

**Documentation for HCIC96FX**  
**A file of federal person plan combinations from the 1996 MEPS-HC**

**THE FILE "HCIC96FX" WAS CONSTRUCTED AFTER THE HC-IC LINK FILE FOR 1996 WAS CREATED. THIS FILE CONTAINS PLAN INFORMATION FOR THE PLAN HELD BY FEDERAL EMPLOYEES IN THE 1996 MEPS-HC SAMPLE AND FOR THE OTHER PLANS IN THEIR CHOICE SET. WHEN USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ORIGINAL HC-IC LINK FILE FOR 1996, THIS FILE CAN SIGNIFICANTLY EXPAND THE NUMBER OF CASES FOR WHICH PLAN CHOICE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE. THE ADDITIONAL WORK NECESSARY TO CREATE THIS FILE WAS DONE BY AN INDEPENDENT DATA USER AT THE AHRQ DATA CENTER WITH SUPPORT FROM AHRQ STAFF TO PROVIDE THE DATA. SIMILAR DATA FOR FUTURE YEARS HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE HC-IC LINK FILES FOR 1997 THROUGH 1999.**

The file HCIC96FX contains 6125 records. Each record corresponds to a person in the 1996 MEPS-HC survey who worked for the federal government in 1996 and a plan for which it was determined they were eligible. Eligibility was determined by comparing the county in which the person lived against the list of plans in the Federal Health Benefits program. Some judgment was used in this determination. For instance, plans for national plans for secret service employees were not considered available to employees because it was unlikely that a federal employee would be in the Secret Service.

The file contains the encrypted person level id, the plan id variable that indicates whether the person is the holder of employee health insurance, whether the person is covered by employee health insurance, whether the person is on the HC/IC linked and whether the plan on the particular record is the plan actually chosen by the person. The file also contains plan characteristics abstracted from federal plan booklets.

The file has 344 different person level id's. 253 of these match to the IC/HC linked file. Using the person id and indicator that the person has a particular plan gives a set of 253 persons with their selected plan. Any other plan is a plan choice that was not taken by these 253 persons.

The remaining 91 persons on the file have no chosen plan. If the variable indicates the person is enrolled in health insurance, then the chosen plan is unknown. If a person is not enrolled in employer health insurance, but is covered, then there should be a covered plan associated with another member of the health insurance unit. By the records on this file would give the federal plan choices the health insurance unit had aside from the plan taken. If the person is not enrolled or covered by health insurance, then the person had these federal plan choices and any through a spouse or other family member but no plan was taken.

By proper merging of this file with the HC/IC linked files, at least 253 more sets of known plan choices and plan taken are presented to the researcher.

Below is a list of variables and their definitions.

Note contributions are for non postal federal employees. Postal workers eligible for the plan pay a different contribution.

There are no imputed values on the file. Any variables which had no meaning for federal plans were left missing.

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Definition</b>
DUPERSID	8	PERSON ID (DUID+PID)
FEHBP	3	FEHBP code
FLAGLINK	3	1 if person on linked file
PRIVEG1	8	1 if person has coverage from employer group plan
HPRIVEG1	8	1 if person is holder of employer group plan
PLANTKEN	3	1 if person and plan are on linked file
POSTAL		1 if JOBS.WORKUSPS=1
C001	1	Does the establishment offer health insurance? (Yes=1 for all Federal cases)
C003	2	Number of plans offered in State (Note that some plans are only available in certain areas of the state and some plans are only available to a subset of federal workers. Anyone interested in plans offered in a specific area of a State could reference the booklets to find that information)
C016	3	Percent of employees that are women
C017	3	Percent of employees that are 50 years old or older
C022	3	Percent of employees that earn \$6.50/hr or less
C023	3	Percent of employees that earn between \$6.50/hr and \$15/hr
C024	3	Percent of employees that earn \$15/hr or more
C034	10	Total number of Federal employees in ALL locations
C041	2	Number of hours considered Full-time (40 hrs for all Federal cases)
C050	1	Offers paid vacation (Yes=1 for all Federal cases)
C051	1	Offers paid sick leave (Yes=1 for all Federal cases)
C052	1	Offers life insurance (Yes=1 for all Federal cases)
C053	1	Offers disability insurance (Yes=1 for all Federal cases)
C054	1	Offers retirement/pension plan (Yes=1 for all Federal cases)
C055	1	Offers Medical Savings Account (No=2 for all Federal cases)
C056	1	Offers Flexible Spending Accounts (No=2 for all Federal cases)
C057	1	Offers Cafeteria-Style Benefit Plan (No=2 for all Federal cases)
C060	2	Principal Business Activity (Government=12 for all Federal cases)
C062	1	Type of Business Ownership (Government=5 for all Federal cases)
C063	1	Non-profit business (Yes=1 for all Federal cases)
C064	3	Years in business (220 = for all Federal cases)
C103	1	Provider type: 1=Exclusive, 2=Any, 3=Mixture of preferred and any
C104	1	Referral to see specialist? 1=yes, 2=no
C105	1	Indemnification: 1=purchased, 2=self-insured
C106	1	SI plan –TPA? (Blank for all federal cases)
C107	1	SI plan – Purchase Stop-loss (Blank for all federal cases)
C108	8	SI plan – total cost of coverage (Blank for all federal cases)
C109	4	SI plan – monthly single premium equivalent (Blank for all federal cases)
C110	4	SI plan - monthly family premium equivalent (Blank for all federal cases)
C111	1	SI plan – COBRA or premium equivalent? (Blank for all federal cases)
C112	1	Pooling arrangement (MEWA)? (No=2 for all Federal plans)
C113	1	Plan operated by a Union or Trade Association? (No=3 for all Federal plans)
C122	1	Subsidy from union or government? (No=2o for all Federal plans)
C123	2	Month in which the plan year begins. (January = 1 for all Federal plans)
C124	12	Total number of enrollees
C125	12	Total number of active employees enrollees
C126	12	Former employees enrolled through COBRA
C127	12	Total number of retirees enrolled
C128	12	Total number of retirees enrolled – age 65 and over
C129	12	Total enrollees with single coverage
C130	12	Total premium: single coverage
C131	12	Employer contribution: single coverage

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Definition</b>
C132	12	Employee contribution: single coverage
C133	1	Premium period 1=week, 2=2 weeks, 3=month, 4=year (4 = all federal plans)
C134	12	Total premium: family coverage
C135	12	Employer contribution: family coverage
C136	12	Employee contribution: family coverage
C137	1	Family coverage NOT offered (blank for all federal cases)
C138	1	Premiums vary by age? (No=2 for all federal cases)
C139	1	Premiums vary by sex? (No=2 for all federal cases)
C140	1	Premiums vary by number of persons in family? (No=2 for all federal cases)
C141	1	Premiums vary by wage levels? (No=2 for all federal cases)
C142	1	Premiums vary by other reason? (No=2 for all federal cases)
C143	1	Employee contribution varied by status (1=yes for all Federal employees)
C144	1	Premium includes life insurance? (No=2 for all federal cases)
C145	1	Premium includes disability insurance? (No=2 for all federal cases)
C146	12	Total annual deductible: individual
C147	12	Deductible for physician care
C148	12	Deductible for hospital care
C149	12	Total annual deductible: Family
C150	12	Number of persons required to meet individual deductible to fulfill family deductible
C151	1	Does the plan have a deductible? For 1996 : blank =yes, 1=no For 1997 and beyond: 1=yes, 2=no
C152	12	Hospital stay cost after deductible (in dollars)
C153	12	Hospital stay cost after deductible (percent)
C154	1	Hospital stay cost per day? Or per stay? Per day = 1, per stay = 2
C155	1	Was hospital care covered under this plan? For 1996: blank=yes, 1=no For 1997 and beyond: 1=yes, 2=no
C156	12	Physicians visit cost after deductible (in dollars)
C157	12	Physicians visit cost after deductible (percent)
C158	1	No maximum plan payment (No=1 no max for all federal plans)
C159	7	Maximum plan pays in lifetime (blank for all federal plans)
C160	8	Maximum plan pays annually (blank for all federal plans)
C161	12	Maximum annual out-of-pocket: individual
C162	12	Maximum annual out-of-pocket: family
C163	1	No maximum annual out-of-pocket – 1=no max
C164	1	Routine mammograms 1=yes, included in plan
C165	1	Adult routine physical exams 1=yes, included in plan
C166	1	Routine pap smears 1=yes, included in plan
C167	1	Office visit for prenatal care 1=yes, included in plan
C168	1	Adult immunization 1=yes, included in plan
C169	1	Child immunization 1=yes, included in plan
C170	1	Well-baby care - under 1 year 1=yes, included in plan
C171	1	Well-baby care – 1-4 years old 1=yes, included in plan
C172	1	100% Well-baby care 1=yes, included in plan
C173	1	Chiropractic care 1=yes, included in plan
C174	1	Other non-physician providers 1=yes, included in plan
C175	1	Outpatient prescriptions 1=yes, included in plan
C176	1	Routine dental care 1=yes, included in plan
C177	1	Orthodontic care 1=yes, included in plan
C178	1	Nursing home care 1=yes, included in plan
C179	1	Home health care 1=yes, included in plan

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Definition</b>
C180	1	Inpatient mental illness 1=yes, included in plan
C181	1	Outpatient mental illness 1=yes, included in plan
C182	1	Alcohol/substance abuse treatment 1=yes, included in plan
C183	1	Could plan refuse to cover due to preexisting conditions 2=no for all Federal plans)
C184	1	Pre-existing condition refused in reference year? (Blank for all federal plans)
C185	1	Could plan impose a waiting period due to preexisting conditions 2=no for all Federal plans
C186	1	Is the plan offered next year?(1997) 1=yes, 2=no
C187	1	If not offered, 1=replaced with similar plan, 2=replaced with different plan, 3=dropped, no replacement
C188		Next year data (available in next year's file)
C189		Next year data (available in next year's file)
C190	12	Total premium: single coverage for next year
C191	12	Total premium: family coverage for next year
C192		Next year data (available in next year's file)
C193		Next year data (available in next year's file)
C194		Next year data (available in next year's file)
C195		Next year data (available in next year's file)
C197	1	Did you impose a waiting period? No=2 for all Federal cases
C200	12	Total employees in state
C201	12	Total employees eligible for health insurance in state
C202	12	Total employees enrolled in health insurance in state
C203	12	Total part-time employees in state
C204	12	Total part-time employees eligible for health insurance in state
C205	12	Total part-time employees enrolled in health insurance in state
C206	12	Total temporary employees in state
C207	12	Total temporary employees eligible for health insurance in state
C208	12	Total temporary employees enrolled in health insurance in state
C209	1	Were retirees under 65 years old eligible to receive health insurance? Yes=1 for all Federal cases
C210	1	Were retirees 65 years old and over eligible to receive health insurance? Yes=1 for all Federal cases
C218	1	Physician care not covered? Blank for all federal cases
C012	51	Name of health insurance plan