

**MEPS HC-194
2017 Full Year
Population Characteristics
February 2019**

The MEPS instrument design changed beginning in Spring of 2018, affecting Panel 23 Round 1, Panel 22 Round 3, and Panel 21 Round 5. For the Full-Year 2017 PUFs, the Panel 22 Round 3 and Panel 21 Round 5 data were transformed to the degree possible to conform to the previous design. For the Full-Year 2018 PUFs, Panel 22 Rounds 1 and 2, collected under the old design, were transformed to the degree possible to conform to the new design. **Data users should be aware of possible impacts on the data and especially trend analysis for these data years due to the design transition.**

**Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857
(301) 427-1406**

Table of Contents

A.	Data Use Agreement	A-1
B.	Background	B-1
1.0	Household Component.....	B-1
2.0	Medical Provider Component	B-1
3.0	Survey Management and Data Collection	B-2
C.	Technical and Programming Information	C-1
1.0	General Information.....	C-1
2.0	Data File Information.....	C-1
2.1	Codebook Structure	C-2
2.2	Reserved Codes	C-2
2.3	Codebook Format	C-3
2.4	Variable Naming	C-3
2.5	File Contents.....	C-3
2.5.1	Survey Administration Variables (DUID–PSTATS53).....	C-4
2.5.2	Navigating the MEPS Data with Information on Person Disposition Status.....	C-13
2.5.3	Demographic Variables (AGE31X–YRSINUS).	C-19
2.5.4	Person-Level Condition Variables (RTHLTH31–ADHDAGED).....	C-29
2.5.4.1	Perceived Health Status	C-29
2.5.4.2	Priority Condition Variables (HIBPDX–ADHDAGED)	C-29
2.5.5	Health Status Variables (IADLHP31–ADOVER42).....	C-34
2.5.5.1	IADL and ADL Limitations	C-35
2.5.5.2	Functional and Activity Limitations	C-36
2.5.5.3	Hearing, Vision Problems.....	C-38
2.5.5.4	Disability Status.....	C-39
2.5.5.5	Hearing Aids, Eyeglasses	C-40
2.5.5.6	Any Limitation Rounds 3 and 4 (Panel 21) / Rounds 1 and 2 (Panel 22).....	C-40
2.5.5.7	Child Health and Preventive Care	C-41

Table of Contents (continued)

	2.5.5.8 Preventive Care Variables	C-48
	2.5.5.9 2017 Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ)	C-49
	2.5.5.10 Diabetes Care Survey (DCS)	C-49
	2.5.5.11 Cancer Self-Administered Questionnaire (CSAQ)	C-49
2.5.6	Disability Days Indicator Variables (DDNWRK17–OTHNDD17)	C-49
2.5.7	Access to Care Variables (ACCELI42–PMDLRS42)	C-51
	2.5.7.1 Family Members’ Usual Source of Health Care	C-51
	2.5.7.2 Characteristics of Usual Source of Health Care Providers	C-52
	2.5.7.3 Access to and Satisfaction with the Provider	C-54
	2.5.7.4 Access to Medical Treatment, Dental Treatment, and Prescription Medicines	C-55
	2.5.7.5 Editing the Access to Care Variables	C-56
	2.5.7.6 Recoding of Additional Other Specify Text Items	C-56
2.5.8	Employment Variables (EMPST31–OFREMP53)	C-57
2.5.9	Health Insurance Variables (TRIJA17X–PMEDPY53)	C-67
	2.5.9.1 Monthly Health Insurance Indicators (TRIJA17X–INSDE17X)	C-68
	2.5.9.2 Summary Insurance Coverage Indicators (PRVEV17–INSURC17)	C-71
	2.5.9.3 FY 2017 PUF Managed Care Variables (TRIST31X–PRVHMO17) ..	C-73
	2.5.9.4 Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAGT31–FSAAMT31)	C-78
	2.5.9.5 Unedited Health Insurance Variables (PREVCOVR–INSENDYY)	C-78
	2.5.9.6 Health Insurance Coverage Variables – At Any Time/At Interview Date/At 12-31 Variables (TRICR31X–INSAT17X)	C-79

Table of Contents (continued)

2.5.9.7	Dental and Prescription Drug Private Insurance Variables (DENTIN31–PMDINS17).....	C-81
2.5.9.8	Medical Debt Variables (PROBPY42 – PYUNBL42)	C-82
2.5.9.9	Prescription Drug Usual Third Party Payer Variables (PMEDUP31– PMEDPY53)	C-83
2.5.10	Person-Level Medical Utilization Variables (OBTOTV17–HHINFD17)	C-83
2.5.10.1	Medical Provider Visits (i.e., Office-Based Visits)	C-83
2.5.10.2	Hospital Events	C-84
2.5.10.3	Dental Care Visits.....	C-85
2.5.10.4	Home Health Care	C-85
2.5.11	Changes in Variable List.....	C-85
2.6	Linking to Other Files	C-87
2.6.1	Event and Condition Files	C-87
2.6.2	National Health Interview Survey.....	C-87
2.6.3	Longitudinal Analysis	C-87
3.0	Survey Sample Information	C-87
3.1	Background on Sample Design and Response Rates	C-87
3.1.1	References	C-88
3.1.2	MEPS-Linked to the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)	C-88
3.1.3	Sample Weights and Variance Estimation.....	C-90
3.2	The MEPS Sampling Process and Response Rates: An Overview	C-91
3.2.1	Response Rates	C-92
3.2.2	Panel 22 Response Rates.....	C-93
3.2.3	Panel 21 Response Rates.....	C-93
3.2.4	Annual (Combined Panel) Response Rate	C-93
3.2.5	Oversampling	C-94
3.3	Background on Person-Level Estimation Using this MEPS Public Use Release.....	C-95

Table of Contents (continued)

3.3.1	Overview	C-95
3.3.2	Developing Person-Level Estimates	C-95
3.4	Details on Person-Level Weights Construction	C-96
3.4.1	Overview	C-96
3.4.2	MEPS Panel 21 Weight Development Process...	C-96
3.4.3	MEPS Panel 22 Weight Development Process...	C-97
3.4.4	Raking	C-97
3.4.5	The Final (Non-Poverty Adjusted) Weight for the 2017 USE File	C-97
3.4.6	A Note on MEPS Population Estimates.....	C-98
3.4.7	Coverage	C-99
3.5	No Family, DCS, SAQ, or CSAQ Weights on this Public Use File.....	C-99
3.6	Variance Estimation	C-99
3.6.1	Taylor-series Linearization Method.....	C-99
3.6.2	Balanced Repeated Replication (BRR) Method .	C-101
3.7	Using MEPS Data for Trend Analysis	C-101
D.	Variable-Source Crosswalk	D-1

A. Data Use Agreement

Individual identifiers have been removed from the micro-data contained in these 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 Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and/or the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) may not be used for any purpose other than for the purpose for which they were supplied; any effort to determine the identity of any reported cases 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 AHRQ will be advised of this incident, (c) the information that would identify any individual or establishment will be safeguarded or destroyed, as requested by AHRQ, and (d) no one else will be informed of the discovered identity; and
3. No one will attempt to link this data set with individually identifiable records from any data sets other than the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey or the National Health Interview Survey. Furthermore, linkage of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey and the National Health Interview Survey may not occur outside the AHRQ Data Center, NCHS Research Data Center (RDC) or the U.S. Census RDC network.

By using these 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 Title 18 part 1 Chapter 47 Section 1001 and is punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 or up to 5 years in prison.

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality requests that users cite AHRQ and the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey as the data source in any publications or research based upon these data.

B. Background

1.0 Household Component

The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) provides nationally representative estimates of health care use, expenditures, sources of payment, and health insurance coverage for the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population. The MEPS Household Component (HC) also provides estimates of respondents' health status, demographic and socio-economic characteristics, employment, access to care, and satisfaction with health care. Estimates can be produced for individuals, families, and selected population subgroups. The panel design of the survey, which includes 5 Rounds of interviews covering 2 full calendar years, provides data for examining person level changes in selected variables such as expenditures, health insurance coverage, and health status. Using computer assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) technology, information about each household member is collected, and the survey builds on this information from interview to interview. All data for a sampled household are reported by a single household respondent.

The MEPS-HC was initiated in 1996. Each year a new panel of sample households is selected. Because the data collected are comparable to those from earlier medical expenditure surveys conducted in 1977 and 1987, it is possible to analyze long-term trends. Each annual MEPS-HC sample size is about 15,000 households. Data can be analyzed at either the person or event level. Data must be weighted to produce national estimates.

The set of households selected for each panel of the MEPS HC is a subsample of households participating in the previous year's National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics. The NHIS sampling frame provides a nationally representative sample of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population and reflects an oversample of Blacks and Hispanics. In 2006, the NHIS implemented a new sample design, which included Asian persons in addition to households with Black and Hispanic persons in the oversampling of minority populations. The linkage of the MEPS to the previous year's NHIS provides additional data for longitudinal analytic purposes.

2.0 Medical Provider Component

Upon completion of the household CAPI interview and obtaining permission from the household survey respondents, a sample of medical providers are contacted by telephone to obtain information that household respondents can not accurately provide. This part of the MEPS is called the Medical Provider Component (MPC) and information is collected on dates of visits, diagnosis and procedure codes, charges and payments. The Pharmacy Component (PC), a subcomponent of the MPC, does not collect charges or diagnosis and procedure codes but does collect drug detail information, including National Drug Code (NDC) and medicine name, as well as date filled and sources and amounts of payment. The MPC is not designed to yield national estimates. It is primarily used as an imputation source to supplement/replace household reported expenditure information.

3.0 Survey Management and Data Collection

MEPS HC and MPC data are collected under the authority of the Public Health Service Act. Data are collected under contract with Westat, Inc. (MEPS HC) and Research Triangle Institute (MEPS MPC). Data sets and summary statistics are edited and published in accordance with the confidentiality provisions of the Public Health Service Act and the Privacy Act. The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) provides consultation and technical assistance.

As soon as data collection and editing are completed, the MEPS survey data are released to the public in staged releases of summary reports, micro data files, and tables via the [MEPS website](#). Selected data can be analyzed through MEPSnet, an on-line interactive tool designed to give data users the capability to statistically analyze MEPS data in a menu-driven environment.

Additional information on MEPS is available from the MEPS project manager or the MEPS public use data manager at the Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857 (301-427-1406).

C. Technical and Programming Information

1.0 General Information

This documentation describes the 2017 full-year population characteristics data file from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Household Component (MEPS HC). Released as an ASCII file (with related SAS, SPSS, and Stata programming statements and data user information) and a SAS transport dataset, this public use file provides information collected on a nationally representative sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States for calendar year 2017. The file contains 936 variables and has a logical record length of 1,940 with an additional 2-byte carriage return/line feed at the end of each record.

This file consists of MEPS survey data obtained in Rounds 3, 4, and 5 of Panel 21 and Rounds 1, 2, and 3 of Panel 22, the rounds for the MEPS panels covering calendar year 2017, and contains variables pertaining to survey administration, demographics, person-level conditions, health status, disability days, quality of care, employment, health insurance, and person-level medical care use counts. The 2017 full-year expenditure and income data will be forthcoming.

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

- Data File Information
- Survey Sample Information
- Variable-Source Crosswalk

Both weighted and unweighted frequencies of most variables included in the 2017 full-year population characteristics data file are provided in the accompanying codebook file. The exceptions to this are weight variables and variance estimation variables. Only unweighted frequencies of these variables are included in the accompanying codebook file. See the Weights Variables list in Section D, Variable-Source Crosswalk.

A database of all MEPS products released to date and a variable locator indicating the major MEPS data items on public use files that have been released to date can be found on the [MEPS website](#).

2.0 Data File Information

This public use dataset contains variables and frequency distributions associated with 31,880 persons who participated in the MEPS Household Component of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey in 2017. These persons received a positive person-level weight, a family-level weight, or both (some participating persons belonged to families characterized as family-level nonrespondents while some members of participating families were not eligible for a person-level weight). Note that persons who will have a positive family weight but not a positive person weight have been placed on this public use file to maintain consistency in terms of file structure with the upcoming public use file with expenditure and income data. Those will be the only records without a positive person weight appearing on this file.

Note that unlike some previous MEPS Population Characteristic files, family weights are not included on this release. As indicated above, all persons included on this file that do not have positive person weights will have a positive family weight on the final 2017 Consolidated PUF: HC-201.

These 31,880 persons were part of one of the two MEPS panels for whom data were collected in 2017: Rounds 3, 4, and 5 of Panel 21 or Rounds 1, 2, and 3 of Panel 22. Of these persons, 30,716 were assigned a positive person-level weight. In conjunction with the person-level weight variable (PERWT17P) provided on this file, data for persons with a positive person-level weight can be used to make estimates for the civilian noninstitutionalized U.S. population for 2017.

The MEPS CAPI design has changed significantly beginning with the specifications for Panel 21 Round 5/Panel 22 Round 3/Panel 23 Round 1.

For the 2017 data year, data collected in Panel 21 Round 5 and Panel 22 Round 3 have been collected with the new CAPI design and, for consistency, have been presented in the format used for the four rounds collected with the previous CAPI design. Details can be found within the document.

2.1 Codebook Structure

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

- Unique person identifiers and survey administration variables
- Geographic variables
- Demographic variables
- Person-level priority condition variables
- Health status variables
- Disability days variables
- Access to care variables
- Employment variables
- Health insurance variables
- Medical usage count variables
- Weight and variance estimation variables

2.2 Reserved Codes

The following reserved code values are used:

Value	Definition
-1 INAPPLICABLE	Question was not asked due to skip pattern
-2 DETERMINED IN PREVIOUS ROUND	Question was not asked in round because there was no change in current main job since previous round
-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
-10	HOURLY WAGE >= \$96.15	Hourly wage was top-coded for confidentiality
-13	INITIAL WAGE IMPUTED	Hourly wage was previously imputed so an updated wage is not included in this file

2.3 Codebook Format

This codebook describes an ASCII data set and provides the following programming 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

2.4 Variable Naming

In general, variable names reflect the content of the variable, with an eight-character limitation. Edited variables end in an X and are so noted in the variable label. The last two characters in round-specific variables denote the rounds of data collection, Round 3, 4, or 5 of Panel 21 and Round 1, 2, or 3 of Panel 22. Unless otherwise noted, variables that end in “17” represent status as of December 31, 2017.

Variables contained in this delivery were derived either from the questionnaire itself or from the CAPI. The source of each variable is identified in the section of the documentation entitled “Section D. Variable-Source Crosswalk.” Sources for each variable are indicated in one of four ways: (1) variables derived from CAPI or assigned in sampling are so indicated; (2) variables derived from complex algorithms associated with reenumeration are labeled “RE Section”; (3) variables that are collected by one or more specific questions in the instrument have those question numbers listed in the Source column; and (4) variables constructed from multiple questions using complex algorithms are labeled “Constructed.”

2.5 File Contents

Users of MEPS data should be aware that the survey collects data for all sample persons who were in the survey target population at any time during the survey period. In other words, a small proportion of individuals in MEPS analytic files are not members of the survey target population (i.e., civilian noninstitutionalized) for the entire survey period. These persons include those who had periods during which they lived in an institution (e.g., nursing home or prison), were in the military, or lived out of the country, as well as those who were born (or adopted) into MEPS sample households or died during the year. They are considered sample persons for the survey

and are included in MEPS data files with positive person weights, but no data were collected for the periods they were not in-scope and their annual data for variables like health care utilization, expenditures, and insurance coverage reflect only the part of the year they were in-scope for the survey. Persons who are in-scope for only part of the year should not be confused with non-respondents. Sample persons who are classified as non-respondents to one or more rounds of data collection (i.e., initial non-respondents and drop outs over time) are not included in MEPS annual files, and survey weights for full-year respondents are inflated through statistical adjustment procedures to compensate for both full and part-year nonresponse (see Section 3.0 “Survey Sample Information” for more information). The AHRQ website provides more details about the [identification and analytic considerations regarding sample persons who are in-scope only part of the year](#).

2.5.1 Survey Administration Variables (DUID–PSTATS53)

The survey administration variables contain information related to conducting the interview, household and family composition, and person-level and RU-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 Reenumeration section of the questionnaire. Most survey administration variables on this file are asked during every round of the MEPS interview. They describe data for Rounds 3/1, 4/2, 5/3 status and status as of December 31, 2017. Variable names ending in “xy” represent variables relevant to Round “x” of Panel 21 or Round “y” of Panel 22. For example, RULETR53 is a variable relevant to Round 5 of Panel 21 or Round 3 of Panel 22, depending on the panel in which the person was included. The variable PANEL indicates the panel in which the person participated.

The December 31, 2017 variables were developed in two ways. Those used in the construction of eligibility, in-scope, and the end reference date were based on an exact date. The remaining variables were constructed using data from specific rounds, if available. If data were missing from the target round but were available in another round, data from that other round were used in the variable construction. If no valid data were available during any round of data collection, an appropriate reserved code was assigned.

Dwelling Units, Reporting Units, and Families

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

PANEL is a constructed variable used to specify the panel number for the person. PANEL will indicate either Panel 21 or Panel 22 for each person on the file. Panel 21 is the panel that started in 2016, and Panel 22 is the panel that started in 2017.

A Reporting Unit (RU) is a person or group of persons in the sampled DU who are related by blood, marriage, adoption, foster care, or other family association. Each RU was interviewed as a single entity for 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 in the pertinent three rounds by the round-specific variables RULETR31, RULETR42, and RULETR53. End-of-year status (as of December 31, 2017 or the last round they were in the survey) is indicated by the RULETR17 variable. Regardless of the legal status of their association, two persons living together as a “family” unit were treated as a single RU if they chose to be so identified. Examples of different types of RUs are:

1. A married daughter and her husband living with her parents in the same DU constitute a single RU;
2. A husband and wife and their unmarried daughter, age 18, who is living away from home while at college constitute two RUs; and
3. Three unrelated persons living in the same DU would each constitute a distinct RU (a total of three RUs).

Unmarried college students (less than 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 3/1 MEPS interview were treated as an RU separate from that of their parents for the purpose of data collection.

The round-specific variables RUSIZE31, RUSIZE42, RUSIZE53, and the end-of-year status variable RUSIZE17 indicate the number of persons in each RU, treating students as single RUs separate from their parents. Thus, students are not included in the RUSIZE count of their parents’ RU. However, for many analytic objectives, the student RUs would be combined with their parents’ RU, treating the combined entity as a single family. Family identifier and size variables are described below and include students with their parents’ RU.

The round-specific variables FAMID31, FAMID42, FAMID53, and the end-of-year status variable FAMID17 identify a family (i.e., persons related to one another by blood, marriage, adoption, foster care, or self-identified as a single unit) for each round and as of December 31, 2017. The FAMID variables differ from the RULETR variables only in that student RUs are combined with their parents’ RU.

One other family identifier, FAMIDYR, is provided on this file. The annualized family ID letter, FAMIDYR, identifies eligible members of the eligible annualized families within a DU. In order to identify a person’s family affiliation, users must create a unique set of FAMID variables by concatenating the DU identifier and the FAMID variable.

The round-specific variables FAMSZE31, FAMSZE42, FAMSZE53, and the end-of-year status variable FAMSZE17 indicate the number of persons associated with a single family unit after students are linked to their associated parent RUs for analytical purposes. Family-level analyses should use the FAMSZE variables.

Note that the variables RUSIZE31, RUSIZE42, RUSIZE53, RUSIZE17, FAMSZE31, FAMSZE42, FAMSZE53, and FAMSZE17 exclude persons who are ineligible for data collection (i.e., those where ELGRND31 NE 1, ELGRND42 NE 1, ELGRND53 NE 1 or

ELGRND17 NE 1); analysts should exclude ineligible persons in a given round from all family-level analyses for that round.

The round-specific variables RURSLT31, RURSLT42, and RURSLT53 indicate the RU response status for each round. Users should note that the values for RURSLT31 differ from those for RURSLT42 and RURSLT53. The values for RURSLT31 include the following:

Value	Definition
-1	Inapplicable
60	Complete with RU member
61	Complete with proxy-all RU members deceased
62	Complete with proxy-all RU members institutionalized or deceased
63	Complete with proxy-other
72	RU institutionalized in prior round; Still institutionalized-R3 only
80	Entire RU merged with other RU
81	Entire RU deceased before 1/1/17
82	Entire RU is military before 1/1/17
83	Entire RU institutionalized before 1/1/17
84	Entire RU left U.S. before 1/1/17
85	Entire RU is ineligible before 1/1/17; Multi-reason
86	Entire RU is ineligible; Non-Key NHIS study
87	Reenumeration complete; No eligible RU member; Ineligible RU
88	Unavailable during field period
89	Too ill; No proxy
90	Physically/Mentally incompetent; No proxy
91	Final Refusal
92	Final Breakoff
93	Unable to locate
94	Entire RU is military or left U.S. after 1/1/17
95	Entire RU institutionalized after 1/1/17; No proxy
96	Entire RU deceased after 1/1/17; No proxy
97	Reenumeration complete; No RU member; Non-Response
98	RU moved too far to interview
99	Final other Non-Response

The values for RURSLT42 and RURSLT53 include the following:

Value	Definition
-1	Inapplicable
60	Complete with RU member
61	Complete with proxy-all RU members deceased
62	Complete with proxy-all RU members institutionalized or deceased
63	Complete with proxy-other
70	Entire RU merged with other RU
71	Reenumeration complete; No eligible RU member; Ineligible RU
72	RU institutionalized in prior round; Still institutionalized
88	Unavailable during field period
89	Too ill; No proxy
90	Physically/Mentally incompetent; No proxy
91	Final Refusal
92	Final Breakoff
93	Unable to locate
94	Entire RU is military or left U.S. after 1/1/17
95	Entire RU institutionalized after 1/1/17; No proxy
96	Entire RU deceased after 1/1/17; No proxy
97	Reenumeration complete; No RU member; Non-Response
98	RU moved too far to interview
99	Final other Non-Response

Standard or primary RUs are the original RUs from NHIS. A new RU is one created when members of the household leave the primary RU and are followed according to the rules of the survey. A student RU is an unmarried college student (under 24 years of age) who is considered a usual member of the household, but was living away from home while going to school, and was treated as a Reporting Unit (RU) separate from his or her parents' RU for the purpose of data collection. RUCLAS17 was set based on the RUCLAS values from Rounds 3/1, 4/2, and 5/3. If the person was present in the responding RU in Round 5/3, then RUCLAS17 was set to RUCLAS53. If the person was not present in a responding RU in Round 5/3 but was present in Round 4/2, then RUCLAS17 was set to RUCLAS42. If the person was not present in either Rounds 4/2 or 5/3 but was present in Round 3/1, then RUCLAS17 was set to RUCLAS31. If the person was not linked to a responding RU during any round, then RUCLAS17 was set to -9.

Geographic Variables

The round-specific variables REGION31, REGION42, REGION53, and the end-of-year status variable REGION17 indicate the Census region for the RU. REGION17 indicates the region for the 2017 portion of Round 5/3. For most analyses, REGION17 should be used.

The values and states for each region include the following:

Value	Label	States
1	Northeast	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont
2	Midwest	Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin
3	South	Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia
4	West	Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming

Reference Period Dates

The reference period is the period of time for which data were collected in each round for each person. The reference period dates were determined during the interview for each person by the CAPI program. The round-specific beginning reference period dates are included for each person. These variables include BEGRFM31, BEGRFY31, BEGRFM42, BEGRFY42, BEGRFM53, and BEGRFY53. The reference period for Round 1 for most persons began on January 1, 2017 and ended on the date of the Round 1 interview. For RU members who joined later in Round 1, the beginning Round 1 reference date was the date the person entered the RU. For all subsequent rounds, the reference period for most persons began on the date of the previous round's interview and ended on the date of the current round's interview. Persons who joined after the previous round's interview had their beginning reference date for the round set to the day they joined the RU.

The round-specific ending reference period dates for Rounds 3/1, 4/2, and 5/3 as well as the end-of-year reference period end date variables are also included for each person. These variables include ENDRFM31, ENDRFY31, ENDRFM42, ENDRFY42, ENDRFM53, ENDRFY53, ENDRFM17, and ENDRFY17. For most persons in the sample, the date of the round's interview is the reference period end date. Note that the end date of the reference period for a person is prior to the date of the interview if the person was deceased during the round, left the RU, was institutionalized prior to that round's interview, or left the RU to join the military.

Reference Person Identifiers

The round-specific variables REFPRS31, REFPRS42, and REFPRS53 and the end-of-year status variable REFPRS17 identify the reference person for Rounds 3/1, 4/2 and 5/3, and as of

December 31, 2017 (or the last round they were in the survey). In general, the reference person is defined as the household member 16 years of age or older who owns or rents the home. If more than one person meets this description, the household respondent identifies one from among them. If the respondent is unable to identify a person fitting this definition, the questionnaire asks for the head of household and this person is then considered the reference person for that RU. This information is collected in the Reenumeration section of the CAPI questionnaire.

Respondent Identifiers

The respondent is the person who answered the interview questions for the Reporting Unit (RU). The round-specific variables RESP31, RESP42, and RESP53 and the end-of-year status variable RESP17 identify the respondent for Rounds 3/1, 4/2, and 5/3 and as of December 31, 2017 (or the last round they were in the survey). 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.

There are two types of respondents. The respondent can be either an RU member or a non-RU member proxy. The round-specific variables PROXY31, PROXY42, and PROXY53 and the end-of-year status variable PROXY17 identify the type of respondent for Rounds 3/1, 4/2, 5/3 and as of December 31, 2017 (or the last round they were in the survey).

Language of Interview

The language of interview variable (INTVLANG) is a summary value of the round-specific RU-level information section question (RS02), which asks the interviewer to record the language in which the interview was completed: English, Spanish, Both English and Spanish, Other Language. Given the first round that the person was part of the study and the person's associated RU for that round, INTVLANG is assigned the interview language value reported for the person's RU for the round.

Person Status

A number of variables describe the various components reflecting each person's status for each round of data collection. These variables provide information about a person's in-scope status, Keyness status, eligibility status, and disposition status. These variables include: KEYNESS, INSCOP31, INSCOP42, INSCOP53, INSCOP17, INSC1231, INSCOPE, ELGRND31, ELGRND42, ELGRND53, ELGRND17, PSTATS31, PSTATS42, and PSTATS53. These variables are set based on sampling information and responses provided in the Reenumeration section of the CAPI questionnaire.

Through the Reenumeration section of the CAPI questionnaire, each member of a RU 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 noninstitutionalized population for at least one day during 2017. Because a person's eligibility for the survey might have changed since the NHIS interview, a sampling reenumeration of household membership was conducted at the start of each round's interview. Only persons who were "in-scope" sometime during the year, were "Key", and responded for the full period in which they were in-

scope were assigned positive person-level weights and thus are to be used in the derivation of person-level national estimates from the MEPS.

Note: If analysts want to subset to infants born during 2017, then newborns should be identified using AGE17X = 0 rather than PSTATSxy = 51.

In-scope

The round-specific variables INSCOP31, INSCOP42, and INSCOP53 indicate a person's in-scope status for Rounds 3/1, 4/2, and 5/3. INSCOP17, INSC1231, and INSCOPE indicate a person's in-scope status for the portion of Round 5/3 that covers 2017, the person's in-scope status as of 12/31/17, and whether a person was ever in-scope during the calendar year 2017. A person was considered as in-scope during a round or a referenced time period if he or she was a member of the U.S. civilian, noninstitutionalized population at some time during that round or that time period. The values of these variables taken in conjunction allow one to determine in-scope status over time (for example, becoming in-scope in the middle of a round, as would be the case for newborns). These variables may contain the following values and corresponding labels:

Value	Definition
0	Incorrectly listed, or on NHIS roster but out-of-scope prior to January 1, 2017
1	Person is in-scope for the whole reference period
2	Person is in-scope at the start of the RU reference period, but not at the end of the RU reference period
3	Person is not in-scope at the start of RU reference period, but is in-scope at the end of the RU reference period. (For example, the person is in-scope from the date the person joined the RU or the person was in the military in the previous round, but is no longer in the military in the current round)
4	Person is in-scope during the reference period, but neither at the reference start date nor on the reference end date. (For example, person leaves an institution, goes into community, and then dies)
5	Person is out-of-scope for all of the reference period during which he or she is an RU member. (For example, the person is in the military)
6	Person is out-of-scope for the entire reference period and is not a member of the RU during this time period and was in-scope and an RU member in an earlier round
7	Person is not in an RU, joined in a later round (or joined the RU after December 31, 2017 for INSCOP17)
8	RU Non-response and Key persons who left an RU with no tracing info and so a new RU was not formed
9	Person is not a member of an RU during this time period, and was an RU member in an earlier round

Keyness

The term “Keyness” is related to an individual’s chance of being included in MEPS. A person is Key if that person is linked for sampling purposes to the set of NHIS sampled households designated for inclusion in MEPS. Specifically, a Key person was either a member of a responding NHIS household at the time of interview, or joined a family associated with such a household after being out-of-scope at the time of the NHIS (examples of the latter situation include newborns and those returning from military service, an institution, or residence in a foreign country).

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 and who later became a member of a MEPS Reporting Unit. MEPS data (e.g., utilization and expenditures) were collected for the period of time a non-Key person was part of the sampled unit to provide information for family-level analyses. However, non-Key persons who leave a sample household unaccompanied by a Key, in-scope member were not followed for subsequent interviews. Non-Key individuals do not receive sample person-level weights and thus do not contribute to person-level national estimates.

The variable KEYNESS indicates a person’s Keyness status. This variable is not round-specific. Instead, it is set at the time the person enters MEPS, and the person’s Keyness status never changes. Once a person is determined to be Key, that person will always be Key.

It should be pointed out that a person might be Key even though not part of the civilian, noninstitutionalized portion of the U.S. population. For example, a person in the military may have been living with his or her civilian spouse and children in a household sampled for NHIS. The person in the military would be considered a Key person for MEPS; however, such a person would not be eligible to receive a person-level sample weight if he or she was never in-scope during 2017.

Eligibility

The eligibility of a person for MEPS pertains to whether or not data were to be collected for that person. All of the 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 an RU with at least one Key, in-scope person. Their eligibility continued only for the time that they were living with at least one such 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 such a person. Only military persons can meet this description (for example, a person on full-time active duty military, living with a spouse who is Key).

A person may be classified as eligible for an entire round or for some part of a round. For persons who are eligible for only part of a round (for example, persons may have been institutionalized during a round), data were collected for the period of time for which that person was classified as eligible. The round-specific variables ELGRND31, ELGRND42, ELGRND53 and the end-of-year status variable ELGRND17 indicate a person’s eligibility status for Rounds 3/1, 4/2, and 5/3 and as of December 31, 2017.

Person Disposition Status

The round-specific variables PSTATS31, PSTATS42, and PSTATS53 indicate a person's response and eligibility status for each round of interviewing. The PSTATSxy variables indicate the reasons for either continuing or terminating data collection for each person in the MEPS. Using this variable, one could identify persons who moved during the reference period, died, were born, institutionalized, or who were in the military. Analysts should note that PSTATS53 provides a summary for all of Round 5/3, including transitions that occurred after 2017. Note that some categories may be collapsed for confidentiality purposes.

The following codes specify the value labels for the PSTATSxy variables.

Value	Definition
-1	The person was not fielded during the round or the RU was non-response
0	Incorrectly listed in RU at NHIS - applies to MEPS Round 1 only
11	Person in original RU, not full-time active military duty
12	Person in original RU, full-time active military duty, out-of-scope for whole reference period
13	Full-time student living away from home, but associated with sampled RU
14	The person is full-time active military duty during round, is in-scope for part of the reference period and is in the RU at the end of the reference period
21	The person remains in a health care institution for the whole round - Rounds 4/2 and 5/3 only
22	The person leaves an institution (health care or non-health care) and rejoins the community - Rounds 4/2 and 5/3 only
23	The person leaves an institution and dies – Rounds 4/2 and 5/3 only
24	The person dies in a health care institution during the round (former RU member) - Rounds 4/2 and 5/3 only
31	Person from original RU, dies during reference period
32	Went to health care institution during reference period
33	Went to non-healthcare institution during reference period
34	Moved from original RU, outside U.S. (not as student)
35	Moved from original RU, to a military facility while on full-time active military duty
36	Went to institution (type unknown) during reference period
41	Moved from the original RU, to new RU within U.S. (new RUs include RUs originally classified as “Student RU” but which converted to “New RU”)
42	The person joins RU and is not full-time military during round

Value	Definition
43	The person's disposition as to why the person is not in the RU is unknown or the person moves and it is unknown whether the person moved inside or outside the U.S.
44	The person leaves an RU and joins an existing RU and is not both in the military and coded as in-scope during the round
51	Newborn in reference period
61	Died prior to reference period (not eligible)-Round 3/1 only
62	Institutionalized prior to reference period (not eligible)-Round 3/1 only
63	Moved outside U.S., prior to reference period (not eligible)-Round 3/1 only
64	Full-time military, living on a military facility, moved prior to reference period (not eligible)-Round 3/1 only
71	Student under 24 living away at school in grades 1-12 (Non-Key)
72	Person is dropped from the RU roster as ineligible: the person is a non-Key student living away or the person is not related to reference person or the RU is the person's residence only during the school year
73	Not Key and not full-time military, moved without someone Key and in-scope (not eligible)
74	Moved as full-time military but not to a military facility and without someone Key and in-scope (not eligible this round)
81	Person moved from original RU, full-time student living away from home, did not respond

2.5.2 Navigating the MEPS Data with Information on Person Disposition Status

Since the variables PSTATS31, PSTATS42, and PSTATS53 indicate the reasons for either continuing or terminating data collection for each person in MEPS, these variables can be used to explain the beginning and ending dates for each individual's reference period of data collection, as well as which sections in the instrument each individual did not receive. By using the information included in the following table, analysts will be able to determine for each individual which sections of the MEPS questionnaire collected data elements for that person.

Some individuals have a reference period that spans an entire round, while other individuals may have data collected only for a portion of the round. When an individual's reference period does not coincide with the RU reference period, the individual's start date may be a later date, or the end date may be an earlier date, or both. In addition, some individuals have reference period information coded as "Inapplicable" (e.g., for individuals who were not actually in the household). The information in this table indicates the beginning and ending dates of reference periods for persons with various values of PSTATS31, PSTATS42, and PSTATS53. The actual dates for each individual can be found in the following variables included on this file: BEGRFM31, BEGRFM42, BEGRFM53, BEGRFY31, BEGRFY42, BEGRFY53, ENDRFM31,

ENDRFM42, ENDRFM53, ENDRFY31, ENDRFY42, ENDRFY53, ENDRFM17, and ENDRFY17.

The table below also describes the section or sections of the questionnaire that were **NOT** asked for each value of PSTATS31, PSTATS42, and PSTATS53. For example, the Condition Enumeration (CE) and Preventive Care (AP) sections have questions that are not asked for deceased persons. The Closing (CL) section also contains some questions or question rosters that exclude certain persons depending on whether the person died, became institutionalized, or otherwise left the RU; however, no one is considered to have skipped the entire section. Some questions or sections (e.g., Health Status (HE), Employment (RJ, EM, EW)) are skipped if individuals are not within a certain age range. Since the PSTATS variables do not address skip patterns based on age, analysts will need to use the appropriate age variables.

The paper-and-pencil Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ) was designed to collect information during Panel 22 Round 2 and Panel 21 Round 4. A person was considered eligible to receive an SAQ if that person did not have a status of deceased or institutionalized, did not move out of the U.S. or to a military facility, was not a non-response at the time of the Round 2 or Round 4 interview date, and was 18 years of age or older. No RU members added in Round 3 or Round 5 were asked to complete an SAQ questionnaire. Because PSTATS variables do not address skip patterns based on age, this questionnaire was not included in the table below. Once again, analysts will need to use the appropriate age variable which in this case would be AGE42X. The documentation for this questionnaire appears in the SAQ section of this document under “Health Status Variables.”

Please note that the end reference date shown below for PSTATS53 reflects the Round 5/3 reference period rather than the portion of Round 5/3 that occurred during 2017.

PSTATS Value	PSTATS Description	Sections in the instrument which persons with this PSTATS value do NOT receive	Begin Reference Date	End Reference Date
-1	The person was not fielded during the round or the RU was non-response	ALL sections	Inapplicable	Inapplicable
0	Incorrectly listed in RU at NHIS - Round 1 only	ALL sections after RE	Inapplicable	Inapplicable
11	Person in original household, not FT active military duty (Person is in the same RU as the previous round)	--	PSTATS31: January 1, 2017 PSTATS42 and PSTATS53: Prior round interview date	Interview date

PSTATS Value	PSTATS Description	Sections in the instrument which persons with this PSTATS value do NOT receive	Begin Reference Date	End Reference Date
12	Person in original household, FT active military duty, out-of-scope for whole reference period.	--	PSTATS31: January 1, 2017 PSTATS42 and PSTATS53: Prior round interview date	Interview date
13	FT student living away from home, but associated with sampled household	--	PSTATS31: January 1, 2017 PSTATS42 and PSTATS53: Prior round interview date	Interview date
14	The person is FT active military duty during round and is in-scope for part of the reference period and is in the RU at the end of the reference period	--	PSTATS31: January 1, 2017 PSTATS42 and PSTATS53: Prior round interview date	PSTATS31: Interview date PSTATS42 and PSTATS53: If the person is living w/ someone Key and in-scope, then the interview date. If not living w/ someone who is Key and in-scope, then the date the person joined the military
21	The person remains in a health care institution for the whole round - Rounds 4/2 and 5/3 only	All sections after RE	Inapplicable	Inapplicable
22	The person leaves a health care institution and rejoins the community - Rounds 4/2 and 5/3 only	--	Date rejoined the community	Interview date
23	The person leaves a health care institution, goes into community and then dies - Rounds 4/2 and 5/3 only	PE - Priority Conditions Enumeration Part of CE - Condition Enumeration: Skip CE1 to CE5 HE - Health Status AC - Access to Care Part of AP - Preventive Care: Skip AP12 to AP22	Date rejoined the community	Date of Death

PSTATS Value	PSTATS Description	Sections in the instrument which persons with this PSTATS value do NOT receive	Begin Reference Date	End Reference Date
24	The person dies in a health care institution during the round (former household member) - Rounds 4/2 and 5/3 only	All sections after RE	Inapplicable	Inapplicable
31	Person from original household, dies during reference period	PE - Priority Conditions Enumeration Part of CE - Condition Enumeration: Skip CE1 to CE5 HE - Health Status AC - Access to Care Part of AP - Preventive Care: Skip AP12 to AP22	PSTATS31: January 1, 2017 PSTATS42 and PSTATS53: Prior round interview date	Date of Death
32	Went to healthcare institution during reference period	Access to Care (AC)	PSTATS31: January 1, 2017 PSTATS42 and PSTATS53: Prior round interview date	Date institutionalized
33	Went to non-healthcare institution during reference period	Access to Care (AC)	PSTATS31: January 1, 2017 PSTATS42 and PSTATS53: Prior round interview date	Date institutionalized
34	Moved from original household, outside US	--	PSTATS31: January 1, 2017 PSTATS42 and PSTATS53: Prior round interview date	Date left the RU
35	Moved from original household, to a military facility while on FT active military duty	--	PSTATS31: January 1, 2017 PSTATS42 and PSTATS53: Prior round interview date	Date left the RU

PSTATS Value	PSTATS Description	Sections in the instrument which persons with this PSTATS value do NOT receive	Begin Reference Date	End Reference Date
36	Went to institution (type unknown) during reference period	Access to Care (AC)	PSTATS31: January 1, 2017 PSTATS42 and PSTATS53: Prior round interview date	Date institutionalized
41	Moved from the original household, to new household within US (new households include RUs originally classified as a student RU but which converted to a new RU; these are individuals in an RU that has split from an RU since the previous round)	--	PSTATS31: January 1, 2017 PSTATS42 and PSTATS53: Prior round interview date	Interview date
42	The person joins household and is not full-time military during round	--	The later date of January 1, 2017 and the date the person joined the RU	Interview date
43	The person's disposition as to why the person is not in the RU is unknown or the person moves and it is unknown whether the person moved inside or outside the U.S.	All sections after RE	Inapplicable	Inapplicable
44	The person leaves an RU and joins an existing RU and is not both in the military and coded as in-scope during the round	--	PSTATS31: January 1, 2017 PSTATS42 and PSTATS53: Prior round interview date of the RU the person has joined. This may not be the interview date of the RU that the person came from	Interview date

PSTATS Value	PSTATS Description	Sections in the instrument which persons with this PSTATS value do NOT receive	Begin Reference Date	End Reference Date
51	Newborn in reference period	Questions where age must be > 1 Health Status (HE) Disability Days (DD) Employment (RJ/EM/EW)	PSTATS31: January 1, 2017 if born prior to 2017. The date of birth if born in 2017. PSTATS42 and PSTATS53: The later of the prior round interview date and date of birth	Interview date
61	Died prior to reference period (not eligible)--Round 3/1 only	All sections after RE	Inapplicable	Inapplicable
62	Institutionalized prior to reference period (not eligible)--Round 3/1 only	All sections after RE	Inapplicable	Inapplicable
63	Moved outside U.S., prior to reference period (not eligible)--Round 3/1 only	All sections after RE	Inapplicable	Inapplicable
64	FT military, moved prior to reference period (not eligible)--Round 3/1 only	All sections after RE	Inapplicable	Inapplicable
71	Student under 24 living away at school in grades 1 through 12 (Non-Key)	--	PSTATS31: January 1, 2017 PSTATS42 and PSTATS53: Prior round interview date	Interview date
72	Person is dropped from the RU roster as ineligible: the person is a Non-Key student living away or the person is not related to reference person or the RU is the person's residence only during the school year	All sections after RE	Inapplicable	Inapplicable
73	Not Key and not full-time military, moved w/o someone Key and in-scope (not eligible)	All sections after RE	Inapplicable	Inapplicable

PSTATS Value	PSTATS Description	Sections in the instrument which persons with this PSTATS value do NOT receive	Begin Reference Date	End Reference Date
74	Moved as full-time military but not to a military facility and w/o someone Key and in-scope (not eligible)	All sections after RE	Inapplicable	Inapplicable
81	Person moved from original household, FT student living away from home, did not respond	No data were collected	Inapplicable	Inapplicable

2.5.3 Demographic Variables (AGE31X–YRSINUS)

General Information

Demographic variables provide information about the demographic characteristics of each person from the MEPS HC. The characteristics include age, sex, race, ethnicity, marital status, educational attainment, and military service. As noted below, some variables have edited and imputed values. Most demographic variables on this file were asked during every round of the MEPS interview. These variables describe data for Rounds 3, 4, and 5 of Panel 21 (the panel that started in 2016); Rounds 1, 2 and 3 of Panel 22 (the panel that started in 2017); and status as of December 31, 2017. Demographic variables that are round-specific are identified by names including numbers “xy”, where x and y refer to round numbers of Panel 21 and Panel 22 respectively. For example, AGE31X represents the age data relevant to Round 3 of Panel 21 or Round 1 of Panel 22. As mentioned in Section 2.5.1 “Survey Administration Variables”, the variable PANEL indicates the panel from which the data were derived. A value of 21 indicates Panel 21 data and a value of 22 indicates Panel 22 data. The remaining demographic variables on this file are not round-specific.

The variables describing demographic status of the person as of December 31, 2017 were developed in two ways. First, the age variable (AGE17X) represents the exact age, calculated from date of birth and indicates age status as of 12/31/17. For the remaining December 31st variables [i.e., related to marital status (MARRY17X, SPOUID17, SPOUIN17), student status (FTSTU17X), and the relationship to reference persons (REFRL17X)], the following algorithm was used: data were taken from the Round 5/3 counterpart if non-missing; else, if missing, data were taken from the Round 4/2 counterpart; else from the Round 3/1 counterpart. If no valid data were available during any of these rounds of data collection, the algorithm assigned the missing value (other than -1 “Inapplicable”) from the first round that the person was part of the study. When all three rounds were set to -1, a value of -9 “Not Ascertained” was assigned.

Age

Date of birth and age for each RU member were asked or verified during each MEPS interview (DOBMM, DOBY, AGE31X, AGE42X, AGE53X). If date of birth was available, age was calculated based on the difference between date of birth and date of interview. Inconsistencies

between the calculated age and the age reported during the CAPI interview were reviewed and resolved. For purposes of confidentiality, the variables AGE31X, AGE42X, AGE53X, AGE17X, and AGELAST were top-coded at 85 years.

When date of birth was not provided but age was provided (either from the MEPS interviews or the 2015-2016 NHIS data), the month and year of birth were assigned randomly from among the possible valid options. For any cases still not accounted for, age was imputed using:

- (1) the mean age difference between MEPS participants with certain family relationships (where available) or
- (2) the mean age value for MEPS participants.

For example, a mother's age is imputed as her child's age plus 26, where 26 is the mean age difference between MEPS mothers and their children. A wife's age is imputed as the husband's age minus 3, where 3 is the mean age difference between MEPS wives and husbands.

Age was imputed in this way for 18 persons on this file. Age was determined for 4 additional persons from data in a later round.

AGELAST indicates a person's age from the last time the person was eligible for data collection during a specific calendar year. The age range for this variable is between 0 and 85.

Sex

Data on the gender of each RU member (SEX) were initially determined from the 2015 NHIS for Panel 21 and from the 2016 NHIS for Panel 22. The SEX variable was verified and, if necessary, corrected during each MEPS interview. The data for new RU members (persons who were not members of the RU at the time of the NHIS interviews) were also obtained during each MEPS round. When gender of the RU member was not available from the NHIS interviews and was not ascertained during one of the subsequent MEPS interviews, it was assigned in the following way. The person's first name was used to assign gender if obvious (no cases were resolved in this way). If the person's first name provided no indication of gender, then family relationships were reviewed (no cases were resolved this way). If neither of these approaches made it possible to determine the individual's gender, gender was randomly assigned (3 cases were resolved this way).

Race and Ethnicity Group

The race and the ethnic background questions were asked for each RU member during the MEPS interview. If the information was not obtained in Round 1, the questions were asked in subsequent rounds. It should be noted that race/ethnicity questions in the MEPS were revised starting with data collection in 2013 for Panel 16 Round 5, Panel 17 Round 3, and Panel 18 Round 1; this affected data starting with the FY 2012 file. Previously, there were two race questions, but starting with data collection in 2013, there is only one race question. All Asian categories listed in the second question were moved to the new single question. In addition, the new race question had additional detail for the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories. The main change for ethnicity is that the new questions allowed respondents to report more than one Hispanic ethnicity. Race/ethnicity data from earlier years may not be directly

comparable. The following table shows the variables used for FY 2002-2011 and FY 2012-2017, with these exceptions: 1) in FY 2012, RACEV1X categories 4 and 5 were not combined but are combined starting with 2013, and 2) RACEV2X and HISPNCAT were first introduced in 2013.

MEPS Race and Ethnicity Variables, by Years, 2002 to Present

FY PUF 2002-2011	FY PUF 2012-2017
RACE	RACE
—	RACEVER Used only in FY12-FY13. 1 Old Race Questions 2 New Race Questions
RACEX	RACEV1X
1 White – No other race reported	1 White – No other race reported
2 Black – No other race reported	2 Black – No other race reported
3 American Indian/Alaska Native – No other race reported	3 American Indian/Alaska Native – No other race reported
4 Asian – No other race reported	4 Asian – No other race reported (Used only in FY12. Starting in 2013, category 5 collapses into category 4.)
5 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander – No other race reported	5 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander – No other race reported (Used only in FY12. Starting in 2013, category 5 collapses into category 4.)
6 Multiple races reported	6 Multiple races reported
—	RACEV2X (Starting in 2013) Treatment of categories 10 and 12 differed between 2013-2015 and 2016-2017
	1 White – No other race reported
	2 Black – No other race reported
	3 American Indian/Alaska Native – No other race reported
	4 Asian Indian – No other race reported
	5 Chinese – No other race reported
	6 Filipino – No other race reported
	10 Oth Asian/Natv Hawaiian/Pacfc Isl- No Oth
	12 Multiple races reported
	-1 Inapplicable (Used only in FY13)

FY PUF 2002-2011	FY PUF 2012-2017
RACETHNX	RACETHX
1 Person is Hispanic	1 Hispanic
2 Person is Black – No other race reported/Not Hispanic	2 Non-Hispanic White only
3 Person is Asian – No other race reported/Not Hispanic	3 Non-Hispanic Black only
4 Other race/Not Hispanic	4 Non-Hispanic Asian only
—	5 Non-Hispanic Other race or multi-race
RACEAX	RACEAX
1 Asian – No other race reported	1 Asian – No other race reported
2 Asian – Other race(s) reported	2 Asian – Other race(s) reported
3 All other race assignments	3 All other race assignments
RACEBX	RACEBX
1 Black – No other race reported	1 Black – No other race reported
2 Black – Other race(s) reported	2 Black – Other race(s) reported
3 All other race assignments	3 All other race assignments
RACEWX	RACEWX
1 White – No other race reported	1 White – No other race reported
2 White – Other race(s) reported	2 White – Other race(s) reported
3 All other race assignments	3 All other race assignments
ETHNICITY	ETHNICITY
HISPANX	HISPANX
1 Hispanic	1 Hispanic
2 Not Hispanic	2 Not Hispanic
HISPCAT	HISPCAT (Used only in FY12-FY13.)
1 Puerto Rican	1 Puerto Rican
2 Cuban/Cuban American	2 Cuban/Cuban American
3 Dominican	3 Dominican
4 Mexican/Mexican American	4 Mexican/Mexican American
5 Central or South American	5 Central or South American
6 Non-Hispanic	6 Non-Hispanic
91 Other Latin American	91 Other Latin American
92 Other Hispanic/ Latino	92 Other Hispanic/ Latino
—	-1 Inapplicable

FY PUFs 2002-2011	FY PUFs 2012-2017
—	HISPNCAT (starting in 2013)
	1 Mexican/Mexican American/Chicano – No other Hispanic reported
	2 Puerto Rican – No other Hispanic reported
	3 Cuban/Cuban American – No other Hispanic reported
	4 Dominican – No other Hispanic reported
	5 Central or South American – No other Hispanic reported
	6 Oth Lat Am/Hisp/Latino/Spnsh orgn – No other Hispanic reported
	8 Multiple Hispanic groups reported
	9 Non-Hispanic
	-1 Inapplicable (Used only in FY13)

Race and ethnicity variables and their response categories for years prior to 2002 are available in the documentation for the FY Consolidated PUF for each data year.

Values for these variables were obtained based on the following priority order. If available, data collected were used to determine race and ethnicity. If race and/or ethnicity were not reported in the interview, then data obtained from the originally collected NHIS data were used. If still not ascertained, the race, and/or ethnicity were assigned based on relationship to other members of the DU using a priority ordering that gave precedence to blood relatives in the immediate family (this approach was used on 10 persons to set race and 5 persons to set ethnicity).

For the FY12 and FY13 PUFs, three new race variables were constructed for both the old and the new questions: RACEVER, RACEV1X, and RACETHX. The new variable, RACEVER, was constructed to indicate which version of the race question was asked and was included in only the 2012 and 2013 FY PUFs. RACEVER has been dropped starting with the 2014 PUF. The variables RACEV1X and RACETHX replace the variables RACEX and RACETHNX from 2002-2011. A new race variable, RACEV2X, was constructed only for the new race question and was added for the first time to the 2013 files. RACEV2X was set to -1 “Inapplicable” for persons that were not asked the new race question in FY13 only. This variable includes the expanded detail Asian categories and continues to be constructed for all PUFs.

The “multiple races reported” categories for RACEV1X and RACEV2X differ in the 2013-2015 PUFs but are the same starting with the 2016 PUF. In the 2013-2015 PUFs, persons with multiple Asian races or multiple Hawaiian/Pacific Islander races were considered multiple races for RACEV2X and were not considered multiple races for RACEV1X. Starting with the 2016

PUFs, persons with multiple Asian races or multiple Hawaiian/Pacific Islander races were no longer considered multiple races in RACEV2X.

Categories have been collapsed in the variables RACEV1X, RACEV2X and HISPNCAT. For RACEV1X, new with the 2012 PUF, categories 4 and 5 were collapsed in category 4 as “ASIAN/NATV HAWAIIAN/PACFC ISL-NO OTH” starting with the 2013 PUF. For RACEV2X, new with and starting with the 2013 PUF, categories 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 were collapsed in category 10 as “OTH ASIAN/NATV HAWAIIAN/PACFC ISL-NO OTH,” and for HISPNCAT, new with and starting with the 2013 PUF, categories 6 and 7 were collapsed in category 6 as “OTH LAT AM/HISP/LATINO/SPNSH ORGN-NO OTH”.

For the FY12 and FY13 PUFs, the two Hispanic ethnicity variables from previous years were included: HISPANX and HISPCAT. The HISPANX variable continues to be constructed. The HISPCAT variable was constructed for specific Hispanic categories based only on the old question in FY12 and FY13 and HISPCAT has been dropped starting with the 2014 PUF. A new ethnicity variable, HISPNCAT, based on the new question, was introduced starting with 2013. HISPNCAT includes similar categories as HISPCAT but in a different order, and contains an additional category, 8 “Multiple Hispanic Groups Reported”, to represent any multiple responses reported. HISPNCAT was set to -1 “Inapplicable” for persons that were not asked the new ethnicity question in FY13. This variable continues to be constructed for all PUFs.

Language and English Proficiency

Beginning in 2013, three questions were asked in the Demographic section to ascertain whether a foreign language was spoken in the household and, if so, how well each person could speak English. The language questions were asked the first time a household was interviewed (Round 1) and were only asked in later rounds (Rounds 2-5) if a new person joined the family. These questions replaced the preferred language questions that had been asked in the Access to Care section in Rounds 2 and 4 from 2002 to 2012.

In Round 1, all households were asked a family-level question to determine whether anyone age 5 or older in their family speaks a language other than English at home (RE102, OTHLANG). If the response to OTHLANG was ‘yes’, then two other questions were asked. LANGSPK (RE102A) is a family-level question that asked whether the non-English language spoken in the household is Spanish or some other language. HWELLSPE (RE102B) is a person-level question that asks how well each person in the family can speak English. As a result, OTHLANG and LANGSPK are coded at the family level and HWELLSPE is coded at the person level. If the response to OTHLANG is ‘No’, then LANGSPK and HWELLSPE are set to ‘-1’ (Inapplicable). Family members who are deceased or institutionalized in Round 1 are coded with a value of ‘-1’ (Inapplicable). Minors under age 5 in households where OTHLANG = 1 are coded as having HWELLSPE = “5” (Under 5 years old – Inapplicable).

In Rounds 2 to 5, language questions are asked only if a new person \geq age 5 has joined the family in that round. Any new information for language variables collected in a later round is applied only to the newly entered family member(s). As a result, even though OTHLANG and LANGSPK are asked as family-level concepts, their values on the PUF could differ between original family members (present at Round 1) and new family members (joining in Rounds 2-5).

For example, if original family members did not speak a foreign language, but a new person (\geq age 5) joined the family in Round 3 and spoke Spanish, the original family members would have values OTHLANG = 2 and LANGSPK = -1, but the new family member would have values OTHLANG = 1 and LANGSPK = 1.

If the new member is a minor less than 5 years old and joined the family by himself/herself, that is, with no other person age 5 or older after Round 1, the language questions are not asked and OTHLANG, LANGSPK, HWELLSPE for such minors are coded with '-1' (Inapplicable).

Prior to the 2015 Consolidated file, the family-level variables OTHLANG and LANGSPK were set to '-1' (Inapplicable) for any new person joining the family in Rounds 2 to 5, but the person-level value for HWELLSPE was collected and recorded on the file. Starting with the 2015 Consolidated file, OTHLANG and LANGSPK were set for all new persons in Rounds 2 to 5 with the family-level value collected in the round they entered. Minors who entered the family with a non-minor family member in Rounds 2-5 also receive the family-level values for OTHLANG and LANGSPK, but HWELLSPE was coded to a value of '5' for minors less than 5 years old when OTHLANG had a reported value of '1' (Yes). If the minor less than 5 years old joined the family by themselves after Round 1, they were assigned the values from the reference person from the round the minor joined for OTHLANG and LANGSPK, and HWELLSPE was coded to a value of '5' when the reference person's OTHLANG had a value of '1' (Yes).

Beginning with the 2017 PUF, for Round 3 of Panel 22 and Round 5 of Panel 21, the three language variables (OTHLANG, LANGSPK, and HWELLSPE) were constructed based on data collected at the person level for new household members, rather than at the RU level as in previous rounds. Data for these three variables, in these two rounds of data collection, are then brought up to the RU level to match data collected in previous rounds. The variables are brought up in the following order:

OTHLANG

If only persons < 5 years old joined the RU, then OTHLANG = -1.

If only one person ≥ 5 years old joined the RU with or without persons < 5 years old, then OTHLANG is set to the person level response from the person ≥ 5 years old.

If more than one person ≥ 5 years old joined the RU and at least one of them has the person level variable = 1, then OTHLANG = 1.

If more than one person ≥ 5 years old joined the RU and at least one of them has the person level variable = 2 (others may have RF or DK), then OTHLANG = 2.

If more than one person ≥ 5 years old joined the RU and all have the person level variable = RF, then OTHLANG = -7.

If more than one person ≥ 5 years old joined the RU and all have the person level variable = RF or DK, then OTHLANG = -8.

LANGSPK

If only persons < 5 years old joined the RU, then LANGSPK = -1.

If only one person ≥ 5 years old joined the RU with or without persons < 5 years old, then LANGSPK is set to the value of the person level variable from the person ≥ 5 years old.

If more than one person ≥ 5 years old joined the RU and all of the persons have the person level variable = 1, then LANGSPK = 1.

If more than one person ≥ 5 years old joined the RU and all of the persons have the person level variable = 2, then LANGSPK = 2.

If more than one person ≥ 5 years old joined the RU and all have the person level variable = RF, then LANGSPK = -7.

If more than one person ≥ 5 years old joined the RU and all have different values for the person level variable (1, 2, RF, DK) then LANGSPK = -8.

HWELLSPE is set to the person level collected variable for any new members when the constructed variable OTHLANG = 1, including new persons under age 5 who are then assigned a value of 5 “Under 5 and OTHLANG = 1, Inapplicable”. If OTHLANG \neq 1, then HWELLSPE is set to ‘Inapplicable’ (-1).

Foreign Born Status

Three foreign born questions were asked in the Demographic section to ascertain whether a person was born in the U.S. (RE102C), what year they came to the U.S. (RE102D) if not born in the U.S., and years lived in the U.S. (RE102E) if the response to RE102D was ‘Don’t Know’. They replaced similar questions that had been asked in the Access to Care section prior to 2013.

The three foreign born questions were only asked once for each eligible person, that is, the first round the person was interviewed. These new questions were asked of everyone, except deceased and institutionalized persons. The data from RE102C are reported as the constructed variable BORNUSA. The data from RE102D (YRCAMEUS) and RE102E (YRSINUSA) were used to calculate the number of years a person has lived in the U.S. for the constructed variable, YRSINUS. Please note that YRSINUS is a discrete variable and has collapsed categories: 1 “less than 1 year”; 2 “1 yr., less than 5 years”; 3 “5 yrs., less than 10 years”; 4 “10 yrs., less than 15 years”; 5 “15 years or more”.

Marital Status and Spouse ID

Current marital status was collected and/or updated during every round of the MEPS interview. This information was obtained in RE13 and RE97 and is reported as MARRY31X, MARRY42X, MARRY53X, and MARRY17X. Persons under the age of 16 were coded as 6 “Under 16 – Inapplicable”. If marital status of a specified round differed from that of the previous round, then the marital status of the specified round was edited to reflect a change during the round (e.g., married in round, divorced in round, separated in round, or widowed in round).

In instances where there were discrepancies between the marital statuses of two individuals within a family, other person-level variables were reviewed to determine the edited marital status for each individual. Thus, when one spouse was reported as married and the other spouse reported as widowed, the data were reviewed to determine if one partner should be coded as 8 “Widowed in Round”.

Edits were performed to ensure some consistency across rounds. First, a person could not be coded as “Never Married” after previously being coded as any other marital status (e.g., “Widowed”). Second, a person could not be coded as “Under 16 – Inapplicable” after being

previously coded as any other marital status. Third, a person could not be coded as “Married in Round” after being coded as “Married” in the round immediately preceding. Fourth, a person could not be coded as an “in Round” code (e.g., “Widowed in Round”) in two subsequent rounds. Since marital status can change across rounds and it was not feasible to edit every combination of values across rounds, unlikely sequences for marital status across the round-specific variables do exist.

The person identifier for each individual’s spouse is reported in SPOUID31, SPOUID42, SPOUID53, and SPOUID17. These are the PIDs (within each family) of the person identified as the spouse during Round 3/1, Round 4/2, and Round 5/3 and as of December 31, 2017, respectively. If no spouse was identified in the household, the variable was coded as 995 “No Spouse in House”. Those with unknown marital status are coded as 996 “Marital Status Unknown”. Persons under the age of 16 are coded as 997 “Less than 16 Years Old”.

The SPOUIN31, SPOUIN42, SPOUIN53, and SPOUIN17 variables indicate whether a person’s spouse was present in the RU during Round 3/1, Round 4/2, Round 5/3 and as of December 31, 2017 respectively. If the person had no spouse in the household, the value was coded as 2 “Not Married/No Spouse”. For persons under the age of 16 the value was coded as 3 “Under 16 – Inapplicable”.

The SPOUID and SPOUIN variables were obtained from RE76A, where the respondent was asked to identify how each pair of persons in the household was related. Analysts should note that this information was collected in a set of questions separate from the questions that asked about marital status. While editing was performed to ensure that SPOUID and SPOUIN are consistent within each round, there was no consistency check between these variables and marital status in a given round. Apparent discrepancies between marital status and spouse information may be due to any of the following causes:

1. Ambiguity as to when during a round a change in marital status occurred. This is a result of relationship information being asked for all persons living in the household at any time during the round, while marital status is asked as of the interview date (e.g., If one spouse died during the reference period, the surviving spouse’s marital status would be “Widowed in Round”, but SPOUIN and SPOUID for the same round would indicate that a spouse was present).
2. Valid discrepancies in the case of persons who are married but not living with their spouse, or separating but still living together.
3. Discrepancies that cannot be explained for either of the previous reasons.

Student Status and Educational Attainment

The variables FTSTU31X, FTSTU42X, FTSTU53X and FTSTU17X indicate whether the person was a full-time student at the interview date (or 12/31/17 for FTSTU17X). These variables have valid values for all persons between the ages of 17 - 23 inclusive. When this question was asked during Round 1 of Panel 22, it was based on age as of the 2016 NHIS interview date.

Education questions were only asked when persons first entered MEPS, typically Round 1 for most people. It should be noted that education questions were changed with data collection in 2012 and then changed back to the original questions with data collection in 2015. The variables associated with the original education questions (data collection in 2011 and prior years and 2015 and subsequent years) are EDUCYR and HIDEG. The variable associated with the interim education question (data collection in 2012-2014) is EDUYRDEG (or EDUYRDG with collapsed categories). The variable EDRECODE relates variables for the original and interim education questions. As a result different education variables are in the 2011-2015 PUFs based on the panel and round when a person first entered MEPS. The PUF documentation for each of the 2011-2015 years contains details about which education variables are in the respective files. Starting with the 2016 PUFs, EDUCYR and HIDEG are the only education variables on the PUFs.

EDUCYR contains the number of years of education completed when entering MEPS for individuals 5 years or older. Children under the age of 5 years were coded as -1 “Inapplicable” regardless of whether they attended school. Individuals who were 5 years of age or older and had never attended school were coded as 0. The user should note that EDUCYR is an unedited variable and minimal data cleaning was performed on this variable.

HIDEG contains information on the highest degree of education attained at the time the individual entered MEPS. Information was obtained from three questions: highest grade completed, high school diploma, and highest degree. Persons under 16 years of age when they first entered MEPS were coded as 8 “Under 16 – Inapplicable”. In cases where the response to the highest degree question was “No Degree” and the response to the highest grade question was 13 through 17, the variable HIDEG was coded as 3 “High School Diploma”. If the response to the highest grade completed was “Refused” or “Don’t Know” and the response to the highest degree question was “No Degree”, the variable HIDEG was coded as 1 “No Degree”. The user should note that HIDEG is an unedited variable and minimal data cleaning was performed on this variable.

Military Service and Honorable Discharge

Information on active duty military status was collected during each round of the MEPS interview. Persons currently on full-time active duty status are identified in the variables ACTDTY31, ACTDTY42, and ACTDTY53. 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”.

Persons who have been honorably discharged from active duty in the Armed Forces are identified by HONRDC31, HONRDC42, and HONRDC53. Those 16 years of age and under are coded as 3 “16 or Younger – Inapplicable”, and those over 16 and currently serving on full-time active duty in the military are coded as 4 “Now Active Duty”.

Relationship to the Reference Person within Reporting Units

For each Reporting Unit (RU), the person who owns or rents the DU is usually defined as the reference person. For student RUs, the student is defined as the reference person. (For additional

information on reference persons, see the documentation on survey administration variables.) The relationship variables indicate the relationship of each individual to the reference person of the Reporting Unit (RU) in a given round. For confidentiality, detailed relationships were combined into more general categories in the variables REFRL31X, REFRL42X, REFRL53X, and REFRL17X. For the reference person, these variables have the value “Household reference person”; for all other persons in the RU, relationship to the reference person is indicated by codes representing “Spouse”, “Unmarried Partner”, “Child”, etc. A code of 91, meaning “Other Related, Specify”, was used to indicate rarely observed relationship descriptions such as “Mother of Partner”, “Partner of Sister”, etc. If the relationship of an individual to the reference person was not ascertained during the round-specific interview, relationships between other RU members were used, where possible, to assign a relationship to the reference person. If MEPS data from calendar year 2017 were not sufficient to identify the relationship of an individual to the reference person, relationship variables from the 2016 MEPS or NHIS data were used to assign a relationship. In the event that a meaningful value could not be determined or data were missing, the relationship variable was assigned a missing value code.

If the relationship of two individuals indicated they were spouses, but both had marital status indicating they were not married, their relationship was changed to non-marital partners. In addition, the relationship variables were edited to insure that they did not change across rounds for RUs in which the reference person did not change, with the exception of relationships identified as partner, spouse, or foster relationships.

2.5.4 Person-Level Condition Variables (RTHLTH31–ADHDAGED)

2.5.4.1 Perceived Health Status

Perceived health status (RTHLTH31, RTHLTH42, and RTHLTH53) and perceived mental health status (MNHLTH31, MNHLTH42, and MNHLTH53) were collected in the Priority Conditions Enumeration (PE) section. The target persons of the questions are all current or institutionalized persons regardless of age. These questions (PE00A and PE00B) asked the respondent to rate each person in the family according to the following categories: excellent, very good, good, fair, and poor.

In 2017, the question that asked if anyone had been pregnant during the round (“Since (start date) has anyone in the family been pregnant at any time?”) was dropped, and the variables PREGNT31, PREGNT42, and PREGNT53 are dropped from the file.

2.5.4.2 Priority Condition Variables (HIBPDX–ADHDAGED)

The PE section was asked in its entirety in Round 1 for all current or institutionalized persons, and in Rounds 2 and 4 for only new RU members. In Round 3, the specific condition questions (except joint pain and chronic bronchitis) were asked only if the person had not reported the condition in a previous round; the joint pain and chronic bronchitis questions were asked in Round 3 for all current or institutionalized persons aged 18 or older, regardless of Round 1 and Round 2 responses. Beginning in 2017, the PE section is no longer asked in Round 5 and no Round 5/3 variables are included in this file.

Priority condition variables whose names end in “DX” indicate whether the person was ever diagnosed with the condition. For chronic bronchitis, joint pain, and asthma follow-up questions, variables ending in “31” reflect data obtained in Round 3 of Panel 21 and Round 1 of Panel 22. Diagnoses data (except attention deficit hyperactivity disorder/attention deficit disorder and asthma) were collected for persons over 17 years of age. If edited age is within range for the variable to be set, but the source data are missing because person’s age in CAPI is not within range, the constructed variable is set to “Not Ascertained” (-9). Additionally, if the person was 17 in Round 1, turned 18 in Round 2, and was not a current or institutionalized RU member in Round 3, the source data are missing per design. However, the DX variables are set to “Not Ascertained” (-9) as the person was old enough to be asked the PE questions within the data year. Following the same pattern, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder/attention deficit disorder is asked of persons age 5 to 17 and asthma is asked of persons of all ages. Exceptions to this pattern are the variables JTPAIN31 and CHBRON31 which are described in greater detail below.

Questions were asked regarding the following conditions:

- High blood pressure, including multiple diagnoses
- Heart disease (including coronary heart disease, angina, myocardial infarction, and other unspecified heart disease)
- Stroke
- Emphysema
- Chronic bronchitis
- High cholesterol
- Cancer
- Diabetes
- Joint pain
- Arthritis
- Asthma
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder/Attention Deficit Disorder (ADHD/ADD)

These conditions were selected because of their relatively high prevalence, and because generally accepted standards for appropriate clinical care have been developed. This information thus supplements other information on medical conditions that is gathered in other parts of the interview.

Condition data were collected at the person-by-round level (indicating if the person was ever diagnosed with the condition) and at the condition level. If the person reported having been diagnosed with a condition, the person-by-round variable was set to ‘1’ (Yes) and a condition record for that medical condition was created.

Editing of these variables focused on checking that skip patterns were consistent.

High Blood Pressure

Questions about high blood pressure (hypertension) were asked only of persons aged 18 or older. Consequently, persons aged 17 or younger were coded as “Inapplicable” (-1) on these variables.

HIBPDX ascertained whether the person had ever been diagnosed as having high blood pressure (other than during pregnancy). Those who had received this diagnosis were also asked if they had been told on two or more different visits that they had high blood pressure (BPMLDX). The age of diagnosis for high blood pressure (HIBPAGED) is included in this file. This variable is top-coded to 85 years of age.

Heart Disease

Heart disease questions were asked only of persons aged 18 or older. Consequently, persons aged 17 or younger were coded as “Inapplicable” (-1) on all the variables in this set.

CHDDX –	asked if the person had ever been diagnosed as having coronary heart disease
ANGIDX –	asked if the person had ever been diagnosed as having angina, or angina pectoris
MIDX –	asked if the person had ever been diagnosed as having a heart attack, or myocardial infarction
OHRTDX –	asked if the person had ever been diagnosed with any other kind of heart disease or condition

The age of diagnosis for coronary heart disease (CHDAGED), angina (ANGIAGED), heart attack or myocardial infarction (MIAGED), and other kind of heart disease (OHRTAGED) are included in this file. These variables are top-coded to 85 years of age.

Stroke

STRKDX asked if the person (aged 18 or older) had ever been diagnosed as having had a stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA or ministroke). Persons aged 17 or younger were coded as “Inapplicable” (-1). The age of diagnosis for stroke or TIA (STRKAGED) is included in this file. This variable is top-coded to 85 years of age.

Emphysema

EMPHDX asked if the person (aged 18 or older) had ever been diagnosed with emphysema. Persons aged 17 or younger were coded as “Inapplicable” (-1). The age of diagnosis for emphysema (EMPHAGED) is included in this file. This variable is top-coded to 85 years of age.

Chronic Bronchitis

CHBRON31 asked if the person (aged 18 or older) has had chronic bronchitis in the last 12 months. Persons aged 17 or younger were coded as “Inapplicable” (-1).

High Cholesterol

Questions about high cholesterol were asked of persons aged 18 or older. Consequently, persons aged 17 or younger were coded as “Inapplicable” (-1) on these variables. CHOLDX ascertained whether the person had ever been diagnosed as having high cholesterol. The age of diagnosis for high cholesterol (CHOLAGED) is included in this file. This variable is top-coded to 85 years of age.

Cancer

Questions about cancer were asked only of persons aged 18 or older. Consequently, persons aged 17 or younger were coded as “Inapplicable” (-1) on these variables. CANCERDX ascertained whether the person had ever been diagnosed as having cancer or a malignancy of any kind. If the respondent answered “Yes” they were asked at PE22 what type of cancer was diagnosed. CABLADDR, CABLOOD, CABREAST, CACERVIX, CACOLON, CALUNG, CALYMPH, CAMELANO, CAMUSCLE, CAOTHER, CAPROSTA, CASKINNM, CASKINDK, and CAUTERUS indicate selection of cancer of the bladder, blood, breast, cervix, colon, or lung; lymphoma or melanoma; cancer of the soft tissue, muscle, or fat; other type of cancer, cancer of the prostate, skin, or uterus. Cancer of the cervix or uterus could not be reported for males, and cancer of the prostate could not be reported for females.

Recoding of Cancer Variables

Specific cancer diagnosis variables with a frequency count fewer than 20 and those considered clinically rare (i.e., appear on the National Institutes of Health’s list of rare diseases), were removed from the file for confidentiality reasons, and the corresponding variable CAOTHER, indicating diagnosis of a cancer that is not counted individually, was recoded to “Yes” (1) as necessary.

In data year 2017, the clinically rare cancers are:

- | | | | |
|---------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| • bone | • kidney | • mouth | • stomach |
| • brain | • larynx | • ovary | • testis |
| • esophagus | • leukemia | • pancreas | • throat |
| • gallbladder | • liver | • rectum | • thyroid |

The variable CABREAST, which indicates diagnosis of breast cancer, was recoded to “Inapplicable” (-1) for males for confidentiality reasons. The corresponding value of the general cancer diagnosis variable, CANCERDX, was recoded to “Not Ascertained” (-9), and the corresponding values of remaining specific cancer variables were recoded to “Inapplicable” (-1).

Diabetes

DIABDX indicates whether each person (aged 18 or older) had ever been diagnosed with diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes). Persons aged 17 or younger were coded as “Inapplicable” (-1). The age of diagnosis for diabetes (DIABAGED) is included in this file. This

variable is top-coded to 85 years of age. In 2017, REFDIAB (denial by the respondent of a diabetes diagnosis) was dropped from CAPI.

Each person said to have received a diagnosis of diabetes was asked to complete a special self-administered questionnaire. The documentation for this questionnaire appears in the Diabetes Care Survey (DCS) section of the full year Consolidated file documentation.

Joint Pain

JTPAIN31 asked if the person (aged 18 or older) had experienced pain, swelling, or stiffness around a joint in the last 12 months. This question is not intended to be used as an indicator of a diagnosis of arthritis. Persons aged 17 or younger were coded as “Inapplicable” (-1).

Arthritis

ARTHDX asked if the person (aged 18 or older) had ever been diagnosed with arthritis. Persons aged 17 or younger were coded as “Inapplicable” (-1). Respondents who answered “Yes” were asked a follow up question to determine the type of arthritis. ARTHTYPE indicates if the diagnosis was for Rheumatoid Arthritis (1), Osteoarthritis (2), or non-specific arthritis (3). The age of diagnosis for arthritis (ARTHAGED) is included in this file and may be recoded in some cases to “Not Ascertained” (-9) for confidentiality reasons. This variable is top-coded to 85 years of age.

Asthma

ASTHDX indicates whether a person had ever been diagnosed with asthma. The age of diagnosis for asthma (ASTHAGED) is included in this file. This variable is top-coded to 85 years of age.

Prior to 2017, the asthma questions were asked in Rounds 3 and 5. Beginning in 2017, the asthma questions were asked in Rounds 1 and 3, so no Round 5/3 asthma variables are included in this file.

Respondents who answered “Yes” to asthma diagnosis were asked additional questions. ASSTIL31 asked if the person still had asthma. ASATAK31 asked whether the person had experienced an episode of asthma or an asthma attack in the past 12 months. If the person did not experience an asthma attack in the past 12 months, a follow-up question (ASTHEP31) asked when the last asthma episode or asthma attack occurred.

Prior to 2017, questions regarding asthma medication used for quick relief, preventive medicine, and peak flow meters were asked in Rounds 3 and 5. Starting with Panel 21 Round 5/Panel 22 Round 3/Panel 23 Round 1, these questions were asked in Rounds 1 and 3. Since these 2017 data were not collected in Panel 22 Round 1, the asthma medication variables are not included in this file.

The asthma variables not included in this file are:

ASSTIL53 (Does Person Still Have Asthma - RD 5/3)
ASATAK53 (Asthma Attack Last 12 Mos - RD 5/3)

ASTHEP53 (When Was Last Episode of Asthma - RD 5/3)
 ASACUT53 (Used Acute Pres Inhaler Last 3 Mos-RD5/3)
 ASPREV53 (Ever Used Prev Daily Asthma Meds -RD5/3)
 ASPKFL53 (Have Peak Flow Meter at Home – RD 5/3)
 ASMRCN53 (Used >3Acute Cn Pres Inh Last 3 Mos-RD5/3)
 ASDALY53 (Now Take Prev Daily Asthma Meds - RD 5/3)
 ASEVFL53 (Ever Used Peak Flow Meter - RD 5/3)
 ASWNFL53 (When Last Used Peak Flow Meter - RD 5/3)

It may appear that there are discrepancies between the diagnosis variable and the follow-up variables. If a person reported asthma in the PE section in Panel 23 Round 3, ASATAK31 and ASSTIL31 will be set to “Inapplicable” (-1) as the person had not reported asthma in Round 1.

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder/Attention Deficit Disorder

ADHDADDDX asked if persons aged 5 through 17 had ever been diagnosed as having Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder or Attention Deficit Disorder. Persons younger than 5 or older than 17 were coded as “Inapplicable” (-1). The age of diagnosis for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder/attention deficit disorder (ADHDAGED) is included in this file.

2.5.5 Health Status Variables (IADLHP31– ADOVER42)

Due to the overlapping panel design of the MEPS (Round 3 for Panel 21 overlapped with Round 1 for Panel 22, Round 4 for Panel 21 coincided with Round 2 for Panel 22, and Round 5 for Panel 21 occurred at the same time as Round 3 for Panel 22), data from overlapping rounds have been combined across panels. Thus, any variable ending in “31” reflects data obtained in Round 3 of Panel 21 and Round 1 of Panel 22. Analogous comments apply to variables ending in “42”. Health Status variables whose names end in “17” indicate a full-year measurement. Beginning in 2017, the Health Status (HE) section is no longer asked in Round 5 and no Round 5/3 variables are included in this file.

For persons in Panel 21, Round 3 extended from 2016 into 2017. Therefore, for these people, some information from late 2016 is included for variables that have names ending in “31”.

Health Status variables in this data release can be classified into several conceptually distinct sets:

- IADL (Instrumental Activities of Daily Living) and ADL (Activities of Daily Living) limitations
- Functional and activity limitations
- Hearing, vision problems
- Disability status
- Hearing aids, eyeglasses
- Any limitations
- Child health and preventive care
- Preventive care
- Self-administered questionnaire

In general, Health Status variables involved the construction of person-level variables based on information collected in the Health Status section of the questionnaire. Many 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. All information ascertained at the family level has been brought to the person level for this file. 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 occurred when a question was never asked because of a skip pattern in the survey (e.g., some follow-up verification questions were not asked about individuals who were 13 years of age or older ; questions pertaining to children's health status were not asked about individuals older than 17). Inapplicable cases are coded as -1. In addition, deceased persons were coded as "Inapplicable" (-1).

Each of the sets of variables listed above will be described in turn.

2.5.5.1 IADL and ADL Limitations

IADL Help

The Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) Help or Supervision variable (IADLHP31) was constructed from a series of three questions administered in the Health Status section of the interview in Panel 21 Round 3 and Panel 22 Round 1. 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(s) 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", IADLHP31 was coded "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 "Refused" (-7), "Don't Know" (-8), or "Not Ascertained" (-9), 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" (-8).

ADL Help

The Activities of Daily Living (ADL) Help or Supervision variable (ADLHLP31) was constructed in the same manner, and for the same persons, as the IADL help variable, but using questions HE04-HE06 in Panel 21 Round 3 and Panel 22 Round 1. Coding conventions for missing data were the same as for the IADL variable.

2.5.5.2 Functional and Activity Limitations

Functional Limitations

A series of questions asked in Panel 21 Round 3 and Panel 22 Round 1 pertained to functional limitations, which are defined as difficulty in performing certain specific physical actions. WLKLIM31 was the filter question. This variable was derived from a question (HE09) that was asked at the family level: “Does anyone in the family have difficulties walking, climbing stairs, grasping objects, reaching overhead, lifting, bending or stooping, or standing for long periods of time?” If the answer was “No”, then all family members were coded as “No” (2) on WLKLIM31. If the answer was “Yes”, then the specific persons who had any of these difficulties were identified and coded as “Yes” (1), and remaining family members were coded as “No” (2). If the response to the family-level question was “Don’t Know” (-8), “Refused” (-7), “Not Ascertained” (-9), or “Inapplicable” (-1), then the corresponding missing value code was applied to each family member’s value for WLKLIM31. If the answer to HE09 was “Yes” (1) but no specific individual was named as experiencing such difficulties, then each family member was assigned “Don’t Know” (-8). Deceased persons were assigned a code of “Inapplicable” (-1) for WLKLIM31.

For Rounds 3 (Panel 21) and 1 (Panel 22), if WLKLIM31 was coded “Yes” (1) for any family member, a subsequent series of questions was administered. The series of questions for which WLKLIM31 served as a filter is as follows:

- LFTDIF31 – difficulty lifting 10 pounds
- STPDIF31 – difficulty walking up 10 steps
- WLKDIF31 – difficulty walking 3 blocks
- MILDIF31 – difficulty walking a mile
- STNDIF31 – difficulty standing 20 minutes
- BENDIF31 – difficulty bending or stooping
- RCHDIF31 – difficulty reaching over head
- FNGRDF31 – difficulty using fingers to grasp

This series of questions was asked separately for each person whose response to WLKLIM31 was coded “Yes” (1). The series of questions was not asked for other individual family members whose response to WLKLIM31 was “No” (2). In addition, this series was not asked about family members who were less than 13 years of age, regardless of their status on WLKLIM31. These questions were not asked about deceased family members. In such cases (i.e., WLKLIM31 = 2, or age < 13, or PSTATS31 = 23, 24, or 31), each question in the series was coded as “Inapplicable” (-1). Finally, if responses to WLKLIM31 were “Refused” (-7), “Don’t Know” (-8), “Not Ascertained” (-9), or otherwise “Inapplicable” (-1), then each question in this series was coded as “Inapplicable” (-1).

Analysts should note that WLKLIM31 was asked of all household members, regardless of age. For the subsequent series of questions, however, persons less than 13 years old were skipped and coded as “Inapplicable” (-1). Therefore, it is possible for someone age 12 or younger to have a code of “Yes” (1) on WLKLIM31, and also to have codes of “Inapplicable” on the subsequent series of questions.

Use of Assistive Technology and Social/Recreational Limitations

The variables indicating use of assistive technology (AIDHLP31, from question HE07) and social/recreational limitations (SOCLIM31, from question HE22) were collected initially at the family level. If there was a “Yes” (1) response to the family-level question, a second question identified the specific individual(s) to whom the “Yes” response pertained. Each individual identified as having the difficulty was coded “Yes” (1) for the appropriate variable; all remaining family members were coded “No” (2). If the family-level response was “Refused” (-7), “Don’t Know” (-8), or “Not Ascertained” (-9), 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” (-8).

Work, Housework, and School Limitations

The variable indicating any limitation in work, housework, or school (ACTLIM31) was constructed using questions HE19-HE20. Specifically, information was collected initially at the family level. If there was a “Yes” (1) response to the family-level question (HE19), a second question (HE20) identified the specific individual(s) to whom the “Yes” (1) response pertained. Each individual identified as having a limitation was coded “Yes” (1) for the appropriate variable; all remaining family members were coded “No” (2). If the family-level response was “Refused” (-7), “Don’t Know” (-8), or “Not Ascertained” (-9), all persons were coded with the family-level response. In cases where the family-level response was “Yes” (1) but no specific individual was identified as having a limitation, all family members were coded as “Don’t Know” (-8). Persons less than five years old were coded as “Inapplicable” (-1) on ACTLIM31.

For Round 3 (Panel 21) or Round 1 (Panel 22), if ACTLIM31 was “Yes” (1) 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 (WRKLIM31), doing housework (HSELIM31), or going to school (SCHLIM31). Respondents could answer “Yes” (1) or “No” (2) to each activity; thus a person could report limitations in multiple activities. WRKLIM31, HSELIM31, and SCHLIM31 have values of “Yes” (1) or “No” (2) only if ACTLIM31 was “Yes” (1); each variable was coded as “Inapplicable” (-1) if ACTLIM31 was “No” (2). When ACTLIM31 was “Refused” (-7), these variables were all coded as “Refused” (-7); when ACTLIM31 was “Don’t Know” (-8), these variables were all coded as “Don’t Know” (-8); and when ACTLIM31 was “Not Ascertained” (-9), these variables were all coded as “Not Ascertained” (-9). If a person was under 5 years old or was deceased, WRKLIM31, HSELIM31, and SCHLIM31 were each coded as “Inapplicable” (-1).

An additional question (UNABLE31) asked if the person was completely unable to work at a job, do housework, or go to school. Those persons who were coded “No” (2), “Refused” (-7), “Don’t Know” (-8), or “Not Ascertained” (-9) on ACTLIM31, were under 5 years of age, or were deceased were coded as “Inapplicable” (-1) on UNABLE31. UNABLE31 was asked once for whichever set of WRKLIM31, HSELIM31, and SCHLIM31 the person had limitations; if a person was limited in more than one of these three activities, UNABLE31 did **not** specify if the person was completely unable to perform all of them, or only some of them.

Cognitive Limitations

The variable indicating any cognitive limitation (COGLIM31) was collected at the family level as a three-part question (HE24-01 to HE24-03), asking 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 COGLIM31 was coded as “Yes” (1). Remaining family members not identified were coded as “No” (2) for COGLIM31.

If responses to HE24-01 through HE24-03 were all “No”, or if two of three were “No” (2) and the remaining was “Refused” (-7), “Don’t Know” (-8), or “Not Ascertained” (-9), all family members were coded as “No” (2). If responses to the three questions were combinations of “Don’t Know” (-8), “Refused” (-7), and missing, all persons were coded as “Don’t Know” (-8). If the response to any of the three questions was “Yes” (1) but no individual was identified in HE25, all persons were coded as “Don’t Know” (-8).

COGLIM31 reflects whether **any** of the three component questions is “Yes” (1). Family members with one, two, or three specific cognitive limitations cannot be distinguished. In addition, because the question asked specifically about adult family members, all persons less than 18 years of age are coded as “Inapplicable” (-1) on this question.

2.5.5.3 Hearing, Vision Problems

A series of questions (HE26 to HE32), asked in Panel 21 Round 4 and Panel 22 Round 2, provides information on hearing and visual impairment. Household members less than one year old and deceased RU members were coded as “Inapplicable” (-1).

The hearing impairment variable, DFHEAR42, indicates whether a person has serious difficulty hearing. This variable was based on two questions, HE26 and HE27. The initial question (HE26) determined if anyone in the family had difficulty hearing. If the response was “Yes” (1), a follow-up question (HE27) was asked to determine which household member(s) had a hearing impairment. If the family-level response was “Don’t Know” (-8), “Refused” (-7), or “Not Ascertained” (-9), all persons were coded with the family-level response. In cases where the family-level response was “Yes” (1) but no specific individual was identified as having serious difficulty hearing, all family members were coded as “Don’t Know” (-8).

One subsequent question was asked only about individuals who had difficulty hearing (i.e., DFHEAR42 was “Yes” (1)). DEAF42 indicates whether the family member with hearing impairment is deaf. Persons with no hearing impairment were coded as “Inapplicable” (-1) for this question, as were persons with “Don’t Know” (-8), “Refused” (-7), or “Not Ascertained” (-9) responses to DFHEAR42.

The visual impairment variable, DFSEE42, indicates whether a person has serious difficulty seeing. This variable was based on two questions, HE29 and HE30. The initial question (HE29) determined if anyone in the family had difficulty seeing. If the response was “Yes” (1), a follow-up question (HE30) was asked to determine which household member(s) had a seeing impairment. If the family-level response was “Don’t Know” (-8), “Refused” (-7), or “Not Ascertained” (-9), all persons were coded with the family-level response. In cases where the

family-level response was “Yes” (1) but no specific individual was identified as having serious difficulty seeing, all family members were coded as “Don’t Know” (-8).

One subsequent question was asked only about individuals who had difficulty seeing (i.e., DFSEE42 was “Yes” (1)). BLIND42 indicates whether the family member with seeing impairment is blind. Persons with no seeing impairment were coded as “Inapplicable” (-1) for this question, as were persons with “Don’t Know” (-8), “Refused” (-7), or “Not Ascertained” (-9) responses to DFSEE42.

2.5.5.4 Disability Status

A series of questions (HE32 to HE39) in Panel 21 Round 4 and Panel 22 Round 2 provides information on cognitive difficulty, difficulty walking or climbing stairs, difficulty dressing or bathing, and difficulty doing errands. Questions regarding cognitive difficulty, difficulty walking or climbing stairs, and difficulty dressing or bathing were asked of household members 5 years of age and older. The question regarding difficulty doing errands was asked of household members 15 years of age and older. Deceased RU members were coded “Inapplicable” (-1).

DFCOG42 indicates whether a person had serious cognitive difficulty. This variable was based on two questions, HE32 and HE33. The initial question (HE32) determined if anyone in the family had difficulty concentrating, remembering or making decisions. If the response was “Yes” (1), a follow-up question (HE33) was asked to determine which household member(s) had difficulty concentrating, remembering or making decisions. If the family-level response was “Don’t Know” (-8), “Refused” (-7), or “Not Ascertained” (-9), all persons were coded with the family-level response. In cases where the family-level response was “Yes” (1) but no specific individual was identified as having serious cognitive difficulty, all family members were coded as “Don’t Know” (-8).

DFWLKC42 indicates whether a person has serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs. This variable was based on two questions, HE34 and HE35. The initial question (HE34) determined if anyone in the family had serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs. If the response was “Yes” (1), a follow-up question (HE35) was asked to determine which household member(s) had difficulty walking or climbing stairs. If the family-level response was “Don’t Know” (-8), “Refused” (-7), or “Not Ascertained” (-9), all persons were coded with the family-level response. In cases where the family-level response was “Yes” (1) but no specific individual was identified as having serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs, all family members were coded as “Don’t Know” (-8).

DFDRSB42 indicates whether a person has difficulty dressing or bathing. This variable was based on two questions, HE36 and HE37. The initial question (HE36) determined if anyone in the family had difficulty dressing or bathing. If the response was “Yes” (1), a follow-up question (HE37) was asked to determine which household member(s) had difficulty dressing or bathing. If the family-level response was “Don’t Know” (-8), “Refused” (-7), or “Not Ascertained” (-9), all persons were coded with the family-level response. In cases where the family-level response was “Yes” (1) but no specific individual was identified as having difficulty dressing or bathing, all family members were coded as “Don’t Know” (-8).

DFERN42 indicates whether a person has difficulty doing errands alone. This variable was based on two questions, HE38 and HE39. The initial question (HE38) determined if anyone in the family had difficulty doing errands alone. If the response was “Yes” (1), a follow-up question (HE39) was asked to determine which household member(s) had difficulty doing errands alone. If the family-level response was “Don’t Know” (-8), “Refused” (-7), or “Not Ascertained” (-9), all persons were coded with the family-level response. In cases where the family-level response was “Yes” (1) but no specific individual was identified as having difficulty doing errands alone, all family members were coded as “Don’t Know” (-8).

2.5.5.5 Hearing Aids, Eyeglasses

A series of questions (HE40 to HE43) provides information on hearing aids and eyeglasses. These questions were asked of all household members, regardless of age. Deceased RU members were coded “Inapplicable” (-1).

HEARAD42 indicates whether a person wears a hearing aid. This variable was based on two questions, HE40 and HE41. The initial question (HE40) determined if anyone in the family wore a hearing aid. If the response was “Yes”, a follow-up question (HE41) was asked to determine which household member(s) wore a hearing aid. If the family-level response was “Don’t Know” (-8), “Refused” (-7), or “Not Ascertained” (-9), 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 wearing a hearing aid, all family members were coded as “Don’t Know” (-8).

WRGLAS42 indicates whether a person wears eyeglasses or contact lenses. This variable was based on two questions, HE42 and HE43. The initial question (HE42) determined if anyone in the family wore eyeglasses or contact lenses. If the response was “Yes” (1), a follow-up question (HE43) was asked to determine which household member(s) wore eyeglasses or contact lenses. If the family-level response was “Don’t Know” (-8), “Refused” (-7), or “Not Ascertained” (-9), all persons were coded with the family-level response. In cases where the family-level response was “Yes” (1) but no specific individual was identified as wearing eyeglasses or contact lenses, all family members were coded as “Don’t Know” (-8).

2.5.5.6 Any Limitation Rounds 3 and 4 (Panel 21) / Rounds 1 and 2 (Panel 22)

ANYLMT17 summarized whether a person had any IADL, ADL, functional, or activity limitations in any of the pertinent rounds. Beginning in Panel 21 Round 5 and Panel 22 Round 3, the HE section is no longer asked in Round 5, so Round 5 variables were dropped from construction, and the variable was renamed ANYLMI17. ANYLMI17 was built using the component variables IADLHP31, ADLHLP31, WLKLIM31, ACTLIM31, DFSEE42, and DFHEAR42. If any of these components was coded “Yes”, then ANYLMI17 was coded “Yes” (1). If all components were coded “No”, then ANYLMI17 was coded “No” (2). If all the components were “Inapplicable” (-1), then ANYLMI17 was coded as “Inapplicable” (-1). If all the components had missing value codes (i.e., -7, -8, -9, or -1), ANYLMI17 was coded as “Not Ascertained” (-9). If some components were “No” and others had missing value codes, ANYLMI17 was coded as “Not Ascertained” (-9). The exception to this latter rule was for children younger than five years old, who were not asked questions that are the basis for ACTLIM31; for these RU members, if all other components were “No”, then ANYLMI17 was

coded as “No” (2). The variable label for ANYLMI17 departs slightly from conventions. Typically, variables that end in “17” refer only to 2017. However, some of the variables used to construct ANYLMI17 were assessed in 2018, so some information from early 2018 is incorporated into this variable.

2.5.5.7 Child Health and Preventive Care

Questions were asked about each child (under the age of 18 excluding deceased children) in the applicable age subgroups to which they pertained. For the Child Supplement variables, a code of “Inapplicable” (-1) was assigned if a person was deceased, was not in the appropriate Round 2 or 4, or was not in the applicable age subgroup as of the interview date. This public use dataset contains variables and frequency distributions from the Child Health and Preventive Care Section associated with 8,790 children who were eligible for the Child Health and Preventive Care Section. Children were eligible for this section when PSTATS42 was not equal to 23, 24, 31 (Deceased) and $0 \leq \text{AGE42X} \leq 17$. Of these children, 7,890 were assigned a positive person-level weight for 2017 ($\text{PERWT17P} > 0$). Cases not eligible for the Child Health and Preventive Care Section should be excluded from estimates made with the Child Health and Preventive Care Section.

Children with Special Health Care Needs Screener (ages 0 - 17)

The Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Screener instrument was developed through a national collaborative process as part of the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (CAHMI) coordinated by the Foundation for Accountability. A key reference for this screener instrument is:

Bethel CD, Read D, Stein REK, Blumberg SJ, Wells N, Newacheck PW. Identifying Children with Special Health Care Needs: Development and Evaluation of a Short Screening Instrument. *Ambulatory Pediatrics* Volume 2, No. 1, January-February 2002, pp 38-48.

These questions are asked about children ages 0 -17. In general, the CSHCN screener identifies children with activity limitation or need or use of more health care or other services than is usual for most children of the same age. When a response to a gate question was set to “No” (2), “Refused” (-7), “Don’t Know” (-8), or “Not Ascertained” (-9), follow-up variables based on the gate question were coded as “Inapplicable” (-1).

The variable CSHCN42 identifies children with special health care needs, and was created using the CSHCN screener questions according to the specifications in the reference above. The CSHCN screener questions consist of a series of question sequences about the following five health consequences: the need or use of medicines prescribed by a doctor; the need or use of more medical care, mental health, or education services than is usual for most children; being limited or prevented in doing things most children can do; the need or use of special therapy such as physical, occupational, or speech therapy; and the need or use of treatment or counseling for emotional, developmental, or behavioral problems. Parents who responded “yes” to any of the “initial” questions in the five question sequences were then asked to respond to up to two follow-up questions about whether the health consequence was attributable to a medical, behavioral, or

other health condition lasting or expected to last at least 12 months. Children with positive responses to at least one of the five health consequences along with all of the follow-up questions were identified as having a Special Health Care Need. Children with a “no” response for all five question sequences were considered NOT to have a Special Health Care Need. Those children whose “special health care need” status could not be determined (due to missing data for any of the questions) were coded as “Unknown” for CSHCN42. More [information about the CSHCN screener questions](#) can be obtained from the website for the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative.

The CSHCN screener questions were:

- CHPMED42 – child needs or uses prescribed medicines
- CHPMHB42 – prescribed medicines were because of a medical, behavioral, or other health condition
- CHPMC42 – health condition that causes a person to need prescribed medicines has lasted or is expected to last for at least 12 months
- CHSERV42 – child needs or uses more medical care, mental health, or education services than is usual for most children of the same age
- CHSRHB42 – child needs or uses more medical and other service because of a medical, behavioral, or other health condition
- CHSRC42 – health condition that causes a person to need or use more medical and other services has lasted or is expected to last for at least 12 months
- CHLIMI42 – child is limited or prevented in any way in ability to do the things most children of the same age can do
- CHLIHB42 – child is limited in the ability to do the things most children can do because of a medical, behavioral, or other health condition
- CHLICO42 – health condition that causes a person to be limited in the ability to do the things most children can do has lasted or is expected to last for at least 12 months
- CHTHER42 – child needs or gets special therapy such as physical, occupational, or speech therapy
- CHTHHB42 – child needs or gets special therapy because of a medical, behavioral, or other health condition
- CHTHCO42 – health condition that causes a person to need or get special therapy has lasted or is expected to last for at least 12 months

- CHCOUN42 – child has an emotional, developmental, or behavioral problem for which he or she needs or gets treatment or counseling
- CHEMPB42 – problem for which a person needs or gets treatment or counseling is a condition that has lasted or is expected to last for at least 12 months
- CSHCN42 – identifies children with special health care needs

Columbia Impairment Scale (ages 5 - 17)

These questions inquired about possible child behavioral problems and were asked in previous years. Respondents were asked to rate on a scale from 0 to 4, where “0” indicates “No Problem” and “4” indicates “A Very Big Problem”, how much of a problem the child has with thirteen specified activities. A key reference for the Columbia Impairment Scale is:

Bird HR, Andrews H, et. al. “Global Measures of Impairment for Epidemiologic and Clinical Use with Children and Adolescents.” *International Journal of Methods in Psychiatric Research*, vol. 6, 1996, pp. 295-307.

Certain questions in this series were coded to “Asked, but Inapplicable” (99) when the question was not applicable for a specific child. For example, if a child’s mother was deceased, a question about how much of a problem a child has getting along with his/her mother would be set to “Asked, but Inapplicable” (99). Similarly, the question about problems getting along with siblings would be set to “Asked, but Inapplicable” (99) for children with no siblings. Variables in this set include:

- MOMPRO42 – getting along with mother
- DADPRO42 – getting along with father
- UNHAP42 – feeling unhappy or sad
- SCHLBH42 – (his/her) behavior at school
- HAVFUN42 – having fun
- ADUPRO42 – getting along with adults
- NERVAF42 – feeling nervous or afraid
- SIBPRO42 – getting along with brothers and sisters
- KIDPRO42 – getting along with other kids
- SPRPRO42 – getting involved in activities like sports or hobbies
- SCHPRO42 – (his/her) schoolwork
- HOME BH42 – (his/her) behavior at home
- TRBLE42 – staying out of trouble

CAHPS® (Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) ages 0 - 17

The health care quality measures were taken from the health plan version of CAHPS®, an AHRQ sponsored family of survey instruments designed to measure quality of care from the consumer’s perspective. All of the CAHPS® variables refer to events experienced in the last 12 months. The variables included from the CAHPS® are:

- CHILCR42 – whether a person had an illness, injury, or condition that needed care right away from a clinic, emergency room, or doctor’s office
- CHILWW42 – how often a person got care as soon as was needed (coded as “-1 Inapplicable” when CHILCR42 = 2, -7, -8, or -9)
- CHRTCR42 – whether any appointments were made
- CHRTWW42 – how often a person got an appointment for health care as soon as was needed (coded as “-1 Inapplicable” when CHRTCR42 = 2, -7, -8, or -9)
- CHAPPT42 – how many times a person went to a doctor’s office or clinic for health care
- CHNDCR42 – whether the parent or a doctor believed the person needed any care, tests or treatment (coded as “-1 Inapplicable” when CHAPPT42 = 0, -7, -8, or -9)
- CHENEC42 – how often it was easy to get a person the care, tests, or treatment that the parent or a doctor believed necessary (coded as “-1 Inapplicable” when CHAPPT42 = 0, -7, -8, or -9 or when CHNDCR42 = 2, -7, -8, or -9).
- CHLIST42 – how often a person’s doctors or other health providers listened carefully to the parent (coded as “-1 Inapplicable” when CHAPPT42 = 0, -7, -8, or -9)
- CHEXPL42 – how often a person’s doctors or other health providers explained things in a way the parent could understand (coded as “-1 Inapplicable” when CHAPPT42 = 0, -7, -8, or -9)
- CHRESP42 – how often a person’s doctors or other health providers showed respect for what the parent had to say (coded as “-1 Inapplicable” when CHAPPT42 = 0, -7, -8, or -9)
- CHPRTM42 – how often doctors or other health providers spent enough time with a person (coded as “-1 Inapplicable” when CHAPPT42 = 0, -7, -8, or -9)
- CHHECR42 – rating of health care from 0 to 10 where 0 = Worst health care possible and 10 = Best health care possible (coded as “-1 Inapplicable” when CHAPPT42 = 0, -7, -8, or -9)
- CHSPEC42 – whether a person needed to see a specialist
- CHEYRE42 – how often it was easy to see a specialist (coded as “-1 Inapplicable” when CHSPEC42 = 2, -7, -8, or -9).

Child Preventive Care (age range depends on question)

A series of questions was asked about amounts and types of preventive care a child may receive when going to see a doctor or other health provider. Questions are asked of children of different

age groups depending on the nature of the questions. When a response to a gate question was set to “No” (2), “Refused” (-7), “Don’t Know” (-8), or “Not Ascertained” (-9), follow-up variables based on the gate question were coded as “Inapplicable” (-1). Variables in this set include:

- MESHGT42 – doctor or other health provider ever measured child’s height (0 - 17)
- WHNHGT42 – when doctor or other health provider measured child’s height (0 - 17)
- MESWGT42 – doctor or other health provider ever measured child’s weight (0 - 17)
- WHNWGT42 – when doctor or other health provider measured child’s weight (0 - 17)
- CHBMIX42 – child’s Body Mass Index (BMI) as based on child’s reported height and weight (6 - 17)
- MESVIS42 – doctor or other health provider ever checked child’s vision (3 - 6)
- MESBPR42 – Doctor or other health provider ever checked child’s blood pressure (2 - 17)
- WHNBPR42 – when doctor or other health provider checked child’s blood pressure (2 - 17)
- DENTAL42 – doctor or other health provider ever advised a dental checkup (2 - 17)
- WHNDEN42 – when doctor or other health provider advised a dental checkup (2 - 17)
- EATHLT42 – doctor or other health provider ever given advice about child’s eating healthy (2 - 17)
- WHNEAT42 – when doctor or other health provider gave advice about eating healthy (2 - 17)
- PHYSCL42 – doctor or other health provider ever given advice about the amount and kind of exercise, sports or physically active hobbies the child should have (2 - 17)
- WHNPHY42 – when doctor or other health provider gave advice about exercise (2 - 17)
- SAFEST42 – doctor or other health provider ever given advice about using a safety seat when child rides in the car (weight <= 40 pounds or age 0 - 4 if weight is missing)
- WHNSAF42 – when doctor or other health provider gave advice about using a safety seat (weight <= 40 pounds or age 0 - 4 if weight is missing)

- BOOST42 – doctor or other health provider ever given advice about using a booster seat when child rides in the car (weight between 41 and 80 pounds or age > 4 and age <= 9 if weight is missing)
- WHNBST42 – when doctor or other health provider gave advice about using a booster seat (weight between 41 and 80 pounds or age > 4 and age <= 9 if weight is missing)
- LAPBLT42 – doctor or other health provider ever given advice about using lap and shoulder belts when child rides in the car (weight > 80 pounds or age > 9 if weight is missing)
- WHNLAP42 – when doctor or other health provider gave advice about using lap and shoulder belts (weight > 80 pounds or age > 9 if weight is missing)
- HELMET42 – doctor or other health provider ever given advice about the child's using a helmet when riding a bicycle or motorcycle (2 – 17)
- WHNHEL42 – when doctor or other health provider gave advice about the child's using a helmet when riding a bicycle or motorcycle (2 – 17)
- NOSMOK42 – doctor or other health provider ever given advice about how smoking in the house can be bad for child's health (0 – 17)
- WHNSMK42 – when doctor or other health provider gave advice about how smoking in the house can be bad for the child's health (0 – 17)
- TIMALN42 – during last health care visit, doctor or other health provider spent any time alone with the child (12 – 17)

Beginning in 2001, due to confidentiality concerns and restrictions, child height and weight variables are not included on the Full-Year file. Instead, a Body Mass Index (BMI) variable, CHBMIX42 is used. For the 2001 and 2002 PUFs, CHBMIX42 was included for children ages 3-17; all children age 2 and under were given a -1 "Inapplicable" code. Starting with the 2003 PUF, CHBMIX42 is included for all children ages 6-17; all children age 5 and under were given a -1 "Inapplicable" code.

Please note: analysts can have access to the height and weight variables and/or can construct a BMI variable of their own through the [AHRQ Data Center](#).

The steps used to calculate the BMI for children 6-17 are as follows:

1. Construct child height and weight variables HGTFT42, HGTIN42, WGTLB42, and WGTOZ42 based on collected data
2. Create a preliminary data set containing height, weight, sex, and age data

3. Generate a preliminary child BMI using the preliminary data set and the procedure for calculating the BMI for children as described on the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website](#).
4. Create the child BMI variable CHBMIX42 using the preliminary child BMI, setting all deceased persons, all persons over 17 years old, and all persons 5 years old or younger to Inapplicable (-1)

Note that for FY 2017, child height and weight were not top-coded prior to the construction of the preliminary data set. Where height in feet was > 0 and height in inches was missing, the mid-point value for height in inches (6 inches) was assigned to HGTTIN42 for use in the calculation of the child BMI. Where height in feet was 0 and height in inches was missing, the preliminary child BMI was set to “Not Ascertained” (-9).

For cases where weight in pounds was between 1 and 20 and weight in ounces was missing (WGTOZ42 in (-7, -8, -9)), the mid-point value for weight in ounces (8 ounces) was assigned to WGTOZ42 for use in the calculation of the child BMI. Where weight in pounds was 0 and weight in ounces was missing, the preliminary child BMI was set to “Not Ascertained” (-9).

This use of the mid-points for inches and ounces ensures that children who have feet but not inches in height and/or pounds but not ounces in weight are included in the BMI calculation.

As indicated in step 2 above, a preliminary SAS data set containing height, weight, sex, and age data for children 6-17 years old in FY 2017 was created. One SAS program and one SAS dataset were downloaded from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website for the purpose of calculating the BMI for children (step 3). The program used the preliminary data set of children to generate a preliminary child BMI based on the [2000 CDC growth charts](#). The program used the following formula to calculate the preliminary BMI for children:

$$\text{Weight in Kilograms} / [(\text{Height in Centimeters}/100)]^2$$

Note that weight in pounds and ounces was converted to weight in kilograms in the preliminary data set. Similarly, height in feet and inches was converted to height in centimeters in the preliminary data set.

As indicated in step 4 above, the child BMI variable CHBMIX42 was calculated using this preliminary BMI from step 3. Deceased persons, persons > 17 years old, and children younger than 6 years old were set to “Inapplicable” (-1) for CHBMIX42. Children 6-17 years old with a missing value for height in feet (HGTTFT42 is “Refused” (-7), “Don’t Know” (-8), or “Not Ascertained” (-9)) and/or weight in pounds (WGTLB42 is “Refused” (-7), “Don’t Know” (-8), or “Not Ascertained” (-9)) were set to “Not Ascertained” (-9) for CHBMIX42. Children whose height in feet was 0 and height in inches was missing (HGTTIN42 is “Refused” (-7), “Don’t Know” (-8), or “Not Ascertained” (-9)) were set to “Not Ascertained” (-9) for CHBMIX42. Children whose weight in pounds was 0 and weight in ounces was missing (WGTOZ42 is “Refused” (-7), “Don’t Know” (-8), or “Not Ascertained” (-9)) were set to “Not Ascertained” (-9) for CHBMIX42. All other children 6-17 years old have a calculated BMI for FY 2017.

CHBMIX42 is not top- or bottom-coded or edited.

2.5.5.8 Preventive Care Variables

Prior to Panel 21 Round 5/Panel 22 Round 3, a series of questions was asked for each person about the receipt of preventive care or screening examinations. In Panel 21 Round 5/Panel 22 Round 3, this section was dropped from CAPI and the following variables were removed from this file:

- DENTCK53 – on average, frequency of dental check-up
- BPCHEK53 – how long since last blood pressure check
- CHOLCK53 – about how long since last blood cholesterol check by doctor or health professional
- CHECK53 – how long since last routine check-up by doctor or other health professional for assessing overall health
- NOFAT53 – has a doctor or other health professional ever advised the person to eat fewer high fat or high cholesterol foods
- EXRCIS53 – has a doctor advised the person to exercise more
- FLUSHT53 – how long since last flu vaccination
- ASPRIN53 – does the person take aspirin frequently
- NOASPR53 – is taking aspirin unsafe due to a medical condition
- STOMCH53 – is taking aspirin unsafe due to a stomach-related reason or something else
- PSA53 – how long since last prostate specific antigen (PSA) test
- HYSTER53 – had a hysterectomy
- PAPSMR53 – how long since last pap smear test
- BRSTEX53 – how long since last breast exam
- MAMOGR53 – how long since last mammogram
- BSTST53 – when last blood stool test using the home kit
- BSTSRE53 – reason for blood stool test
- CLNTST53 – when last colonoscopy
- CLNTRE53 – reason for colonoscopy
- SGMTST53 – when last sigmoidoscopy

SGMTRE53 – reason for sigmoidoscopy

BMINDEX53 – Adult Body Mass Index (BMI) as based on reported height and weight

SEATBE53 – wears seat belt when drives or rides in a car

In addition, the height and weight variables used to construct the adult Body Mass Index variable (BMINDEX53) were collected in the Preventive Care section, so BMINDEX53 is dropped from this file.

Two questions from the Preventive Care section, LSTETH53 (has person lost all natural (permanent) teeth) and PHYEXE53 (currently spends half hour or more in moderate to vigorous physical activity at least five times a week), were retained and moved to a new section (Additional Healthcare Questions (AH)) and a new question, OFTSMK53 (how often smoke cigarettes), was added. These questions were asked of each person 18 years or older. A code of “Inapplicable” (-1) was assigned if the person was deceased or less than 18 years old.

2.5.5.9 2017 Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ)

The 2017 Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ), a paper-and-pencil questionnaire, was fielded during Panel 21 Round 4 and Panel 22 Round 2 of the 2017 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS). These data and documentation of the data will be included only in the full year Consolidated file (HC-201).

2.5.5.10 Diabetes Care Survey (DCS)

The Diabetes Care Survey (DCS) is a self-administered paper-and-pencil questionnaire fielded during Panel 21 Round 5 and Panel 22 Round 3. These data and documentation of the data will be included only in the full year Consolidated file (HC-201).

2.5.5.11 Cancer Self-Administered Questionnaire (CSAQ)

The Cancer Self-Administered Questionnaire (CSAQ) is a self-administered paper-and-pencil questionnaire fielded during Panel 21 Round 3 and Panel 22 Round 1. These data and documentation of the data will be included only in the full year Consolidated file (HC-201).

2.5.6 Disability Days Indicator Variables (DDNWRK17–OTHNDD17)

The Disability Days (DD) section of the core interview contains questions about time lost from work because of a physical illness or injury, or a mental or emotional problem. Data were collected on each individual in the household. These questions were repeated in each round of interviews; this file contains data from Rounds 3, 4, and 5 of the MEPS Panel 21, initiated in 2016, and Rounds 1, 2, and 3 of the MEPS Panel 22, initiated in 2017.

Beginning in FY2015, annualized versions of these variables are constructed for release rather than the previously released versions which were round and panel specific. The number at the end of the variable name (17) identifies the variable as representing data from 2017. Due to confidentiality concerns, the annual Disability Days variables which represent the number of

days a person missed work (DDNWRK17 and OTHNDD17) are top-coded to mask values that exceed the top one-half of one percent of the population.

These annual variables use building block variables for construction which represent an individual panel within the data year. The reference period for the Disability Days questions is the time period between the beginning of the panel or the previous interview date and the current interview date. Analysts should be aware that Round 3 is conducted across years. The Disability Days variables reflect only the data pertinent to the calendar year (i.e., the current delivery year of 2017). Analysts who are interested in examining Disability Days data across years can link to other person-level PUFs using the DUPERSID.

The flow of the Disability Days section relies on the person's age as of the interview date. Therefore, the round-specific constructed age variables (AGE31X, AGE42X, and AGE53X) are used to construct the comparable round-specific Disability Days building block variables. Due to the age-specific nature of the Disability Days section, age data from other rounds are not used should the person's age for the round be missing.

The variable DDNWRK17 represents the number of times the person lost a half-day or more from work because of illness, injury, or mental or emotional problems during the calendar year. A response of "no work days lost" was coded zero; if the person did not work, this variable was coded -1 (Inapplicable). The analyst should note that there are cases where EMPST## = 1 or 2 (has current job or job to return to) where DDNWRK17 indicates work around the house only. This is because the responses to the Disability Days questions are independent of the responses to the employment questions. Persons who were less than 16 years old or whose age is missing (AGE##X is set to -1) were not asked about work days lost, thus this variable is coded -1 (Inapplicable) for these persons.

Beginning with Panel 21 Round 3, Panel 22 Round 5, the CAPI questions about time lost from school are no longer asked and the related variable DDNSCLyy is no longer delivered.

A final set of variables indicates if an individual took a half-day or more off from work to care for the health problems of another individual in the family and the number of days missed. OTHDYS17 indicates if a person missed work because of someone else's illness, injury, or health care needs, for example to take care of a sick child or relative. This variable has three possible answers: yes - missed work to care for another (coded 1); no – did not miss work to care for another (coded 2); or the person does not work (coded -1), based on the setting of DDNWRK17. Persons younger than 16 and persons whose age is missing were not asked this question and are also coded as -1 (in a small number of cases this was not done for the 1996 data, the analyst will need to make this edit when doing longitudinal analyses).

OTHNDD17 indicates the number of days in which work was lost because of another's health problem. Persons younger than 16, those whose age is missing, those who do not work, and those who answer "no" to OTHDYS17 are skipped out of OTHNDD17 and receive a code of -1.

Note that, because Disability Days variables use only those Round 3 data pertinent to the data year, it is possible to have a person report missing work to care for the health problems of another individual (OTHDYS17 = 1) but report no days missed (OTHNDD17 = 0). This

combination indicates that the person did not miss those work days during the data year. Editing was done on these variables to preserve the skip patterns. No imputation was done for those with missing data.

2.5.7 Access to Care Variables (ACCELI42–PMDLRS42)

The variables ACCELI42 through PMDLRS42 describe data from the Access to Care (AC) section of the MEPS HC questionnaire, which was administered in Panel 21 Round 4 and Panel 22 Round 2. This supplement gathers information on family members' usual source of health care; characteristics of usual source of health care providers; access to and satisfaction with the usual source of health care provider; and access to medical treatment, dental treatment, and prescription medicines. The variable ACCELI42 indicates whether persons were eligible to receive the Access to Care questions. Persons with ACCELI42 set to '-1' (Inapplicable) should be excluded from estimates made with the Access to Care data.

2.5.7.1 Family Members' Usual Source of Health Care

For each individual family member, the AC section ascertains whether there is a particular doctor's office, clinic, health center, or other place that the individual usually goes to if he/she is sick or needs advice about his/her health (HAVEUS42).

YNOUSC42 indicates the main reason why a person does not have a usual source of care (USC) provider. For those family members who do not have a USC provider, question AC07 ascertains the main reason why:

- 1 Seldom or Never Sick
- 2 Recently Moved to Area
- 3 Don't Know Where to Go
- 4 USC in Area Not Available
- 5 Can't Find Provider Who Speaks Language
- 6 Goes Different Places for Diff Needs
- 7 Just Changed Insurance Plans
- 8 Don't Use Docs/Treat Self
- 9 Cost of Medical Care
- 10 No Health Insurance
- 91 Other Reason

If respondents choose '91' (Other Reason) at AC07, they are asked at AC07OV to provide a verbal explanation of what the main reason is that they do not have a USC provider. These "text strings" can be recoded to one of the existing categorical values listed above or, if the frequency of the response warrants it, additional categorical values. Recoding is described in greater detail below.

Family members without a USC provider are then asked AC08, which ascertains whether there are any additional reasons why. The person may choose one or more reasons. A variable is constructed for each reason why:

NOREAS42 No Other Reason

SELDSI42	Seldom or Never Sick
NEWARE42	Recently Moved to Area
DKWHRU42	Don't Know Where to Go
USCNOT42	USC in Area Not Available
PERSLA42	Can't Find Provider Who Speaks Language
DIFFPL42	Goes Different Places For Diff Needs
INSRPL42	Just Changed Insurance Plans
MYSELF42	Don't Use Docs/Treat Self
CARECO42	Cost of Medical Care
NOHINS42	No Health Insurance
OTHREA42	Other Reason

These variables reflect the answer categories given at AC08. If respondents choose '91' (Other Reason) at AC08, they are asked at AC08OV to provide a verbal explanation of what the additional reason is that they do not have a USC provider. These "text strings" can be recoded to one of the existing yes/no variables listed above or, if the frequency of response warrants it, an additional yes/no variable. Recoding is described in greater detail below.

2.5.7.2 Characteristics of Usual Source of Health Care Providers

The AC section collects information about the different characteristics of each unique USC provider for a given family. If a person does not have a USC provider (HAVEUS42 is set to '2' (No), '-7' (Refused), '-8' (Don't Know) or '-9' (Not Ascertained)), then these variables are set to '-1' (Inapplicable).

The basis for the AC provider questions is PROVTY42. This variable indicates whether the person's provider is a facility ('1'), a person ('2'), or a person-in-facility ('3'). PROVTY42 is a copy of PROVTYPE (Provider Type) for persons who have a USC provider. Depending on how PROVTYPE is set, persons are asked about the provider's location, the provider's personal characteristics (e.g., race), the provider's accessibility, and the person's satisfaction with the provider.

Provider Location

Two variables indicate the location of the provider. For facility or person-in-facility type providers, PLCTYP42 indicates whether the person's facility is a Hospital Clinic or Outpatient Department ('1'), Hospital Emergency Room ('2'), or Other Kind of Place ('3'). According to CAPI flow, persons do not report the type of facility for person-type providers; therefore, if PROVTY42 is set to '2' (Person), PLCTYP42 is set to '-1' (Inapplicable). For all provider types, including person-type, LOCATN42 indicates whether the person's provider is located in an Office ('1'), a Hospital but Not the Emergency Room ('2'), or a Hospital Emergency Room ('3').

Personal Characteristics of Providers

For person and person-in-facility type providers, TYPEPE42 indicates what type of doctor or other medical provider the person's provider is. The possible values include:

- 1 MD – General/Family Practice
- 2 MD – Internal Medicine
- 3 MD – Pediatrics
- 4 MD – OB/Gyn
- 5 MD – Surgery
- 6 MD – Other
- 7 Chiropractor
- 8 Nurse
- 9 Nurse Practitioner
- 10 Physician’s Assistant
- 11 Other Non-MD Provider
- 12 Unknown
- 13 MD - Cardiologist
- 14 Doctor of Osteopathy
- 15 MD – Endocrinologist
- 16 MD – Gastroenterologist
- 17 MD – Geriatrician
- 18 MD – Nephrologist
- 19 MD – Oncologist
- 20 MD – Pulmonologist
- 21 MD – Rheumatologist
- 22 Psychiatrist / Psychologist
- 23 MD – Neurologist
- 24 Alternative Care Provider

TYPEPE42 is constructed using variables collected at several questions: AC15 “Is provider a medical doctor?” (PROV.MEDTYPE); AC16 “Is provider a nurse, nurse practitioner, physician’s assistant, midwife, or some other kind of person?” (PROV.OTHTYPE); and AC17 “What is provider’s specialty?” (PROV.MDSPECLT). If respondents choose ‘91’ (Other) at AC16 or AC17, they are asked at AC16OV or AC17OV, respectively, to provide a verbal explanation of the type of provider or medical doctor. These “text strings” can be recoded to one of the existing categorical values listed above or, if the frequency of the response warrants it, additional categorical values. Recoding is described in greater detail below.

The AC section also collects demographic information about person and person-in-facility type providers (PROVTY42 = ‘2’ or ‘3’). Six variables indicate the provider’s race: WHITPR42 (White), BLCKPR42 (Black/African American), ASIANP42 (Asian), NATAMP42 (Indian/Native American/Alaska Native), PACISP42 (Other Pacific Islander) and OTHRCP42 (Other Race). The respondent may choose more than one race for a single provider. These variables reflect the answer categories given at AC19. Prior to 2014, if respondents chose ‘91’ (Some Other Race) at AC19, they were asked at AC19OV to provide a verbal explanation of the provider’s race. These text strings could have been recoded to one of the existing yes/no variables listed above or an additional yes/no variable. Starting in 2014, AC19OV was removed from the MEPS and its “other specify” text string, PRVRACOS, is no longer collected.

In addition to the race variables, two other demographic variables are created: HSPLAP42 indicates whether or not the provider is Hispanic or Latino, and GENDRP42 indicates whether the provider is Male ('1') or Female ('2').

Using Constructed Variables to Describe the Usual Source of Care Provider

These variables describing a person's USC provider can be used in combination to present a broader picture of the provider. For example, a person-in-facility provider with a particular person named who is a white, Hispanic, female pediatrician, with no other race specified, and whose location is in an office in a hospital is coded as:

PROVTY42 = 3
PLCTYP42 = 1
TYPEPE42 = 3
HSPLAP42 = 1
WHITPR42 = 1
BLCKPR42 = 2
ASIANP42 = 2
NATAMP42 = 2
PACISP42 = 2
OTHRCP42 = 2
GENDRP42 = 2
LOCATN42 = 2

2.5.7.3 Access to and Satisfaction with the Provider

The AC section collects information regarding the person's ability to access the USC provider as well as the person's satisfaction with the USC provider.

Access to the Provider

TMTKUS42 indicates how long it takes the person to travel to the USC provider: Less Than 15 Minutes ('1'), 15 to 30 Minutes ('2'), 31 to 60 Minutes ('3'), 61 to 90 Minutes ('4'), 91 Minutes to 120 Minutes ('5'), or More than 120 Minutes ('6').

OFFHOU42, PHNREG42, and AFTHOU42 assess aspects of the provider that may make it difficult for the person to get in contact with the USC provider. OFFHOU42 indicates whether the provider has office hours at night or on the weekend. The remaining two variables reflect the person's rating of the difficulty of accessing the USC provider by phone (PHNREG42), and after hours (AFTHOU42). The person has the following choices: Very Difficult ('1'), Somewhat Difficult ('2'), Not Too Difficult ('3'), or Not at All Difficult ('4').

Satisfaction with the Provider

These variables reflect the person's confidence in, and satisfaction with, the USC provider. Four different facets of the person's level of confidence in the USC provider are examined: Is the provider the person or place family members would go to for: routine or minor health problems (MINORP42), preventive health care (PREVEN42), referrals to other health professionals

(REFFRL42), or ongoing health problems (ONGONG42). The person's level of satisfaction with the USC provider is examined in five ways: Does the USC provider: usually ask about prescription medications and treatments other doctors may give them (TREATM42), ask about and show respect for medical, traditional, and alternative treatments that the person is happy with (RESPCT42), ask the person to help make decisions between a choice of treatments (DECIDE42), present and explain all options to the person (EXPLOP42), and speak the person's language or provide translator services (PRVSPK42).

PRVSPK42 is set to a value other than '-1' (Inapplicable) for persons eligible for the Access to Care supplement, who had a usual source of care, and were identified as speaking a language other than English at home (OTHLANG = '1') and speaking English either "Not Well" or "Not at All" (HWELLSPE = '3' or '4'). PRVSPK42 is set to '-1' (Inapplicable) for all persons not meeting these criteria or who were deceased, institutionalized, or younger than 5 years of age.

If the person was under 5 years old in Round 1 and age 5 in Round 2 of the first year panel or Round 4 of the second year panel, and the source data are missing, PRVSPK42 was set to '-1' (Inapplicable); if the source data are available, PRVSPK42 was set per specifications.

2.5.7.4 Access to Medical Treatment, Dental Treatment, and Prescription Medicines

The Access to Care supplement gathers information on family members' abilities to receive treatment and receive it without delay. These questions are split into three sections inquiring about medical, dental, and prescription medicine treatments. Each section inquires whether the person was unable to receive treatment (MDUNAB42, DNUNAB42, PMUNAB42) or was delayed in receiving treatment (MDDLAY42, DNDLAY42, PMDLAY42). A value of '1' (Yes) for these two sets of variables indicates that the person needed treatment but was unable to receive it or was delayed in receiving it. A value of '2' (No) for these two sets of variables indicates that either the person did not need treatment or the person needed treatment and was able to receive it without delay. If the person was unable to receive treatment, the respondent was asked why (MDUNRS42, DNUNRS42, PMUNRS42). Respondents were also asked why there was delay in receiving treatment (MDDLRS42, DNDLRS42, PMDLRS42). Possible reasons include:

- 1 Could Not Afford Care
- 2 Ins Co Would Not Approve/Cover/Pay
- 3 Doctor Refused Family Ins Plan
- 4 Problems Getting To Doctor's Office
- 5 Different Language
- 6 Could Not Get Time Off Work
- 7 Don't Know Where To Go To Get Care
- 8 Was Refused Services
- 9 Could Not Get Child Care
- 10 Did Not Have Time or Took Too Long
- 91 Other

2.5.7.5 Editing the Access to Care Variables

Editing consisted primarily of logical editing for consistency with skip patterns. Other editing included the construction of new response values and new variables describing the recoding of several “other specify” text items into existing or new categorical values, which are described below.

Not all variables or categories that appear in the Access to Care section of the HC questionnaire are included on the file, as some small cell sizes have been suppressed to maintain confidentiality.

2.5.7.6 Recoding of Additional Other Specify Text Items

For Access to Care items AC07, AC08, AC16, and AC17, the “other specify” text responses were reviewed and coded as an existing or new value for the related categorical variable (for AC07, AC16, and AC17), or coded as an existing or new “yes/no” variable (for item AC08). Note that, starting in 2005, additional categories and variables are retained for low frequency responses to allow for pooling data.

In 2009, “No Health Insurance” was added as category ‘10’ at AC07 and AC08 for the main reason and for another reason why a person does not have a usual source of care. In order to distinguish between category ‘10’ selected within CAPI (No Health Insurance) and category ‘10’ in recoding (Other Insurance Related Reason), the recoding category for Other Insurance Related Reason was updated to category ‘24’. In order to compare data from 2009 or later with data previous to 2009, users can compare a combination of the CAPI category ‘10’ and recoding category ‘24’ for 2009 or later with the previous recoding category ‘10’ alone.

The following are the additional codes or variables which were created from these “other specify” text responses.

For item AC07 (“What is the main reason person does not have a usual source of health care”), the following additional values were available for the variable YNOUSC42:

- 11 Job-Related Reasons
- 12 Looking for a New Doctor
- 13 Doctor is Located Elsewhere
- 14 Don’t Like/Don’t Trust Doctors
- 15 Health-Related Reasons
- 16 Newborn-No Doctor Yet
- 17 Self, Relative, or Friend is a Doctor
- 19 Care Available on Job
- 20 Will Not Go to the Doctor
- 21 Problems with Time and Transportation
- 22 Person Goes to a Hospital, Clinic, or Emergency Room
- 23 Uses Alternative Care
- 24 Other Insurance Related Reason

For item AC08 (“What are the other reasons person does not have a usual source of health care”), the following additional variables were constructed:

OTHINS42	For Other Insurance Reasons;
JOBRSN42	For Job-Related Reasons;
NEWDOC42	Is Looking for a Doctor;
DOCELS42	Doctor is Located Elsewhere;
NOLIKE42	Does Not Like Doctor;
HEALTH42	Health-Related Reasons;
KNOWDR42	The Person Knows or is a Doctor;
ONJOB42	Works with Medical Personnel;
NOGODR42	Person Will Not Go to the Doctor;
TRANS42	The Person Had Problems Finding Transportation or Time;
CLINIC42	The Person Goes to a Hospital, Clinic, or Emergency Room;
NOHINS42	No Health Insurance.

OTHTYPE and MDSPECLT are used to construct the variable TYPEPE42. Unlike the other recoded variables, these variables’ text strings can be recoded to each other’s categories. For example, for persons who indicate that their USC provider is not a medical doctor (PROV.MEDTYPE = ‘2’), the other type of USC provider is other (PROV.OTHTYPE = 91), and the text string collected is “GYNECOLOGIST”, TYPEPE42 would be set to ‘4’ (MD – OB/GYN) instead of ‘11’ (OTHER NON-MD PROVIDER.)

2.5.8 Employment Variables (EMPST31–OFREMP53)

Employment questions were asked of all persons 16 years and older at the time of the interview. Employment variables consist of person-level indicators such as employment status and job-related variables such as hourly wage. All job-specific variables refer to a person’s current main job. The current main job, defined by the respondent, indicates the main source of employment.

Most employment variables pertain to the round interview date. The round dates are indicated by two numbers following the variable name; the first number representing the round for Panel 21 persons, the second number representing the round for Panel 22 persons. For example, EMPST31 refers to employment status on the Round 3 interview date for Panel 21 persons and employment status on the Round 1 interview date for Panel 22 persons.

With the exception of some health insurance and wage variables, no attempt has been made to logically edit any employment variables. When missing, values were imputed for certain persons’ hourly wages. Due to confidentiality concerns, hourly wages greater than or equal to \$96.15 were top-coded to -10 and the number of employees variable was top-coded at 500. With the exception of a variable indicating whether the employer has more than one location (MORE31, MORE42, MORE53), all employer-specific variables refer to the establishment that is the location of a person’s current main job.

The MEPS employment section used dependent interviewing in Rounds 2 through 5. If employment status and certain job characteristics did not change from the previous round, as identified in the Review of Employment (RJ) section, the respondent was skipped through the

main employment section. A code of “-2” is used to indicate that the information in question was obtained in a previous round. For example, if the HRWG42X (Round 4 interview date hourly wage for Panel 21 persons or Round 2 interview date hourly wage for Panel 22 persons) is coded as “-2”, refer to HRWG31X (Round 3 interview date hourly wage for Panel 21 persons or Round 1 interview date hourly wage for Panel 22 persons) for the value for HRWG42X. Note that there may be a value for the Round 3/1 hourly wage or there may be an “Inapplicable” code (-1). The “-2” value for HRWG42X indicates that the person was skipped past the question at the time of the subsequent interview. To determine who should be skipped through various employment questions, certain information, such as employment status, had to be asked in every round and, thus, “-2” codes do not apply to employment status. Additionally, information on whether the person currently worked at more than one job or whether the person held health insurance from a current main employer was asked in every round, and, therefore, those variables also have no “-2” codes.

For Panel 21 persons who have a current main job in Round 3 that continues from Round 1 or 2, the “-2” code is not sufficient for those variables that the person was skipped past at the time of the interview. This is because the Panel 21 Round 1 and 2 data are not included on this release and therefore there are no data to refer to. For such persons, the values for the variables for these skipped questions are copied from the Round 1 or 2 constructed variable on the 2016 Full Year Public Use Release, depending on the round in which the job first became the current main job. The accompanying variable RNDFLG31 indicates the round in which these data were collected. For example, if the person has a Round 3 current main job that continues from Round 2 and was first reported as the current main job in Round 2, HRWG31X will be a copy of the HRWG42X variable from the 2016 Full Year Public Use Release and RNDFLG31 will be “2”, indicating the round in which the job was first reported as the current main job.

Employment Status (EMPST31, EMPST42, and EMPST53)

Employment status was asked for all persons age 16 or older. Allowable responses to the employment status questions were as follows:

- “currently employed” if the person had a job at the interview date;
- “has a job to return to” if the person did not work during the reference period but had a job to return to as of the interview date;
- “employed during the reference period” if the person had no job at the interview date but did work during the round;
- “not employed with no job to return to” if the person did not have a job at the interview date, did not work during the reference period, and did not have a job to which he or she could return.

These responses were mutually exclusive. A current main job was defined for persons who either reported that they were currently employed and identified a current main job or who reported and identified a job to return to. Therefore, job-specific information such as hourly wage exists for persons not presently working at the interview date but who have a job to return to as of the interview date.

The analyst should note that there are cases where EMPST## = 1 or 2 (has current job or job to return to) where DDNWRK17 indicates work around the house only. This is because the responses to the Disability Days questions are independent of the responses to the employment questions.

Data Collection Round for Round 3/1 CMJ (RNDFLG31)

As mentioned above, for Panel 21, if a person's Round 3 current main job (CMJ) is a continuation CMJ from Round 2 or Round 1, the value of most "31" variables will be copied forward from the variable representing the round in which the job was first reported as the CMJ. For persons in Panel 21, RNDFLG31 indicates the round in which the Round 3 CMJ was first reported as the CMJ and provides a timeframe for the reported wage information and other job details. RNDFLG31 is used with many "31" variables to indicate the round on which the reported information is based.

RNDFLG31 is set to "Inapplicable" (-1) for persons in either panel who are under age 16 or who do not have a CMJ in Panel 21 Round 3 or Panel 22 Round 1. For persons who are part of Panel 21, RNDFLG31 is also set to "Inapplicable" (-1) if the person is out-of-scope in the 2017 portion of Round 3. For persons who are part of Panel 22, RNDFLG31 is also set to "Inapplicable" (-1) if the person is out-of-scope in Round 1. For persons who are part of Panel 21, other values for RNDFLG31 are set as follows:

- 1 continuing Round 3 CMJs reported first in Round 1;
- 2 continuing Round 3 CMJs reported first in Round 2;
- 3 jobs newly reported as current main in Round 3;
- 9 Round 3 CMJ is a continuation CMJ (wage information and other details were not collected in Round 3) but the Round 2 CMJ record either does not exist or is not the same job. This can occur in rare instances because corrections made to a person's record in a current file cannot be made to that record in an earlier file due to database processing constraints. Corrections are made based on respondent comments in subsequent rounds that affect employment information previously reported.

For persons who are part of Panel 22 and reported a Round 1 CMJ, RNDFLG31 is set to "1" indicating that the job information represented in the "31" variables was collected in Round 1.

Self-Employed (SELFCM31, SELFCM42, and SELFCM53)

Information on whether an individual was self-employed at the current main job was obtained for all persons who reported a current main job. Certain questions, namely those regarding benefits and hourly wage, were not asked of the self-employed. Variables constructed from these questions indicate whether the establishment reported by wage earners (those not self-employed) as the main source of employment offered any of the following benefits:

- Paid leave to visit a doctor (PAYDR31, PAYDR42, and PAYDR53)
- Paid sick leave (SICPAY31, SICPAY42, and SICPAY53)
- Paid vacation (PAYVAC31, PAYVAC42, and PAYVAC53)
- Pension plan (RETPLN31, RETPLN42, and RETPLN53)

For persons who were self-employed at their current main job, these benefits variables were coded as “Inapplicable” (-1). Additionally, information on whether the firm had more than one business location (MORE31, MORE42, MORE53) and whether the establishment was a private for-profit, nonprofit, or a government entity (JOBORG31, JOBORG42, JOBORG53) was not applicable for self-employed persons. Conversely, the variables that identify whether a business was incorporated, a proprietorship, or a partnership (BSNTY31, BSNTY42, BSNTY53) applied only to those who were self-employed at their current main job.

Hourly Wage (HRWG31X, HRWG42X, HRWG53X), Wage Update Variable (DIFFWG31, DIFFWG42, DIFFWG53), and Updated Hourly Wage (NHRWG31, NHRWG42, NHRWG53)

Hourly wage was asked of all persons who reported a current main job that was not self-employment (SELFCM). HRWG31X, HRWG42X, and HRWG53X provide the wage amount reported initially for a person’s current main job. If a current main job continues into subsequent rounds DIFFWG31, DIFFWG42, and DIFFWG53 indicate if the wage has changed since the previous round. If the job continues and there is a different wage at that job, NHRWG31, NHRWG42, and NHRWG53 indicate the new wage amount.

Limited editing of wage variables was performed during data preparation in 2017 as compared to prior years. Instead, outlier values or significantly changed wage amounts were imputed within the full year wage imputation process. Starting in 2018, we will use the same editing process used in 2016.

The initial hourly wage variables (HRWG31X, HRWG42X, HRWG53X) on this file should be considered along with their accompanying variables – HRHOW31, HRHOW42, and HRHOW53 – which indicate how the respective round hourly wage was constructed. Hourly wage could be derived, as applicable, from a large number of source variables. In the simplest case, hourly wage was reported directly by the respondent. For other persons, construction of the hourly wage was based upon salary, the time period on which the salary was based, and the number of hours worked per time period. If the number of hours worked per time period was not available, a value of 40 hours per week was assumed, as identified in the HRHOW variable.

The initial hourly wage variables HRWG31X, HRWG42X, and HRWG53X were imputed using a weighted sequential hot-deck procedure for those identified as having a current main job who were not self-employed and who did not know their wage or refused to report a wage. Hourly wage for persons for whom employment status was not known was coded as “Not Ascertained” (-9). Additionally, wages were imputed for wage earners reporting a wage range and not a specific value. For each of these persons, a value was imputed from other persons on the file who did report a specific value that fell within the reported range. The variables HRWGIM31, HRWGIM42, and HRWGIM53 identify persons whose wages were imputed. Note that wages were imputed only for persons with a positive person and/or positive family weight.

The variables DIFFWG31, DIFFWG42, and DIFFWG53 indicate whether a person’s wage amount was different in the current round at a continuing, current main job. NHRWG31,

NHRWG42, and NHRWG53 contain the updated wage amount in cases where a person indicates a change in wages (DIFFWG = 1). While the question regarding wage changes pertains to the primary wage at the main job, occasionally respondents update a person's supplemental wage at the main job. In these cases, users should note that HRWG31X, HRWG42X, HRWG53X and NHRWG31, NHRWG42, NHRWG53 may not differ.

For all Panel 22 Round 1 persons, DIFFWG31 and NHRWG31 are set to 'inapplicable' because this was the first round that wages could be reported for those persons. In Rounds 2 through 5, no imputation was performed on NHRWG31, NHRWG42, and NHRWG53. Instead, where an updated wage amount is 'not known' or is 'refused,' NHRWG31, NHRWG42, and/or NHRWG53 is set to 'not ascertained.' For persons whose hourly wage variable HRWG31X, HRWG42X, and/or HRWG53X was imputed and the respondent provides an updated wage amount in a subsequent round, the new wage, NHRWG31, NHRWG42, and/or NHRWG53, is not presented. Instead, NHRWG31, NHRWG42, and/or NHRWG53 is set to '-13' to indicate that the initial HRWG31X, HRWG42X, and/or HRWG53X was imputed. Users may wish to refer to the 2017 Full-Year Jobs PUF to obtain updated wage amounts for these jobs.

Beginning in Panel 20 Round 3 and Panel 19 Round 5, CAPI prompts the respondent to confirm wages reported in the Employment Wage section if a wage amount falls outside a specified wage range. Ranges vary depending on the unit of pay as follows:

Unit of Pay	Wage Range
PER YEAR	\$5,000.00 - \$200,000.00
PER MONTH	\$375.00 - \$20,000.00
PER 2-WEEK PERIOD	\$150.00 - \$10,000.00
PER WEEK	\$75.00 - \$5,000.00
PER DAY	\$10.00 - \$750.00
PER HOUR	\$1.00 - \$125.00

These changes are fully reflected on all wage variables in the 2017 Use PUF.

Beginning Panel 22 Round 3 and Panel 21 Round 5, the response categories "PER HOUR" and "PER TWO WEEK PERIOD" were removed from EW05OV1 (JOBS.PERUNIT) in CAPI. As such, values that correspond to retained categories shifted. These values are adjusted to conform to prior categories. This is one of several variables used in the construction of HRHOW53, HRWG53X, and NHRWG53. No logical changes were required on these variables.

For reasons of confidentiality, the hourly wage variables were top-coded. A value of -10 indicates that the hourly wage was greater than or equal to \$96.15. As of Full-Year 2004, the wage top-code process used the highest reported wage on the file for an individual regardless of whether it was reported in HRWG31X, HRWG42X, and HRWG53X or NHRWG31, NHRWG42, and NHRWG53. Prior to Full-Year 2004, only the initial reported wage in Rounds 3 or 1 (HRWG31X) was used to calculate the wage top-code amount. Also beginning with the 2004 file, all wages for a person were top-coded if any wage variable was above the top-code amount.

In order to protect the confidentiality of persons across deliveries, the same top-code amount used in this Full-Year Use file was also applied to the Full-Year 2017 Jobs file. Because a person can have other jobs besides a current main job which are included in the corresponding 2017 Full Year Jobs PUF, wages at these other jobs were reviewed in the top-coding process. In some cases for these persons, wages reported at the current main job were below the top-code amount while the wage at another job had to be top-coded. To further protect the confidentiality of such persons across deliveries, wages reported at all jobs in the Full-Year 2017 Jobs PUF were top-coded and the wages at their current main job (HRWG31X, HRWG42X, HRWG53X, NHRWG31, NHRWG42, and NHRWG53) included in this file were also top-coded.

Health Insurance (HELD31X, HELD42X, HELD53X, OFFER31X, OFFER42X, OFFER53X, CHOIC31, CHOIC42, CHOIC53, DISVW31X, DISVW42X, DISVW53X, OFREMP31, OFREMP42, OFREMP53)

There are several employment-related health insurance measures included in this release: health insurance held at a current main job (HELD31X, HELD42X, HELD53X), health insurance offered through a current main job (OFFER31X, OFFER42X, OFFER53X), and a choice of health plans available through the current main job (CHOIC31, CHOIC42, CHOIC53).

Several persons indicated that they held health insurance through a current main job in the employment section and then denied this coverage later in the interview in the health insurance section. Employment section health insurance HELD variables were edited for consistency to match the health insurance measures obtained in the health insurance section. To allow for easy identification of these individuals, round-specific flag variables were constructed (DISVW31X, DISVW42X, DISVW53X).

Responses in the employment section for health insurance held were recoded to be consistent with the variables in the health insurance section of the survey. Due to questionnaire skip patterns, the responses to health insurance offered were affected by editing the HELD variable. For example, if a person responded that health insurance was held from a current main job, the question relating to whether health insurance was offered was skipped. For persons who responded in the employment section that they held health insurance coverage and then disavowed the coverage in the health insurance section, it could not be ascertained whether they were offered a policy. These individuals are coded as -9 for the OFFER variables.

In the first round in which a person is reported as having a specific CMJ, MEPS asks if the person holds health insurance through that job. If the person does not hold insurance, then a follow-up question is asked as to whether the person was offered insurance (but declined coverage). However, if a person does hold insurance, then that person is skipped over the offered question and the offer variable (OFFER31X, OFFER42X, OFFER53X) is automatically set to “Yes” (1).

In the rounds after a CMJ is initially reported, the “held” question is asked again in each interview (whether a person now holds insurance). This is to determine if there has been any change in coverage. For persons with a continuing job where

- insurance ended in a prior round or

- insurance was never reported through the establishment, whether or not the person was offered insurance in the round a job was first reported or
- the respondent disavows coverage in the Health Insurance section that was previously indicated in the Employment section of the interview

and where the person has no coverage indicated at RJ08 in the current round, the respondent is asked if the person was offered insurance. This type of current round information can also affect the setting of the DISVW31X, DISVW42X, and DISVW53X variables as well.

Beginning Panel 22 Round 3 and Panel 21 Round 5, where newly reported employment insurance is disavowed in the Health Insurance section, follow-up questions regarding whether insurance is offered and whether more than one plan is available are asked. This information is used in a new edit process whereby responses in the Health Insurance section are transferred into the Employment or Review of Jobs sections. Consequently, more information is now available on OFFER53X, OFREMP53, and CHOIC53. DISVW53X continues to be constructed to reflect the disavowal at a job.

Prior to Panel 19 Round 4/Panel 20 Round 2, in the Review of Jobs section, no follow-up questions to RJ07 were asked. RJ07 is asked if insurance was offered but not taken in the round a job was first reported and no coverage has been reported since the initial round. Beginning in Panel 19 Round 4/Panel 20 Round 2, follow-up questions regarding whether insurance is offered are now asked if insurance is not now held in the current round as indicated at RJ07. As this change occurred partway through the 2015 delivery year and therefore was not reflected in all rounds, data were edited in 2015 so that all six rounds represented the same flow (i.e. no follow-up questions to RJ07). Beginning in 2016, data reflect the current CAPI flow to all follow-up questions from RJ07. This change will be evident to analysts in frequency distributions on OFFER31X, OFFER42X, and OFFER53X.

In addition to this modification to OFFER, MEPS includes several clarifying questions regarding insurance availability to the jobholder through an employer. When a respondent indicates that the jobholder neither held nor was offered health insurance at the job, the respondent is asked if *any other* employees at the job were offered health insurance. The variables OFREMP31, OFREMP42, and OFREMP53 indicate whether an employer offered health insurance to other employees at a firm.

Data users should note that OFREMP31, OFREMP42, and OFREMP53 are automatically set to '1' in cases where HELD and OFFER are '1,' thus indicating that the jobholder has health insurance coverage through the employer, that coverage is offered to the employee, and that the employer offers insurance to its employees.

The employment-related insurance variables, HELD, OFFER, DISVW, and OFREMP for each round are logically edited for consistency.

Hours (HOUR31, HOUR42, HOUR53)

The hours measure refers to usual hours worked per week at the current main job. Note that, in cases where the respondent estimated hours worked per week at 35 hours or more, HOUR31, HOUR42, and HOUR53 were set to '40.'

Temporary (TEMPJB31, TEMPJB42, TEMPJB53) and Seasonal (SSNLJB31, SSNLJB42, SSNLJB53) Jobs

The temporary job variables (TEMPJB31, TEMPJB42, TEMPJB53) indicate whether a *newly reported* current main job lasts for only a limited amount of time or until the completion of a project.

The seasonal job variables (SSNLJB31, SSNLJB42, SSNLJB53) indicate whether the *newly reported* current main job is only available during certain times of the year. SSNLJB is “YES” (‘1’) if the job is only available during certain times of the year, SSNLJB is “NO” (‘2’) if the job is year round. Teachers and other school personnel who work only during the school year are considered to work year round.

Both variables are set on current main jobs whether a person is self-employed or not. These questions are asked only in the round the job is newly reported. Consequently, in rounds following the initial report, a code of ‘-2,’ “Determined In Previous Round”, is used to indicate that the information in the question was obtained in a previous round. This differs from some previous files where both questions were asked in each round and ‘-2’ was not an allowed value.

Number of Employees (NUMEMP31, NUMEMP42, NUMEMP53)

NUMEMP indicates the number of employees at the location of the person’s current main job. Due to confidentiality concerns, this variable indicating the number of employees at the establishment has been top-coded at 500 or more employees. For persons who reported a categorical size, a median estimated size from donors within the reported range is used.

Beginning in Panel 20 Round 3/Panel 19 Round 5, CAPI no longer accepts a value of ‘0’ at questions EM124 and RJ08B (JOBS.TOTLEMP) where respondents are asked to indicate the total number of employees working at a self-employed business. This change is now reflected in NUMEMP31, NUMEMP42, and NUMEMP53, which were set to ‘-9,’ Not Ascertained where JOBS.TOTLEMP = ‘0’. This change is fully reflected on NUMEMP31, NUMEMP42, and NUMEMP53 for self-employed main jobs in the 2017 Use PUF.

Beginning Panel 22 Round 3 and Panel 21 Round 5, categorical estimates of establishment size at question EM92 changed slightly. This information is used when calculating medians used when setting NUMEMP31, NUMEMP42, and NUMEMP53. For continuity purposes, ranges used in calculating medians were not revised from previous years; they continue to conform to prior categories.

Categories Prior to Panel 22 Round 3/Panel 21 Round 5			Categories Beginning Panel 22 Round 3/Panel 21 Round 5		
	As collected	Recoded Value		As collected	Recoded Value
Inapplicable	-1	-1	Inapplicable	-1	-1
Refused	-7	-7	Refused	-7	-7
Don't Know	-8	-8	Don't Know	-8	-8
Not Ascertained	-9	-9	Not Ascertained	-9	-9

Categories Prior to Panel 22 Round 3/Panel 21 Round 5			Categories Beginning Panel 22 Round 3/Panel 21 Round 5		
<10	1	1	2-9	2	1
10-25	2	2	10-25	3	2
26-49	3	3	26-50	4	3
50-100	4	4	51-100	5	4
101-500	5	5	101-200	6	5
			201-500	7	
501-1,000	6	6	501+	8	6
1001-5,000	7				
5001+	8				

Other Employment Variables

Information about industry and occupation types for a person's current main job at the interview date is also contained in this release. Based on verbatim text fields collected during the interview, numeric industry and occupation codes are assigned by trained coders at the Bureau of the Census. Beginning in 2010, Census uses 2007 Census Industry and 2010 Census Occupation Coding schemes instead of the 2003 versions used from FY2002 through FY2009. Both coding schemes were developed for the Bureau's Current Population Survey and American Community Survey. Users should note that coding schemes are comparable for the FY2002 through FY2009 data files. Earlier versions of Census coding schemes were used on files prior to FY2002.

Current main jobs were initially coded at the 4-digit level for both industry and occupation. Then, for confidentiality reasons, these codes were condensed into broader groups for release on the file. INDCAT31, INDCAT42, and INDCAT53 represent the condensed industry codes for a person's current main job at the interview date. OCCCAT31, OCCCAT42, and OCCCAT53 represent the condensed occupation codes for a person's current main job at the interview date.

This release incorporates crosswalks showing how the detailed 2007 Census industry and 2010 Census occupation codes were collapsed into the condensed codes on the file, in both HTML and PDF formats. The schemes used in this file can be linked directly to the 2007 North American Industry Code System (NAICS) and the 2010 Standard Occupation Code scheme (SOC) by going to the [Bureau of the Census website](#) where a variety of additional crosswalks is also available.

Information indicating whether a person belonged to a labor union (UNION31, UNION42, and UNION53) is also contained in this release.

The month and year that the current main job started for Rounds 3, 4, and 5 of Panel 21 and Rounds 1, 2, and 3 of Panel 22 are provided in this release (STJBMM31, STJBYY31, STJBMM42, STJBYY42, STJBMM53, and STJBYY53). In FY 2017, STJBYY31, STJBYY42, and STJBYY53 are bottom coded to a value of '1947' to preserve age confidentiality. This value is calculated by taking the delivery year of 2017 and subtracting the age top code value of 85, then adding back 15, the age of a person in the year before entering the work force as defined in MEPS. Thus, the bottom code value will be different in each delivery year.

There are two measures included in this release that relate to a person's work history over a lifetime. One indicates whether a person ever retired from a job as of the Round 5 interview date for Panel 21 persons or the Round 3 interview date for Panel 22 persons (EVRETIRE). The other indicates whether a person ever worked for pay as of the Round 5 interview date for Panel 21 persons or the Round 3 interview date for Panel 22 persons (EVRWRK). The latter was asked of everyone who indicated that they were not working as of the round interview date. Therefore, anyone who indicated current employment or who had a job during any of the previous or current rounds was skipped past the question identifying whether the person ever worked for pay. These individuals were coded as "Inapplicable" (-1). All persons who ever reported a job and were 55 years or older as of the round interview date were asked if they "ever retired". Since both of these variables are not round specific, there are no "-2" codes.

This release contains variables indicating the main reason a person did not work since the start of the reference period (NWK31, NWK42, and NWK53). If a person was not employed at all during the reference period (at the interview date or at any time during the reference period) but was employed some time prior to the reference period, the person was asked to choose from a list the main reason he or she did not work during the reference period. The "Inapplicable" (-1) category for the NWK variables includes:

- Persons who were employed during the reference period;
- Persons who were not employed during the reference period and who were never employed;
- Persons who were out-of-scope the entire reference period and;
- Persons who were less than 16 years old.

Beginning Panel 22 Round 3 and Panel 21 Round 5, changes were made to categorical responses at EM126. This question indicates why a person did not work in the reference period. New values are converted into the prior schema where possible. Otherwise, the variable was set to "91 Other." This variable is used to set NWK53. Users may see proportional changes to values of "91 Other" in NWK53, and users will also see the absence of values not included in the new schema ("on temporary layoff" (4), "maternity/paternity leave" (5), "wanted some time off" (8), and "waiting to start new job" (9)). A separate crosswalk file offers variables for both coding schemes.

A measure of whether an individual had more than one job on the round interview date (MORJOB31, MORJOB42, and MORJOB53) is provided on this release. In addition to those under 16 and those individuals who were out-of-scope, the "Inapplicable" category includes those who did not report having a current main job. Because this is not a job-specific variable, there are no "-2" codes.

This release contains variables indicating if a current main job changed between the third and fourth rounds for Panel 21 persons or between the first and second rounds for Panel 22 persons (CHGJ3142) and between the fourth and fifth rounds for Panel 21 persons or between the second and third rounds for Panel 22 persons (CHGJ4253). In addition to the "Inapplicable", "Refused", "Don't Know", and "Not Ascertained" categories, the change job variables were coded to represent the following:

- 1 person left previous round current main job and now has a new current main job;
- 2 person still working at the previous round's current main job but, as of the new round, no longer considers this job to be the current main job and defines a new main job (previous round's current main job is now a current miscellaneous job);
- 3 person left previous round's current main job and does not have a new job;
- 4 person did not change current main job.

Finally, this release contains the reason given by the respondent for the job change (YCHJ3142 and YCHJ4253). The reasons for a job change were listed in the CAPI questionnaire and a respondent was asked to choose the main reason from this list. In addition to those out-of-scope, those under 16, and those not having a current main job, the "Inapplicable" category for YCHJ3142 and YCHJ4253 includes workers who did not change jobs.

Beginning Panel 22 Round 3 and Panel 21 Round 5, changes were made to categorical responses at RJ10. This question indicates why a person left a job that continued from the previous round but ended in the current round. New values are converted into the prior schema where possible. Otherwise, the variable was set to "91 Other." This variable is used in setting YCHJ4253. Users may see proportional changes to values of "91 Other" in YCHJ4253, and users will also see the absence of values not included in the new schema ("quit to have a baby" (6), "quit because wanted time off" (9), "quit to take other job" (10), and "unpaid leave" (11)). A separate crosswalk file offers variables for both coding schemes.

2.5.9 Health Insurance Variables (TRIJA17X–PMEDPY53)

Beginning Panel 21 Round 5/Panel 22 Round 3, design changes to the health insurance section may impact trend analyses. Analysts should note that a series of questions were added to the HX section of the questionnaire to confirm whether a person who initially did not report any comprehensive coverage during a round has insurance. If a respondent indicates that a person does have coverage, they are then asked a series of questions to determine the type of coverage (e.g. Medicaid, Private, etc.). This may cause analysts to see changes to the insurance variables—particularly, changes to the summary insurance variables (PUB53X, PUB17X, PUBAT53X, PUBAT17X, PUBmm17X, PRIV53, PRIV17, PRIVAT53, PRIVAT17, PRIVmm17, INS53X, INS17X, INSAT53X, INSAT17X, INSmm17X, UNINS17, INSCOV17, INSURC17).

Secondly, respondents were allowed to report both Medicaid and other public hospital/physician coverage. Previously, these types of coverage were mutually exclusive. Analysts should be aware that they may now see trend changes in Medicaid, edited Medicaid or Other Public coverage as well as respondents reporting both (MCAID53, MCAID17, MCDmm17, MCAID53X, MCAID17X, MCDAT53X, MCDAT17X, MCDmm17X, MCDEV17, OTPUBA53, OTPUBA17, OPAAT53, OPAAT17, OPAm17, OPAEV17, OTPUBB53, OTPUBB17, OTPBAT53, OTPBAT17, OPBmm17, OPBEV17).

The aforementioned changes to the administration of the insurance section may also be evident in the Managed Care Variables (TRIST17X–PRVHMO17) because more respondents are now more likely be asked about managed care.

Lastly, respondents were no longer asked about State-specific program participation in non-comprehensive coverage so variables related to this type of coverage were no longer constructed (STAPR31, STAPR42, STAPR53, STAPR17, STPRAT31, STPRAT42, STPRAT53, and STPRAT17, STAm17).

2.5.9.1 Monthly Health Insurance Indicators (TRIJA17X–INSDE17X)

Constructed and edited variables are provided that indicate any coverage in each month of 2017 for the sources of health insurance coverage collected during the MEPS interviews (Panel 21 Rounds 3 through 5 and Panel 22 Rounds 1 through 3). In Rounds 2, 3, 4, and 5, insurance that was in effect at the previous round's interview date was reviewed with the respondent. Most of the insurance variables have been logically edited to address issues that arose during such reviews in Rounds 2, 3, 4, and 5. One edit to the private insurance variables corrects for a problem concerning covered benefits that occurred when respondents reported a change in any of their private health insurance plan names. Additional edits address issues of missing data on the time period of coverage for both public and private coverage that was either reviewed or initially reported in a given round. Additional edits, described below, were performed on the Medicare and Medicaid or State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) variables to assign persons to coverage from these sources. Observations that contain edits assigning persons to Medicare or Medicaid/SCHIP coverage can be identified by comparing the edited and unedited versions of the Medicare and Medicaid/SCHIP variables. Starting October 1, 2001, persons 65 years and older have been able to retain TRICARE coverage in addition to Medicare. Therefore, unlike in earlier MEPS public use files, persons 65 years and older do not have their reported TRICARE coverage (TRIJA17X – TRIDE17X) overturned. TRICARE acts as a supplemental insurance for Medicare, similar to Medigap insurance.

Public sources include Medicare, TRICARE/CHAMPVA, Medicaid, SCHIP, and other public hospital/physician coverage. Beginning Panel 21 Round 5/Panel 22 Round 3, questions related to coverage in state-specific non-comprehensive programs were removed from the survey. Therefore, state-specific constructed variables that had appeared on previous public use files (e.g. STAJA16 – STADE16) will no longer be constructed beginning FY 2017.

Medicare

Medicare (MCRJA17 – MCRDE17) coverage was edited (MCRJA17X – MCRDE17X) for persons age 65 or over. Within this age group, individuals were assigned Medicare coverage if:

- They answered “Yes” to a follow-up question on whether they received Social Security benefits; or
- They were covered by Medicaid/SCHIP, other public hospital/physician coverage or Medigap coverage; or
- Their spouse was age 65 or over and covered by Medicare; or
- They reported TRICARE coverage.

Note that age (AGE##X) is checked for edited Medicare (where ## represents the different MEPS rounds), however date of birth is not considered. Edited Medicare is somewhat imprecise with regard to a person's 65th birthday.

Medicaid/SCHIP and Other Public Hospital/Physician Coverage

Questions about other public hospital/physician coverage were asked in an attempt to identify Medicaid or SCHIP recipients who may not have recognized their coverage as such. These questions were asked only if a respondent did not report Medicaid or SCHIP directly. Respondents reporting other public hospital/physician coverage were asked follow-up questions to determine if the 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 the recipient paid anything for the coverage and/or if a government source paid for the coverage.

The Medicaid/SCHIP variables (MCDJA17 – MCDDE17) have been edited (MCDJA17X – MCDDE17X) 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.

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

- The respondent reported some type of managed care and paid something for the coverage, Other Public A Insurance (OPAJA17 – OPADE17); and
- The respondent did not report any managed care, Other Public B Insurance (OPBJA17 – OPBDE17).

The variables OPAJA17 – OPADE17 and OPBJA17 – OPBDE17 are provided only to assist in editing and should not be used to make separate insurance estimates for these types of insurance categories.

Any Public Insurance in Month

The file also includes summary measures that indicate whether or not a sample person has any public insurance in a month (PUBJA17X – PUBDE17X). Persons identified as covered by public insurance are those reporting coverage under TRICARE, Medicare, Medicaid or SCHIP, or other public hospital/physician programs. Note that further edits may be made to the public insurance variables in later MEPS data releases to address cases where private coverage through a federally-facilitated, state-based or state partnership exchange/marketplace may have been originally reported as public insurance. These potential edits could affect the variables MCAID17X, OTPUBA17, OTPUBB17 and PUB17X.

Private Insurance

Variables identifying private insurance in general (PRIJA17 – PRIDE17) and specific private insurance sources [such as employer/union group insurance (PEGJA17 – PEGDE17); non-group (PNGJA17 – PNGDE17); other group (POGJA17 – POGDE17)]; and private insurance through

a federally-facilitated, state-based or state partnership exchange/marketplace (PRXJA17 – PRXDE17) were constructed. Private insurance sources identify coverage in effect at any time during each month of 2017. Separate variables identify covered persons and policyholders (policyholder variables begin with the letter “H”, e.g., HPEJA17 – HPEDE17). 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 policyholder was unable to characterize the source of insurance (PDKJA17 – PDKDE17). Covered persons (but not policyholders) are identified when the policyholder is living outside the RU (POUJA17 – POUDE17). An individual was considered to have private health insurance coverage if, at a minimum, that coverage provided benefits for hospital and physician services (including Medigap coverage). Note, however, that persons covered by private insurance through an exchange/marketplace (PRSTX31/42/53/17 and PRXJA17 – PRXDE17) were considered to have private health coverage if that coverage provided hospital/physician services, but excluded coverage that was explicitly identified as Medigap coverage (EPRS.MSUPINS=1). If a person reported Medigap coverage through the exchange/marketplace, then the source of the insurance purchased was edited to reflect coverage “from a professional association” (EPRS.PURCHTYP=1) or “from a group or association” coverage (EPRS.PRIVINS=1). Further descriptions of the exchange variables are detailed below. Sources of insurance with missing information regarding the type of coverage were assumed to contain hospital/physician coverage. Persons who reported private insurance that did not provide hospital/physician insurance were not counted as privately insured. Coverage indicated by these variables may be from any type of job where the employment section insurance variables delivered on this file reflect only coverage through a current main job.

Health insurance through a job or union (PEGJA17 – PEGDE17, PRSJA17 – PRSDE17) 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 and union group insurance (PEGJA17 – PEGDE17) for the first time in the Health Insurance Section, but this insurance was not linked to a specific job.

All insurance reported to be through a job classified as self-employed with firm size of 1 (PRSJA17 – PRSDE17) was initially reported in the Employment Section and verified in the Health Insurance Section. Unlike the other employment-related variables (PEGJA17 – PEGDE17), self-employed-firm size 1 (PRSJA17 – PRSDE17) health insurance could not be reported in the Health Insurance Section for the first time. The variables PRSJA17 – PRSDE17 have been constructed to allow users to determine if the insurance should be considered employment-related.

Private insurance that was not employment-related (POGJA17 – POGDE17, PNGJA17 – PNGDE17, PDKJA17 – PDKDE17, POUJA17 – POUDE17, and PRXJA17 – PRXDE17) was reported in the Health Insurance Section only.

Beginning in Panel 12 Round 2, the response category “Health Insurance Purchasing Alliance” was removed from HX03 (EPRS.PURCHTYP=4) and HX23 (EPRS.PRIVINS=2) because it was infrequently reported and it was not clear how respondents were using this category.

Beginning in Panel 14 Round 5/Panel 15 Round 3, “High Risk Pool” was added to the list of categories at HX03 (EPRS.PURCHTYP=10) and HX23 (EPRS.PRIVINS=13). Beginning FY 2010, High Risk Pool was included in all Other Group insurance categories.

Beginning in Panel 18 Round 3/Panel 19 Round 1, “Federal/State Exchange” was added to the list of private insurance categories at HX03 (EPRS.PURCHTYP=11) and HX23 (EPRS.PRIVINS=14). Additionally, beginning in Panel 18 Round 3/Panel 19 Round 1, variables EPRS.STEXCH03 and EPRS.STEXCH23 were collected at question HP04A (“Is this coverage through {state exchange name}?”) for respondents reporting insurance from a group, directly from an insurance company or HMO, from an insurance agent or from an “other” unspecified source. Beginning in Panel 21 Round 3, the variable EPRS.OESTEXCH was collected at OE28A (“Is this coverage through {state exchange name}?”) for respondents who previously reported private insurance coverage from an insurance company or HMO, or from an insurance agent that was not through an exchange/marketplace. Note that the state-specific name for the exchange/marketplace was used when asking these questions and was also used on the list of private insurance categories at HX03 and HX23. The variables PRSTX31/42/53/17 have been constructed to include persons less than 65 years old who report private insurance through a federally-facilitated, state-based or state partnership exchange/marketplace at HX03 or HX23, or persons 65 years old or older who report private insurance through a federally-facilitated, state-based or state partnership exchange/marketplace at HX03 or HX23 and who were not covered by Medicare. In addition, persons who reported a source of insurance at HX23 that was not through an exchange/marketplace (e.g. through a group or directly from an insurance company) but who answered yes to HP04A or OE28A were also classified as having exchange/marketplace coverage instead of being assigned to the category they originally reported. In addition to reporting coverage through an exchange/marketplace, coverage needed to have been identified as hospital/physician coverage (either as Yes (1) or missing (-7, -8, -9)), but not identified as having Medicare supplemental coverage. The variables PRSTX31/42/53/17 contain information on private coverage that was reported as obtained through a federally-facilitated, state-based or state partnership marketplace. Consistent with the approach used in the Current Population Survey and the National Health Interview Survey, MEPS respondents reporting public coverage were asked whether the public coverage was obtained through a federal or state marketplace in case respondents were confused about whether the source of coverage was public or private. Responses to these questions were not used to edit the PRSTX31/42/53/17 variables.

Any Insurance in Month

The file also includes summary measures that indicate whether or not a person has any insurance in a month (INSJA17X – INSDE17X). Persons identified as insured are those reporting coverage under TRICARE, Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP, or 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.

2.5.9.2 Summary Insurance Coverage Indicators (PRVEV17–INSURC17)

The variables PRVEV17 – UNINS17 summarize health insurance coverage for the person in 2017 for the following types of insurance: private (PRVEV17); TRICARE/CHAMPVA (TRIEV17); Medicaid or SCHIP (MCDEV17); Medicare (MCREV17); other public A

(OPAEV17); other public B (OPBEV17). Each variable was constructed based on the values of the corresponding 12 month-by-month health insurance variables described above. **For persons not in scope for the full year these summary variables are based on the period of eligibility.** If the person was not in scope for all 12 months throughout the year, the values are based on the months the person was eligible. A value of 1 indicates that the person was covered for at least one day of at least one month during 2017. A value of 2 indicates that the person was not covered for a given type of insurance for all of 2017. The variable UNINS17 summarizes PRVEV17 – OPBEV17. Where PRVEV17 – OPBEV17 are all equal to 2, then UNINS17 equals 1; person was uninsured for all of 2017. Otherwise, UNINS17 is set to 2, insured for all or part of 2017.

For user convenience this file contains a constructed variable INSCOV17 that summarizes health insurance coverage for the person in 2017, with the following three values:

- 1 = ANY PRIVATE (Person had any private insurance coverage [including TRICARE/CHAMPVA] any time during 2017)
- 2 = PUBLIC ONLY (Person had only public insurance coverage during 2017)
- 3 = UNINSURED (Person was uninsured during all of 2017)

INSURC17 summarizes health insurance coverage for the person in 2017 using eight categories of insurance separated by age using the person's age on December 31st, 2017:

- 1 = ANY PRIVATE (0-64) (Person is between 0 and 64 years old and is covered by private insurance or TRICARE/CHAMPVA in 2017)
- 2 = PUBLIC ONLY (0-64) (Person is between 0 and 64 years old and is covered by public insurance only (excluding TRICARE/CHAMPVA) in 2017)
- 3 = UNINSURED (0-64) (Person is between 0 and 64 years old and is uninsured for all of 2017)
- 4 = EDITED MEDICARE ONLY (65+) (Person is 65 years old or more and is covered by edited Medicare only in 2017)
- 5 = EDITED MEDICARE & PRIV (65+) (Person is 65 years old or more and is covered by edited Medicare and (private insurance or TRICARE/CHAMPVA) in 2017)
- 6 = EDITED MEDICARE & OTH PUB ONLY (65+) (Person is 65 years old or more and is covered by edited Medicare and (edited Medicaid/SCHIP, Other Government (type A) or Other Government (type B)) in 2017)
- 7 = UNINSURED (65+) (Person is 65 years old or more and is uninsured for all of 2017)
- 8 = NO MEDICARE BUT ANY PUBLIC/PRIVATE (65+) (Person is 65 years old or more and is not covered by Medicare but is covered by private insurance or Medicaid, TRICARE/CHAMPVA, Other Public A, or Other Public B in 2017)

Please note, beginning in 2012, Category 7 was revised to categorize persons who are 65 years or older and uninsured, and Category 8 was added to include persons 65 years or older who do not have Medicare, but are covered by public or private insurance.

Please note that both INSCOV17 and INSURC17 categorize TRICARE as private coverage. All other health insurance indicators included in this data release categorize TRICARE as public coverage. If an analyst wishes to consider TRICARE public coverage, the variable can easily be reconstructed using the PRVEV17 and TRIEV17 variables. Also note that these categories are mutually exclusive, with preference given to private insurance and TRICARE. Persons with both private insurance/TRICARE and public insurance will be coded as “1” for INSCOV17 and INSURC17.

2.5.9.3 FY 2017 PUF Managed Care Variables (TRIST31X–PRVHMO17)

In addition to the month-by-month indicators of coverage, there are round-specific health insurance variables indicating coverage by an HMO or managed care plan. Managed care variables have been constructed from information on health insurance coverage at any time in a reference period and the characteristics of the plan. A separate set of managed care variables has been constructed for private insurance, Medicaid/SCHIP, and Medicare coverage. The purpose of these variables is to provide information on managed care participation during the portion of the three rounds (i.e., reference periods) that fall within the same calendar year.

Managed care variables for calendar year 2017 are based on responses to health insurance questions asked during the Round 3, 4, and 5 interviews of Panel 21, and the Round 1, 2, and 3 interviews of Panel 22. Each managed care variable ends in “xy” where x and y denote the interview round for Panel 21 and Panel 22, respectively. The variables ending in “31” and “42” correspond to the first two interviews of each panel in the calendar year. Because Round 3 interviews typically overlap the final months of one year and the beginning months of the next year, the “31” managed care variables for Panel 21 indicate whether or not a person has coverage from a managed care plan in the 2017 calendar year. Similarly, the Panel 21 Round 5 and Panel 22 Round 3 managed care variables indicate whether or not a person has coverage from a managed care plan in the 2017 calendar year, and the variables have been given the suffix “17” (as opposed to “53”) to emphasize the restricted time frame. Further descriptions of the implications to managed care plan coverage due to the overlapping calendar year in Round 3 are detailed below.

Construction of the managed care variables is straightforward, but three caveats are appropriate. First, MEPS estimates of the number of persons in HMOs are higher than figures reported by other sources, particularly those based on HMO industry data. The differences stem from the use of household-reported information, which may include respondent error, to determine HMO coverage in MEPS.

Second, the managed care questions are asked about the last plan held by a person through his or her establishment (employer or insurer) even though the person could have had a different plan through the establishment at an earlier point during the interview period. As a result, in instances where a person changed his or her establishment-related insurance, the managed care variables describe the characteristics of the last plan held through the establishment.

Third, the “17” versions of the managed care variables for Panel 22 are developed from Round 3 variables that cover different time frames. The health insurance variable for Round 3 is restricted to the same calendar year as the Round 1 and 2 data. The Round 3 variables describing plan type, on the other hand, overlap the next calendar year. As a consequence, the Round 3 managed care variables may not describe the characteristics of the last plan held in the calendar year if the person changed plans after the first of the year.

The variables PRVHMO31/42/17 indicate coverage by a private HMO in Panel 22 Rounds 1 - 3, and Panel 21 Rounds 3 - 5. The variables MCRPHO31/42/17 indicate coverage by a Medicare managed care plan in Panel 22 Rounds 1 - 3, and Panel 21 Rounds 3 - 5. The variables MCRPD31/42/17 indicate coverage by Medicare prescription drug benefit, also known as Part D, in Panel 22 Rounds 1 - 3, and Panel 21 Rounds 3 - 5. The edited version of the Medicare prescription drug coverage variables (MCRPD31/42/17X) include persons who are covered by both edited Medicare and edited Medicaid. The variables MCDHMO31/42/17 and MCDMC31/42/17 indicate coverage by a Medicaid or SCHIP HMO or managed care plan in Panel 22 Rounds 1 - 3, and Panel 21 Rounds 3 - 5. For Panel 22, the “31” version indicates coverage at any time in Round 1, the “42” version indicates coverage at any time in Round 2, and the “17” version represents coverage at any time during the 2017 portion of Round 3. For Panel 21, the “31” version indicates coverage at any time during the 2017 portion of Round 3, the “42” version indicates coverage at any time in Round 4, and the “17” version represents coverage at any time during Round 5 (because Round 5 ends on 12/31/17).

In the health insurance section of the questionnaire, respondents reporting private health insurance were asked to identify what types of coverage a person had via a checklist. If the respondent selected prescription drug or dental coverage from this checklist, variables were constructed to indicate prescription drug or dental coverage respectively. It should be noted, however, that in some cases respondents may have failed to identify prescription drug or dental coverage that was included as part of a hospital and physician plan.

TRICARE Plan Variables

Round-specific variables are provided that indicate which TRICARE plan the person was covered by for each round of 2017. These variables indicate whether the person was covered by TRICARE Standard (TRIST31/42/17X), TRICARE Prime (TRIPR31/42/17X), TRICARE Extra (TRIEX31/42/17X), and TRICARE for Life (TRILI31/42/17X). Beginning in Panel 9 Rounds 4 and 5/Panel 10 Rounds 1 through 3, CHAMPVA was added to the list of TRICARE/CHAMPVA Plans collected in the instrument. Therefore, the variables TRICH42/17X were created. The “31” version of this variable was constructed starting in 2006. It should be noted that the TRICARE Plan information was elicited from a pick-list, code-all-that-apply question that asked which type of TRICARE plan the person obtained. It should also be noted that the TRICARE plan question was asked at the RU-level, that is, if any person in the RU reported coverage under TRICARE, a follow-up question was asked to determine which TRICARE plan anyone in the RU was covered by. After indicating the specific TRICARE plan or plans for the RU, a second question was asked to determine who in the RU was covered by TRICARE. In each round, each TRICARE Plan variable has five possible values:

- 1 The person was covered by the applicable TRICARE plan [Standard, Prime, Extra, For Life, or CHAMPVA].
- 2 The person was covered by TRICARE, but it was not through that particular plan [Standard, Prime, Extra, For Life, or CHAMPVA].
- 3 The person was not covered by TRICARE.
- 9 The person was covered by TRICARE but the plan type was not ascertained.
- 1 The person was out-of-scope.

Medicare Managed Care Plans, Part B, and Prescription Drug Benefit

Persons were assigned Medicare coverage based on their responses to the health insurance questions or through logical editing of the survey data. A small number of persons were edited to have Medicare. For this group, coverage through a managed care plan, Part B, and coverage by prescription drug plan questions were not asked. Since no Medicare establishment-person pair exists for this group, the persons' Medicare managed care, Part B, and prescription drug benefit statuses are set to not ascertained. For those persons who reported Medicare coverage based on their responses to the health insurance questions, the Medicare managed care plan, Part B, and prescription drug benefit questions were asked. Medicare managed care plan and prescription drug benefit questions were asked for each round a person indicates Medicare coverage. Medicare Part B questions were asked during the first report of Medicare only. The Medicare Part B indicator for those persons who indicated not having a Medicare card available was introduced for Panel 14 Round 2 and Panel 13 Round 4. For those persons who reported having Medicare coverage in Round 1, but did not have a Medicare card available, Medicare Part B coverage was set to not ascertained (-9).

The Medicare prescription drug benefit variables (MCRPD31/42/17) have been edited (MCRPD31/42/17X) to turn on coverage for all persons who are covered by both edited Medicare and edited Medicaid regardless of the status on their unedited Medicare prescription drug benefit variable.

In each round, the variables MCRPHO31, MCRPHO42, and MCRPHO17 have five possible values:

- 1 The person was covered by Medicare and covered through a Medicare Managed Care Plan.
- 2 The person was covered by Medicare but not covered through a Medicare Managed Care Plan.
- 3 The person was not covered by Medicare.
- 9 The person was covered by Medicare but whether the coverage is through a Medicare Managed Care Plan is refused, don't know, or not ascertained.
- 1 The person was out-of-scope.

In each round, the variables MCRPD31(X), MCRPD42(X), and MCRPD17(X) have five possible values:

- 1 The person was covered by Medicare and covered by prescription drug benefit.
- 2 The person was covered by Medicare but not covered by prescription drug benefit.

- 3 The person was not covered by Medicare.
- 9 The person was covered by Medicare but prescription drug benefit coverage is refused, don't know, or not ascertained.
- 1 The person was out-of-scope.

In each round, the variables MCRPB31, MCRPB42, and MCRPB17 have five possible values:

- 1 The person was covered by Medicare and covered by Part B.
- 2 The person was covered by Medicare but not covered by Part B.
- 3 The person was not covered by Medicare.
- 9 The person was covered by Medicare but Part B is refused, don't know, or not ascertained.
- 1 The person was out-of-scope.

Medicaid/SCHIP Managed Care Plans

Persons were assigned Medicaid or SCHIP coverage based on their responses to the health insurance questions or through logical editing of the survey data. The number of persons who were edited to have Medicaid or SCHIP coverage is small. These persons indicated coverage through an Other Government program that was identified as being in a Medicaid HMO or gatekeeper plan that did not require premium payment from the insured party. By definition, respondents were asked about the managed care characteristics of this insurance coverage.

Medicaid/SCHIP HMOs

If Medicaid/SCHIP or Other Government programs were identified as the source of hospital/physician insurance coverage, the respondent was asked about the characteristics of the plan. Starting in Panel 19 Round 1, the variables MCDHMO31, MCDHMO42, and MCDHMO17 have been set to "Yes" if an affirmative response was provided to the following question:

Under {Medicaid/{STATE NAME FOR MEDICAID}/the program sponsored by a state or local government agency which provides hospital and physician benefits} (are/is) (READ NAME(S) FROM BELOW) signed up with an HMO, that is a Health Maintenance Organization?

[With an HMO, you must generally receive care from HMO physicians. If another doctor is seen, the expense is not covered unless you were referred by the HMO, or there was a medical emergency.]

In subsequent rounds, for persons who had been previously identified as covered by Medicaid, the respondent was asked whether the name of the person's insurance plan had changed since the previous interview. An affirmative response triggered the previous set of questions about managed care (name on list of Medicaid HMOs or signed up with an HMO).

In each round, the variables MCDHMO31, MCDHMO42, and MCDHMO17 have five possible values:

- 1 The person was covered by a Medicaid/SCHIP HMO.
- 2 The person was covered by Medicaid/SCHIP but the plan was not an HMO.
- 3 The person was not covered by Medicaid/SCHIP.
- 9 The person was covered by Medicaid/SCHIP but the plan type was not ascertained.
- 1 The person was out-of-scope.

Medicaid/SCHIP Gatekeeper Plans

If a person did not belong to a Medicaid/SCHIP HMO, a third question was used to determine whether the person was in a gatekeeper plan. The variables MCDMC31, MCDMC42, and MCDMC17 were set to “Yes” if the respondent provided an affirmative response to the following question:

Does {Medicaid / {STATE NAME FOR MEDICAID}} require (READ NAME(S) BELOW) to sign up with a certain primary care doctor, group of doctors, or with a certain clinic which they must go to for all of their routine care?

Probe: Do not include emergency care or care from a specialist they were referred to.

In each round, the variables MCDMC31, MCDMC42, and MCDMC17 have five possible values:

- 1 The person was covered by a Medicaid/SCHIP gatekeeper plan.
- 2 The person was covered by Medicaid/SCHIP, but it was not a gatekeeper plan.
- 3 The person was not covered by Medicaid/SCHIP.
- 9 The person was covered by Medicaid/SCHIP but the plan type was not ascertained.
- 1 The person was out-of-scope.

Private Managed Care Plans

Persons with private insurance were identified from their responses to questions in the health insurance section of the MEPS questionnaire. In some cases, persons were assigned private insurance as a result of comments collected during the interview, but data editing was minimal. As a consequence, most persons with private insurance were asked about the characteristics of their plan, and their responses were used to identify HMO and gatekeeper plans.

Private HMOs

Persons with private insurance were classified as being covered by an HMO if they met any of the three following conditions:

- 1. The person reported that his or her insurance was purchased directly through an HMO,
- 2. The person reporting private insurance coverage identified the type of insurance company as an HMO, or
- 3. The person answered “Yes” to the following question:

Now I will ask you a few questions about how (POLICYHOLDER)'s insurance through (ESTABLISHMENT) works for non-emergency care.

We are interested in knowing if (POLICYHOLDER)'s (ESTABLISHMENT) plan is an HMO, that is, a health maintenance organization. With an HMO, you must generally receive care from HMO physicians. For other doctors, the expense is not covered unless you were referred by the HMO or there was a medical emergency. Is (POLICYHOLDER)'s (INSURER NAME) an HMO?

In subsequent rounds, policyholders were asked whether the name of their insurance plan had changed since the previous interview. An affirmative response triggered the detailed question about managed care (i.e., was the insurer an HMO).

Some insured persons have more than one private plan. In these cases, if the policyholder identified any plan as an HMO, the variables PRVHMO31, PRVHMO42, and PRVHMO17 were set to "Yes." If a person had multiple plans and one or more were identified as not being an HMO and the other(s) had missing plan type information, the person-level variable was set to missing. Additionally, if a person had multiple plans and none were identified as an HMO, the person-level variable was set to "No." In each round, the variables PRVHMO31, PRVHMO42, and PRVHMO17 have five possible values:

- 1 The person was covered by a private HMO.
- 2 The person was covered by private insurance, but it was not an HMO.
- 3 The person was not covered by private insurance.
- 9 The person was covered by private insurance, but the plan type was not ascertained.
- 1 The person was out-of-scope.

2.5.9.4 Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAGT31–FSAAMT31)

Respondents in Round 1 or Round 3 were asked if any RU members set aside pre-tax dollars of their own money to pay for out-of-pocket health care expenses. If an RU has a Flexible Spending Account (FSA), then FSAGT31 was set to 1 (Yes) and follow-up questions ascertained who has an FSA (HASFSA31) and the amount of the FSA (FSAAMT31). When an RU has an FSA, HASFSA31 is set for each RU member to indicate which RU member has an FSA. FSAAMT31 is asked at the RU level and collects the total amount contributed to all FSAs belonging to an RU. If no RU member has an FSA, then both HASFSA31 and FSAAMT31 are set to -1 (Inapplicable).

2.5.9.5 Unedited Health Insurance Variables (PREVCOVR–INSENDYY)

Duration of Uninsurance

If a person was identified as being without insurance as of January 1st in the MEPS Round 1 interview, a series of follow-up questions was asked to determine the duration of uninsurance prior to the start of the MEPS survey. Persons who were insured as of January 1st, and persons with a date of birth on or after December 31, 2016 or whose age category was less than 1 year old were skipped past this loop of questions. These questions are asked in Round 1 only.

If the person said he/she was covered by insurance in the two years prior to the MEPS Round 1 interview (PREVCOVR), the month, year (COVRMM, COVRY), and type of coverage (Employer-sponsored (WASESTB), Medicare (WASMCARE), Medicaid/SCHIP (WASMCAID), TRICARE/CHAMPVA (WASCHAMP), VA/Military Care (WASVA), Other public (WASOTGOV, WASAFDC, WASSSI, WASSTAT1-4, WASOTHER) or Private coverage purchased through a group, association or insurance company (WASPRIV)) was ascertained. Note that under the types of coverage, up to 4 state programs (WASSTAT1-4) can be listed as response options, but only the number of programs available in the state in which the RU is located (up to 4) will be displayed. If the state in which the RU is located has fewer than 4 state programs available, the remaining state programs will be -1 (Inapplicable). The only exception is if the response is Refused (-7) or Don't Know (-8). In that case, WASSTAT1-4 are all coded with the same missing value, regardless of the number of plans available in that specific state. Note that this is a code-all-that-apply question, so more than one source of previous insurance can be selected. For persons who were covered by health insurance on January 1st, it was ascertained if they were ever without health insurance in the previous year (NOINSBEF). The number of weeks/months without health insurance was also ascertained (NOINSTM, NOINUNIT). For persons who reported only non-comprehensive coverage as of January 1st, a question was asked to determine if they had been covered by more comprehensive coverage that paid for medical and doctors' bills in the previous two years (MORECOVR). If they were, the most recent month and year of coverage was ascertained (INSENDMM, INSENDYY) as was the type of coverage (see the variable names above).

Note that these variables are unedited and have been taken directly as they were recorded from the raw data. There may be inconsistencies with the health insurance variables released on public use files that indicate that an individual is uninsured in January. Out-of-scope persons in both panels have been set to "Inapplicable" (-1) for PREVCOVR – INSENDYY. All other persons have PREVCOVR – INSENDYY copied directly from the value of the unedited source variable.

Persons whose January 1st insurance coverage status could not be determined due to their reference period beginning after January 1st were also asked the follow-up questions described above. In these cases, persons who reported comprehensive coverage were asked if they were ever without insurance. Those who were uninsured were asked to determine the duration of uninsurance prior to the start of their reference period. Those who reported only non-comprehensive coverage were asked if they had been covered by comprehensive coverage that paid for medical and doctors' bills in the previous two years. Coverage is determined by health insurance status during the whole reference period or the month of January and ignores that these persons were not in the household on January 1st.

2.5.9.6 Health Insurance Coverage Variables – At Any Time/At Interview Date/At 12-31 Variables (TRICR31X–INSAT17X)

Constructed and edited variables are provided that indicate health insurance coverage at any time in a given round as well as at the MEPS interview dates and on December 31, 2017. Note that for persons who left the RU before the MEPS interview date or before December 31st, the variables measuring coverage at the interview date or on December 31st represent coverage at the date the person left the RU. In addition, since Round 5 only covers the time period from the Round 4

interview date up to December 31st, values for the December 31st variables are equivalent to those for Round 5 variables for Panel 21 members.

Variables indicating coverage for Panel 21 members for any time in the round that end in “31” indicate coverage for the portion of Round 3 that occurred in calendar year 2017, unless noted otherwise (see “Dental and Prescription Drug Private Insurance” section). Variables indicating coverage for Panel 22 members ending in “53” indicate coverage at any time in Round 3, including the portion of the round that occurred in calendar year 2018. For Round 3 coverage for Panel 22 members that occurred in calendar year 2017, users should use variables ending in “17”.

The health insurance variables are constructed for the sources of health insurance coverage collected during the MEPS interviews (Panel 21 Rounds 3 through 5, and Panel 22 Rounds 1 through 3). Note that the Medicare variables on this file as well as the private insurance variables that indicate the particular source of private coverage (rather than any private coverage) only measure coverage at the interview date and on December 31st. Users should also note that the same general editing rules were followed for the month-by-month health insurance variables released on this public use file (see Section 2.5.9.1 “Monthly Health Insurance Indicators” for details). Editing programs checking for consistencies between these sets of variables were developed in order to provide as much consistency as possible between the round-specific indicators and the month-by-month indicators of insurance.

Public sources include Medicare, TRICARE, Medicaid/SCHIP, and other public hospital/physician coverage.

Medicare

Medicare coverage variables (MCARE31, MCARE42, MCARE53 and MCARE17) and the edited versions of these variables (MCARE31X, MCARE42X, MCARE53X and MCARE17X) were constructed similarly to the month-by-month Medicare variables. Since Medicare coverage is logically edited to continue for a person once it has been reported in MEPS, the Medicare coverage variables can be considered as either “coverage at any time in the round” or “coverage at the interview date” variables, with the same caveats as noted above regarding persons who left the RU prior to the interview date or regarding coverage on December 31st variables and restrictions on Round 3 coverage to reflect coverage in 2017.

Medicaid/SCHIP and Other Public Hospital/Physician Coverage

Medicaid/SCHIP variables (MCAID31, MCAID42, MCAID53, MCAID17) and the edited versions of these variables (MCAID31X, MCAID42X, MCAID53X, MCAID17X, MCDAT31X, MCDAT42X, MCDAT53X, MCDAT17X) were constructed similarly to the month-by-month Medicaid/SCHIP variables.

Other Public A variables (OTPUBA31, OTPUBA42, OTPUBA53, OTPUBA17; and OTPAAT31, OTPAAT42, OTPAAT53, OTPAAT17) were constructed similarly to the month-by-month Other Public variables.

Any Public Insurance

Any public insurance variables (PUB31X, PUB42X, PUB53X, PUB17X, PUBAT31X, PUBAT42X, PUBAT53X, and PUBAT17X) were constructed similarly to the month-by-month any public insurance variables. Beginning FY 2017, the state-specific constructed variables on previous public use files (i.e., STAPR31, STAPR42, STAPR53, STAPR16, STPRAT31, STPRAT42, STPRAT53, and STPRAT16) will no longer be constructed.

Private Insurance

Variables identifying private insurance in general (PRIV31, PRIV42, PRIV53, PRIV17, PRIVAT31, PRIVAT42, PRIVAT53, PRIVAT17) and specific private insurance sources (such as employer/union group insurance [PRIEU31, PRIEU42, PRIEU53, PRIEU17]; coverage through a job classified as self-employed with firm size of 1 [PRIS31, PRIS42, PRIS53, PRIS17]; non-group coverage [PRING31, PRING42, PRING53, PRING17]; other group coverage [PRIOG31, PRIOG42, PRIOG53, PRIOG17], coverage through an unknown private category [PRIDK31, PRIDK42, PRIDK53, PRIDK17]; coverage from a policyholder living outside the RU [PROUT31, PROUT42, PROUT53, PROUT17], and coverage through a private exchange [PRSTX31, PRSTX42, PRSTX53, PRSTX17]) were constructed similarly to the month-by-month variables in Section 2.5.9.1. Variables indicating any private insurance coverage are available for the following time periods: at any time in a given round, at the interview date, and on December 31st. The variables for the specific sources of private coverage are only available for coverage on the interview dates and on December 31st.

Any Insurance in Period

Any insurance variables (INS31X, INS42X, INS53X, INS17X, INSAT31X, INSAT42X, INSAT53X, and INSAT17X) were constructed similarly to the month-by-month any insurance program variables.

2.5.9.7 Dental and Prescription Drug Private Insurance Variables (DENTIN31–PMDINS17)

Dental Private Insurance Variables

Round-specific variables (DENTIN31/42/53) are provided that indicate the person was covered by a private health insurance plan that included at least some dental coverage for each round of 2017. It should be noted that the information was elicited from a pick-list, code-all-that-apply, question that asked what type of health insurance a person obtained through an establishment. The list included: hospital and physician benefits including coverage through an HMO, Medigap coverage, vision coverage, dental, and prescription drugs. It is possible that some dental coverage provided by hospital and physician plans was not independently enumerated in this question. Users should also note that persons with missing information on dental benefits for all reported private plans and those who reported that they did not have dental coverage for one or more plans but had missing information on other plans are coded as not having private dental coverage. Persons with reported dental coverage from at least one reported private plan were coded as having private dental coverage.

DENTIN53 reflects coverage for all of Panel 22 Round 3 where the end reference year could extend into 2018. DENTIN31 for Panel 21 Round 3 reflects coverage in 2016 and 2017 since the Round 3 reference period spans both years. A second version of these dental coverage indicators was built to reflect only current year coverage (DNTINS31/17).

Prescription Drug Private Insurance Variables

Round-specific variables (PMEDIN31/42/53) are provided that indicate the person was covered by a private health insurance plan that included at least some prescription drug insurance coverage for each round of 2017. It should be noted that the information was elicited from a pick-list, code-all-that-apply, question that asked what type of health insurance a person obtained through an establishment. The list included: hospital and physician benefits including coverage through an HMO, Medigap coverage, vision coverage, dental, and prescription drugs. It is possible some prescription drug coverage provided by hospital and physician plans was not independently enumerated in this question. Persons with reported prescription drug coverage from at least one reported private plan were coded as having private prescription drug coverage. Users should note that persons with missing information on prescription drug benefits for all reported private plans and those who reported that they did not have prescription drug coverage for one or more plans but had missing information on other plans are coded as not having private prescription drug coverage.

PMEDIN53 reflects coverage for all of Panel 22 Round 3 where the end reference year could extend into 2018. PMEDIN31 for Panel 21 Round 3 reflects coverage in 2016 and 2017 since the Round 3 reference period spans both years. A second version of these prescription drug coverage indicators was built to reflect only current year coverage (PMDINS31/17).

2.5.9.8 Medical Debt Variables (PROBPY42 – PYUNBL42)

Questions relating to medical debt were asked in the health insurance section. Respondents in Round 2 or Round 4 were asked questions HX81 (HOME.PROBPAY, “In the past 12 months did anyone in the family have problems paying or were unable to pay any medical bills?”), HX82 (HOME.CURFMPAY, “Does anyone in your family currently have any medical bills that are being paid off over time?”), and HX83 (HOME.PYUNABL, “Does anyone in your family currently have any medical bills that you are unable to pay at all?”). The corresponding constructed variables PROBPY42, CRFMPY42, and PYUNBL42 are included in this file. PROBPY42 was set to 1 (Yes) if the respondent indicated that someone in their family had problems paying or were unable to pay any medical bills. Additional questions ascertained if anyone in the family currently had medical bills that were being paid off over time (CRFMPY42), and if anyone in the family currently had any medical bills that were unable to be paid at all (PYUNBL42). If the respondent indicated that someone in their family currently has any medical bills that are being paid off over time, then CRFMPY42 was set to 1 (Yes). Note that if the respondent indicates that no one in their family had problems paying medical bills, then PYUNBL42 is set to -1 (Inapplicable).

2.5.9.9 Prescription Drug Usual Third Party Payer Variables (PMEDUP31–PMEDPY53)

Round-specific variables are provided that indicate whether the sample member had a usual third party payer for prescription medications (PMEDUP31, PMEDUP42, PMEDUP53), and if so, what type of payer (PMEDPY31, PMEDPY42, PMEDPY53). These questions were asked only of sample members who reportedly had at least one prescription medication purchase in the round. In each interview, if the sample member reportedly had a third party payer, then the respondent was asked the name of the sample member's usual third party payer. These responses were coded into the following source of payment categories in PMEDPY31, PMEDPY42, PMEDPY53: Private Insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, VA/CHAMPVA, TRICARE, State/Local Government, and Other. Users should note that these questions were asked in the Charge and Payment (CP) section of the questionnaire, and that no attempt was made to reconcile the responses with information collected in the health insurance section of the questionnaire.

2.5.10 Person-Level Medical Utilization Variables (OBTOTV17–HHINF17)

The MEPS Household Component (HC) collects data in each round on use for office- and hospital-based care, home health care, dental services, vision aids, and prescribed medicines. Data were collected for each sample person at the event level (e.g., doctor visit, hospital stay) and summed across Rounds 3 – 5 for Panel 21 (excluding 2016 events covered in Round 3) and across Rounds 1 – 3 for Panel 22 (excluding 2018 events covered in Round 3) to produce the annual utilization counts for 2017. This file contains utilization variables for several categories of health care services. In general, there is one utilization variable for each category of health care service. The utilization variable is typically a count of the number of medical events reported for the category. (Expenditure variables are not included on this file and will be provided in the forthcoming full year Consolidated file.)

The following sections summarize definitional, conceptual, and analytic considerations when using the utilization variables in this file. Separate discussions are provided for each MEPS medical service category. There is also a discussion in the section dealing with analyses of trends using MEPS data (Section 3.8).

2.5.10.1 Medical Provider Visits (i.e., Office-Based Visits)

Medical provider visits consist of encounters that took place primarily in office-based settings and clinics. Care provided in other settings such as a hospital, nursing home, or a person's home are not included in this category.

The total number of office-based visits reported for 2017 (OBTOTV17) as well as the number of such visits to physicians (OBDRV17) and non-physician providers (OBOTHV17) are contained in this file. For a small proportion of sample persons, the sum of the physician and non-physician visit variables (OBDRV17 + OBOTHV17) is less than the total number of office-based visits variable (OBTOTV17) because OBTOTV17 contains visits where it was not reported in the HC whether a physician or non-physician provider was seen.

Non-physician visits (OBOTHV17) include visits to the following types of providers: chiropractors, midwives, nurses and nurse practitioners, optometrists, podiatrists, physician's

assistants, physical therapists, occupational therapists, psychologists, social workers, technicians, receptionists/clerks/secretaries, or other medical providers. Separate utilization variables are included for selected types of more commonly seen non-physician providers including chiropractors (OBCHIR17), nurses/nurse practitioners (OBNURS17), optometrists (OBOPTO17), physician assistants (OBASST17), and physical or occupational therapists (OBTHER17).

2.5.10.2 Hospital Events

Separate utilization variables for hospital care are provided for each type of setting (outpatient department, emergency room, and inpatient stays).

Hospital Outpatient Visits

Variables for the total number of reported visits to hospital outpatient departments in 2017 (OPTOTV17) as well as the number of outpatient department visits to physicians (OPDRV17) and non-physician providers (OPOTHV17) are contained in this file. For a small proportion of sample persons, the sum of the physician and non-physician visit variables (OPDRV17 + OPOTHV17) is less than the total number of outpatient visits variable (OPTOTV17) because OPTOTV17 contains visits where it was not reported whether a physician or non-physician provider was seen.

Hospital Emergency Room Visits

The variable ERTOT17 represents a count of all emergency room visits reported for the survey year.

Hospital Inpatient Stays

Two measures of total inpatient utilization are provided on the file:

- IPDIS17 is the total number of hospital discharges. It includes hospital stays where the dates of admission and discharge were reported as identical. These “zero-night stays” can be included or excluded from inpatient analyses at the user’s discretion (see last paragraph of this section).
- IPNGT17 is the unimputed total number of nights spent in a hospital by a person for all stays that end in 2017. The imputed version will be on the forthcoming 2017 full year Consolidated file, as IPNGTD17.

Data used to construct the inpatient utilization variables for newborns were edited to exclude stays where the newborn left the hospital on the same day as the mother. This edit was applied because discharges for infants without complications after birth were not consistently reported in the survey. However, if the newborn was discharged at a later date than the mother was discharged, then the discharge was considered a separate stay for the newborn when constructing the utilization variables.

Some analysts may prefer to exclude “zero night stays” from inpatient analyses and/or count these stays as ambulatory visits. Therefore, a separate variable is provided that contains a count

of the number of inpatient events where the reported dates of admission and discharge were the same (IPZERO17). This variable can be subtracted from IPDIS17 to exclude “zero-night stays” from inpatient utilization estimates.

2.5.10.3 Dental Care Visits

The total number of dental care visits variable (DVTOT17) includes those to any person(s) for dental care including general dentists, dental hygienists, dental technicians, dental surgeons, orthodontists, endodontists, and periodontists. An additional variable is provided for the number of dental visits to general dentists (DVGEN17).

2.5.10.4 Home Health Care

In contrast to other types of medical events where data were collected on a per visit basis, information on home health care utilization is collected in MEPS on a per month basis. Variables are provided that indicate the total number of days in 2017 where home health care was received from the following: from any type of paid or unpaid caregiver (HHTOTD17), from agencies, hospitals, or nursing homes (HHAGD17), from self-employed persons (HHINDD17), and from unpaid informal caregivers not living with the sample person (HHINFD17). The number of provider days represents the sum across months of the number of days on which home health care was received, with days summed across all providers seen. For example, if a person received care in one month from one provider on two different days, then the number of provider days would equal two. The number of provider days would also equal two if a person received care from two different providers on the same day. However, if a person received care from one provider two times on the same day, then the provider days would equal one. These variables were assigned missing values if the number of provider days could not be computed for any month in which the specific type of home health care was received.

HHTOTD17 and HHAGD17 are the reported household component counts of the total number of provider days where home health care was received from any type of paid or unpaid caregiver, and from agencies, hospitals, or nursing homes, respectively.

2.5.11 Changes in Variable List

Following is a list of changes to the variable list for the 2017 full-year data file.

Added:

- ANYLMI17
- OFTSMK53

Deleted:

- | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| • ACTLIM53 | • ADCLIM42 | • ADDAYA42 |
| • ADAPPT42 | • ADCMPM42 | • ADDOWN42 |
| • ADCAPE42 | • ADCMPY42 | • ADDPRS42 |

• ADDRBP42	• AIDHLP53	• PAPSMR53
• ADEFRT42	• ANYLMTyy	• PCS42
• ADEGMC42	• ASACUT53	• PHQ242
• ADESSP42	• ASATAK53	• PREGNT31
• ADEXPL42	• ASDALY53	• PREGNT42
• ADEZUN42	• ASEVFL53	• PREGNT53
• ADFFRM42	• ASMRCN53	• PSA53
• ADFHLP42	• ASPKFL53	• RCHDIF53
• ADGENH42	• ASPREV53	• SAQELIG
• ADHECR42	• ASPRIN53	• SAQWTyyP
• ADHOPE42	• ASSTIL53	• SCHLIM53
• ADILCR42	• ASTHEP53	• SEATBE53
• ADILWW42	• ASWNFL53	• SFFLAG42
• ADINSA42	• BENDIF53	• SGMTR53
• ADINSB42	• BMINDX53	• SGMTST53
• ADINST42	• BPCHEK53	• SOCLIM53
• ADINTR42	• BRSTEX53	• STAAPyy
• ADLANG42	• BSTSRE53	• STAAUyy
• ADLHLP53	• BSTST53	• STADEyy
• ADLIST42	• CHBRON53	• STAFEyy
• ADMALS42	• CHECK53	• STAJAyy
• ADMWLM42	• CHOLCK53	• STAJLyy
• ADNDCR42	• CLNTRE53	• STAJUyy
• ADNERV42	• CLNTST53	• STAMAYy
• ADNRGY42	• COGLIM53	• STAMYyy
• ADNSMK42	• DDNSCLyy	• STANOyy
• ADOVER42	• DENTCK53	• STAOCyy
• ADPAIN42	• DVORTHyy	• STAPRyy
• ADPALS42	• EXRCIS53	• STAPR31
• ADPRTM42	• FLUSHT53	• STAPR42
• ADPRXY42	• FNGRDF53	• STAPR53
• ADPWLM42	• HSELIM53	• STASEyy
• ADRESP42	• HYSTER53	• STNDIF53
• ADREST42	• IADLHP53	• STOMCH53
• ADRISK42	• JTPAIN53	• STPDIF53
• ADRTCR42	• K6SUM42	• STPRATyy
• ADRTWW42	• LFTDIF53	• STPRAT31
• ADSAD42	• MAMOGR53	• STPRAT42
• ADSMOK42	• MCS42	• STPRAT53
• ADSOCA42	• MILDIF53	• UNABLE53
• ADSPEC42	• NOASPR53	• WLKDIF53
• ADTLHW42	• NOFAT53	• WLKLIM53
• ADWRTH42	• ONJOB42	• WRKLIM53

2.6 Linking to Other Files

2.6.1 Event and Condition Files

Records on this file can be linked to 2017 MEPS HC public use event and conditions files by the sample person identifier (DUPERSID). The Panel 21 cases on this file (PANEL=21) can also be linked back to the 2016 MEPS HC public use event and condition files.

2.6.2 National Health Interview Survey

The set of households selected for MEPS is a subsample of those participating in the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS); thus, each MEPS panel can also be linked back to the previous year's NHIS public use data files. For information on MEPS/NHIS link files please see the [AHRQ website](#).

2.6.3 Longitudinal Analysis

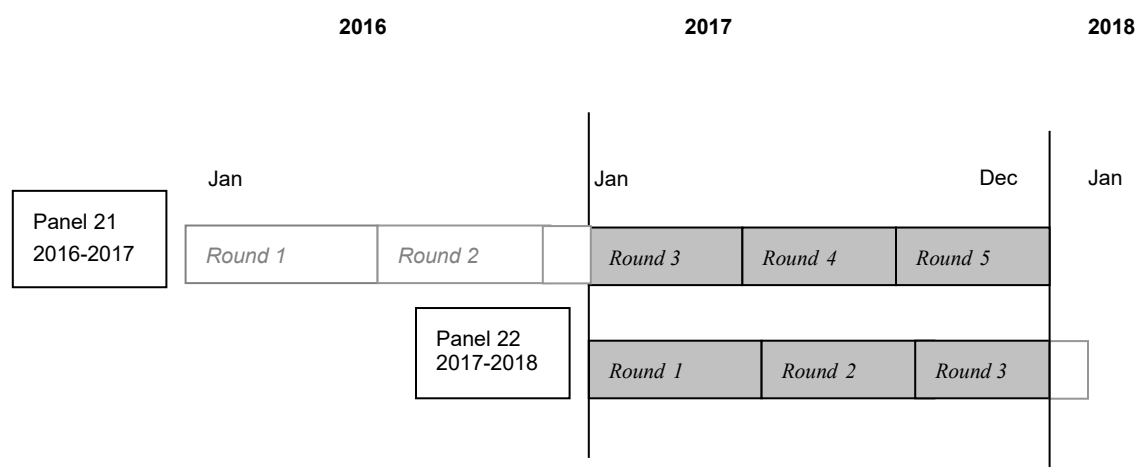
Panel-specific longitudinal files are available for downloading in the data section of the MEPS website. For each panel, the longitudinal file comprises MEPS survey data obtained in Rounds 1 through 5 of the panel and can be used to analyze changes over a two-year period. Variables in the file pertaining to survey administration, demographics, employment, health status, disability days, quality of care, patient satisfaction, health insurance, and medical care use and expenditures were obtained from the MEPS full-year Consolidated files from the two years covered by that panel.

For more details or to download the data files, please see Longitudinal Weight Files at the [AHRQ website](#).

3.0 Survey Sample Information

3.1 Background on Sample Design and Response Rates

The MEPS is designed to produce estimates at the national and regional level over time for the civilian, noninstitutionalized population of the United States and some subpopulations of interest. The data in this public use file pertain to calendar year 2017. The data were collected in Rounds 1, 2, and 3 for MEPS Panel 22 and Rounds 3, 4, and 5 for MEPS Panel 21. (Note that Round 3 for a MEPS panel is designed to overlap two calendar years, as illustrated below.)



Variables convey the same information for this full-year file that has been provided for the full-year files associated with years 1996 – 2016 of MEPS.

The only utilization data that appear on this file are those associated with health care events reported by MEPS respondents and occurring in calendar year 2017. These data were obtained from both MEPS panels for those rounds (or portions of rounds) associated with calendar year 2017.

A sample design feature shared by both Panel 21 and Panel 22 involved the partitioning of the sample domain “Other” (serving as the catchall stratum and consisting mainly of households with “White” members) into two sample domains. This was done for the first time in Panel 16. The two domains were defined as: those households characterized as “complete” respondents to the NHIS; and those characterized as “partial completes.” NHIS “partial completes” typically have a lower response rate to MEPS and for both MEPS panels the “partial” domain was sampled at a lower rate than the “complete” domain. This approach has served to reduce survey costs, since the “partials” tend to have higher costs in gaining survey participation, but has also increased sample variability due to the resulting increased variance in sampling rates.

3.1.1 References

For detailed historical information on the MEPS sample design see Chowdhury, S.R., Machlin, S.R., Gwet, K.L. [Sample Designs of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Household Component, 1996–2006 and 2007–2016. Methodology Report #33. January 2019.](#) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD.

3.1.2 MEPS-Linked to the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Each responding household found in this 2017 MEPS dataset is associated with one of two separate and overlapping MEPS panels, MEPS Panel 21 and MEPS Panel 22. These panels consist of subsamples of households participating in the 2015 and 2016 NHIS, respectively. Panel 21 is the last MEPS panel reflecting the NHIS sample design first implemented in 2006, while Panel 22 is the first MEPS panel reflecting the new NHIS sample design first implemented in 2016.

Whenever there is a change in sample or study design, it is good survey practice to assess whether such a change could affect the sample estimates. For example, increased coverage of the target populations with an updated sample design based on data from the latest Census can improve the accuracy of the sample estimates. MEPS estimates have been and will continue to be evaluated to determine if an important change in the survey estimates might be associated with a change in design. Background on the two NHIS sample designs of interest here is provided next.

Background on the NHIS Sample Redesign Implemented in 2006 (associated with MEPS Panel 21)

The sample for the NHIS is redesigned approximately every 10 years. From 1995 to 2005 the NHIS used the same sample design, an area probability sample of PSUs (one or more counties) and Secondary Sampling Units (SSUs, to be referred to as segments here and generally consisting of one or more census blocks). Segments with a higher concentration of blacks or Hispanics were oversampled to increase the sample yields of these two minority groups for the NHIS. The segments were designed to be large enough to support the sample selection of housing units within each segment for up to 12 years. The initial MEPS sample design, which began in 1996, was based on that NHIS design through MEPS Panel 11, thus clustering the MEPS sample in the same general geographic areas from 1996-2006.

A new NHIS sample design was implemented in 2006 that was very similar in structure to the previous NHIS sample design. The PSUs and segments were sampled independently from the prior design. The major difference was that a third minority group, Asians, was oversampled under the 2006 NHIS sample design. Thus, the sample selection of segments was designed to oversample all three minority groups. All three of these minority groups were also oversampled for MEPS from among the NHIS responding households from 2007 through to 2016. The only major difference in eligibility status for housing units between NHIS under the 1996 and 2006 designs and MEPS was that college dorms were eligible for sampling for the NHIS but not for MEPS. That is, 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.

Panel 21 Household Sample Size

There were 9,700 households (occupied DUs) selected for MEPS Panel 21, of which 9,658 were fielded for MEPS after the elimination of any units characterized as ineligible for fielding.

Background on the NHIS Sample Redesign Implemented in 2016 (associated with MEPS Panel 22)

Beginning in 2016, NCHS implemented another new sample design for the NHIS which differed substantially from the prior design. Each of the 50 states as well as the District of Columbia served as explicit strata for sample selection purposes with the intent of providing the capability of state level NHIS estimates obtained through pooling across years if the sample size for a single year would result in unreliable estimates. In contrast to the previous design, households in areas with higher concentrations of minorities are not oversampled. PSUs are still formed at the county level. However, within sampled PSUs, the clusters of addresses that have been sampled for each year are not in the form of segments as described above for the previous designs. For the 2016 NHIS each such cluster consisted of roughly 25 subclusters selected using random systematic sampling across the full geography of the PSU. Each subcluster is made up of,

generally, four nearby addresses. Thus, for 2016 each cluster contained approximately 100 addresses in all. The number of subclusters per cluster can vary from year to year.

Another major change is that the list of DUs (addresses) was obtained from the Computerized Delivery Sequence File (CDSF) of the U.S. Post Office, which is a different approach than the standard listing process for area probability samples used in the pre-2016 designs. While addresses in the CDSF provide very high coverage of most areas of the country, coverage in rural areas can be somewhat lower. For rural areas where this was a concern, address lists were created through the conventional listing process. A [description of the NHIS sample design](#) is provided by NCHS on the NHIS website.

Panel 22 Household Sample Size

A subsample of 9,700 households was randomly selected for MEPS Panel 22 from the households responding to the 2016 NHIS, of which 9,693 were fielded for MEPS after the elimination of any units characterized as ineligible for fielding.

Implications of the New Design on MEPS Estimates

Under the new design, MEPS sampled households will not be clustered within the same segments as in the previous designs. Due to the use of PSU-wide lists of addresses, sampled households will be widely scattered within PSUs serving to limit the impact of clustering on the variance of MEPS estimates. Also, in contrast to the previous design, the NHIS sampling rates at the address level currently do not vary due to oversampling of minorities (although this could change in subsequent years). On balance, the overall variation in sampling rates/weights at the national level is expected to be lower with a corresponding positive impact on the precision of MEPS estimates. However, with a reduction in the sample sizes of minority households, precision levels of MEPS estimates for Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians may be reduced to some extent.

For the calendar year 2017, unlike prior or subsequent data years when both MEPS panels are/will be based on the same NHIS sample design, Panel 21 was based on the 2006 design while Panel 22 was based on the 2016 design. As a result, the 2017 MEPS sample is based on more PSUs than a typical year, serving to increase the precision of 2017 MEPS estimates compared to prior and later years. Also, since the samples selected under the two designs are independent, there are many more degrees of freedom available for variance estimation for MEPS 2017 data, improving the precision of variance estimates.

3.1.3 Sample Weights and Variance Estimation

In the dataset “MEPS HC-194: 2017 Full Year Population Characteristics,” weight variables are provided for generating MEPS estimates of totals, means, percentages, and rates for persons and families in the civilian noninstitutionalized population. Procedures and considerations associated with the construction and interpretation of person and family-level estimates using these and other variables are discussed below.

3.2 The MEPS Sampling Process and Response Rates: An Overview

For most MEPS panels, a sample representing about three-eighths of the NHIS responding households is made available for use in MEPS. This was the case for both MEPS Panel 21 and Panel 22.

Because the MEPS subsampling has to be done soon after NHIS responding households are identified, a small percentage of the NHIS households initially characterized as NHIS respondents are later classified as nonrespondents for the purposes of NHIS data analysis. This actually serves to increase the overall MEPS response rate slightly since the percentage of NHIS households designated for use in MEPS (all those characterized initially as respondents from the NHIS panels and quarters used by MEPS for a given year) is slightly larger than the final NHIS household-level response rate and some NHIS nonresponding households do participate in MEPS. However, as a result, these NHIS nonrespondents who are MEPS participants have no NHIS data available to link with MEPS data. Once the MEPS sample is selected from among the NHIS households characterized as NHIS respondents, RUs representing students living in student housing or consisting entirely of military personnel are deleted from the sample. For the NHIS, college students living in student housing are sampled independently from their families. For MEPS, such students are identified through the sample selection of their parents' RU. Removing from MEPS those college students found in college housing sampled for the NHIS eliminates the opportunity of multiple chances of selection for MEPS for these students. Military personnel not living in the same RU as civilians are ineligible for MEPS. After such exclusions, all RUs associated with households selected from among those identified as NHIS responding households are then fielded in the first round of MEPS.

Table 3.1 shows in Rows A, B, and C the three informational components just discussed. Row A indicates the percentage of NHIS households eligible for MEPS. Row B indicates the number of NHIS households sampled for MEPS. Row C indicates the number of sampled households actually fielded for MEPS (after dropping the students and military members discussed above). Note that all response rates discussed here are unweighted.

Table 3.1. Sample Size and Unweighted Response Rates for 2017 Full Year File
(Panel 22 Rounds 1-3/Panel 21 Rounds 3-5)

	Panel 21	Panel 22	2017 Combined
A. Percentage of NHIS households designated for use in MEPS (those initially characterized as responding) *	71.2%	69.2%	—
B. Number of households sampled from the NHIS	9,700	9,700	—
C. Number of Households sampled from the NHIS and fielded for MEPS	9,658	9,693	—
D. Round 1 – Number of RUs eligible for interviewing	10,280	10,142	—

	Panel 21	Panel 22	2017 Combined
E. Round 1 – Number of RUs with completed interviews	7,643	7,358	—
F. Round 2 – Number of RUs eligible for interviewing	7,870	7,528	—
G. Round 2 – Number of RUs with completed interviews	7,319	7,023	—
H. Round 3 – Number of RUs eligible for interviewing	7,478	7,164	—
I. Round 3 – Number of RUs with completed interviews	7,035	6,808	—
J. Round 4 – Number of RUs eligible for interviewing	7,133	—	—
K. Round 4 – Number of RUs with completed interviews	6,904	—	—
L. Round 5 – Number of RUs eligible for interviewing	6,930	—	—
M. Round 5 – Number of RUs with completed interviews	6,778	—	—
Overall annual unweighted response rates P22: $A \times (E/D) \times (G/F) \times (I/H)$ P21: $A \times (E/D) \times (G/F) \times (I/H) \times (K/J) \times (M/L)$ Combined: $0.500 \times P21 + 0.500 \times P22$	43.8% (Panel 21 through Round 5)	44.5% (Panel 22 through Round 3)	44.2%

*Among the panels and quarters of the NHIS allocated to MEPS, the percentage of households that were considered to be NHIS respondents at the time the MEPS sample was selected.

3.2.1 Response Rates

In order to produce annual health care estimates for calendar year 2017 based on the full MEPS sample data from the MEPS Panel 21 and Panel 22, the two panels are combined. More specifically, full calendar year 2017 data collected in Rounds 3 through 5 for the MEPS Panel 21 sample are pooled with data from the first three rounds of data collection for the MEPS Panel 22 sample (the general approach is described below).

As mentioned above, all response rates discussed here are unweighted. To understand the calculation of MEPS response rates, some features related to MEPS data collection should be noted. When an RU is visited for a round of data collection, changes in RU membership are identified. Such changes include the formation of student RUs as well as other new RUs created when RU members from a previous round have moved to another location in the U.S. Thus, the number of RUs eligible for MEPS interviewing in a given round is determined after data collection is fully completed. The ratio of the number of RUs completing the MEPS interview in

a given round to the number of RUs characterized as eligible to complete the interview for that round represents the “conditional” response rate for that round expressed as a proportion. It is “conditional” in that it pertains to the set of RUs characterized as eligible for MEPS for that round and thus is “conditioned” on prior participation rather than representing the overall response rate through that round. For example, in Table 3.1, for Panel 22 Round 2 the ratio of 7,023 (Row G) to 7,528 (Row F) multiplied by 100 represents the response rate for the round (93.3 percent when computed), conditioned on the set of RUs characterized as eligible for MEPS for that round. Taking the product of the percentage of the NHIS sample eligible for MEPS (Row A) with the product of the ratios for a consecutive set of MEPS rounds beginning with Round 1 produces the overall response rate through the last MEPS round specified.

The overall unweighted response rate for the combined sample of Panel 21 and Panel 22 for 2017 was obtained by computing the products of the relative sample sizes and the corresponding overall panel response rates and then summing the two products. Panel 22 represents about 50.0 percent of the combined sample size while Panel 21 represents the remaining 50.0 percent. Thus, the combined response rate of 44.2 percent was computed as 0.500 times 43.8, the overall Panel 21 response rate through Round 5 plus 0.500 times 44.5, the overall Panel 22 response rate through Round 3.

3.2.2 Panel 22 Response Rates

For MEPS Panel 22, Round 1, 9,693 households were fielded in 2017 (Row C of Table 3.1), a randomly selected subsample of the households responding to the 2016 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).

Table 3.1 shows the number of RUs eligible for interviewing in each Round of Panel 22 as well as the number of RUs completing the MEPS interview. Computing the individual round “conditional” response rates as described in Section 3.2.1 and then taking the product of these three response rates and the factor 69.2 (the percentage of the NHIS sampled households characterized as responding at the time of sample selection of households for MEPS) yields an overall response rate of 44.5 percent for Panel 22 through Round 3.

3.2.3 Panel 21 Response Rates

For MEPS Panel 21, 9,658 households were fielded in 2016 (as indicated in Row C of Table 3.1), a randomly selected subsample of the households responding to the 2015 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).

Table 3.1 shows the number of RUs eligible for interviewing and the number completing the interview for all five rounds of Panel 21. The overall response rate for Panel 21 was computed in a similar fashion to that of Panel 22 but covering all five rounds of MEPS interviewing as well the factor representing the percentage of NHIS sampled households eligible for MEPS. The overall response rate for Panel 21 through Round 5 is 43.8 percent.

3.2.4 Annual (Combined Panel) Response Rate

A combined panel response rate for the survey respondents in this data set is obtained by taking a weighted average of the panel specific response rates. The Panel 21 response rate was weighted

by a factor of 0.500 and Panel 22 was weighted by a factor of 0.500, reflecting approximately the distribution of the overall sample between the two panels. The resulting combined response rate for the combined panels was computed as (0.500×43.8) plus (0.500×44.5) or 44.2 percent (as shown in Table 3.1).

3.2.5 Oversampling

Oversampling is a feature of the MEPS sample design, helping to increase the precision of estimates for some subgroups of interest. Before going into details related to MEPS, the concept of oversampling will be discussed.

In a sample where all persons in a population are selected with the same probability and survey coverage of the population is high, the sample distribution is expected to be proportionate to the population distribution. For example, if Hispanics represent 15 percent of the general population, one would expect roughly 15 percent of the persons sampled to be Hispanic. However, in order to improve the precision of estimates for specific subgroups of a population, one might decide to select samples from those subgroups at higher rates than the remainder of the population. Thus, one might select Hispanics at twice the rate (i.e., at double the probability) of persons not oversampled. As a result, an oversampled subgroup comprises a higher proportion of the sample than it represents in the general population. Sample weights ensure that population estimates are not distorted by a disproportionate contribution from oversampled subgroups. Base sample weights for oversampled groups will be smaller than for the portion of the population not oversampled. For example, if a subgroup is sampled at roughly twice the rate of sample selection for the remainder of the population not oversampled, members of the oversampled subgroup will receive base or initial sample weights (prior to nonresponse or poststratification adjustments) that are roughly half the size of the group not oversampled.

As mentioned above, oversampling is implemented to increase the sample sizes and thus improve the precision of survey estimates for particular subgroups of the population. The “cost” of oversampling is that the precision of estimates for the general population and subgroups not oversampled will be reduced to some extent compared to the precision one could have achieved if the same overall sample size were selected without any oversampling.

The oversampling of Hispanic, Black, and Asian households for the 2015 NHIS carried over to MEPS through the set of NHIS responding households eligible for sample selection for MEPS. In the NHIS under the sample design utilized through 2005, Hispanic households were oversampled at a rate of roughly 2 to 1. That is, the probability of selecting a Hispanic household for participation in the NHIS was roughly twice that for households in the general population that were not oversampled. The oversampling rate for Black households under the old design was roughly 1.5 to 1. Under the NHIS sample design employed through 2016 (which is the sample design applicable for MEPS Panel 21), Asians, as well as Hispanics and Blacks, are oversampled. The average oversampling rates for the three minority groups was not reported.

For both Panel 21 and Panel 22, all households in the Asian, Hispanic, and Black domains were sampled with certainty (i.e., all households assigned to those domains were included in the MEPS). For Panel 21, the “Other, complete” domain was sampled at a rate of about 81 percent while the “Other, partial complete” domain was sampled at a rate of about 49 percent. For Panel

22, the corresponding sampling rates for the “Other, complete” domain and the “Other, partial complete” domain were about 77 percent and 49 percent, respectively.

Within strata (domains) for both panels, responding NHIS households were selected for MEPS using a systematic sample selection procedure from among those eligible. For the “non-Other” strata households were all selected with certainty. Within strata involving “Others” (two strata for both panels) the selection was with probability proportionate to size (pps) where the size measure was the inverse of the NHIS initial probability of selection. The pps sampling was undertaken to help reduce the variability in the MEPS weights incurred due to the variability of the NHIS sampling rates. With the subsampling, households that were oversampled for MEPS in calendar year 2017 were those responding households in the NHIS identified as having members whose race/ethnicity was Hispanic, Black, or Asian for both panels.

Typically, sample allocations across sample domains change from one MEPS panel to another. The sample domains used may also vary by panel although this was not the case for Panel 21 and Panel 22. When one compares unweighted measures (e.g., response rates) between panels and years, one should take into account such differences. Suppose, for example, members of one domain have a lower propensity to respond than those of another domain. Then, if that domain has been allocated a higher proportion of the sample, the corresponding panel may have a lower unweighted response rate simply because of the differences in sample allocation.

Within each domain (sample stratum) systematic samples of the MEPS-eligible households were selected from among the NHIS household respondents made available for MEPS sample selection purposes.

3.3 Background on Person-Level Estimation Using this MEPS Public Use Release

3.3.1 Overview

There is a single full year person-level weight variable called PERWT17P. However, care should be taken in its application as it permits both “point-in-time” and “range of time” estimates, depending on the variables used to define the set of persons of interest for analysis. A person-level weight was assigned to each record for each key, in-scope person who responded to MEPS for the full period of time that he or she was in-scope during 2017. A key person was either a member of a responding NHIS household at the time of interview or joined a family associated with such a household after being out-of-scope at the time of the NHIS (the latter circumstance includes newborns as well as those returning from military service, an institution, or residence in a foreign country). A person is in-scope whenever he or she is a member of the civilian, noninstitutionalized portion of the U.S. population.

3.3.2 Developing Person-Level Estimates

The data in this file can be used to develop estimates on persons in the civilian, noninstitutionalized population at any time during 2017 and for the slightly smaller population of persons in the civilian, noninstitutionalized population on December 31, 2017. To obtain a cross-sectional (point-in-time) estimate for in-scope persons living in the country on December 31, 2017, the analysis should be restricted to cases where INSC1231=1 (the person is in-scope on December 31, 2017). The weight variable PERWT17P must be applied to the analytic variable(s)

of interest to obtain either type of national estimate. Table 3.2 contains a summary of cases to include and sample sizes for the two populations described above.

Table 3.2 Identifying Populations of Interest at the Person Level and Corresponding Sample Sizes

Population of Interest	Cases to Include	Sample Size
Civilian, Noninstitutionalized Population over the course of 2017	PERWT17P>0	30,716
Civilian, Noninstitutionalized Population on December 31, 2017	PERWT17P>0 and INSC1231=1	30,427

3.4 Details on Person-Level Weights Construction

3.4.1 Overview

The person-level weight PERWT17P was developed in three stages. The person-level weight for Panel 21 was created, including both an adjustment for nonresponse over time and raking. The raking involved controlling to several sets of marginal control totals reflecting Current Population Survey (CPS) population estimates based on five different variables. The person-level weight for Panel 22 was created, also including an adjustment for nonresponse over time and raking, where the raking established consistency with CPS population estimates based on the same five variables. A composite weight was formed from the Panel 21 and Panel 22 weights by multiplying the panel weights by factors corresponding to the relative sample size of the two panels. Then a final raking was undertaken on this composite weight variable, based on the same five variables used previously.

3.4.2 MEPS Panel 21 Weight Development Process

The person-level weight for MEPS Panel 21 was developed using the 2016 full-year weight for an individual as a “base” weight for survey participants present in 2017. For key, in-scope members who joined an RU some time in 2017 after being out-of-scope in 2016, the initially assigned person-level weight was the corresponding 2016 family weight. The weighting process included an adjustment for person-level nonresponse over Rounds 4 and 5 as well as raking to population control figures for December 2017 for key, responding persons in-scope on December 31, 2017. These control totals were derived by scaling back the population distribution obtained from the March 2018 CPS to reflect the December 31, 2017 estimated population total (estimated based on Census projections for January 1, 2018). Variables used for person-level raking included: education of the reference person (no degree, high school/GED no college, some college, Bachelor’s or a higher degree); Census region (Northeast, Midwest, South, West); MSA status (MSA, non-MSA); race/ethnicity (Hispanic; Black but non-Hispanic; Asian, non-Hispanic; and other); sex; and age. (It may be noted that for confidentiality reasons, the MSA status variables are no longer released for public use starting with the Full-Year 2013 Person-Level Use PUF.) The final weight for key responding persons who were not in-scope on December 31, 2017 but were in-scope earlier in the year was the nonresponse-adjusted person weight without raking.

Note that the 2016 full-year weight that was used as the base weight for Panel 21 was derived using the MEPS Round 1 weight and adjusting it further for nonresponse over the remaining data collection rounds in 2016 and raking to the December 2016 population control figures.

3.4.3 MEPS Panel 22 Weight Development Process

The person-level weight for MEPS Panel 22 was developed using the 2017 MEPS Round 1 person-level weight as a “base” weight. The MEPS Round 1 weights incorporated the following components: the original household probability of selection for the NHIS and for the NHIS subsample reserved for MEPS and an adjustment for NHIS nonresponse, the probability of selection for MEPS from NHIS, adjustment for nonresponse at the dwelling unit level for Round 1, and poststratification to control figures at the family and person level obtained from the March CPS of the corresponding year (i.e., 2016 for Panel 21 and 2017 for Panel 22). For key, in-scope members who joined an RU after Round 1, the Round 1 family weight served as a “base” weight.

The weighting process also included an adjustment for nonresponse over the remaining data collection rounds in 2017 as well as raking to the same population control figures for December 2017 used for the MEPS Panel 21 weights for key, responding persons in-scope on December 31, 2017. The same six variables employed for Panel 21 raking (education level, census region, MSA status, race/ethnicity, sex, and age) were also used for Panel 22 raking. Similar to Panel 21, the Panel 22 final weight for key, responding persons not in-scope on December 31, 2017 but in-scope earlier in the year was the nonresponse-adjusted person weight without raking.

3.4.4 Raking

Beginning with the Full Year 2002 files, “raking” has been employed for the “Full Year” MEPS weighting to calibrate survey weights to match designated population control totals, replacing the poststratification process previously employed. Raking is a commonly used process for adjusting survey weights so that estimates of subpopulation totals match more stable figures available from independent sources. It can be thought of as multi-dimensional poststratification that requires an iterative solution. Survey weights are poststratified to several sets of control figures (dimensions) in a sequential and continuous fashion until convergence is achieved. Convergence is the state where survey weights satisfy the criteria that the sums of the survey weights for the subgroups represented by the various dimensions are simultaneously within a specified distance of the corresponding control figures (e.g., within 1, 5, 10, etc. of the control totals). For instance, if one dimension in a raking effort was sex by MSA status and the specified distance was 5, then, after convergence has been achieved, the sum of the survey weights for males in MSA areas would be within ± 5 of the control figure for males in MSA areas, the sum for females in MSA areas would be within ± 5 , etc.

3.4.5 The Final (Non-Poverty Adjusted) Weight for the 2017 USE File

As mentioned earlier, after raking the weights from each panel separately, a composite weight representing the full set of MEPS respondents was formed from the Panel 21 and Panel 22 weights by multiplying the panel weights by factors corresponding to the relative sample sizes of the two panels. Then a final raking was undertaken on this composite weight variable, based on the same six variables used previously.

Variables used in the raking of the composited person-level weights utilized the same variables that were employed in forming control totals for the individual panels (derived from CPS data). These were: education of the reference person (no degree, high school/GED no college, some college, Bachelor's or a higher degree); census region (Northeast, Midwest, South, West); MSA status (MSA, non-MSA); race/ethnicity (Hispanic, Black but non-Hispanic, Asian, and other); sex; and age. Persons included in the raking process were those in-scope on December 31, 2017. (It may be noted that poverty status is included as a raking variable for producing the weight for the full-year consolidated file but not included in this version of the MEPS weights. This is because the poverty status variable is not available at the time this version of the MEPS weights is created. Additional time is required to process the income data collected and then assign persons to a poverty status category.)

In addition, the weights of some persons out-of-scope on December 31, 2017 were poststratified. Specifically, the weights of persons out-of-scope on December 31, 2017 that were in-scope sometime during the year and also entered a nursing home during the year were adjusted to compensate for expected undercoverage of this subpopulation. The weights of persons who died while in-scope during 2017 were poststratified to corresponding estimates derived using data obtained from the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS) and Vital Statistics information provided by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Separate control totals were developed for the “65 and older” and “under 65” civilian, noninstitutionalized decedent populations.

Overall, the population estimate for the civilian, noninstitutionalized population over the course of the year (PERWT17P>0) is 324,779,909 (see Table 3.3). The estimated population total for those in-scope on December 31, 2017 (PERWT17P>0 and INSC1231=1) is 321,529,965.

Table 3.3. Persons with a person weight for the 2017 Full Year file

	Panel 21	Panel 22	Combined	Population estimate (weighted total of combined sample)
Number	15,429	15,287	30,716	324,779,909

3.4.6 A Note on MEPS Population Estimates

Beginning with the 2011 Full Year data, MEPS transitioned to 2010 census-based population estimates from the CPS for poststratification and raking. CPS estimates began reflecting 2010 census-based data in 2012, and the March 2018 CPS data serve as the basis for the 2017 MEPS weight calibration efforts. An article discussing [the impact of the transition to 2010 census-based population estimates for poststratification and raking on CPS estimates](#) can be found at the Bureau of Labor Statistics website.

Use of the updated population controls will have a noticeable effect on estimated totals for some population subgroups. The article compares some 2011 CPS estimates for those aged 16 and older “as published” with those that would have been generated had the updated population controls been used. Among the more notable increases were for the following subgroups: those

aged 55 or older (about 1.3 million more, a 1.7 percent increase); those aged 16-24 (about a half million more, a 1.4 percent increase); Blacks (400 thousand more, a 1.4 percent increase); Hispanics (1.3 million more, a 3.8 percent increase); and Asians (1.2 million more, a 10 percent increase). Corresponding changes were thus anticipated for MEPS full year data beginning with the 2011 MEPS PUF.

3.4.7 Coverage

The target population associated with this MEPS database is the 2017 U.S. civilian, noninstitutionalized population. However, the MEPS sampled households are a subsample of the NHIS households interviewed in 2015 (Panel 21) and 2016 (Panel 22). New households created after the NHIS interviews for the respective panels and consisting exclusively of persons who entered the target population after 2015 (Panel 21) or after 2016 (Panel 22) are not covered by MEPS. Neither are previously out-of-scope persons who join an existing household but are unrelated to the current household residents. Persons not covered by a given MEPS panel thus include some members of the following groups: immigrants, persons leaving the military, U.S. citizens returning from residence in another country, and persons leaving institutions. Those not covered represent only a small proportion of the MEPS target population.

3.5 No Family, DCS, SAQ, or CSAQ Weights on this Public Use File

Due to relatively limited opportunities for family-level analysis with the data on this file, family weights are not included on this file. However, family weights will be created for the Full Year 2017 MEPS public use file where expenditure and income data are provided. To maintain consistency in terms of file structure with the upcoming public use file with expenditure and income data, records for those persons who will receive a positive family weight but not a positive person weight have been placed on this public use file. These records will be the only records without a positive person weight appearing on this file.

While not appearing on this PUF, DCS, SAQ, and CSAQ weights will be provided on the 2017 FY Consolidated PUF.

3.6 Variance Estimation

The MEPS is based on a complex sample design. To obtain estimates of variability (such as the standard error of sample estimates or corresponding confidence intervals) for MEPS estimates, analysts need to take into account the complex sample design of MEPS for both person-level and family-level analyses. Several methodologies have been developed for estimating standard errors for surveys with a complex sample design, including the Taylor-series linearization method, balanced repeated replication, and jackknife replication. Various software packages provide analysts with the capability of implementing these methodologies. MEPS analysts most commonly use the Taylor Series approach. However, an option is also provided to apply the BRR approach when needed to develop variances for more complex estimators.

3.6.1 Taylor-series Linearization Method

The variables needed to calculate appropriate standard errors based on the Taylor-series linearization method are included on this and all other MEPS public use files. Software packages

that permit the use of the Taylor-series linearization method include SUDAAN, Stata, SAS (version 8.2 and higher), and SPSS (version 12.0 and higher). For complete information on the capabilities of each package, analysts should refer to the corresponding software user documentation.

Using the Taylor-series linearization method, variance estimation strata and the variance estimation PSUs within these strata must be specified. The variables VARSTR and VARPSU on this MEPS data file serve to identify the sampling strata and primary sampling units required by the variance estimation programs. Specifying a “with replacement” design in one of the previously mentioned computer software packages will 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 variables of interest distributed throughout the country (and thus the MEPS sample PSUs), one can generally expect to have at least 100 degrees of freedom associated with the estimated standard errors for national estimates based on this MEPS database.

Prior to 2002, MEPS variance strata and PSUs were developed independently from year to year, and the last two characters of the strata and PSU variable names denoted the year. However, beginning with the 2002 Point-in-Time PUF, the variance strata and PSUs were developed to be compatible with all future PUFs until the NHIS design changed. Thus, when pooling data across years 2002 through the Panel 11 component of the 2007 files, the variance strata and PSU variables provided can be used without modification for variance estimation purposes for estimates covering multiple years of data. There were 203 variance estimation strata, each stratum with either two or three variance estimation PSUs.

From Panel 12 of the 2007 files, a new set of variance strata and PSUs were developed because of the introduction of a new NHIS design. There are 165 variance strata with either two or three variance estimation PSUs per stratum, starting from Panel 12. Therefore, there are a total of 368 (203+165) variance strata in the 2007 Full Year file as it consists of two panels that were selected under two independent NHIS sample designs. Since both MEPS panels in the Full Year files from 2008 through 2016 were based on the next NHIS design, there are only 165 variance strata. These variance strata (VARSTR values) have been numbered from 1001 to 1165 so that they can be readily distinguished from those developed under the former NHIS sample design in the event that data are pooled for several years.

As discussed, the most recent change in the NHIS sample design took place in 2016, effectively changing the MEPS design beginning with calendar year 2017, where Panel 22 is based on the new NHIS design while Panel 21 is based on the old one. There were 117 variance strata formed for Panel 22. With the 165 available from Panel 21, there are a total of 282 variance strata appearing on the 2017 Full Year PUF.

In order to make the pooling of data across multiple years of MEPS more straightforward, the numbering system for the variance strata has changed. Those strata associated with the new design will have four digit values with a “2” as the first digit. Those associated with the previous design will have “1” as the first of four digits.

To ensure that variance strata are identified appropriately for variance estimation purposes when pooling MEPS data across several years, one can proceed as follows:

1. When pooling any year from 2002 or later, one can use the variance strata numbering as is.
2. When pooling any year from 1996 to 2001 with any year from 2002 or later, use the pooled linkage public use file HC-036 that contains the proper variance structure to use when making estimates from MEPS data that have been pooled over multiple years and where one or more years are from 1996-2001.
3. The HC-036 file is updated every year to allow pooling of any year from 1996 to 2001 with any year from 2002 up to the latest year. Further details on the HC-036 file can be found in the public use documentation of the HC-036 file.

3.6.2 Balanced Repeated Replication (BRR) Method

BRR replicate weights are not provided on this MEPS PUF for the purposes of variance estimation. However, a file containing a BRR replication structure is made available so that the users can form replicate weights, if desired, from the final MEPS weight to compute variances of MEPS estimates using either BRR or Fay's modified BRR (Fay, 1989) methods. The replicate weights are useful to compute variances of complex non-linear estimators for which a Taylor linear form is not easy to derive and not available in commonly used software. For instance, it is not possible to calculate the variances of a median or the ratio of two medians using the Taylor linearization method. For these types of estimators, users may calculate a variance using BRR or Fay's modified BRR methods. However, it should be noted that the replicate weights have been derived from the final weight through a shortcut approach. Specifically, the replicate weights are not computed starting with the base weight and all adjustments made in different stages of weighting are not applied independently in each replicate. So the variances computed using this one-step BRR do not capture the effects of all weighting adjustments that would be captured in a set of full developed BRR replicate weights. The Taylor Series approach does not fully capture the effects of the different weighting adjustments either.

The dataset HC-036BRR contains the information necessary to construct the BRR replicates. It contains a set of 128 flags (BRR1—BRR128) in the form of half sample indicators, each of which is coded 0 or 1 to indicate whether the person should or should not be included in that particular replicate. These flags can be used in conjunction with the full-year weight to construct the BRR replicate weights. For analysis of MEPS data pooled across years, the BRR replicates can be formed in the same way using the HC-036 file. For more information about creating BRR replicates, users can refer to the documentation for the HC-036BRR pooled linkage file.

3.7 Using MEPS Data for Trend Analysis

MEPS began in 1996, and the utility of the survey for analyzing health care trends expands with each additional year of data; however, it is important to consider a variety of factors when examining trends over time using MEPS. Tests of statistical significance should be conducted to assess the likelihood that observed trends are not attributable to sampling variation. The length of time being analyzed should also be considered. In particular, large shifts in survey estimates over

short periods of time (e.g. from one year to the next) that are statistically significant should be interpreted with caution unless they are attributable to known factors such as changes in public policy, economic conditions, or MEPS survey methodology.

For example, as a result of improved methods for collecting priority conditions data implemented in 2007, prevalence measures prior to 2007 are not comparable to those from 2007 and beyond for many conditions. Users should refer to Section 2.5.4 above and the documentation for the conditions file (HC-199) for details.

With respect to methodological considerations, in 2013 MEPS introduced an effort to obtain more complete information about health care utilization from MEPS respondents with full implementation in 2014. This effort likely resulted in improved data quality and a reduction in underreporting starting in FY 2014 and could have some modest impact on analyses involving trends in utilization across years.

There are also statistical factors to consider in interpreting trend analyses. Looking at changes over longer periods of time can provide a more complete picture of underlying trends. Analysts may wish to consider using techniques to smooth or stabilize analyses of trends using MEPS data such as comparing pooled time periods (e.g. 1996-97 versus 2011-2013), working with moving averages or using modeling techniques with several consecutive years of MEPS data to test the fit of specified patterns over time. Finally, researchers should be aware of the impact of multiple comparisons on Type I error. Without making appropriate allowance for multiple comparisons, undertaking numerous statistical significance tests of trends increases the likelihood of concluding that a change has taken place when one has not.

D. Variable-Source Crosswalk

VARIABLE-SOURCE CROSSWALK
FOR MEPS HC-194: 2017 FULL YEAR DATA FILE
SURVEY ADMINISTRATION VARIABLES - PUBLIC USE

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
DUID	Dwelling Unit ID	Assigned in Sampling
PID	Person Number	Assigned in Sampling or by CAPI
DUPERSID	Person ID (DUID + PID)	Assigned in Sampling
PANEL	Panel Number	Constructed
FAMID31	Family ID (Student Merged In) – R3/1	CAPI Derived
FAMID42	Family ID (Student Merged In) – R4/2	CAPI Derived
FAMID53	Family ID (Student Merged In) – R5/3	CAPI Derived
FAMID17	Family ID (Student Merged In) – 12/31/17	CAPI Derived
FAMIDYR	Annual Family Identifier	Constructed
RULETR31	RU Letter – R3/1	CAPI Derived
RULETR42	RU Letter – R4/2	CAPI Derived
RULETR53	RU Letter – R5/3	CAPI Derived
RULETR17	RU Letter as of 12/31/17	CAPI Derived
RUSIZE31	RU Size – R3/1	CAPI Derived
RUSIZE42	RU Size – R4/2	CAPI Derived
RUSIZE53	RU Size – R5/3	CAPI Derived
RUSIZE17	RU Size as of 12/31/17	CAPI Derived
RUCLAS31	RU fielded as: Standard/New/Student – R3/1	CAPI Derived
RUCLAS42	RU fielded as: Standard/New/Student – R4/2	CAPI Derived
RUCLAS53	RU fielded as: Standard/New/Student – R5/3	CAPI Derived
RUCLAS17	RU fielded as: Standard/New/Stud-12/31/17	CAPI Derived
FAMSZE31	RU Size Including Students – R3/1	CAPI Derived
FAMSZE42	RU Size Including Students – R4/2	CAPI Derived
FAMSZE53	RU Size Including Students – R5/3	CAPI Derived
FAMSZE17	RU Size Including Students as of 12/31/17	CAPI Derived
FMRS1231	Member of Responding 12/31 Family	Constructed
FAMS1231	Family Size of Responding 12/31 Family	Constructed
FAMSZEYR	Size of Responding Annualized Family	Constructed
FAMRFPYR	Reference Person of Annualized Family	Constructed

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
REGION31	Census Region – R3/1	Assigned in Sampling
REGION42	Census Region – R4/2	Assigned in Sampling
REGION53	Census Region – R5/3	Assigned in Sampling
REGION17	Census Region as of 12/31/17	Assigned in Sampling
REFPRS31	Reference Person at - R3/1	RE 42-45
REFPRS42	Reference Person at - R4/2	RE 42-45
REFPRS53	Reference Person at - R5/3	RE 42-45
REFPRS17	Reference Person as of 12/31/17	RE 42-45
RESP31	1st Respondent Indicator for R3/1	RE 6, 8
RESP42	1st Respondent Indicator for R4/2	RE 6, 8
RESP53	1st Respondent Indicator for R5/3	RE 6, 8
RESP17	1st Respondent Indicator as of 12/31/17	RE 6, 8
PROXY31	Was Respondent a Proxy in R3/1	RE 2
PROXY42	Was Respondent a Proxy in R4/2	RE 2
PROXY53	Was Respondent a Proxy in R5/3	RE 2
PROXY17	Was Respondent a Proxy as of 12/31/17	RE 2
INTVLANG	Language Interview Was Completed	RS02
BEGRFM31	R3/1 Reference Period Begin Date: Month	CAPI Derived
BEGRFY31	R3/1 Reference Period Begin Date: Year	CAPI Derived
ENDRFM31	R3/1 Reference Period End Date: Month	CAPI Derived
ENDRFY31	R3/1 Reference Period End Date: Year	CAPI Derived
BEGRFM42	R4/2 Reference Period Begin Date: Month	CAPI Derived
BEGRFY42	R4/2 Reference Period Begin Date: Year	CAPI Derived
ENDRFM42	R4/2 Reference Period End Date: Month	CAPI Derived
ENDRFY42	R4/2 Reference Period End Date: Year	CAPI Derived
BEGRFM53	R5/3 Reference Period Begin Date: Month	CAPI Derived
BEGRFY53	R5/3 Reference Period Begin Date: Year	CAPI Derived
ENDRFM53	R5/3 Reference Period End Date: Month	CAPI Derived
ENDRFY53	R5/3 Reference Period End Date: Year	CAPI Derived
ENDRFM17	2017 Reference Period End Date: Month	RE Section
ENDRFY17	2017 Reference Period End Date: Year	RE Section
KEYNESS	Person Key Status	RE Section
INSCOP31	In-scope – R3/1	RE Section

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
INSCOP42	In-scope – R4/2	RE Section
INSCOP53	In-scope – R5/3	RE Section
INSCOP17	In-scope – R5/3 Start through 12/31/17	RE Section
INSC1231	In-scope Status on 12/31/17	Constructed
INSCOPE	Was Person Ever In-scope in 2017	RE Section
ELGRND31	Eligibility – R3/1	RE Section
ELGRND42	Eligibility – R4/2	RE Section
ELGRND53	Eligibility – R5/3	RE Section
ELGRND17	Eligibility Status as of 12/31/17	RE Section
PSTATS31	Person Disposition Status – R3/1	RE Section
PSTATS42	Person Disposition Status – R4/2	RE Section
PSTATS53	Person Disposition Status – R5/3	RE Section
RURSLT31	RU Result – R3/1	Assigned by CAPI
RURSLT42	RU Result – R4/2	Assigned by CAPI
RURSLT53	RU Result – R5/3	Assigned by CAPI

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES - PUBLIC USE

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
AGE31X	Age – R3/1 (Edited/Imputed)	RE 12, 57-66
AGE42X	Age – R4/2 (Edited/Imputed)	RE 12, 57-66
AGE53X	Age – R5/3 (Edited/Imputed)	RE 12, 57-66
AGE17X	Age as of 12/31/17 (Edited/Imputed)	RE 12, 57-66
AGELAST	Person’s Age Last Time Eligible	AGE17X, AGE42X, AGE31X
DOBMM	Date of Birth: Month	RE 12, 57-66
DOBY	Date of Birth: Year	RE 12, 57-66
SEX	Sex	RE 12, 57, 61
RACEV1X	Race (Edited/Imputed)	RE 101A
RACEV2X	Race (Edited/Imputed)	RE 101A
RACEAX	Asian Among Races Rptd (Edited/Imputed)	RE 101A
RACEBX	Black Among Races Rptd (Edited/Imputed)	RE 101A
RACEWX	White Among Races Rptd (Edited/Imputed)	RE 101A
RACETHX	Race/Ethnicity (Edited/Imputed)	RE 98A, 101A
HISPANX	Hispanic Ethnicity (Edited/Imputed)	RE 98A
HISPNCAT	Hispanic Ethnicity (Edited/Imputed)	RE98A, 100A
MARRY31X	Marital Status – R3/1 (Edited/Imputed)	RE 13, 97
MARRY42X	Marital Status – R4/2 (Edited/Imputed)	RE 13, 97
MARRY53X	Marital Status – R5/3 (Edited/Imputed)	RE 13, 97
MARRY17X	Marital Status–12/31/17 (Edited/Imputed)	RE 13, 97
SPOUID31	Spouse ID – R3/1	RE 13, 76A, 97
SPOUID42	Spouse ID – R4/2	RE 13, 76A, 97
SPOUID53	Spouse ID – R5/3	RE 13, 76A, 97
SPOUID17	Spouse ID – 12/31/17	RE 13, 76A, 97
SPOUIN31	Marital Status w/ Spouse Present – R3/1	RE 13, 76A, 97
SPOUIN42	Marital Status w/ Spouse Present – R4/2	RE 13, 76A, 97
SPOUIN53	Marital Status w/ Spouse Present – R5/3	RE 13, 76A, 97
SPOUIN17	Marital Status w/Spouse Present–12/31/17	RE 13, 76A, 97
EDUCYR	Years of Educ When First Entered MEPS	RE 103-105
HIDEG	Highest Degree When First Entered MEPS	RE 103-105
FTSTU31X	Student Status if Ages 17-23 – R3/1	RE 11A, 106-108

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
FTSTU42X	Student Status if Ages 17-23 – R4/2	RE 11A, 106-108
FTSTU53X	Student Status if Ages 17-23 – R5/3	RE 11A, 106-108
FTSTU17X	Student Status if Ages 17-23 – 12/31/17	RE 11A, 106-108
ACTDTY31	Military Full-Time Active Duty – R3/1	RE 14, 94A-96B1
ACTDTY42	Military Full-Time Active Duty – R4/2	RE 14, 96B1
ACTDTY53	Military Full-Time Active Duty – R5/3	RE 14, 96B1
HONRDC31	Honorably Discharged from Military	RE 18A, 96F-G
HONRDC42	Honorably Discharged from Military	RE 18A, 96G
HONRDC53	Honorably Discharged from Military	RE 18A, 96G
REFRL31X	Relation to Ref Pers – R3/1 (Edit/Imp)	RE 76-77
REFRL42X	Relation to Ref Pers – R4/2 (Edit/Imp)	RE 76-77
REFRL53X	Relation to Ref Pers – R5/3 (Edit/Imp)	RE 76-77
REFRL17X	Relation to Ref Pers – 12/31/17 (Edit/Imp)	RE 76-77
OTHLANG	In Family with Someone Spkng Other Lang	RE102
LANGSPK	Language Spoken at Home Other Than Engl	RE102A
HWELLSPE	How Well Person Speaks English	RE102B
BORNUSA	Person Born in the US	RE102C
YRSINUS	Years Person Lived in the US	RE102D, RE102E

PERSON-LEVEL CONDITION VARIABLES - PUBLIC USE

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
RTHLTH31	Perceived Health Status – RD 3/1	PE00A
RTHLTH42	Perceived Health Status – RD 4/2	PE00A
RTHLTH53	Perceived Health Status – RD 5/3	PE00A
MNHLTH31	Perceived Mental Health Status – RD 3/1	PE00B
MNHLTH42	Perceived Mental Health Status – RD 4/2	PE00B
MNHLTH53	Perceived Mental Health Status – RD 5/3	PE00B
HIBPDX	High Blood Pressure Diag (>17)	PE02
HIBPAGED	Age of Diagnosis-High Blood Pressure	PE03
BPMLDX	Mult Diag High Blood Press (>17)	PE04
CHDDX	Coronary Hrt Disease Diag (>17)	PE05
CHDAGED	Age of Diagnosis–Coronary Heart Disease	PE06
ANGIDX	Angina Diagnosis (>17)	PE07
ANGIAGED	Age of Diagnosis-Angina	PE08
MIDX	Heart Attack (MI) Diag (>17)	PE09
MIAGED	Age of Diagnosis-Heart Attack (MI)	PE10
OHRTDX	Other Heart Disease Diag (>17)	PE11
OHRTAGED	Age of Diagnosis-Other Heart Disease	PE12
STRKDX	Stroke Diagnosis (>17)	PE13
STRKAGED	Age of Diagnosis-Stroke	PE14
EMPHDX	Emphysema Diagnosis (>17)	PE15
EMPHAGED	Age of Diagnosis-Emphysema	PE16
CHBRON31	Chronc Bronchits Last 12 Mths (>17)–R3/1	PE17
CHOLDX	High Cholesterol Diagnosis (>17)	PC11A/PE19
CHOLAGED	Age of Diagnosis-High Cholesterol	PE20
CANCERDX	Cancer Diagnosis (>17)	PE21
CABLADDR	Cancer Diagnosed - Bladder (>17)	PE22
CABREAST	Cancer Diagnosed - Breast (>17)	PE22
CACERVIX	Cancer Diagnosed - Cervix (>17)	PE22
CACOLON	Cancer Diagnosed - Colon (>17)	PE22
CALUNG	Cancer Diagnosed - Lung (>17)	PE22
CALYMPH	Cancer Diagnosed - Lymphoma (>17)	PE22
CAMELANO	Cancer Diagnosed - Melanoma (>17)	PE22

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
CAOTHER	Cancer Diagnosed - Other (>17)	PE22
CAPROSTA	Cancer Diagnosed - Prostate (>17)	PE22
CASKINNM	Cancer Diagnosed – Skin-Nonmelano (>17)	PE22
CASKINDK	Cancer Diagnosed – Skin-Unknown Type (>17)	PE22
CAUTERUS	Cancer Diagnosed - Uterus (>17)	PE22
DIABDX	Diabetes Diagnosis (>17)	PE26
DIABAGED	Age of Diagnosis-Diabetes	PE27
JTPAIN31	Joint Pain Last 12 Months (>17) – RD 3/1	PE28
ARTHDX	Arthritis Diagnosis (>17)	PE29
ARTHTYPE	Type Of Arthritis Diagnosed (>17)	PE30
ARTHAGED	Age of Diagnosis-Arthritis	PE31
ASTHDX	Asthma Diagnosis	PE32
ASTHAGED	Age of Diagnosis-Asthma	PE33
ASSTIL31	Does Person Still Have Asthma – RD 3/1	PE33A
ASATAK31	Asthma Attack Last 12 Mos– RD 3/1	PE34
ASTHEP31	When Was Last Episode Of Asthma – Rd 3/1	PE35
ADHDADDX	ADHD/ADD Diagnosis (5-17)	PE36
ADHDAGED	Age of Diagnosis-ADHD/ADD	PE37

HEALTH STATUS VARIABLES - PUBLIC USE

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
IADLHP31	IADL Screener – RD 3/1	HE 1-3
ADLHLP31	ADL Screener – RD 3/1	HE 4-6
AIDHLP31	Used Assistive Devices – RD 3/1	HE 7-8
WLKLIM31	Limitation in Physical Functioning – RD 3/1	HE 9-10
LFTDIF31	Difficulty Lifting 10 Pounds – RD 3/1	HE 11
STPDIF31	Difficulty Walking up 10 Steps – RD 3/1	HE 12
WLKDIF31	Difficulty Walking 3 Blocks – RD 3/1	HE 13
MILDIF31	Difficulty Walking a Mile – RD 3/1	HE 14
STNDIF31	Difficulty Standing 20 Minutes – RD 3/1	HE 15
BENDIF31	Difficulty Bending/Stooping – RD 3/1	HE 16
RCHDIF31	Difficulty Reaching Overhead – RD 3/1	HE 17
FNGRDF31	Difficulty Using Fingers to Grasp – RD 3/1	HE 18
ACTLIM31	Any Limitation Work/Housewrk/Schl – RD 3/1	HE 19-20
WRKLIM31	Work Limitation – RD 3/1	HE 20A
HSELIM31	Housework Limitation – RD 3/1	HE 20A
SCHLIM31	School Limitation – RD 3/1	HE 20A
UNABLE31	Completely Unable to Do Activity – RD 3/1	HE 21
SOCLIM31	Social Limitations – RD 3/1	HE 22-23
COGLIM31	Cognitive Limitations – RD 3/1	HE 24-25
DFHEAR42	Serious Difficulty Hearing-RD4/2	HE26-27
DEAF42	Person Is Deaf – RD 4/2	HE 28
DFSEE42	Serious Difficulty See w/Glasses-RD4/2	HE29-30
BLIND42	Person Is Blind – RD 4/2	HE 31
DFCOG42	Serious Cognitive Difficulties-RD4/2	HE32-33
DFWLKC42	Serious Difculty Wlk/Climb Stairs-RD4/2	HE34-35
DFDRSB42	Difficulty Dressing/Bathing-RD4/2	HE36-37
DFERND42	Difficulty Doing Errands Alone-RD4/2	HE38-39
HEARAD42	Person Wears Hearing Aid – RD 4/2	HE 40-41
WRGLAS42	Wears Eyeglasses or Contacts – RD 4/2	HE 42-43
ANYLMI17	Any Limitation in P21R3,4/P22R1,2	Constructed
CHPMED42	CSHCN: Child Needs Prescrb Med(0-17)-R4/2	CS03
CHPMHB42	CSHCN: Pmed for Hlth/Behv Cond (0-17)-R4/2	CS03OV1

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
CHPMCN42	CSHCN: Pmed Cond Last 12+ Mos (0-17)-R4/2	CS03OV2
CHSERV42	CSHCN: Chld Needs Med&Oth Serv (0-17)-R4/2	CS04
CHSRHB42	CSHCN: Serv for Hlth/Behv Cond(0-17)-R4/2	CS04OV1
CHSRCN42	CSHCN: Serv Cond Last 12+ Mos (0-17)-R4/2	CS04OV2
CHLIMI42	CSHCN: Limited in Any Way (0-17)-R4/2	CS05
CHLIHB42	CSHCN: Limt for Hlth/Behv Cond(0-17)-R4/2	CS05OV1
CHLICO42	CSHCN: Limit Cond Last 12+ Mos (0-17)-R4/2	CS05OV2
CHTHER42	CSHCN: Chld Needs Spec Therapy (0-17)-R4/2	CS06
CHTHHB42	CSHCN: Spec Ther for Hlth+Cond(0-17)-R4/2	CS06OV1
CHTHCO42	CSHCN: Ther Cond Last 12+ Mos (0-17)-R4/2	CS06OV2
CHCOUN42	CSHCN: Child Needs Counseling (0-17)-R4/2	CS07
CHEMPB42	CSHCN: Couns Prob Last 12+ Mos (0-17)-R4/2	CS07OV
CSHCN42	CSHCN:Child w/Spec HC Needs (0-17)-R4/2	CS03-CS07OV
MOMPRO42	Problem Getting Along w/Mom (5-17)-R4/2	CS08_01
DADPRO42	Problem Getting Along w/Dad (5-17)-R4/2	CS08_02
UNHAP42	Problem Feeling Unhappy/Sad (5-17)-R4/2	CS08_03
SCHLBH42	Problem Behavior at School (5-17)-R4/2	CS08_04
HAVFUN42	Problem Having Fun (5-17) – R4/2	CS08_05
ADUPRO42	Prblm Getting Along w/Adults (5-17)-R4/2	CS08_06
NERVAF42	Prblm Feeling Nervous/Afraid (5-17)-R4/2	CS08_07
SIBPRO42	Prblm Getting Along w/Sibs (5-17)-R4/2	CS08_08
KIDPRO42	Prblm Getting Along w/Kids (5-17)-R4/2	CS08_09
SPRPRO42	Problem w/Sports/Hobbies (5-17)–R4/2	CS08_10
SCHPRO42	Problem With Schoolwork (5-17)-R4/2	CS08_11
HOMEBH42	Problem w/Behavior at Home (5-17)-R4/2	CS08_12
TRBLE42	Prblm Stay out Of Trouble (5-17)-R4/2	CS08_13
CHILCR42	CAHPS:12Mos: Ill/Inj Need Care (0-17)R4/2	CS09A
CHILWW42	CAHPS:12Mos: Ill Care Whn Needed (0-17)R4/2	CS10A
CHRTCR42	CAHPS:12Mos: Make Apt (0-17)R4/2	CS11A
CHRTWW42	CAHPS:12Mos: Apt Whn Needed (0-17)R4/2	CS12A
CHAPPT42	CAHPS:12Mos: # of Off/Clin Apts (0-17)R4/2	CS13
CHNDCR42	CAHPS:12Mos:Need Any Care/Trt(0-17)-R4/2	CS14A
CHENEC42	CAHPS:12Mos: Esy Get Nec Care (0-17)R4/2	CS14

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
CHLIST42	CAHPS:12Mos: Chld Dr Lsn to You (0-17)R4/2	CS15
CHEXPL42	CAHPS:12Mos: Chld Dr Expl Thng (0-17)R4/2	CS16
CHRESP42	CAHPS:12Mos: Chld's Dr Shw Resp(0-17)R4/2	CS17
CHPRTM42	CAHPS:12Mos: Child Dr Engh Time(0-17)R4/2	CS18
CHHECR42	CAHPS:12Mos: Rate Chld Hlt Care (0-17)R4/2	CS19
CHSPEC42	CAHPS:12Mos: Chld Needed Spec (0-17)R4/2	CS20
CHEYRE42	CAHPS:12Mos: Esy w/Rfr to Spec (0-17)R4/2	CS21
MESHGT42	Doctor Ever Measured Height (0-17)-R4/2	CS22
WHNHGT42	When Doctor Measured Height (0-17)-R4/2	CS22OV
MESWGT42	Doctor Ever Measured Weight (0-17)-R4/2	CS24
WHNWGT42	When Doctor Measured Weight (0-17)-R4/2	CS24OV
CHBMIX42	Child's Body Mass Index (6-17)-R4/2	Constructed
MESVIS42	Doctor Checked Child's Vision (3-6)-R4/2	CS26
MESBPR42	Dr Checked Blood Pressure (2-17)-R4/2	CS27
WHNBPR42	When Dr Checked Blood Press (2-17)-R4/2	CS27OV
DENTAL42	Dr Advise Reg Dental Checkup (2-17)-R4/2	CS28
WHNDEN42	When Dr Advise Dent Checkup (2-17)-R4/2	CS28OV
EATHLT42	Dr Advise Eat Healthy (2-17)-R4/2	CS29
WHNEAT42	When Dr Advise Eat Healthy (2-17)-R4/2	CS29OV
PHYSCL42	Dr Advise Exercise (2-17)-R4/2	CS30
WHNPHY42	When Dr Advise Exercise (2-17)-R4/2	CS30OV
SAFEST42	Dr Advise Chld Safety Seat (Wt<=40)-R4/2	CS31
WHNSAF42	When Dr Advise Safety Seat (Wt<=40)-R4/2	CS31OV
BOOST42	Dr Advise Booster Seat (40<Wt<=80)-R4/2	CS32
WHNBST42	Whn Dr Advise Booster Seat(40<Wt<=80)-R4/2	CS32OV
LAPBLT42	Dr Advise Lap/Shoulder Belt (80<Wt)-R4/2	CS33
WHNLAP42	Whn Dr Advise Lap/Shldr Blt (80<Wt)-R4/2	CS33OV
HELMET42	Dr Advise Bike Helmet (2-17)-R4/2	CS34
WHNHEL42	When Dr Advise Bike Helmet (2-17)-R4/2	CS34OV
NOSMOK42	Dr Advise Smkg in Home is Bad(0-17)-R4/2	CS35
WHNSMK42	Whn Dr Advis Smkg in Home Bad(0-17)-R4/2	CS35OV
TIMALN42	Doctor Spend Any Time Alone (12-17)-R4/2	CS36
LSTETH53	Lost All Uppr And Lowr Teeth (>17) – RD 5/3	AP18B

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
PHYEXE53	Mod/Vig Phys Exec 5X Wk (>17) – RD 5/3	AP28
OFTSMK53	How Ofn Smoke Cigarettes (>17) – RD 5/3	AH120

DISABILITY DAYS VARIABLES – PUBLIC USE

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
DDNWRK17	# Days Missed Work Due to Ill/Inj 2017	DD02 DD02A
OTHDYS17	Miss Any Work Day to Care for Oth 2017	DD10
OTHNDD17	# Day Missed Work to Care for Oth 2017	DD11 DD11A

ACCESS TO CARE VARIABLES - PUBLIC USE

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
ACCELI42	Pers Eligible for Access Supplement-R4/2	Constructed
HAVEUS42	AC05 Does Person Have USC Provider-R4/2	AC05
YNOUSC42	AC07 Main Reas Pers Doesnt Have USC-R4/2	AC07
NOREAS42	AC08 Oth Reas No USC:No Oth Reasons-R4/2	AC08
SELDSI42	AC08 Oth Reas No USC:Seldm/Nev Sick-R4/2	AC08
NEWARE42	AC08 Oth Reas No USC:Recently Moved-R4/2	AC08
DKWHRU42	AC08 Oth Reas No USC:Dk Where to Go-R4/2	AC08
USCNOT42	AC08 Oth Reas No USC: USC Not Avail-R4/2	AC08
PERSLA42	AC08 Oth Reas No USC: Language - R4/2	AC08
DIFFPL42	AC08 Oth Reas No USC:Diffrent Places-R4/2	AC08
INSRPL42	AC08 Oth Reas No USC:Just Chngd Ins-R4/2	AC08
MYSELF42	AC08 Oth Reas No USC:No Doc/Trt Slf-R4/2	AC08
CARECO42	AC08 Oth Reas No USC:Cost Of Med Cr-R4/2	AC08
NOHINS42	AC08 Oth Reas No USC:No Hlth Insrnc-R4/2	AC08
OTHINS42	AC08 Oth Reas No USC: Ins Related-R4/2	AC08
JOBRSN42	AC08 Oth Reas No USC: Job Related-R4/2	AC08
NEWDOC42	AC08 Oth Reas No USC: Lookng for Dr-R4/2	AC08
DOCELS42	AC08 Oth Reas No USC: Dr Elsewhere-R4/2	AC08
NOLIKE42	AC08 Oth Reas No USC: Dont Like Drs-R4/2	AC08
HEALTH42	AC08 Oth Reas No USC: Hlth Related-R4/2	AC08
KNOWDR42	AC08 Oth Reas No USC: Knows/Is a Dr-R4/2	AC08
NOGODR42	AC08 Oth Reas No USC: Wont Go to Dr-R4/2	AC08
TRANS42	AC08 Oth Reas No USC: Transprt/Time R4/2	AC08
CLINIC42	AC08: Oth Reas No USC: Hosp/ER/Clnic-R4/2	AC08
OTHREA42	AC08 Oth Reas No USC: Other Reason-R4/2	AC08
PROVTY42	Provider Type – R4/2	PV01, PV03, PV05, PV10
PLCTYP42	USC Type of Place – R4/2	AC11
TMTKUS42	AC13 How Long It Takes Get to USC-R4/2	AC13
TYPEPE42	USC Type of Provider – R4/2	AC15, AC16, AC16OV, AC17, AC17OV

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
LOCATN42	USC Location – R4/2	Constructed
HSPLAP42	AC18 Is Provider Hispanic or Latino–R4/2	AC18
WHITPR42	AC19 Is Provider White – R4/2	AC19
BLCKPR42	AC19 Is Provider Black/African Amer-R4/2	AC19
ASIANP42	AC19 Is Provider Asian – R4/2	AC19
NATAMP42	AC19 Is Provider Native American – R4/2	AC19
PACISP42	AC19 Is Provider Oth Pacific Islndr-R4/2	AC19
OTHRCP42	AC19 Is Provider Some Other Race – R4/2	AC19
GENDRP42	AC20 Is Provider Male or Female – R4/2	AC20
MINORP42	AC22 Go To USC For New Health Prob-R4/2	AC22
PREVEN42	AC22 Go To USC For Prvntve Hlt Care-R4/2	AC22
REFFRL42	AC22 Go To USC For Referrals – R4/2	AC22
ONGONG42	AC22 Go To USC For Ongoing Hlth Prb-R4/2	AC22
PHNREG42	AC23 How Diff Contact USC By Phone-R4/2	AC23
OFFHOU42	AC24 USC Has Office Hrs Ngths/Wkends-R4/2	AC24
AFTHOU42	AC25 How Diff Contact USC Aft Hours-R4/2	AC25
TREATM42	AC26 Prov Ask About Oth Treatments-R4/2	AC26
RESPCT42	AC27 Prov Shows Respect For Trtmnts-R4/2	AC27
DECIDE42	AC28 Prov Asks Pers to Help Decide-R4/2	AC28
EXPLOP42	AC30 Prov Explns Options to Pers – R4/2	AC30
PRVSPK42	AC31 Prov Speaks Person’s Language–R4/2	AC31
MDUNAB42	Unable To Get Necessry Medical Care–R4/2	AC32A, AC32, AC33
MDUNRS42	AC34 Rsn Unable Get Necsry Med Care-R4/2	AC34
MDDLAY42	Delayed In Getting Necsry Med Care-R4/2	AC36, AC37
MDDLRS42	AC38 Rsn Dlayd Getting Nec Med Care-R4/2	AC38
DNUNAB42	Unable To Get Necessary Dental Care-R4/2	AC40A, AC40, AC41
DNUNRS42	AC42 Rsn Unable Get Ncsry Dent Care-R4/2	AC42
DNDLAY42	Delayed In Getting Nec Dental Care-R4/2	AC44, AC45
DNDLRS42	AC46 Rsn Dlayd Gettng Nec Dent Care-R4/2	AC46
PMUNAB42	Unable to Get Necessary Pres Med – R4/2	AC48A, AC48, AC49
PMUNRS42	AC50 Rsn Unable to Get Nec Pres Med-R4/2	AC50

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
PMDLAY42	Delayed In Getting Necsry Pres Med-R4/2	AC52, AC53
PMDLRS42	AC54 Rsn Dlayd Getting Nec Pres Med-R4/2	AC54

EMPLOYMENT VARIABLES - PUBLIC USE

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
EMPST31	Employment Status RD 3/1	EM 1-3; RJ 1, 6
EMPST42	Employment Status RD 4/2	EM 1-3; RJ 1, 6
EMPST53	Employment Status RD 5/3	EM 1-3; RJ 1, 6
RNDFLG31	Data Collection Round for RD 3/1 CMJ	Constructed
MORJOB31	Has More than One Job RD 3/1 Int Date	EM 1-4, 51; RJ 1, 6; Constructed
MORJOB42	Has More than One Job RD 4/2 Int Date	EM 1-4, 51; RJ 1, 6; Constructed
MORJOB53	Has More than One Job RD 5/3 Int Date	EM 1-4, 51; RJ 1, 6; Constructed
EVRWRK	Ever Wrkd for Pay in Life as of 12/31/17	EM 1-4, 51; RJ 1, 6; Constructed
HRWG31X	Hourly Wage RD 3/1 CMJ (Imp)	EW 3-5, 7, 11-13, 17-18, 24; EM 104, 111
HRWG42X	Hourly Wage RD 4/2 CMJ (Imp)	EW 3-5, 7, 11-13, 17-18, 24; EM 104, 111
HRWG53X	Hourly Wage RD 5/3 CMJ (Imp)	EW 3-5, 7, 11-13, 17-18, 24; EM 104, 111
HRWGIM31	HRWG31X Imputation Flag	Constructed
HRWGIM42	HRWG42X Imputation Flag	Constructed
HRWGIM53	HRWG53X Imputation Flag	Constructed
HRHOW31	How Hourly Wage Was Calculated RD 3/1	EM 2-3, 51, 104, 111; EW 2-24
HRHOW42	How Hourly Wage Was Calculated RD 4/2	EM 2-3, 51, 104, 111; EW 2-24
HRHOW53	How Hourly Wage Was Calculated RD 5/3	EM 2-3, 51, 104, 111; EW 2-24
DIFFWG31	Persons Wages Different this RD31 at CMJ	RJ02
DIFFWG42	Persons Wages Different this RD42 at CMJ	RJ02
DIFFWG53	Persons Wages Different this RD53 at CMJ	RJ02
NHRWG31	Updated Hrly Wage RD 3/1 CMJ (Edited)	EW 3-5, 7, 11-13, 17-18, 24; EM 104, 111

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
NHRWG42	Updated Hrly Wage RD 4/2 CMJ (Edited)	EW 3-5, 7, 11-13, 17-18, 24; EM 104, 111
NHRWG53	Updated Hrly Wage RD 5/3 CMJ (Edited)	EW 3-5, 7, 11-13, 17-18, 24; EM 104, 111
HOUR31	Hours Per Week at RD 3/1 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 104-105, 111; EW 17
HOUR42	Hours Per Week at RD 4/2 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 104-105, 111; EW 17
HOUR53	Hours Per Week at RD 5/3 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 104-105, 111; EW 17
TEMPJB31	Is CMJ a Temporary Job RD 3/1	EM 105C, 111C
TEMPJB42	Is CMJ a Temporary Job RD 4/2	EM 105C, 111C
TEMPJB53	Is CMJ a Temporary Job RD 5/3	EM 105C, 111C
SSNLJB31	Is CMJ a Seasonal Job RD 3/1	EM 105D, 111D
SSNLJB42	Is CMJ a Seasonal Job RD 4/2	EM 105D, 111D
SSNLJB53	Is CMJ a Seasonal Job RD 5/3	EM 105D, 111D
SELFCM31	Self-Employed at RD 3/1 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51; RJ 01
SELFCM42	Self-Employed at RD 4/2 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51; RJ 01
SELFCM53	Self-Employed at RD 5/3 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51; RJ 01
DISVW31X	Disavowed Health Ins at RD 3/1 CMJ (Ed)	EM113, 117; RJ07, 08, 08A; HX and OE Sections
DISVW42X	Disavowed Health Ins at RD 4/2 CMJ (Ed)	EM113, 117; RJ07, 08, 08A; HX and OE Sections
DISVW53X	Disavowed Health Ins at RD 5/3 CMJ (Ed)	EM113, 117; RJ07, 08, 08A; HX and OE Sections
CHOIC31	Choice of Health Plans at RD 3/1 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 96, 113-115, 124; RJ08
CHOIC42	Choice of Health Plans at RD 4/2 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 96, 113-115, 124; RJ08
CHOIC53	Choice of Health Plans at RD 5/3 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 96, 113-115, 124; RJ08
INDCAT31	Industry Group RD 3/1 CMJ	EM 97-100; RJ01; Constructed

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
INDCAT42	Industry Group RD 4/2 CMJ	EM 97-100; RJ01; Constructed
INDCAT53	Industry Group RD 5/3 CMJ	EM 97-100; RJ01; Constructed
NUMEMP31	Number of Employees at RD 3/1 CMJ	EM 91-92, 124; RJ01
NUMEMP42	Number of Employees at RD 4/2 CMJ	EM 91-92, 124; RJ01
NUMEMP53	Number of Employees at RD 5/3 CMJ	EM 91-92, 124; RJ01
MORE31	RD 3/1 CMJ Firm Has More than 1 Locat	EM 1-3, 51, 94; RJ01
MORE42	RD 4/2 CMJ Firm Has More than 1 Locat	EM 1-3, 51, 94; RJ01
MORE53	RD 5/3 CMJ Firm Has More than 1 Locat	EM 1-3, 51, 94; RJ01
UNION31	Union Status at RD 3/1 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 96, 116; RJ01
UNION42	Union Status at RD 4/2 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 96, 116; RJ01
UNION53	Union Status at RD 5/3 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 96, 116; RJ01
NWK31	Reason Not Working During RD 3/1	EM 1-3, 101-102, 126-127, 132-133, 138-139, 141, 141OV; RJ10
NWK42	Reason Not Working During RD 4/2	EM 1-3, 101-102, 126-127, 132-133, 138-139, 141, 141OV; RJ10
NWK53	Reason Not Working During RD 5/3	EM 1-3, 101-102, 126-127, 132-133, 138-139, 141, 141OV; RJ10
CHGJ3142	Changed Job between RD 3/1 and RD 4/2	RJ01, 01A
CHGJ4253	Changed Job between RD 4/2 and RD 5/3	RJ01, 01A
YCHJ3142	Why Chngd Job between RD 3/1 and RD 4/2	RJ10, 100V
YCHJ4253	Why Chngd Job between RD 4/2 and RD 5/3	RJ10, 100V

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
STJBM31	Month Started RD 3/1 CMJ	EM10, 10OV, 10OV2; RJ01, 02A
STJBY31	Year Started RD 3/1 CMJ	EM10, 10OV, 10OV2; RJ01, 01A
STJBM42	Month Started RD 4/2 CMJ	EM10, 10OV, 10OV2; RJ01, 01A
STJBY42	Year Started RD 4/2 CMJ	EM10, 10OV, 10OV2; RJ01, 01A
STJBM53	Month Started RD 5/3 CMJ	EM10, 10OV, 10OV2; RJ01, 01A
STJBY53	Year Started RD 5/3 CMJ	EM10, 10OV, 10OV2; RJ01, 01A
EVRETIRE	Person Has Ever Retired	EM 1-3, 101-102, 126-127, 132-133, 138-139, 141, 141OV; RJ 02, 10
OCCCAT31	Occupation Group RD 3/1 CMJ	EM99-100; RJ 01, 01A; Constructed
OCCCAT42	Occupation Group RD 4/2 CMJ	EM99-100; RJ 01, 01A; Constructed
OCCCAT53	Occupation Group RD 5/3 CMJ	EM99-100; RJ 01, 01A; Constructed
PAYVAC31	Paid Vacation at RD 3/1 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 109; RJ 01, 02
PAYVAC42	Paid Vacation at RD 4/2 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 109; RJ 01, 02
PAYVAC53	Paid Vacation at RD 5/3 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 109; RJ 01, 02
SICPAY31	Paid Sick Leave at RD 3/1 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 107; RJ 01, 02
SICPAY42	Paid Sick Leave at RD 4/2 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 107; RJ 01, 02
SICPAY53	Paid Sick Leave at RD 5/3 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 107; RJ 01, 02
PAYDR31	Paid Leave to Visit Dr RD 3/1 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 107- 108; RJ 01, 02
PAYDR42	Paid Leave to Visit Dr RD 4/2 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 107- 108; RJ 01, 02

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
PAYDR53	Paid Leave to Visit Dr RD 5/3 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 107-108; RJ 01, 02
RETPLN31	Pension Plan at RD 3/1 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 110; RJ 01, 02
RETPLN42	Pension Plan at RD 4/2 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 110; RJ 01, 02
RETPLN53	Pension Plan at RD 5/3 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 110; RJ 01, 02
BSNTY31	Sole Prop, Partner, Corp, RD 3/1 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 94-95; RJ 01, 02
BSNTY42	Sole Prop, Partner, Corp, RD 4/2 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 94-95; RJ 01, 02
BSNTY53	Sole Prop, Partner, Corp, RD 5/3 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 94-95; RJ 01, 02
JOBORG31	Priv (Profit,Nonprofit) Gov RD 3/1 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 96; RJ 01, 02
JOBORG42	Priv (Profit,Nonprofit) Gov RD 4/2 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 96; RJ 01, 02
JOBORG53	Priv (Profit,Nonprofit) Gov RD 5/3 CMJ	EM 1-3, 51, 96; RJ 01, 02
HELD31X	Health Insur Held from RD 3/1 CMJ (Ed)	EM117; HX, HP and OE Sections
HELD42X	Health Insur Held from RD 4/2 CMJ (Ed)	EM117; HX, HP and OE Sections
HELD53X	Health Insur Held from RD 5/3 CMJ (Ed)	EM117; HX, HP and OE Sections
OFFER31X	Health Insur Offered by RD 3/1 CMJ (Ed)	EM113, 114, 117; RJ and HX Sections
OFFER42X	Health Insur Offered by RD 4/2 CMJ (Ed)	EM113, 114, 117; RJ and HX Sections
OFFER53X	Health Insur Offered by RD 5/3 CMJ (Ed)	EM113, 114, 117; RJ and HX Sections
OFREMP31	Employer Offers Health Ins RD 3/1 CMJ	EM115A, RJ08AAA
OFREMP42	Employer Offers Health Ins RD 4/2 CMJ	EM115A, RJ08AAA
OFREMP53	Employer Offers Health Ins RD 5/3 CMJ	EM115A, RJ08AAA

HEALTH INSURANCE VARIABLES - PUBLIC USE

MONTHLY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE INDICATORS

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
TRImm17X	Covered by TRICARE/CHAMPVA in mm 17 (Ed), where mm = JA-DE	HX12, 13, PR19-22, HQ Section
MCRmm17	Covered by Medicare in mm 17, where mm = JA-DE	HX05-07, 27, 29, 29OV
MCRmm17X	Covered by Medicare in mm 17 (Ed), where mm = JA-DE	HX05-07, 27, 29, 29OV, see Section 2.5.9.1 for additional edit specifications
MCDmm17	Cov by Medicaid or SCHIP in mm 17, where mm = JA-DE	HX10-11, PR07-10 and HQ Section
MCDmm17X	Cov by Medicaid or SCHIP in mm 17 (Ed), where mm = JA-DE	MCDmm17, HX14-16, 18-19, 41-43, 45, PR11-14, 23-32, 39-42
OPAm17	Cov by Other Public A Ins in mm 17, where mm = JA-DE	HX14-15, 41-45, PR 23-32 and HQ Section
OPBmm17	Cov by Other Public B Ins in mm 17, where mm = JA-DE	HX14-15, 41-43, PR23-30 and HQ Section
PUBmm17X	Covr by Any Public Ins in mm 17 (Ed), where mm = JA-DE	TRImm17X, MCRmm17X, MCDmm17X, OPAmm17, OPBmm17
PEGmm17	Covered by Empl Union Ins in mm 17, where mm = JA-DE	HX2-4, 21-24, 48; HP, OE, HQ, EM, RJ Sections
PDKmm17	Covr by Priv Ins (Source Unknwn) mm 17, where mm = JA-DE	HX21-24, 48, HP, OE, and HQ Sections
PNGmm17	Covered by Nongroup Ins in mm 17, where mm = JA-DE	HX21-24, 48, HP, OE, and HQ Sections

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
POGmm17	Covered by Other Group Ins in mm 17, where mm = JA-DE	HX21-24, 48, HP, OE, and HQ Sections
PRSmm17	Covered by Self-Emp-1 Ins in mm 17, where mm = JA-DE	HX3, 4, 48, HQ, OE, RJ and EM sections
POUmm17	Covered by Holder Outside of RU in mm 17, where mm = JA-DE	HX21-24, 48, HP, OE, and HQ Sections
PRXmm17	Cov by Priv Ins through Exchng in mm 17, where mm = JA-DE	HX21-24, 48, HP, OE, and HQ Sections
PRImm17	Covered by Private Ins in mm 17, where mm = JA-DE	POGmm17, PDKmm17, PEGmm17, PRSmm17, POUmm17, PNGmm17, PRXmm17
HPEmm17	Holder of Empl Union Ins in mm 17, where mm = JA-DE	PEGmm17, HP9, 11
HPDmm17	Holder of Priv Ins (Source Unknwn) mm 17, where mm = JA-DE	PDKmm17; HP11
HPNmm17	Holder of Nongroup Ins in mm 17, where mm = JA-DE	PNGmm17; HP11
HPOmm17	Holder of Other Group Ins in mm 17, where mm = JA-DE	POGmm17; HP11
HPSmm17	Holder of Self-Emp-1 Ins in mm 17, where mm = JA-DE	PRSmm17; HP9
HPXmm17	Holder of Priv Ins through Exch in mm 17, where mm = JA-DE	PRXmm17; HP11
HPRmm17	Holder of Private Insurance in mm 17, where mm = JA-DE	HPEmm17, HPSmm17, HPOmm17, HPNmm17, HPDmm17, HPXmm17
INSmm17X	Covr by Hosp/Med Ins in mm 17 (Ed), where mm = JA-DE	PUBmm17X, PRImm17

SUMMARY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE INDICATORS

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
PRVEV17	Ever Have Private Insurance during 2017	Constructed
TRIEV17	Ever Have TRICARE/CHAMPVA during 2017	Constructed
MCREV17	Ever Have Medicare during 2017 (ED)	Constructed
MCDEV17	Ever Have MCAID/SCHIP during 2017 (ED)	Constructed
OPAEV17	Ever Have Other Public A Ins during 2017	Constructed
OPBEV17	Ever Have Other Public B Ins during 2017	Constructed
UNINS17	Uninsured All of 2017	Constructed
INSCOV17	Health Insurance Coverage Indicator 2017	Constructed
INSURC17	Full Year Insurance Coverage Status 2017	Constructed

MANAGED CARE VARIABLES

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
TRIST31X	Cov By TRICARE Standard-Any Time in R3/1	HX12, 12A, 13, PR19, 19A, 20-22, HQ Section
TRIST42X	Cov By TRICARE Standard-Any Time in R4/2	HX12, 12A, 13, PR19, 19A, 20-22, HQ Section
TRIST17X	Cv By TRICARE Standard-R5/3 Til 12/31/17	HX12, 12A, 13, PR19, 19A, 20-22, HQ Section
TRIPR31X	Cov By TRICARE Prime - Any Time in R3/1	HX12, 12A, 13, PR19, 19A, 20-22, HQ Section
TRIPR42X	Cov By TRICARE Prime - Any Time in R4/2	HX12, 12A, 13, PR19, 19A, 20-22, HQ Section
TRIPR17X	Cov By TRICARE Prime-R5/3 Until 12/31/17	HX12, 12A, 13, PR19, 19A, 20-22, HQ Section
TRIEX31X	Cov By TRICARE Extra - Any Time in R3/1	HX12, 12A, 13, PR19, 19A, 20-22, HQ Section
TRIEX42X	Cov By TRICARE Extra - Any Time in R4/2	HX12, 12A, 13, PR19, 19A, 20-22, HQ Section

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
TRIEX17X	Cov By TRICARE Extra - R5/3 Til 12/31/17	HX12, 12A, 13, PR19, 19A, 20-22, HQ Section
TRILI31X	Cov By TRICARE For Life-Any Time in R3/1	HX12, 12A, 13, PR19, 19A, 20-22, HQ Section
TRILI42X	Cov By TRICARE For Life-Any Time in R4/2	HX12, 12A, 13, PR19, 19A, 20-22, HQ Section
TRILI17X	Cv By TRICARE For Life-R5/3 Til 12/31/17	HX12, 12A, 13, PR19, 19A, 20-22, HQ Section
TRICH31X	Covered By CHAMPVA – Any Time in R3/1	HX12, 12A, 13, PR19, 19A, 20-22, HQ Section
TRICH42X	Covered By CHAMPVA – Any Time in R4/2	HX12, 12A, 13, PR19, 19A, 20-22, HQ Section
TRICH17X	Covered By CHAMPVA - R5/3 Until 12/31/17	HX12, 12A, 13, PR19, 19A, 20-22, HQ Section
MCRPD31	Cov By Medicare Pmed Benefit – R3/1	HX05-07, HX33A, HX35A, PR05, PR06B, HQ Section
MCRPD42	Cov By Medicare Pmed Benefit – R4/2	HX05-07, HX33A, HX35A, PR05, PR06B, HQ Section
MCRPD17	Cov By Medicare Pmed Benefit – 12/31/17	HX05-07, HX33A, HX35A, PR05, PR06B, HQ Section
MCRPD31X	Cov By Medicare Pmed Benefit – R3/1 (ED)	MCARE31X, MCAID31X, MCRPD31
MCRPD42X	Cov By Medicare Pmed Benefit – R4/2 (ED)	MCARE42X, MCAID42X, MCRPD42

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
MCRPD17X	Cov By Mcare Pmed Benefit–12/31/17 (ED)	MCARE17X, MCAID17X, MCRPD17
MCRPB31	Cov By Medicare Part B – R3/1	HX05-07, HX25-27 and HQ section
MCRPB42	Cov By Medicare Part B – R4/2	HX05-07, HX25-27 and HQ section
MCRPB17	Cov By Medicare Part B – 12/31/17	HX05-07, HX25-27 and HQ section
MCRPHO31	Cov By Medicare Managed Care – R3/1	HX05-07, HX31-32, PR02-PR04, HQ Section
MCRPHO42	Cov By Medicare Managed Care – R4/2	HX05-07, HX31-32, PR02-PR04, HQ Section
MCRPHO17	Cov By Medicare Managed Care – 12/31/17	HX05-07, HX31-32, PR02-PR04, HQ Section
MCDHMO31	Cov By Mcaid/SCHIP HMO -Any Time in R3/1	HX10-11, HX14-16, HX18-19, HX41-43, HX45, PR07-10, PR11-14, PR23-32, PR39-42 and HQ Section
MCDHMO42	Cov By Mcaid/SCHIP HMO -Any Time in R4/2	HX10-11, HX14-16, HX18-19, HX41-43, HX45, PR07-10, PR11-14, PR23-32, PR39-42 and HQ Section
MCDHMO17	Cov By Mcaid/SCHIP HMO-R5/3 Til 12/31/17	HX10-11, HX14-16, HX18-19, HX41-43, HX45, PR07-10, PR11-14, PR23-32, PR39-42 and HQ Section

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
MCDMC31	Cv Mcaid/CHIP Gtkpr Pln-Any Time in R3/1	MCDHMO31, HX10-11, HX14-16, HX18-19, HX41-43, HX45, PR07-10, PR11-14, PR23-32, PR39-42 and HQ Section
MCDMC42	Cv Mcaid/CHIP Gtkpr Pln-Any Time in R4/2	MCDHMO42, HX10-11, HX14-16, HX18-19, HX41-43, HX45, PR07-10, PR11-14, PR23-32, PR39-42 and HQ Section
MCDMC17	Cv Mcd/CHIP Gtkpr Pln-R5/3 Til 12/31/17	MCDHMO17, HX10-11, HX14-16, HX18-19, HX41-43, HX45, PR07-10, PR11-14, PR23-32, PR39-42 and HQ Section
PRVHMO31	Covered By Private HMO–Any Time in R3/1	MC01, HX2-4, 21-24,48; HP, OE, HQ, EM, and RJ Sections
PRVHMO42	Covered By Private HMO–Any Time in R4/2	MC01, HX2-4, 21-24,48; HP, OE, HQ, EM, and RJ Sections
PRVHMO17	Covered By Private HMO-R5/3 Til 12/31/17	MC01, HX2-4, 21-24,48; HP, OE, HQ, EM, and RJ Sections

FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT VARIABLES

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
FSAGT31	Anyone in RU Have FSA - R3/1	HX63C
HASFSA31	Person is FSA Holder - R3/1	HX63D
FSAAMT31	FSA Total Amount for RU - R3/1	HX63E

DURATION OF HEALTH INSURANCE VARIABLES

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
PREVCOVR	Per Cov by Ins in Prev 2 Yrs–Pnl 22 Only	HX64
COVRMM	Month Most Recently Covered–Pnl 22 Only	HX65
COVRY	Year Most Recently Covered–Panel 22 Only	HX65
WASESTB	Was Prev Ins by Empl or Union–Pn 22 Only	HX66, HX78
WASMCARE	Was Prev Ins by Medicare–Panel 22 Only	HX66, HX78
WASMCAID	Was Prev Ins by Mcaid/SCHIP–Pnl 22 Only	HX66, HX78
WASCHAMP	Was Prev Ins TRICARE/Champva–Pnl 22 Only	HX66, HX78
WASVA	Was Prev Ins VA/Militar Care–Pnl 22 Only	HX66, HX78
WASPRIV	Was Prev Ins Grp/Assoc/Ins Co–Pn 22 Only	HX66, HX78
WASOTGOV	Was Prev Ins by Oth Gov Prg–Pnl 22 Only	HX66, HX78
WASAFDC	Was Prev Ins by Public AFDC–Pnl 22 Only	HX66, HX78
WASSSI	Was Prev Ins by SSI Program–Pnl 22 Only	HX66, HX78
WASSTAT1	Was Prev Ins by Stat Prog 1–Pnl 22 Only	HX66, HX78
WASSTAT2	Was Prev Ins by Stat Prog 2–Pnl 22 Only	HX66, HX78
WASSTAT3	Was Prev Ins by Stat Prog 3–Pnl 22 Only	HX66, HX78
WASSTAT4	Was Prev Ins by Stat Prog 4–Pnl 22 Only	HX66, HX78
WASOTHER	Was Prev Ins by Oth Source–Panel 22 Only	HX66, HX78
NOINSBEF	Evr Wout Hlth Insr Prev Yr–Panel 22 Only	HX70
NOINSTM	# Wks/Mon Wout Hlth Ins Prv Yr–P22 Only	HX71
NOINUNIT	Unit Of Time Wout Hlth Ins–Panel 22 Only	HX71OV
MORECOVR	Cov by Mor Compr Pl Prev 2 Yr–Pn 22 Only	HX76
INSENDMM	Month Most Recently Covd–Panel 22 Only	HX77
INSENDYY	Year Most Recently Covd–Panel 22 Only	HX77

OTHER HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE VARIABLES

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
TRICR31X	Cov by TRICR/CHAMV - R3/1 Int Dt (Ed)	Constructed
TRICR42X	Cov by TRICR/CHAMV - R4/2 Int Dt (Ed)	Constructed
TRICR53X	Cov by TRICR/CHAMV 12-31/R3 Int Dt (Ed)	Constructed
TRICR17X	Cov by TRICR/CHAMV - 12/31/17 (Ed)	Constructed
TRIAT31X	Cov TRICARE/CHAMPVA - Any Time in R3/1	Constructed
TRIAT42X	Cov TRICARE/CHAMPVA - Any Time in R4/2	Constructed
TRIAT53X	Cov TRICARE/CHAMPVA - Any Time in R5/3	Constructed
TRIAT17X	Cov TRICARE/CHAMPVA-R5/3 Until 12/31/17	Constructed
MCAID31	Cov by Medicaid or SCHIP - R3/1 Int Dt	Constructed
MCAID42	Cov by Medicaid or SCHIP - R4/2 Int Dt	Constructed
MCAID53	Cov by Medicaid or SCHIP 12-31/R3 Int Dt	Constructed
MCAID17	Cov by Medicaid or SCHIP - 12/31/17	Constructed
MCAID31X	Cov by Medicaid/SCHIP - R3/1 Int Dt (Ed)	Constructed
MCAID42X	Cov by Medicaid/SCHIP - R4/2 Int Dt (Ed)	Constructed
MCAID53X	Cov Medicaid/SCHIP 12-31/R3 Int Dt (Ed)	Constructed
MCAID17X	Cov by Medicaid or SCHIP - 12/31/17 (Ed)	Constructed
MCARE31	Cov by Medicare - R3/1 Int Dt	Constructed
MCARE42	Cov by Medicare - R4/2 Int Dt	Constructed
MCARE53	Cov by Medicare 12-31/R3 Int Dt	Constructed
MCARE17	Cov by Medicare - 12/31/17	Constructed
MCARE31X	Cov by Medicare - R3/1 Int Dt (Ed)	Constructed
MCARE42X	Cov by Medicare - R4/2 Int Dt (Ed)	Constructed
MCARE53X	Cov by Medicare 12-31/R3 Int Dt (Ed)	Constructed
MCARE17X	Cov by Medicare - 12/31/17 (Ed)	Constructed
MCDAT31X	Cov Medicaid Or SCHIP - Any Time in R3/1	Constructed
MCDAT42X	Cov Medicaid Or SCHIP - Any Time in R4/2	Constructed
MCDAT53X	Cov Medicaid Or SCHIP – Any Time in R5/3	Constructed
MCDAT17X	Cv Mcd/CHIP-Any Tme In R5/3 Til 12/31/17	Constructed
OTPAAT31	Cov Ot Gov Mcd/CHIP HMO-Any Time in R3/1	Constructed
OTPAAT42	Cov Ot Gov Mcd/CHIP HMO-Any Time in R4/2	Constructed
OTPAAT53	Cov Ot Gov Mcd/CHIP HMO-Any Time in R5/3	Constructed
OTPAAT17	Cv Ot Gov Mcd/CHIP HMO-R5/3 Til 12/31/17	Constructed

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
OTPBAT31	Cv Otg Nt Mcd/CHIP HMO-Any Time in R3/1	Constructed
OTPBAT42	Cv Otg Nt Mcd/CHIP HMO-Any Time in R4/2	Constructed
OTPBAT53	Cv Otg Nt Mcd/CHIP HMO-Any Time in R5/3	Constructed
OTPBAT17	Cv Otg Nt Mcd/CHIP HMO-R5/3 Til 12/31/17	Constructed
OTPUBA31	Cov/Pay Oth Gov Mcaid/SCHIP HMO-R3/1 Int	Constructed
OTPUBA42	Cov/Pay Oth Gov Mcaid/SCHIP HMO-R4/2 Int	Constructed
OTPUBA53	Cov/Pay Oth Gov Mcaid/SCHIP HMO 12-31/R3	Constructed
OTPUBA17	Cov/Pay Oth Gov Mcaid/SCHIP HMO-12/31/17	Constructed
OTPUBB31	Cov Oth Gov Not Mcaid/SCHIP HMO-R3/1 Int	Constructed
OTPUBB42	Cov Oth Gov Not Mcaid/SCHIP HMO-R4/2 Int	Constructed
OTPUBB53	Cov Oth Gov Not Mcaid/SCHIP HMO 12-31/R3	Constructed
OTPUBB17	Cov Oth Gov Not Mcaid/SCHIP HMO-12/31/17	Constructed
PRIDK31	Cov by Priv Ins (Dk Plan) - R3/1 Int	Constructed
PRIDK42	Cov by Priv Ins (Dk Plan) - R4/2 Int	Constructed
PRIDK53	Cov by Priv Ins (Dk Plan) 12-31/R3 Int	Constructed
PRIDK17	Cov by Priv Ins (Dk Plan) - 12/31/17	Constructed
PRIEU31	Cov by Empl/Union Grp Ins - R3/1 Int Dt	Constructed
PRIEU42	Cov by Empl/Union Grp Ins - R4/2 Int Dt	Constructed
PRIEU53	Cov by Empl/Union Grp Ins 12-31/R3 Int	Constructed
PRIEU17	Cov by Empl/Union Grp Ins - 12/31/17	Constructed
PRING31	Cov by Non-Group Ins - R3/1 Int Dt	Constructed
PRING42	Cov by Non-Group Ins - R4/2 Int Dt	Constructed
PRING53	Cov By Non-Group Ins 12-31/R3 Int Dt	Constructed
PRING17	Cov by Non-Group Ins - 12/31/17	Constructed
PRIOG31	Cov by Other Group Ins - R3/1 Int Dt	Constructed
PRIOG42	Cov by Other Group Ins - R4/2 Int Dt	Constructed
PRIOG53	Cov by Other Group Ins 12-31/R3 Int Dt	Constructed
PRIOG17	Cov by Other Group Ins - 12/31/17	Constructed
PRIS31	Cov by Self-Emp-1 Ins - R3/1 Int Dt	Constructed
PRIS42	Cov by Self-Emp-1 Ins - R4/2 Int Dt	Constructed
PRIS53	Cov by Self-Emp-1 Ins 12-31/R3 Int Dt	Constructed
PRIS17	Cov by Self-Emp-1 Ins - 12/31/17	Constructed
PRSTX31	Cov by Priv Exchange Ins -R3/1 Int Dt	Constructed

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
PRSTX42	Cov by Priv Exchange Ins -R4/2 Int Dt	Constructed
PRSTX53	Priv Exchange Ins on 12-31 R5/R3 Int Dt	Constructed
PRSTX17	Priv Exchange Insurance on 12/31/17	Constructed
PRIV31	Cov by Priv Hlth Ins - R3/1 Int Date	Constructed
PRIV42	Cov by Priv Hlth Ins - R4/2 Int Date	Constructed
PRIV53	Cov by Priv Hlth Ins 12-31/R3 Int Date	Constructed
PRIV17	Cov by Priv Hlth Ins - 12/31/17	Constructed
PRIVAT31	Cov by Private Ins - Any Time in R3/1	Constructed
PRIVAT42	Cov by Private Ins - Any Time in R4/2	Constructed
PRIVAT53	Cov by Private Ins - Any Time in R5/3	Constructed
PRIVAT17	Cov by Private Ins – R5/3 Until 12/31/17	Constructed
PROUT31	Cov by Someone Out Of RU - R3/1 Int	Constructed
PROUT42	Cov by Someone Out Of RU - R4/2 Int	Constructed
PROUT53	Cov by Someone Out Of RU 12-31/R3 Int Dt	Constructed
PROUT17	Cov by Someone Out Of RU - 12/31/17	Constructed
PUB31X	Cov by Public Ins - R3/1 Int Dt (Ed)	Constructed
PUB42X	Cov by Public Ins - R4/2 Int Dt (Ed)	Constructed
PUB53X	Cov by Public Ins 12-31/R3 Int Dt (Ed)	Constructed
PUB17X	Cov by Public Ins - 12/31/17 (Ed)	Constructed
PUBAT31X	Cov by Public - Any Time in R3/1	Constructed
PUBAT42X	Cov by Public - Any Time in R4/2	Constructed
PUBAT53X	Cov by Public - Any Time in R5/3	Constructed
PUBAT17X	Cov by Public - R5/3 Until 12/31/17	Constructed
INS31X	Insured - R3/1 Int Date (Ed)	Constructed
INS42X	Insured - R4/2 Int Date (Ed)	Constructed
INS53X	Insured 12-31/R3 Int Date (Ed)	Constructed
INS17X	Insured - 12/31/17 (Ed)	Constructed
INSAT31X	Insured Any Time in R3/1	Constructed
INSAT42X	Insured Any Time in R4/2	Constructed
INSAT53X	Insured Any Time in R5/3	Constructed
INSAT17X	Insured Any Time in R5/R3 until 12/31/17	Constructed

DENTAL AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRIVATE INSURANCE VARIABLES

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
DENTIN31	Dental Insurance - Any Time in RD 3/1	HX48, OE10, OE24, OE37
DENTIN42	Dental Insurance - Any Time in RD 4/2	HX48, OE10, OE24, OE37
DENTIN53	Dental Insurance - Any Time in RD 5/3	HX48, OE10, OE24, OE37
DNTINS31	Dental Ins - Any Time In Rd 3/1 in 2017	HX48, OE10, OE24, OE37
DNTINS17	Dentl Ins-Any Time in R5/R3 Til 12/31/17	HX48, OE10, OE24, OE37
PMEDIN31	PMED Ins - Any Time in Rd 3/1	HX48, OE10, OE24, OE37
PMEDIN42	PMEDINS - Any Time in Rd 4/2	HX48, OE10, OE24, OE37
PMEDIN53	PMEDINS - Any Time in Rd 5/3	HX48, OE10, OE24, OE37
PMDINS31	Pmed Ins - RD 3/1 in 2017	HX48, OE10, OE24, OE37
PMDINS17	Pmed Ins - R5/R3 until 12/31/17	HX48, OE10, OE24, OE37

MEDICAL DEBT VARIABLES

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
PROBPY42	Family Having Prob Paying Medical Bills	HX81
CRFMPY42	Family Med Bills Being Paid Over Time	HX82
PYUNBL42	Unable to Pay Family Medical Bills	HX83

THIRD PARTY PAYER VARIABLES – PUBLIC USE

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
PMEDUP31	Has Usual 3rd Party Payer for Pmeds – R3/1	CP01A
PMEDUP42	Has Usual 3rd Party Payer for Pmeds – R4/2	CP01A
PMEDUP53	Has Usual 3rd Party Payer for Pmeds – R5/3	CP01A
PMEDPY31	Usual 3rd Party Payer for Pmeds – R3/1	CP01B
PMEDPY42	Usual 3rd Party Payer for Pmeds – R4/2	CP01B
PMEDPY53	Usual 3rd Party Payer for Pmeds – R5/3	CP01B

PERSON-LEVEL UTILIZATION VARIABLES - PUBLIC USE

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
OBTOTV17	# Office-Based Provider Visits 2017	Constructed
OBDRV17	# Office-Based Physician Visits 2017	Constructed
OBOTHV17	# Office-Based Non-Physician Vsts 2017	Constructed
OBCHIR17	# Office-Based Chiropractor Visits 2017	Constructed
OBNURS17	# Off-Based Nurse/Practitioner Vsts 2017	Constructed
OBOPTO17	# Office-Based Optometrist Visits 2017	Constructed
OBASST17	# Office-Based Physician Ass't Vsts 2017	Constructed
OBTHER17	# Office-Based PT/OT Visits 2017	Constructed
OPTOTV17	# Outpatient Dept Provider Visits 2017	Constructed
OPDRV17	# Outpatient Dept Physician Visits 2017	Constructed
OPOTHV17	# Outpatient Dept Non-DR Visits 2017	Constructed
ERTOT17	# Emergency Room Visits 2017	Constructed
IPZERO17	# Zero-Night Hospital Stays 2017	Constructed
IPDIS17	# Hospital Discharges 2017	Constructed
IPNGT17	# Nights in Hosp for Discharges 2017	Constructed
DVTOT17	# Dental Care Visits 2017	Constructed
DVGEN17	# General Dentist Visits 2017	Constructed
HHTOTD17	# Home Health Provider Days 2017	Constructed
HHAGD17	# Agency Home Health Provider Days 2017	Constructed
HHINDD17	# Non-Agency Home Hlth Providr Days 2017	Constructed
HHINFD17	# Informal Home Hlth Provider Days 2017	Constructed

WEIGHTS VARIABLES - PUBLIC USE

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
PERWT17P	Use File Person Weight	Constructed
VARSTR	Variance Estimation Stratum - 2017	Constructed
VARPSU	Variance Estimation PSU - 2017	Constructed