings, enhanced analytical capacities, increased opportunities for longitudinal analyses, reduction of major data gaps, and major improvements in providing timely data access to the research community at large. The MEPS will provide information to help understand how the dramatic growth of managed care, changes in private health insurance, and other dynamics of today's market-driven health care delivery system have affected, and are likely to affect, the kinds, amounts, and costs of health care that Americans use. The survey will also provide necessary data for projecting who benefits from and who bears the cost of changes to existing health policy and the creation of new policies.

The MEPS data will serve as the primary source to inform research efforts which examine how health care use and expenditures vary among different sectors of the population, such as the elderly, veterans, children, disabled persons, minorities, the poor, and the uninsured; and how the health insurance of households varies by demographic characteristics, employment status and characteristics, geographic locale, and other factors. The MEPS data will provide answers to questions about private health insurance costs and coverage, such as how employers' costs vary by region, and help evaluate the growing impact of managed care and of enrollment in different types of managed care plans.

The first MEPS data will be available on public use data tapes starting as early as spring 1997. MEPS data also will be used in a series of studies to be published by AHCPH, and by Agency and other researchers publishing in the scientific literature. As a consequence of the shift to a continuous ongoing annual survey, additional efficiencies in survey data collection, data editing and imputation tasks will be realized, as well as further improvements in the timely release of MEPS data products to the research community.

4.0 References

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Appendix 2

Household Survey Design and Methods Report

Design and Methods of The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey
Household Component

March 1997

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The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS), is the third in a series of nationally representative surveys of medical care use and expenditures sponsored by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (formerly the National Center for Health Services Research). The first of these surveys, called the National Medical Care Expenditure Survey (NMCES) was conducted in 1977, and the second, called the National Medical Expenditure Survey (NMES), in 1987. The 1996 MEPS, which is co-sponsored by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), will update the 1987 data to reflect the dramatic changes that have occurred in the U.S. health care system over the last decade.

Major changes have taken place in the health care delivery system of the nation since the last NMES survey was conducted almost ten years ago. The most notable is the rapid expansion of managed care arrangements such as HMOs, PPOs, and other provider networks that seek to minimize the increases in health care costs, as well as the appearance of new hybrid forms of health insurance coverage. Changes such as these have affected both the private and public sectors. The new MEPS is needed to provide information about the current state of the health care system in the U.S., and the changes that have taken place since the last national survey of medical expenditures was conducted in 1987. The information collected by the MEPS will also provide valuable baseline data for use in evaluating future changes in the system.

The revised MEPS study design enhances the capabilities to study change over time and the effects of new health policies. These are important objectives in view of the various health reform initiatives that are being implemented by states and the Federal government. The revised design allows for the production of annual estimates for two calendar years, and also permits the tracking of changes in employment, income, health status, and medical care use and expenditures over the two consecutive years during which households in the 1996 panel will be interviewed. In addition, the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) baseline data are available for persons in the 1996 and 1997 MEPS panels, thereby adding another data point for comparisons of change over time.

The MEPS extends the NMES series of studies on medical expenditures and health insurance, and provides for the first time, data suitable for detailed analysis of trends and changes in these areas. The survey is a unique resource for a number of reasons, including:

- (1) Scope. MEPS provides information on a broad spectrum of the population, as the survey sample base represents the civilian noninstitutionalized population and, in a separate component survey, the population institutionalized in nursing homes. The MEPS also provides information on all types of health care services, expenditures, and sources of payment for both individuals and families.
- (2) Population Basis. The fact that MEPS is a survey of persons allows population groups that are or may become of special policy concern to be identified and analyzed. This is especially important for analyzing the effect of particular eligibility requirements on

the enrollment and budgets of public programs and on those who are not eligible for such programs.

(3) Cost-effectiveness. MEPS will collect data needed by groups that might otherwise sponsor separate or overlapping surveys, or do without crucial information needed for important decisions. Experience has demonstrated that broad-based data on use, expenses, and financing of health care collected from a nationally representative sample can meet the data needs of a wide variety of users in a cost-effective manner.

The original sample design of the NMES household surveys has been revised for the MEPS. Instead of defining the MEPS sample through an initial screening round, the sample in the new design is selected as a nationally representative subsample from households that participated in the NHIS. The 1996 MEPS sample (based on the 1995 NHIS) will be carried forward into 1997 and combined with a new subsample of households responding to the 1996 NHIS. These two panel samples (the 1996 MEPS sample and the new MEPS selections from the 1996 NHIS) will jointly define the sample base for the 1997 MEPS Household Component. Exhibit 1 is a diagram of the study design for the 1996 and 1997 MEPS Household Components. Exhibit 2 summarizes various features of the study design for the Household Component.

In 1996, the MEPS sample linked to the 1995 NHIS was selected from a nationally representative NHIS subsample that included 195 PSU's and approximately 1,700 segments, yielding approximately 10,500 responding NHIS households that MEPS recontacted. This NHIS subsample reflects an oversample of Hispanics and blacks. Other groups with high public policy relevance in the areas of health care use and financing are targeted for oversample as part of the MEPS 1997 panel to improve the precision of the estimates for those groups.

Households selected for participation in the 1996 or the 1997 MEPS household surveys are interviewed in person five times (Rounds 1-5), and a last time during a brief telephone interview (Round 6). The rounds of data collection are spaced approximately 4 months apart. The interviews take place with a family respondent who reports for him/herself and for other family members.

Preliminary Contact. Mail and telephone contacts take place prior to the first MEPS interview (Round 1) with the NHIS participating households selected for each MEPS panel. The purpose of the Preliminary Contact is to enlist the household respondent into the MEPS study and plan for the delivery of study record-keeping materials prior to the start of the study observation period on January 1st of the survey year. An advance letter announcing the MEPS survey is mailed in December to the family respondent at the address where the NHIS interview was conducted. That letter is followed up with an interviewer telephone call to confirm the arrival of the letter, verify the identity of the household, identify the MEPS family respondent (if different from the NHIS respondent), and announce the future mailing of a study calendar and record file. These materials are sent accompanied by \$5 to compensate respondents for the time and effort

devoted to keeping records in preparation for the Round 1 interview. A second telephone call confirms the arrival of these materials and arranges for the most convenient time to conduct the Round 1 interview.

Households without telephones or those that can not be reached using the telephone number from NHIS, are contacted by mail and asked to return a postcard identifying a telephone number where the study can contact them (e.g., number at work, neighbor's house, etc.).

Core rounds. Data collection for the MEPS Household Component takes place using the Computer-assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) system. The study instrumentation is organized as a core instrument that is administered in each of the first 5 rounds of data collection, with periodic supplements added in selected rounds to deal with specific topics in greater depth. Dependent interviewing methods, in which respondents are asked to confirm or revise data provided in earlier interviews will be used to update information in several of the core questionnaires, such as employment and health insurance, after the initial interview.

Core Instrument: The core instrument will collect data about all persons in sampled households. The core instrument includes questionnaires on: demographics, health status and conditions, utilization, charges and payments, prescribed and over-the-counter medicines purchased, employment, and health insurance.

Periodic Supplements: Supplements scheduled for inclusion in the survey include questionnaires on: access to care and satisfaction, income and assets, long-term care, and alternative care.

Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ): All adults in sample households are asked to complete an SAQ in Round 2. This questionnaire collects information about health behaviors and opinions that would be difficult if not impossible to collect on a proxy basis from the family respondent. Similar information is collected for children as part of the regular interview with the household survey respondent, usually the mother.

Medical Provider Permission Forms: Requests for signed permission forms take place in Round 1 of the survey, much earlier than in past NMES studies, in order to expedite the timetable for the later Medical Provider Component (MPC) of the survey, which collects data about specific medical events directly from providers. Because results from a previous methodological study suggested that early requests for signed permission forms involving office-based physicians have a modest negative effect on survey cooperation rates in later rounds, the requests for signed permission forms in Round 1 will be limited to events taking place in hospitals. In Round 2 and subsequent rounds, requests for signed permission forms will apply to all types of MPS-eligible medical providers (hospitals, physicians, and home health agencies), including those associated with utilization reported in Round 1.

Health Insurance Permission Forms: Signed permission forms are needed to contact sources of employment and private health insurance coverage in the Insurance Component of the survey, which collects data directly from individuals' sources of health insurance (typically their employers). These requests will be initiated in Round 2, and apply to the insurance sources associated with plans held at the time of the Round 1 interview.

Health Insurance Policy Booklet Requests: Following procedures tested successfully in a previous methodological study, MEPS interviewers will attempt to secure, directly from respondents, health insurance booklets or other summary materials that describe the characteristics of private plans held by family members at the time of the Round 1 interview. The requests for policy information will include all sources of private insurance coverage, not just employment-related coverage. Respondents are reimbursed \$15 for the time and effort involved in procuring policy booklets.

Provider Directories: To expedite the identification of medical providers and assist with the preparation of an unduplicated list of medical providers for the fielding of MPS, interviewers use a computerized database (directory) of health providers that has been loaded into the CAPI laptop. Search software also loaded into the laptops enables interviewers to query the database of providers in the course of the MEPS interview. If a match is found in the database for the provider nominated by the household respondent, the matched directory record is associated with the household member. Directory records include the following information for each provider: a unique provider ID; the provider's name, address and telephone number; and the provider's specialty (for individual office-based physicians).

At the most basic level, the objective of the MEPS Household Component is the collection of data that can be used to produce annual estimates for a variety of measures related to the characteristics of individuals, their health insurance coverage, and their health care use, expenditures, and sources of payment for care. The data can also be used to support behavioral analyses that inform researchers and policymakers about how the characteristics of individuals and families, including their health insurance, affect medical care use and spending.

Data obtained in this study will be used to produce, for example, the following national estimates for calendar years 1996 and 1997:

- annual estimates of health care use and expenditures for persons and families.
- annual estimates of sources of payment for health care expenses, including amounts paid by public programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid, and by private insurance, as well as out-of-pocket payments.

- annual estimates of health care use, expenditures and sources of payment for persons and families by type of service, including: inpatient hospital stays, ambulatory care, home health care, dental care, and purchases of prescribed and over-the-counter medicines.
- the number and characteristics of the population eligible for each of the public programs, including the use of services and expenditures of the population eligible for benefits under Medicare, Medicaid, CHAMPUS/VA and the Veterans Administration.
- the number, characteristics, use of services, expenditures and benefits of persons and families with individual or group coverage, commercial and nonprofit coverage, and coverage through HMOs or other managed care arrangements.

In addition to national estimates, data collected in this longitudinal study will be used to study the determinants of the use of services and expenditures, and the effects of individual characteristics and policy changes on medical care use and expenses. These behavioral analyses will include studies of:

- social and demographic factors such as employment and income.
- methods of financing health care and health insurance.
- the health habits, life styles and behavioral patterns of individuals and families.
- the health needs of specific subpopulation groups of current or potential policy interest, such as the elderly and members of racial or ethnic minorities.

Finally, data collected in this survey in conjunction with data from the 1977 NMCES and the 1987 NMES will be used to study trends in the nature and distribution of national health expenditures, sources of care, and amounts and types of services consumed by the U.S. noninstitutionalized population.

Exhibit 1. Panel Design for the MEPS Household Component, 1996 and 1997

	Calendar Year 1996		Calendar Year 1997		Calendar Year 1998	
1996 Panel (from 1995 NHIS)	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
Field period	3/96 - 7/96	8/96 - 11/96	2/97 - 5/97	8/97-11/97	2/98 - 5/98	6/98 - 7/98
Responding households	9,500	9,000	8,800	8,500	8,300	8,100
1997 Panel (from 1996 NHIS)			Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
Field period			3/97 - 7/97	8/97 - 11/97	2/98 - 5/98	8/98-11/98
Responding households			5,800	5,500	5,400	5,200
Total Responding Households	9,500	9,000	14,600	14,000	13,700	13,300

Exhibit 2. Design Features of the MEPS Household Component, 1996 Panel

Feature	1995	1996		1997		1998	
Data collection	Preliminary contact	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
Reference period	-	1/1/96 to date of Round 1 interview	Date of Round 1 interview to date of Round 2 interview	Date of Round 2 interview to date of Round 3 interview	Date of Round 3 interview to date of Round 4 interview	Date of Round 4 interview to 12/31/97	-
Field period	12/95 - 1/96	3/96 - 7/96	8/96 - 11/96	2/97 - 5/97	8/97 - 11/97	2/98 - 5/98	6/98 - 7/98
Interview mode	Mail / Telephone	In-person/ CAPI	In-person/ CAPI	In-person/ CAPI	In-person/ CAPI	In-person/ CAPI	Telephone