

NSAF

Methodology Reports

1997 NSAF MIKA Public Use File Documentation and Codebook

Report No. 13

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Assessing
the New
Federalism

An Urban Institute
Program to Assess
Changing Social Policies

PREFACE

The 1997 NSAF MKA Public Use File Codebook is the thirteenth report in a series describing the methodology of the 1997 National Survey of America's Families (NSAF). The NSAF is part of the *Assessing the New Federalism Project* at the Urban Institute, in partnership with Child Trends, Inc. Westat conducted the data collection for the NSAF.

The NSAF is a major new survey focusing on the economic, health, and social characteristics of children, adults under the age of 65, and their families. During the first round of the survey in 1997, interviews were conducted in over 44,000 households, yielding information on over 100,000 people. The NSAF sample is representative of the nation as a whole and of 13 states and therefore has an unprecedented ability to measure differences between states.

About the Methodology Series

This series of reports has been developed to provide readers with a detailed description of the methods employed to conduct the 1997 NSAF. The early reports focus on the following:

- No. 1. An overview of the NSAF sample design, data collection techniques, and estimation methods
- No. 2. A detailed description of the NSAF sample design for both telephone and in-person interviews
- No. 3. Methods employed to produce estimation weights and the procedures used to make state and national estimates for *Snapshots of America's Families*
- No. 4. Methods used to compute and results of computing sampling errors
- No. 5. Processes used to complete the in-person component of the NSAF
- No. 6. An assessment of several measures of child and family well-being
- No. 7. Studies conducted to understand the reasons for nonresponse and the potential bias impacts of missing data
- No. 8. Response rates obtained (taking the estimation weights into account) and methods used to compute these rates
- No. 9. Methods employed to complete the telephone component
- No. 10. Data editing techniques and imputation techniques for missing variables
- No. 11. Child Public Use File
- No. 12. Qualitative comparison of the 1997 and 1999 questionnaires
- No. 13. Most Knowledgeable Adult Public Use File
- No. 14. Impact of census undercount adjusted weights on survey estimates
- No. 15. Comparisons of NSAF with other national surveys

About This Report

Report No. 13 provides documentation for the Most Knowledgeable Adult (MKA) Public Use File, which includes data on 27,599 sampled adults most knowledgeable about each sample child from the 1997 NSAF and is available at <http://newfederalism.urban.org>.

Contained here is an overview of the MKA File, including how to access and download it. Detailed information on each variable is then presented, including where it comes from on the NSAF questionnaire, how it was created, what records are missing or inapplicable entries, and (usually) why. Weighted and unweighted distributions and the question wording for each variable are also included. Two cross-reference lists are provided to assist the reader in locating variables.

The MKA Public Use File is a compressed ASCII file contained in a self-extraction program that must be downloaded and unzipped. Users of the NSAF Child Public Use File, released in the spring of 1999, will find the structure of this file very familiar. In addition, this methodology report is very similar in form to Methodology Report Number 11, the NSAF Child Public Use File Codebook.

For More Information

For more information about the National Survey of America's Families, contact Assessing the New Federalism, Urban Institute, 2100 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037, telephone: (202) 261-5377, fax: (202) 293-1918, Web site: <http://newfederalism.urban.org>.

**Genevieve Kenney
and
Fritz Scheuren**

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		<u>Definition</u>	<u>Count</u>
HHID	Household identification number	2-1	9-4
UCPSID	CPS family identifier	2-2	9-62
UFAMID	Social family identifier	2-2	9-63
RESPID	MKA identification number	2-2	9-49
WGPRO	Weight for MKA variables	2-2	9-67
WGPR1-60	Replicate weights for MKA variables	2-3	9-67
WGHLTH0	Weight for MKA health variables	2-3	9-68
WGHLTH1-60	Replicate weights for MKA health variables	2-3	9-68
SITE	State of residence	2-4	9-51
UREGION	Region	2-4	9-65

		<u>Definition</u>	<u>Count</u>
U_SOCPOV	Social family income as percent of poverty	2-6	9-56
AGE	Age	2-6	9-2
SEX	Gender	2-7	9-50
UBETH	Hispanicity	2-7	9-61
UBRACE	Race (3 category)	2-7	9-61

3 Health Status Variables3-1

		<u>Definition</u>	<u>Count</u>
BSATMED	Satisfaction with quality medical care	3-1	9-2
FDISBL	Has health condition that limits work	3-1	9-3
FHLTHP	Current health status compared to 12 months ago	3-2	9-3
UCURCVG2	Current coverage	3-2	9-62
UHICOV	Current coverage—3 level hierarchy	3-2	9-63
UVISIT	Number of health care visits past 12 months	3-3	9-67
USOURCE	Usual source of care	3-3	9-66
UNOCON	Not confident in access to care	3-3	9-65
UCNGHL	Fair/poor health status	3-3	9-61
NDEPRESA	Very nervous in past month	3-4	9-22
NDEPRESB	Felt calm and peaceful in last month	3-4	9-23
NDEPRESC	MKA felt downhearted in last month	3-4	9-24
NDEPRESD	MKA was a happy person in last month	3-4	9-25
NDEPRESE	MKA could not be cheered up in last month	3-5	9-26
UMH2	100-point mental health scale	3-5	9-65
UMH2NEG	Negative (poor) mental health	3-5	9-66

4 Education and Training Variables4-1

		<u>Definition</u>	<u>Count</u>
UBCPSED	Educational level, CPS	4-1	9-60
LUNPJB	Participates in unpaid job	4-1	9-6
LWHUNP	Ever participated in unpaid job in past	4-1	9-10
LUNPREQ	Had unpaid job for welfare	4-2	9-7
LAFDC	Unpaid job for AFDC	4-2	9-4
LFDSTMP	Unpaid job for food stamps	4-3	9-5
LGENASS	Unpaid job for general assistance	4-3	9-5
LWHVCHR	Given vouchers for education	4-3	9-10
LUSVCHR	Used voucher	4-3	9-07
LJBCLAS	Received help looking for work in 1996	4-4	9-6
LWHJBCL	Received help looking for work	4-4	9-8
LWHTRN	Took job training courses	4-5	9-9
LWHHSCL	Took GED classes	4-5	9-8
LWHCRDT	Took college courses	4-5	9-8

5 Housing and Hardship Variables5-1

		<u>Definition</u>	<u>Count</u>
MOWNRENT	Own or rent	5-1	9-19
MLIVETM	Time lived at this home	5-1	9-15
MLIVEUN	Time lived at this home—unit of time	5-2	9-15
MINSTATE	In-stat or out-of-state move	5-2	9-14
MNBEDRMS	Number of bedrooms in house	5-2	9-18
MMORRENT	Monthly mortgage or rent	5-2	9-16
MLESSRNT	Government pays rent	5-3	9-14
MMOVEIN	Anyone taken in during last 12 months	5-3	9-16
MFDWORRY	Worried food would run out	5-3	9-13
MFDLACK	Food bought didn't last	5-4	9-12
MCUTMEAL	Cut/skip meals for lack of money	5-4	9-11
MCUTOFT	Cut/skip meals for lack of money—frequency	5-4	9-11
MPAYRENT	Unable to pay rent in last year	5-4	9-20
MPAYHELP	Try to get help when unable to pay bills	5-5	9-19
MMOVEOUT	Move in with other people in last 12 months	5-5	9-17

6 Issues, Problems, and Social Services Variables6-1

		<u>Definition</u>	<u>Count</u>
UAGG	Parent aggravation scale score	6-1	9-58
UAGGNEG	Negative parent aggravation score	6-1	9-59
UAGGPOS	Positive parent aggravation score	6-1	9-59
NPCINTA	Child much harder to care for than most	6-2	9-27
NPCINTB	Child really bothers MKA a lot	6-2	9-28
NPCINTC	MKA gives up more for child's needs	6-2	9-29
NPCINTD	MKA feels angry with child	6-2	9-30
NSERVA	Know place to help stay away from crime	6-3	9-32
NSERVB	Know place where family can get housing/food	6-3	9-33
NSERVC	Know place where family can go if fighting	6-3	9-34
NSERVD	Know place steps in if children not cared for	6-3	9-35
NSERVE	Know place can get help if family member violent	6-4	9-36
NSERVF	Know place to get help for drugs/alcohol	6-4	9-37
NWORRYA	Worry about keeping out of trouble	6-4	9-39
NWORRYB	Tried to get help to keep out of trouble	6-5	9-40
NWORRYC	Help source for staying out of trouble	6-5	9-41
NARGUE	MKA and children argue a lot	6-5	9-21
NARGHLP	Got help because argue a lot	6-6	9-20
NVOLUNT	How often volunteered in past year	6-6	9-38
NRELIG	How often attended religious service in past year	6-6	9-31

7 Employment and Earnings Variables7-1

		<u>Definition</u>	<u>Count</u>
U_FTPT	Full- or part-time worker this year	7-1	9-53
U_FTFYLY	Full-time full-year worker last year	7-1	9-52
U_FTPTLY	Full- or part-time worker last year	7-1	9-53
U_HRSLY	Hours worked per week last year	7-1	9-54
U_LFSR	Labor force status code	7-2	9-54
U_MAIN	Total earnings from main job last year	7-2	9-55
U_OTHJOB	Other earnings last year	7-2	9-55
U_USHRS	Hours worked per week this year	7-2	9-56
U_WKSLY	Weeks worked last year	7-3	9-57
U_EARN	Total earnings last year	7-3	9-52

8 Opinion Variables8-1

		<u>Definition</u>	<u>Count</u>
PBABIES	Welfare encourages babies before marriage	8-1	9-42
PNOTWORK	Mothers of young children should not work	8-1	9-43
PONFEET	Welfare helps people get on their feet	8-1	9-44
PSINGPAR	Single mother is as effective as married couple	8-2	9-45
PWANTKID	If want children, ought to marry	8-2	9-46
PWORKIMP	Working for pay is important	8-2	9-47
PWORKMOM	Working mothers as good as nonworking ones	8-2	9-48
PWRKLESS	Welfare makes people work less	8-3	9-49

9 Frequencies.....9-1

		<u>Definition</u>	<u>Count</u>
AGE	Age	2-6	9-2
BSATMED	Satisfaction with quality medical care	3-1	9-2
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SITE	State of residence	2-4	9-51
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U_FTPT	Full- or part-time worker this year	7-1	9-53
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UCURCVG2	Current coverage	3-2	9-62
UFAMID	Social family identifier	2-2	9-63
UHICOV	Current coverage—3 level hierarchy	3-2	9-63
UINCRPOV	CPS family income as percent of poverty	2-5	9-64
UMH2	100-point mental health scale	3-5	9-65
UMH2NEG	Negative (poor) mental health	3-5	9-66
UNOCON	Not confident in access to care	3-3	9-66
UREGION	Region	2-4	9-67
USOURCE	Usual source of care	3-3	9-68
UVISIT	Number of health care visits past 12 months	3-3	9-69
WGHLTH0	Weight for MKA health variables	2-3	9-69
WGHLTH1-60	Replicate weights for MKA health variables	2-3	9-69
WGPR0	Weight for MKA variables	2-2	9-70
WGPR1-60	Replicate weights for MKA variables	2-3	9-70
XAGE	Imputation flag for AGE	2-6	9-70
XBCPSED	Imputation flag for UBCPSED	4-1	9-71

		<u>Definition</u>	<u>Count</u>
XDISBL	Imputation flag for FDISABL	3-1	9-71
XHLTHP	Imputation flag for FHLTHP	3-2	9-72
XOWNRENT	Imputation flag for MOWNRENT	5-1	9-72
XPAYRENT	Imputation flag for MPAYRENT	5-4	9-73
XSEX	Imputation flag for SEX	2-7	9-73
XSPECRAC	Imputation flag for UBETH, UBRACE	2-7	9-74

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1 OVERVIEW OF FILE DOCUMENTATION

This is the first of nine chapters documenting the 1997 NSAF Most Knowledgeable Adult (MKA) Public Use File. Chapter 1 contains an overview and chapters 2 through 8 look at the variables one at a time, commenting on where in the questionnaire they come from, how they were created and what records have missing or inapplicable entries and (usually) why. Chapter 9 presents the weighted and unweighted distributions and the abbreviated question wording for each variable.

Two cross-reference lists are provided in the table of contents: one alphabetical and organized by position. The alphabetical listing, found under chapter 9 in the table of contents, is by SAS variable name, and includes a short description and the page numbers where information on the variable is to be found. The variables in chapters 2 through 8 in the table of contents are listed by location and show the SAS variable name, plus the page locations where further information on the variable can be found in this codebook.

1.1 Introduction

This documents the second public use file to be made available from the NSAF. The file being made available contains records for 27,599 sampled most knowledgeable adults (MKAs). This public use file is a companion to the NSAF Child Public Use File. For this reason, users of the NSAF Child Public Use File will find the structure of this release familiar. In addition, this methodology report is very similar to Methodology Report 11, the Child Public Use File Codebook. Using identifier variables discussed in chapter 2 of this codebook, this file can be linked to the Child Public Use File, and to other public use files, to create a hierarchical structure in which each child's record is associated with that of his or her MKA.

This linkage of files allows users to form a more complete picture of the family setting in which the children and the MKAs function. For example, the Child Public Use File provides minimal information about the housing situation of the focal child's family. After merging the focal child file with the MKA file (using the appropriate variables, as described in chapter 2), the user can determine what percentage of children live in rented homes, what percentage of children are in families that have difficulty providing housing, and the frequencies of several other housing-related variables.

Organizationally, this overview of the documentation provides an introduction to the survey and indicates where more information can be found (section 2). The physical characteristics of the file are covered next, including how to access and download it (section 3). The variables being released at this time are a limited subset of those on the survey. The rationale for the choices made is given in section 4. Confidentiality protections are taken up next and the pledges asked of researchers covered in more detail (section 5).

The documentation for this file assumes a degree of experience that may not be available to all potential users. To partially address this, section 6 offers guidelines on how to use the data and includes some information on other publicly available files that have similar structures. Closely allied to the production of survey estimates is the need to calculate the sampling error. The

approaches we recommend are introduced in section 7. In section 8 we compare estimates derived from the MKA Public Use File with MKA estimates based on the internal Urban Institute data file from which the MKA public use file was derived. This step anticipates the third data file to be released, which will contain data for the remaining adults surveyed as part of the NSAF.

The NSAF data set is still being finalized, and we expect to make further changes—albeit minor ones—even to the data being provided here. Our updating plans are given in full in section 9. A few potential users may want to wait for later releases, but we do expect that for the most part researchers will find considerable value in what we are able to provide here.

Sections 10 and 11 conclude this overview of the file documentation. Section 10 provides the contact information on how to communicate with us if problems are encountered. The main contact for questions will be by e-mail at nsaf@ui.urban.org. We plan to get back to researchers in a very timely manner. Before writing, however, users may first consult the “Frequently Asked Questions” page (<http://newfederalism.urban.org/nsaf/>). This resource is described in section 11. Selected references, including the early methodology reports from the 1997 NSAF, are found at the end of this chapter.

1.2 About the Survey

The NSAF is a survey of the economic, health, and social characteristics of children, adults under the age of 65, and their families. Interviews were conducted in over 44,000 households, yielding information on over 100,000 people. The data collection was conducted by Westat for the Urban Institute and Child Trends, Inc.

Large representative samples of households were taken in each of 13 targeted states plus the balance of the nation. The 13 states were Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin.

These 13 states account for over half of the U.S. population and have a broad array of government programs, fiscal capacity, and economic well being. The 1997 sample results provide a wide range of characteristics for each of the targeted study areas and for the country as a whole, in the period just before the era of the New Federalism (when major changes in U.S. federal and state policies occurred). The survey, therefore, forms a sound baseline from which many of the changes brought about by the New Federalism can be measured and assessed.

The NSAF sample is representative of the civilian, noninstitutionalized population under age 65. Data were obtained from February to November 1997. As with virtually all household surveys, some important segments of the population (e.g., the homeless) could not be sampled because of their living arrangements and hence are not included in the survey results.

The NSAF sample had two parts. The main sample consisted of a random digit dial (RDD) survey of households with telephones. This was supplemented with a second (area probability)

sample of households without telephones. The sample was drawn separately for each of the 13 state study areas and for the balance of the nation. Milwaukee was also designated as a study area in its own right; therefore, the state of Wisconsin can be viewed as consisting of two study areas: Milwaukee and the balance of the state. On the public use files, however, in order to preserve respondent anonymity we subsample Milwaukee cases and do not include Milwaukee as a separate site.

Telephone households were subsampled, with the subsampling rates depending on the presence of children in the household and their response to a single household income-screening question. All households screened with children and classified as low-income were given a full interview, while higher-income households with children and all households without children (but with someone under 65) were sub-sampled before in-depth interviewing. Households with only adults age 65 and over were screened out of the survey. In all, some 179,000 telephone households were contacted. After screening, detailed 25- to 40-minute interviews were conducted in 42,973 households.

In the area sample, households within sampled blocks were screened, and all non-telephone households with someone under 65 were interviewed. Because only a small fraction of households do not have a telephone, block groups from the 1990 Census that had a very high percentage of telephone households were eliminated from the area sampling frame. A special coverage adjustment was made during the weighting process to account for excluding persons in non-telephone households in these block groups. For this portion of the sample, screening interviews were conducted with 37,000 households. Because only persons without telephones were eligible, after screening, extended interviews were conducted in just the 1,488 non-telephone households identified, making 42,973 telephone + 1,488 non-telephone = 44,461 interviewed households altogether.

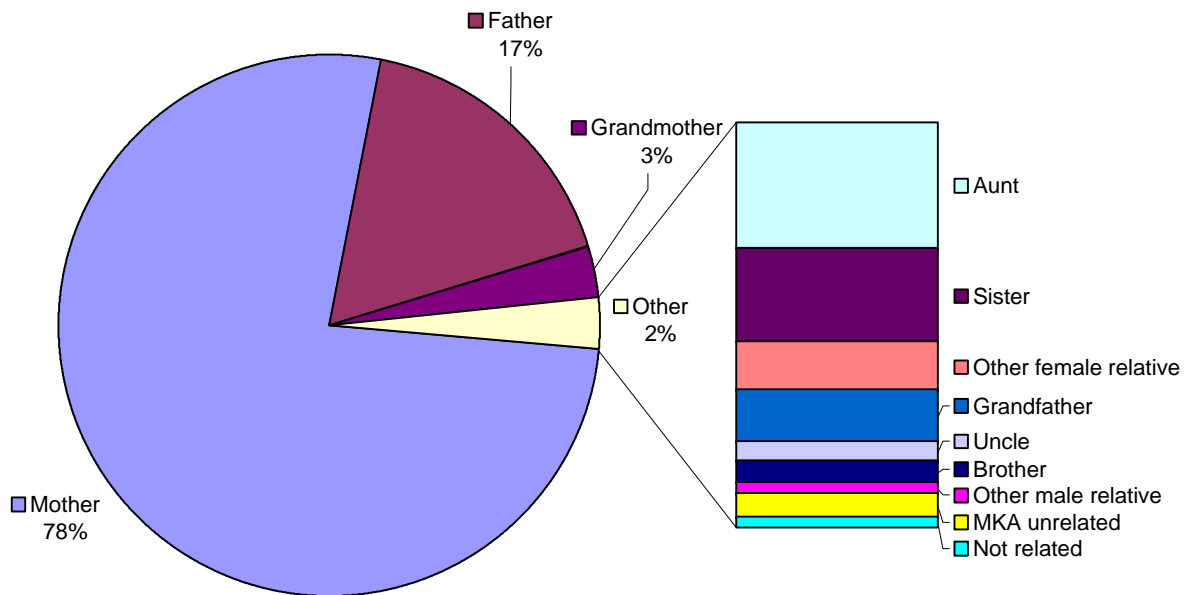
Within both the RDD and area samples, household members were subsampled to reduce the number of questions asked of each respondent. If there were multiple children under age six, one was randomly selected. The same was true for children 6 to 17 years old. No more than two children were sampled from each household. For example, if a household had three children all under the age of five then only one of these children was selected, and there was not a second focal child. Furthermore, if there were two families in a household and each had two children (one between zero and five years old and one between 6 and 17 years old), only one child age 0 to 5 and one child aged 6 to 17 was picked. Both children could be from the same family or there could have been one child from each family.

Data were collected about each of these sample children through the most knowledgeable adult in the household for that child. In choosing the MKA, interviewers asked to speak to the person in the household who knew the most about the sampled child's education and health care. Therefore, selection of MKAs was not a random process; rather, the interviewer sought to obtain the highest quality information possible for each child. In families with two sampled children, the MKA was not necessarily the same person for both children. Consequently, there were cases in which one family had two MKAs.

The MKA was often the mother of the child (78 percent of MKAs) or father of the child (17 percent of MKAs). Of the mothers reported as MKAs, 96 percent were biological mothers, 1.4

percent were adoptive mothers, and the remaining 2.6 percent of mothers consisted of mainly step mothers and foster mothers. Of the fathers reported as MKAs, 93.4 percent were biological fathers, 4.1 percent were step fathers, and 1.7 were adopted fathers. The remaining fathers consisted of those unrelated to the child, or those whose relationship was unknown. The grandmother was the third most frequent type of MKA (3 percent of MKAs). The remaining 2 percent of MKAs were people with a variety other relationships to the child. For a more complete description of the MKAs' relation to the focal children, see figure 1.

Figure 1.
MKA Relation to Focal Child
Note: Percentages not given are less than one percent



During the interview about the child, questions were also asked about the MKA and his/her spouse/partner if the spouse/partner also lived within the household. All the questions about the spouse/partner were answered by the MKA. However, some questions were asked only about the MKA. These questions concerned feelings, religious activities, and opinions. Other questions were randomly asked about one of the two when both were present. The subject for the latter questions was randomly chosen between the MKA and his or her spouse/partner. These questions concerned health insurance and health care utilization. The concern was that collecting information about the child, the MKA, and the spouse of the MKA all by proxy through the MKA would tire the MKA excessively. By asking these questions about only the

MKA or his or her spouse or partner, the burden on the MKA was reduced. This protocol was applied identically in the RDD and area components.

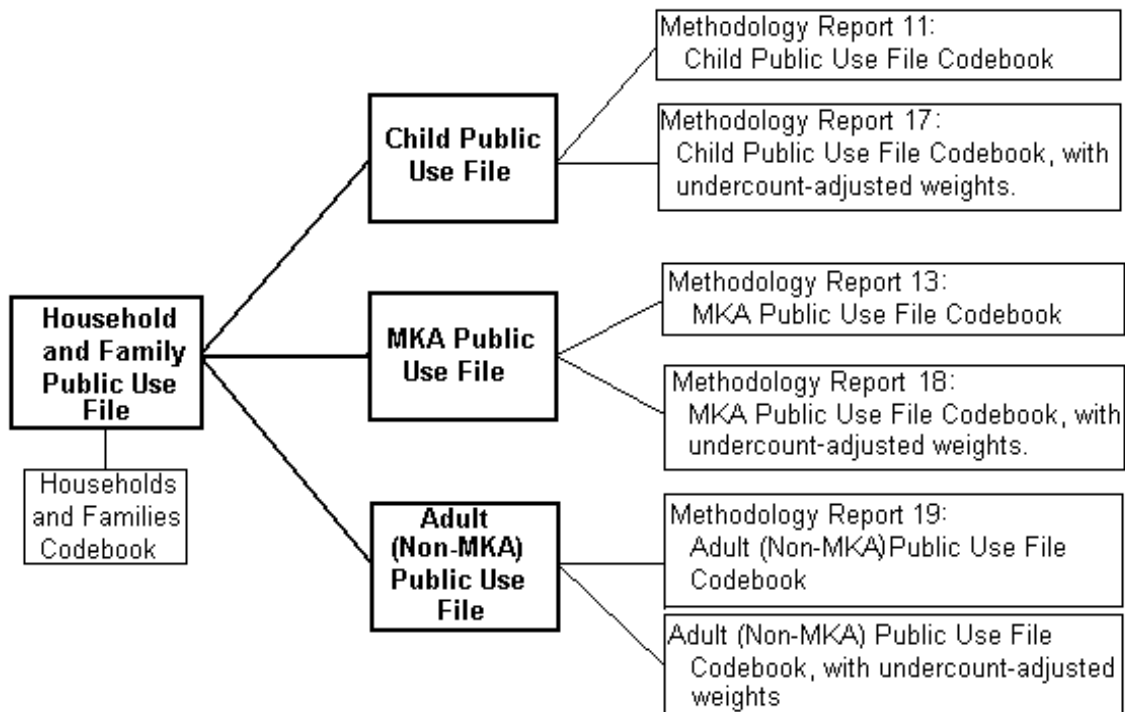
For more information on the NSAF as a whole, see Report No. 1 in the 1997 NSAF Methodology Series, available at <http://newfederalism.urban.org/nsaf/design.html>. The sample design is covered in great detail in Report No. 2 in the series. The other available early reports in the 1997 NSAF Methodology Series are referred to as appropriate throughout this document. A full list of the Methodology Reports is included in the references at the end of this chapter.

1.3 About the Data File

This file contains records for the 27,599 MKAs on whom detailed information was collected. In concept, the complete NSAF has a very complex hierarchical structure. We have chose not to release the file in its complete form largely because it is being made available in pieces as the work is finished. Hence, this NSAF public use file has a rectangular structure. It can, of course, be merged with the already-available Child Public Use File and also with subsequent releases to construct the hierarchical structure, as needed.

The user can link each public release file to the others in order to build a complete picture of the NSAF results. Figure 2 provides a graphic representation of how the four files we intend to release will fit together with each other and their related publications.

Figure 2.
Structure of NSAF Public Use Files and Companion Publications



The MKA public use file is a compressed ASCII file (roughly 11 MB), contained in a self-extracting program, that must be downloaded and uncompressed. To download the file and save it to your disk, click on the file name. A window will appear asking for the location to save the file. Enter the location and choose “Save.” To unzip the file, go to the file manager or Windows Explorer and double-click the downloaded file. The extraction program will unzip the ASCII file into the same directory and create a 46 MB data set.

The file description displays the variable name, whether the variable is numeric or character, and the columns the variable occupies. To convert the ASCII file to a SAS dataset, download the *sample read-in data step* and change the infile statement to point to the downloaded, uncompressed file.

1.4 Variables Included

The variables on this file are from the questions the NSAF asked MKAs about themselves; however, not all such questions have been provided (for the complete set of all segments of the NSAF questionnaire and all survey questions, see the forthcoming Methodology Report 12 in this series). Some variables (e.g., those involving child care), were still being readied for analysis at the time this report was published. This was also true of some of the living arrangement questions. Provided in full, however, were responses to:

- Questions on MKA health status and satisfaction (section F of the questionnaire);
- Questions on employment and income (section I of the questionnaire);
- Education and training questions (section L of the questionnaire); and
- Questions on housing and hardship (section M of the questionnaire).

Chapter 2 contains descriptions of the basic MKA variables, including identification codes for linking sample members into families and households. The sample weights are also found here. In chapter 3, descriptions of the health questions and related measures can be found. Chapter 4 has definitional information on education questions and related training variables. Chapter 5 includes information on MKA housing and hardship. In Chapter 6, issues, problems, and social services associated with MKAs are discussed. Chapter 7 includes variables dealing with the employment and earnings of MKAs, and chapter 8 gives information on questions in which the respondent was asked to give his or her opinion on various issues.

Chapters 2 through 8 all have a complete set of definitional materials for each question, interviewer prompts (if appropriate), and some limited details about what was done in editing (or imputing) the data prior to the variable being placed on the public use file. Several variables for which data was imputed have notes describing their imputation flags and the number of cases imputed. Created or derived variables (those beginning with the letter U) may be made up of component variables that have been imputed; however, the created variable itself is generally not flagged as imputed on this file. Later release files will contain more information on which

variables have been derived from imputed data. In addition to supplying definitional information, these middle chapters relate (where appropriate) the NSAF concept being used with that in the Current Population Survey (CPS) (<http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/cpsmain.htm>).

Counts of valid values for each item constitute the largest part of this data dictionary and codebook. These are provided for each variable in chapter 9 and parallel the listings provided in chapters 2 through 8. Along with each count there are several items of information provided to document the data file. These are each described below (figure 3 gives an example of an entry from chapter 9):

Variable Name: For each entry in this data dictionary, a mnemonic string of characters is provided as the variable name. The string begins with the letter of the section on the questionnaire that the variable comes from. For variables created after the interviewing, a U is employed as the first letter in the string. The remaining characters (up to seven more) are a short description of the variable. *In the example the variable chosen is MOWNRENT (from chapter 4).*

Label: The label is a short description of the variable; the sample read-in data step will load the label into the data set when using SAS to manipulate the data. *In our example, this is the entry “Own or rent.”*

Type is either numeric (N) or character (C). *Here in the example, the type is N.*

Length: The length field is appropriate for character variables only. *Here the value is shown as NA for “not applicable.”*

Survey/Derived describes whether the variable comes directly from the interview or whether it is a created variable. *MOWNRENT is a survey variable taken from question M1, shown next.*

Question Num: Survey variables will have a question number. *The variable is taken directly from the questionnaire, section M, question M1.*

Question Text: Text from the questionnaire is provided if the variable was obtained directly. *The actual text of the question from M1.*

Allowable Non-Missing Values: A list of all of the possible non-missing values for the variable and the description of the values. *Here the non-missing values can take on the values 1, 2, or 3.*

Unweighted and Weighted Frequencies: For most variables in the codebook weighted and unweighted frequencies of the variable in the data file are shown. For variables with which the health weight is used, the weighted counts and percentages are found in the columns “Health Count” and “Health Percent.” If the MKA weight is used with a variable, these columns are blank.

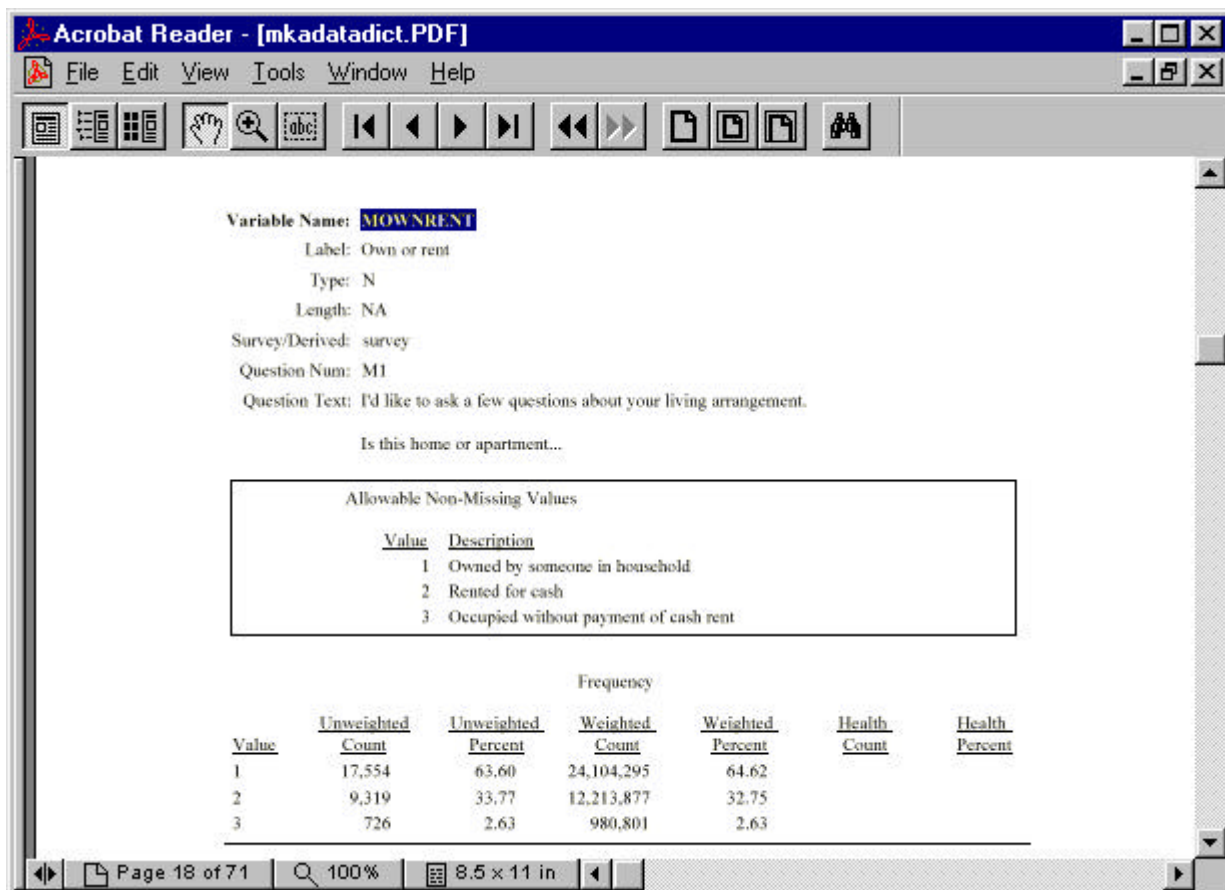
Missing values: Missing values are of four types:

- .D Don't Know
- .I Inapplicable
- .N Not Ascertained
- .R Refused To Answer

When present, these will be included in the frequency counts alongside valid values. Character variables will store the period with the letter whereas numeric variables only store the letter. *Here no inapplicable entries appear.*

Later files will complete the picture for the remaining non-elderly adults and provide household level information. See section 9 of this chapter for detailed release plans.

Figure 3.
Sample Entry from Chapter 9



1.5 Confidentiality Protections

When the NSAF data were obtained, a pledge of confidentiality was given to respondents. We need the help of all researchers who use this data to help keep that pledge. This is why we have asked each of you to agree to make no attempt to identify any respondent and to employ the data for research purposes only. To control access to the file, we further request that you not redistribute the file, but instead refer all potential users back to us so we can be sure they understand the obligations they incur when becoming users. When you obtain the 1997 NSAF MKA Public Use File, you will be asked to obligate yourself as follows:

*In downloading this public use file, I, your name and e-mail address, agree that I will make **no** attempt to identify any sampled individual.*

I, your name, further agree that I will not disseminate this file to anyone else, but will ask them to register and obtain their own copy directly. That way, all users of the file will be registered and all will have agreed to protect the confidentiality of the information provided them.

A significant effort has been mounted to prevent inadvertent disclosures. Obvious direct identifiers like telephone numbers, names, and addresses have been eliminated. As already noted, full geographic detail has been dropped. On this file, in fact, only a state identifier has been provided. Even though Milwaukee was oversampled and could be analyzed separately, we have elected to combine it with the rest of Wisconsin. We also subsampled Milwaukee cases with small weights to better protect against the possibility of any reidentification of survey respondents. Other forms of protection (like top-coding), standard with general-purpose files (e.g., the CPS), have also been employed in the choice of variables or in their coding.

In preparing this file for release, we have carried out two further steps to assure that the risk of an inadvertent disclosure was minimal: First, we employed the “Checklist on Disclosure Potential of Proposed Data Releases” to be sure that a fully systematic approach to confidentiality protection had been carried out. (See Interagency Confidentiality and Data Access Group, Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, Office of Management and Budget, 1999. To appear in *The 1999 Proceedings of the Government Statistics Section*, American Statistical Association). Second, we brought in an outside group of disclosure experts to independently evaluate the protection steps we are taking in our NSAF public file releases.

For still more on confidentiality issues in public data sets, see “The Confidentiality Beasties,” in the (Mulrow and Scheuren 1999) and “Special Issue on Disclosure Limitation Methods for Protecting the Confidentiality of Statistical Data,” (Feinberg and Willenborg 1998).

1.6 How to Use the Data

Standard statistical theory assumes observations are independent and identically distributed (IID). In most sample surveys like the NSAF, the observations are not IID because they are

collected by stratifying the units and selecting units at different sampling rates and by sampling units that are clustered together at different rates from those that are in different clusters.

To account for these deviations from IID observations, survey weights are used in making point estimates of characteristics of interest, such as estimates of population totals, means, and proportions. These weights are used to adjust for the following features of samples: differential probabilities of selecting the units, differential response rates, making the survey estimates consistent with known population totals, and correcting or reducing undercoverage.

For example, NSAF survey weights are used to adjust the data for these and other factors:

- The sample size in Mississippi in the NSAF is about the same size as that of the much larger states California and New York.
- Within sites, households below 200 percent poverty were sampled at about twice the rate of those above 200 percent.
- The response rate in the area sample (non-telephone sample) is much higher than that in the RDD sample.
- The number of adults in a state is already known from other sources and the estimates from the survey are made to equal these known totals.

In an ideal survey, all the units in the inference population are eligible to be selected into the sample and all those that are selected participate in the survey. In practice, neither of these conditions holds completely: Some units are not eligible for the sample (undercoverage) and some of the sampled units do not respond (nonresponse). If undercoverage and nonresponse are not addressed, then the estimates from the survey will be biased. In the 1997 NSAF, the weights of those that are eligible and respond are adjusted to represent for undercovered persons and nonrespondents. For a complete explanation of the weighting scheme employed in the NSAF, see Report No. 3 in this series.

The weighted estimates from this file are of the population of MKAs, or primary caregivers, ages 18 to 64. Unlike the child file, where only one weight was needed for all estimates, there are two weights to be used for different variables in this file. When producing estimates for most health variables, the health weight, included here as WGHLTH0, should be used. Estimates for all other variables (employment and earnings, housing and hardship, etc.) should be calculated using the general MKA weight, coded as WGPR0 weight. There are eight health variables for which the general weight, rather than the specific health weight, should be used: BSATMED, NDEPRESA through NDEPRESE, UMH2, and UMH2NEG.

There are some MKAs on this file without weights. These are individuals under 18 or over 64 years of age. There were 44 MKAs under 18 on this file. Nineteen of these individuals were selected into the sample and are included in the Focal Child Public Use File. The MKA Public Use File also includes 188 MKAs 65 years and older. No weights have been assigned to these individuals. These unweighted cases have been included to aid researchers wishing to determine the family context of the focal children associated with these unweighted MKAs.

The general MKA weight, as discussed above, includes factors that adjust for the probability of selecting the MKA (including differential factors by reported poverty level and the number of children per household) and nonresponse at the household and person level. Furthermore, the weights were adjusted to be consistent with known totals of adults by race, Hispanic ethnicity, age, sex, and tenure (rent or own a home), and for the state and the nation. The health weight takes into account the additional fact that questions related to health (with the exception of BSATMED, NDEPRESA–NDEPRESE, UMH2, and UMH2NEG) were asked about either the respondent or the spouse/partner, but not about both.

Researchers should note, however, that both the general MKA weight and the health weight are derived from projections based on the 1990 Decennial Census, so neither of these weights adjusts for the census undercount. At a later date, a set of undercount-adjusted weights will be released for the NSAF. In addition, an augmented version of this data file will be released, with these undercount-adjusted weights appended (see Methodology Report No. 18, forthcoming).

To illustrate the use of the weights, consider employing a SAS PROC MEANS statement to obtain a weighted estimate using the MKA weight. Generically, this is:

```
PROC MEANS DATA="input dataset" Statistics List;  
VAR "variable(s) to be calculated";  
WEIGHT "MKA weight";  
TITLE 'Title of the Table' ;  
RUN;
```

Example:

```
PROC MEANS DATA= mka n sumwgt mean;  
VAR u_earn;  
WEIGHT wgpr0;  
TITLE 'Total Earnings Last Year: Mean Statistic Using Weight WGPR0';  
RUN;
```

To obtain:

n	Sum Wgt	Mean
27,599	37,298,973.02	18,873.51

Examples where the MKA weight WGPR0 can be used in making estimates include:

- (1) The number of MKAs who are male
- (2) The percentage of MKAs who worked full time in the past year
- (3) The number of low-income MKAs who had been unable to pay rent in the last year
- (4) The percentage of black MKAs who own their own home

(5) The percentage of MKAs who received AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) in the past year, and

(6) The percentage of MKAs who took job training courses in the past year

Notice that some of these examples are of subgroups of MKAs, and no special consideration is needed for these types of estimates. For some statistics, it is possible to estimate either the number of MKAs who live in a family that is below poverty or the number of families that are below poverty. In many situations, the former is the preferred statistic because it gives information about the number of MKAs irrespective of the number of families they are in. If the researcher chooses to present the MKA estimate, the MKA weight is appropriate. Researchers wishing to make estimates about families **cannot** do so directly from this file and will have to wait for later releases.

1.7 Calculating Sampling Errors

Measures of precision of the estimates (variances or standard errors) are also affected by the sample design, and in many cases the effect is even larger for these quantities than for the estimates themselves. One way of describing the variability of an estimate from a survey is by using design effects. The term “design effect” is used to describe the variance of sample estimates for a particular sample design, relative to the corresponding variance of a simple random sample with the same sample size. Design effects are used to evaluate the efficiency of the sampling design and estimation procedure utilized to develop the estimates.

The concept of design effect (or DEFF) was popularized by Kish (e.g., Kish 1965) to deal with complex sample designs involving stratification and clustering, as we have in the NSAF. Stratification generally leads to a gain in efficiency over simple random sampling. On the other hand, clustering usually leads to deterioration in efficiency. This latter effect arises due to positive intracluster correlation among the subunits in the clusters. For example, DEFF is larger for children because we sometimes sampled more than one of them from the same household. This clustering effect increases the variance over that which would pertain in a simple random sampling of children. There is also a stratification effect to consider in the NSAF. By oversampling Mississippi, for instance, we obtain excellent results for that state—roughly as good as those for the much larger California. However, this oversampling means that our estimates of the nation as a whole are not as good as if we had drawn a simple random sample of the country as a whole.

In order to determine the total effect of any complex design on the sampling variance in comparison to the alternative simple random sampling, one calculates a ratio of variances associated with an estimate, namely

$$\text{DEFF} = \frac{\text{sampling variance of a complex sample}}{\text{sampling variance of a simple random sample}}.$$

This ratio is called the design effect of the sampling design for the estimate. This ratio measures the overall efficiency of the sampling design and the estimation procedure utilized to develop the estimate. At the analysis stage, the DEFF is useful because most statistical analysis software (such as SAS and SPSS) assumes the data are from a simple random sample when computing sampling errors of estimates. The DEFF can, in some circumstances, indicate how appropriate this is and can be used to adjust these simple estimates to produce ones that are closer to the actual sampling errors of the estimates (Skinner, Holt, and Smith 1989).

For example, the design effect for a proportion can be expressed as:

$$\text{DEFF} = \frac{\text{Var}_{des}(p)}{\text{Var}_{srs}(p)}$$

Where:

p denotes the weighted estimate of the population proportion P ,

$\text{Var}_{srs}(p)$ is the estimated simple random variance $v(p)_{srs} = \frac{p(1-p)}{n}$, and

$\text{Var}_{des}(p)$ is the variance of the complex sample calculated appropriately.

In the NSAF and in most other large-scale surveys, a large number of data items or variables are collected from respondents. Each variable has its own design effect. One way to represent all of these is to compute design effects for a number of similar variables and then try to generalize about the impact of the complex sample design. Tables 1 to 3 enable us to do this by showing the average, maximum, and minimum design effects for 33 NSAF estimates of MKAs.

The tables are for all MKAs (table 1), Hispanic MKAs (table 2), and black MKAs (table 3). Each table has a row for each state with four columns for all MKAs, which are then repeated for low-income MKAs as well. The first column is the average DEFF, the second is the maximum DEFF, the third is the minimum DEFF, and the fourth is called the DEFT. The DEFT is the square root of the design effect, so it is similar to the DEFF but on the scale of the standard deviation of the estimate rather than the variance. The figures labeled DEFT in the tables are actually the average of the DEFTs.

In most cases, design effects for complex samples are larger than one. In the NSAF, design effects for MKAs follow this general rule, too, because of differential sampling fractions and the intracluster correlation of units (MKAs in this case) within clusters or households (Kish 1992). In fact, as can be seen from tables 1 to 3, some design effects for estimates of MKAs are considerably greater than one, especially those for MKA statistics for the nation as a whole where the DEFTs range from roughly 1.71 to 9.3.

These tables were taken unaltered from Report No. 4 in this methodology series and show the design effects calculated from the NSAF internal file which includes all adults— not only MKAs, but also spouse/partners and adults without children. These estimates are deemed appropriate for most variables on this file, since the MKAs are a subset of the larger data set; the remaining adult cases will be made available in the next public use file to be released. However, these estimates of the design effect are of a somewhat lower quality than those calculated specifically for the Child File (see Methodology Report No. 11) because they are based on a more general group. These tables are intended to provide users with a general idea of the amount of sample uncertainty associated with statistics based on this file. If researchers using this file wish to undertake detailed analysis of this data, or reach final conclusions based on this data, they should perform the necessary variance estimation themselves, using the procedures detailed in Report No. 4 in this Methodology Series.

Although these estimates of design effect are appropriate for most variables on the file, they are somewhat less suitable for the health variables for which the health weights are used. As discussed in sections 1.2 and 1.4 above, most health questions were not asked of all MKAs; therefore, for these variables, the cases found on this file represent an even smaller subset of the larger internal file for which these design effects were calculated.

One final point about the tables. The tables show Milwaukee and the balance of Wisconsin separately. We have not recalculated the design effects for Wisconsin as a whole, even though the MKA public use file does not separate out the Milwaukee cases. For Wisconsin we recommend either using the larger of the two sets of design effects shown or employing the replicate structure of the MKA file and calculating variances directly (as described below).

Table 1.
Average DEFF and DEFT for Estimates from the Internal File for All Adults and Low
Income Adults, by Site

Study area	All adults				Low-Income Adults			
	Average DEFF	Maximum DEFF	Minimum DEFF	Average DEFT	Average DEFF	Maximum DEFF	Minimum DEFF	Average DEFT
Alabama	2.09	3.25	1.37	1.44	2.24	4.11	0.92	1.47
Balance of Wisconsin	1.57	2.25	1.06	1.25	1.94	3.47	0.84	1.37
California	1.74	2.87	0.65	1.31	2.25	4.28	1.22	1.49
Colorado	1.78	2.29	1.27	1.33	1.95	3.09	1.19	1.39
Florida	2.06	3.35	0.83	1.42	2.62	4.95	1.84	1.60
Massachusetts	1.92	2.85	0.86	1.37	2.38	4.07	1.34	1.53
Michigan	1.77	3.61	0.92	1.31	2.14	3.517	0.83	1.45
Milwaukee	1.68	2.45	0.92	1.29	2.13	3.76	1.16	1.44
Minnesota	2.22	7.05	1.16	1.46	2.61	8.03	1.42	1.58
Mississippi	1.92	3.28	1.34	1.38	2.02	3.75	1.28	1.41
New Jersey	1.81	2.53	1.02	1.34	2.20	3.43	0.97	1.47
New York	1.93	2.82	0.59	1.37	2.45	3.53	1.07	1.55
Texas	2.10	3.26	0.56	1.43	2.58	4.60	1.25	1.58
Washington	1.73	3.07	1.03	1.31	2.01	3.08	1.18	1.40
Balance of the United States	1.71	2.80	0.90	1.29	1.99	3.23	1.26	1.39
National	4.74	8.20	1.71	2.16	5.21	8.90	3.09	2.26

Source: Report No. 4 in 1997 NSAF Methodology Series.

Table 2.
Average DEFF and DEFT for Estimates from the Internal File for All Hispanics and Low-Income Hispanics, by Site

Study Area	All Hispanics				Low Income			
	Average DEFF	Maximum DEFF	Minimum DEFF	Average DEFT	Average DEFF	Maximum DEFF	Minimum DEFF	Average DEFT
Alabama	1.73	4.50	0.46	1.26	1.41	4.57	0.43	1.15
Balance of Wisconsin	1.99	3.61	0.35	1.37	2.23	4.88	0.42	1.39
California	2.09	3.45	0.91	1.43	2.32	5.03	1.43	1.50
Colorado	1.58	2.56	0.89	1.24	1.82	3.01	1.01	1.33
Florida	2.69	8.05	1.07	1.58	2.83	11.61	0.54	1.61
Massachusetts	2.24	3.73	1.27	1.48	2.14	3.32	0.74	1.44
Michigan	1.62	3.37	0.43	1.24	1.55	2.92	0.30	1.21
Milwaukee	1.90	2.73	0.40	1.35	1.94	4.24	0.45	1.35
Minnesota	1.64	2.99	0.56	1.25	1.99	3.68	0.57	1.37
Mississippi	1.30	3.52	0.68	1.11	1.21	3.76	0.20	1.05
New Jersey	1.96	2.94	0.86	1.38	2.05	3.32	0.84	1.41
New York	2.31	4.01	0.95	1.50	2.48	4.09	0.83	1.55
Texas	2.25	3.78	0.94	1.47	2.35	5.31	1.05	1.49
Washington	1.75	3.18	0.79	1.30	1.79	3.30	0.75	1.31
Balance of the United States	1.63	2.95	0.36	1.26	1.61	3.26	0.47	1.25
National	3.63	6.40	2.15	1.89	3.86	5.73	2.16	1.94

Source: Report No. 4 in 1997 NSAF Methodology Series.

Table 3.
Average DEFF and DEFT for Estimates from the Internal File for All Blacks and Low-Income Blacks, by Site

Study area	All Blacks				Low Income			
	Average DEFF	Maximum DEFF	Minimum DEFF	Average DEFT	Average DEFF	Maximum DEFF	Minimum DEFF	Average DEFT
Alabama	2.06	4.29	0.96	1.41	1.93	2.91	0.79	1.37
Balance of Wisconsin	1.49	3.24	0.55	1.20	1.28	4.36	0.61	1.10
California	1.83	3.38	1.05	1.34	1.84	3.47	1.03	1.34
Colorado	1.25	2.29	0.25	1.09	1.26	1.74	0.43	1.11
Florida	2.46	4.70	0.34	1.53	2.44	4.74	0.47	1.53
Massachusetts	1.91	2.97	1.27	1.37	1.95	3.85	0.68	1.38
Michigan	1.73	3.51	0.86	1.30	2.01	3.57	1.15	1.40
Milwaukee	1.73	3.51	0.74	1.30	1.57	2.67	0.95	1.24
Minnesota	2.22	8.16	0.42	1.42	2.30	8.78	0.56	1.43
Mississippi	2.01	3.32	1.26	1.40	1.84	3.68	0.96	1.34
New Jersey	1.71	2.82	0.51	1.29	1.64	2.38	0.69	1.27
New York	1.80	2.70	0.75	1.33	1.79	3.32	0.76	1.32
Texas	2.18	4.64	0.23	1.44	2.13	3.99	0.46	1.43
Washington	1.39	2.02	0.83	1.17	1.37	1.98	0.92	1.16
Balance of the United States	1.79	3.63	0.94	1.32	1.66	2.73	1.03	1.28
National	5.16	9.30	2.73	2.25	4.90	8.11	3.17	2.20

Source: Report No. 4 in 1997 NSAF Methodology Series.

For this public use file of sampled MKAs, the average DEFTs shown above can be used directly by calculating from the file an unbiased estimate of the simple random sampling error. Below, we have carried out an extended example in detail.

We begin by modifying a conventional 95 percent confidence interval for the population proportion P. This modification is of the form

$$p \pm 2(\text{DEFT}) (\text{Var}_{\text{SRS}}(p))^{1/2} ,$$

where p is the estimate from NSAF of the true population value P obtained (as in section 5 above) by calculation of the weighted total.

Because we are using a conventional 95 percent confidence interval and under the assumption of normality, the confidence coefficient is 2, really 1.96.

DEFT will depend on the particular P we try to estimate, as set out in the NSAF tables 1 to 3 above.

$(\text{Var}_{\text{SRS}}(p))^{1/2}$ is an estimate of the standard error of p under simple random sampling (SRS)

It can be useful to think of the SRS standard error as

$$(\text{SRS standard error}) = (\text{population standard deviation})/(\text{unweighted sample size})^{1/2} .$$

For a proportion, this is the familiar $v(p)_{\text{SRS}} = \frac{p(1-p)}{n}$ that was used above. Notice that for proportions, all that is needed is to properly calculate the weighted estimate p, then the SRS standard error is immediate and the adjusted confidence intervals follow readily.

Consider the following example, which is somewhat more complicated. In particular, consider estimating average earnings in the previous year, U_EARN. We first use the SAS PROC MEANS statement

```
PROC MEANS DATA=MKA VARDEF=WDF N SUMWGT MEAN VAR STD;
VAR u_earn;
WEIGHT wgpr0;
TITLE 'Total Earnings Last Year Using (Sum of Weights) 1 to Calculate the Variance';
RUN;
```

to obtain

n	Sum Wgt	Mean	Variance	Std Dev
27,599	37,298,973.02	18,873.51	901,697,957	30,028.29

The simple random sampling standard error is then:

$$(\text{population standard deviation})/(\text{unweighted sample size})^{1/2} = (30,028.29)/(27,599)^{1/2}.$$

This calculation yields 181.55. Since U_EARN average = 18,873.51 and from table 1, DEFT = 2.16, the final confidence interval is:

$$18,873.51 \pm 2 * 2.16 * (181.55)$$

or

$$18,873.51 \pm 784.31.$$

It might be worth noting that our basic approach here is similar to that taken in Census Bureau publications from the CPS (e.g., see P-60, No. 198, which is the CPS publication most comparable to the 1997 NSAF study). We believe that this approach will often give serviceable results for descriptive statistics, such as means, proportions, and totals. Wolter (1985) has more details.

For more complex situations, the book by Skinner, Holt, and Smith (1989), already mentioned, should be consulted. An approach using replication is also available in this public use file, employing the 60 replicate weights—WGPR1 through WGPR60—or, for health variables, WGHLTH1 through WGHLTH60. The details of the replication technique are found in the companion volume on variance estimation already cited (i.e., Report No. 4 in this methodology series). The computer program WesVar, <http://www.spss.com/software/wesvar/>, may be employed. There are still other approaches—in particular, using the programs STATA and SUDAAN (see references).

1.8 Comparison with Another NSAF Data File

In Methodology Report No. 11, indicators from the Child Public Use File were compared with the information released in *Snapshots of America's Families*. Since the MKA Public Use File includes only MKAs, while the *Snapshots* deal almost entirely with children, findings from the MKA file could not easily be compared with the *Snapshots* results. Instead, figures from the MKA data file were compared with those from the complete internal data file containing records for all MKAs, their spouse/partners, and all other adults, including those without children. The next NSAF Public Use File will include records for all these remaining adults—those without children, and the spouse/partners of MKAs. Because the upcoming release will thus complete the picture of the adult population covered by the NSAF, these comparisons are, in a sense, anticipatory.

We include these comparisons in order to demonstrate that there are only small differences between the MKA Public Use File and the large parent files, and these are concentrated in Wisconsin. Wisconsin was where we subsampled the original NSAF sample for confidentiality protection reasons. Because of the subsampling in Wisconsin, overall U.S. estimates from the

public use file are slightly affected. None of these changes is large, however, and all are certainly well within sampling error.

To illustrate this we have provided tables 4 through 7. Results are broken down by state (in the tables, states are abbreviated using their postal code abbreviations) and the nation as a whole. For state or national estimates, therefore, inferences from this file are in no material way impaired. Consider three examples:

1. In recent years, health care and insurance coverage have become topics of great concern. An analysis of the NSAF MKA Public Use File shows that 17.7 percent of MKAs are uninsured—the same value as for all adults. For Wisconsin, the only state in which NSAF was altered before creating this public use file, the corresponding figures were 9.36 percent for MKAs from this public use file, versus 9.30 percent from the internal data file. See table 4 for further comparisons.
2. The survey also revealed important information about the health insurance status of parents at the time of the survey in 1997. Overall, 11.9 percent of MKAs reported their health status as fair or poor—again identical to the percentage calculated from the internal file. In Wisconsin, the internal file reported 7.16 percent of MKAs uninsured, while the MKA Public Use File reported 7.86 percent of MKAs uninsured. See table 5 for further comparisons.
3. A final example looks at the indicators of well-being and quality of life included in the NSAF MKA Public Use File. Nationally, the internal file showed an average income of \$18,874—the public use file estimate was very close at \$18,877. In Wisconsin, differences between the MKA file and the internal file were more pronounced: The MKA file data indicated a mean income of \$19,973, while the complete data file estimated a mean of \$20,117. See table 6 for more comparisons.

In addition to making comparisons between the public files and the parent files, these tables also may afford a check on your own programming of similar statistics from this public use file.

Table 4.
MKAs' Source of Health Insurance Coverage (UHICOV), 1997
(in Percent)

State	Coverage	All Incomes		Under 200% Poverty		Over 200% Poverty	
		Internal	MKA	Internal	MKA	Internal	MKA
AL	Private	70.03	70.03	42.87	42.87	93.32	93.32
	Public	8.13	8.13	16.24	16.24	1.18	1.18
	Uninsured	21.84	21.84	40.89	40.89	5.50	5.50
CA	Private	60.49	60.49	28.49	28.49	89.32	89.32
	Public	18.50	18.50	33.76	33.76	4.75	4.75
	Uninsured	21.01	21.01	37.75	37.75	5.93	5.93
FL	Private	63.67	63.67	37.54	37.54	83.76	83.76
	Public	12.89	12.89	21.86	21.86	6.00	6.00
	Uninsured	23.44	23.44	40.61	40.61	10.24	10.24
MA	Private	77.63	77.63	38.51	38.51	93.50	93.50
	Public	13.42	13.42	39.94	39.94	2.66	2.66
	Uninsured	8.95	8.95	21.55	21.55	3.84	3.84
MI	Private	77.14	77.14	42.39	42.39	94.30	94.30
	Public	12.53	12.53	32.62	32.62	2.60	2.60
	Uninsured	10.33	10.33	24.98	24.98	3.09	3.09
MN	Private	80.57	80.57	47.60	47.60	94.64	94.64
	Public	12.49	12.49	35.98	35.98	2.47	2.47
	Uninsured	6.94	6.94	16.42	16.42	2.89	2.89
NJ	Private	79.35	79.35	44.18	44.18	93.39	93.39
	Public	9.15	9.15	27.08	27.08	1.98	1.98
	Uninsured	11.50	11.50	28.73	28.73	4.62	4.62
NY	Private	66.74	66.74	31.06	31.06	91.73	91.73
	Public	19.15	19.15	42.68	42.68	2.67	2.67
	Uninsured	14.11	14.11	26.26	26.26	5.60	5.60
TX	Private	60.67	60.67	35.80	35.80	35.80	85.03
	Public	12.18	12.18	21.65	21.65	21.65	2.90
	Uninsured	27.16	27.16	42.55	42.55	42.55	12.07
WA	Private	70.58	70.58	38.41	38.41	87.16	87.16
	Public	16.21	16.21	36.07	36.07	5.97	5.97
	Uninsured	13.22	13.22	25.53	25.53	6.87	6.87
MS	Private	63.99	63.99	41.51	41.51	88.24	88.24
	Public	13.61	13.61	22.48	22.48	4.03	4.03
	Uninsured	22.41	22.41	36.01	36.01	7.73	7.73
WI	Private	85.73	84.84	58.87	56.03	95.36	95.52
	Public	4.97	5.80	14.85	17.66	1.43	1.40
	Uninsured	9.30	9.36	26.28	26.32	3.21	3.08
CO	Private	72.77	72.77	38.89	38.89	88.52	88.52
	Public	9.16	9.16	18.73	18.73	4.70	4.70
	Uninsured	18.07	18.07	42.38	42.38	6.77	6.77
US	Private	68.92	68.93	38.66	38.66	89.38	89.38
	Public	13.35	13.33	27.28	27.26	3.93	3.93
	Uninsured	17.73	17.73	34.06	34.08	6.69	6.69

Note: The columns marked MKA are from the Public Use File, while those marked Internal are statistics taken from the complete NSAF internal file.

Table 5.
MKAs' Health Status (UCNGHL) , 1997
(in Percent)

State	Health	All Races		Blacks		Whites	
		Internal	MKA	Internal	MKA	Internal	MKA
AL	Fair/poor	15.68	15.68	21.91	21.91	12.61	12.61
	Good	84.32	84.32	78.09	78.09	87.39	87.39
CA	Fair/poor	16.16	16.16	14.13	14.13	17.04	17.04
	Good	83.84	83.84	85.87	85.87	82.96	82.96
FL	Fair/poor	11.03	11.03	14.28	14.28	9.78	9.78
	Good	88.97	88.97	85.72	85.72	90.22	90.22
MA	Fair/poor	9.06	9.06	17.93	17.93	8.25	8.25
	Good	90.94	90.94	82.07	82.07	91.75	91.75
MI	Fair/poor	9.23	9.23	18.98	18.98	7.16	7.16
	Good	90.77	90.77	81.02	81.02	92.84	92.84
MN	Fair/poor	6.56	6.56	19.89	19.89	5.64	5.64
	Good	93.44	93.44	80.11	80.11	94.36	94.36
NJ	Fair/poor	10.37	10.37	12.19	12.19	10.03	10.03
	Good	89.63	89.63	87.81	87.81	89.97	89.97
NY	Fair/poor	14.22	14.22	20.67	20.67	12.45	12.45
	Good	85.78	85.78	79.33	79.33	87.55	87.55
TX	Fair/poor	17.14	17.14	20.67	23.18	12.45	16.73
	Good	82.86	82.86	79.33	76.82	87.55	83.27
WA	Fair/poor	8.70	8.70	7.28	7.28	8.33	8.33
	Good	91.30	91.30	92.72	92.72	91.67	91.67
MS	Fair/poor	14.79	14.79	25.48	25.48	7.13	7.13
	Good	85.21	85.21	74.52	74.52	92.87	92.87
WI	Fair/poor	7.16	7.86	21.09	22.45	6.73	6.91
	Good	92.84	92.14	78.91	77.55	93.27	93.09
CO	Fair/poor	10.87	10.87	12.82	12.82	10.30	10.30
	Good	89.13	89.13	87.18	87.18	89.70	89.70
US	Fair/poor	11.86	11.86	16.35	16.34	11.10	11.09
	Good	88.14	88.14	83.65	83.66	88.90	88.91

Note: The columns marked MKA are from the Public Use File, while those marked Internal are statistics taken from the complete NSAF internal file.

**Table 6. Mean Annual Income of MKAs (U_EARN), 1997
(in Dollars)**

State	All Races		Blacks		Whites		Other Races	
	Internal	MKA	Internal	MKA	Internal	MKA	Internal	MKA
AL	15,776	15,776	11,276	11,276	17,946	17,946	12,110	12,110
CA	19,107	19,107	18,247	18,247	18,738	18,738	22,998	22,998
FL	19,296	19,296	13,357	13,357	20,966	20,966	18,593	18,593
MA	21,271	21,271	17,279	17,279	21,605	21,605	22,096	22,096
MI	18,450	18,450	17,743	17,743	18,625	18,625	17,085	17,085
MN	20,647	20,647	12,992	12,992	21,476	21,476	12,458	12,458
NJ	24,295	24,295	18,645	18,645	25,009	25,009	35,891	35,891
NY	19,952	19,952	15,548	15,548	21,270	21,270	19,199	19,199
TX	17,123	17,123	16,547	16,547	17,139	17,139	19,272	19,272
WA	19,075	19,075	17,017	17,017	18,911	18,911	22,253	22,253
MS	15,434	15,434	9,440	9,440	19,806	19,806	17,371	17,371
WI	20,117	19,973	10,495	13,537	20,440	20,657	13,155	13,767
CO	20,215	20,215	17,918	17,918	20,313	20,313	20,574	20,574
US	18,874	18,877	15,499	15,501	19,470	19,474	19,018	19,016

Note: The columns marked MKA are from the Public Use File, while those marked Internal are statistics taken from the complete NSAF internal file.

Table 7.
Educational Level of MKAs (UBCPSED), 1997
(in Percent)

State	Educational Level (CPS)	All Races		Blacks		Whites		Other	
		Internal	MKA	Internal	MKA	Internal	MKA	Internal	MKA
AL	No HS Diploma or GED	17.95	17.95	23.71	23.71	15.45	15.45	8.42	8.42
	HS Diploma or GED, No Bachelor's Degree	63.70	63.70	66.74	66.74	62.17	62.17	69.13	69.13
	Bachelor's Degree and Higher	18.36	18.36	9.55	9.55	22.38	22.38	22.45	22.45
CA	No HS Diploma or GED	23.00	23.00	12.77	12.77	25.54	25.54	9.40	9.40
	HS Diploma or GED, No Bachelor's Degree	55.75	55.75	73.31	73.31	54.31	54.31	53.82	53.82
	Bachelor's Degree and Higher	21.25	21.25	13.92	13.92	20.14	20.14	36.78	36.78
FL	No HS Diploma or GED	16.94	16.94	27.88	27.88	14.24	14.24	6.05	6.05
	HS Diploma or GED, No Bachelor's Degree	61.81	61.81	59.59	59.59	62.65	62.65	54.74	54.74
	Bachelor's Degree and Higher	21.24	21.24	12.53	12.53	23.11	23.11	39.21	39.21
MA	No HS Diploma or GED	9.30	9.30	20.10	20.10	8.22	8.22	12.90	12.90
	HS Diploma or GED, No Bachelor's Degree	57.05	57.05	61.09	61.09	57.18	57.18	41.28	41.28
	Bachelor's Degree and Higher	33.65	33.65	18.82	18.82	34.60	34.60	45.82	45.82
MI	No HS Diploma or GED	10.58	10.58	21.44	21.44	8.04	8.04	23.56	23.56
	HS Diploma or GED, No Bachelor's Degree	66.57	66.57	63.42	63.42	67.49	67.49	52.72	52.72
	Bachelor's Degree and Higher	22.85	22.85	15.14	15.14	24.48	24.48	23.72	23.72
MN	No HS Diploma or GED	7.03	7.03	15.59	15.59	5.55	5.55	25.07	25.07
	HS Diploma or GED, No Bachelor's Degree	65.55	65.55	74.75	74.75	65.75	65.75	56.11	56.11
	Bachelor's Degree and Higher	27.42	27.42	9.67	9.67	28.70	28.70	18.82	18.82
NJ	No HS Diploma or GED	10.37	10.37	18.53	18.53	8.50	8.50	8.17	8.17
	HS Diploma or GED, No Bachelor's Degree	57.91	57.91	67.43	67.43	57.55	57.55	23.77	23.77
	Bachelor's Degree and Higher	31.72	31.72	14.04	14.04	33.95	33.95	68.06	68.06

Note: The columns marked MKA are from the Public Use File, while those marked Internal are statistics taken from the complete NSAF internal file.

Table 7.
Educational Level of MKAs (UBCPSED), 1997 (continued)

State	Educational Level (CPS)	All Races		Blacks		Whites		Other	
		Internal	MKA	Internal	MKA	Internal	MKA	Internal	MKA
NY	No HS Diploma or GED	17.48	17.48	25.14	25.14	14.79	14.79	23.77	23.77
	HS Diploma or GED, No Bachelor's Degree	58.85	58.85	62.42	62.42	58.92	58.92	45.42	45.42
	Bachelor's Degree and Higher	23.66	23.66	12.43	12.43	26.29	26.29	30.81	30.81
TX	No HS Diploma or GED	22.30	22.30	19.35	19.35	22.96	22.96	15.10	15.10
	HS Diploma or GED, No Bachelor's Degree	58.72	58.72	62.10	62.10	58.49	58.49	50.41	50.41
	Bachelor's Degree and Higher	18.98	18.98	18.55	18.55	18.55	18.55	34.49	34.49
WA	No HS Diploma or GED	9.67	9.67	10.48	10.48	9.06	9.06	16.95	16.95
	HS Diploma or GED, No Bachelor's Degree	64.77	64.77	74.43	74.43	65.00	65.00	56.69	56.69
	Bachelor's Degree and Higher	25.56	25.56	15.09	15.09	25.94	25.94	26.36	26.36
MS	No HS Diploma or GED	18.83	18.83	28.36	28.36	11.96	11.96	11.82	11.82
	HS Diploma or GED, No Bachelor's Degree	64.02	64.02	62.52	62.52	64.88	64.88	74.54	74.54
	Bachelor's Degree and Higher	17.16	17.16	9.12	9.12	23.16	23.16	13.64	13.64
WI	No HS Diploma or GED	7.65	8.92	28.03	20.59	7.20	7.79	13.17	16.29
	HS Diploma or GED, No Bachelor's Degree	67.61	66.60	54.46	68.58	67.68	66.47	72.92	65.97
	Bachelor's Degree and Higher	24.74	24.48	17.51	10.83	25.13	25.75	13.91	17.75
CO	No HS Diploma or GED	11.23	11.23	19.80	19.80	11.02	11.02	6.45	6.45
	HS Diploma or GED, No Bachelor's Degree	60.35	60.35	63.91	63.91	60.06	60.06	62.95	62.95
	Bachelor's Degree and Higher	28.42	28.42	16.29	16.29	28.92	28.92	30.60	30.60
US	No HS Diploma or GED	14.80	14.80	20.97	20.95	13.73	13.73	14.20	14.22
	HS Diploma or GED, No Bachelor's Degree	62.85	62.86	65.71	65.73	62.80	62.81	54.33	54.31
	Bachelor's Degree and Higher	22.34	22.34	13.32	13.32	23.46	23.46	31.47	31.48

Note: The columns marked MKA are from the Public Use File, while those marked Internal are statistics taken from the complete NSAF internal file.

Some of the data released on this MKA Public Use File can also be compared to data from the Child Public Use File. The child file contained a number of variables that dealt with the MKAs. For example, the child file supplied information on the age (UMKAAGE), race (UMKARACE), and sex (UMMKGEND) of the MKA, as well as variables dealing with parent aggravation (UAGG), parental attitudes (PWORKIMP), and others that also appear on the MKA Public Use File. For examples of the comparisons possible between the two files, see appendix A.

1.9 Updating Plans

This public use file is one of four planned public use files from the 1997 NSAF. The first of these was released in March 1999; this file will become available in July 1999. A third file will be released in October 1999, and the final release will be in early 2000.

Eventually, the majority of items from the survey will be released. The main exceptions relate to items that might be at odds with the pledge of confidentiality given to respondents. Full geographic detail would be an obvious example. The content of the upcoming release files will be as follows:

- Adult (Non-MKA) File. The third release will contain records for the remaining sampled adults, notably information from households without children, but also including spouse/partners of MKAs. This file may be incomplete in that some variables may not be ready.
- Household and Family File. The fourth file will supply most of the detailed information on households and families. It will be our final planned public use file release from the 1997 NSAF.

Updates of these four public releases are expected to be of two kinds. We will be:

- Adding variables as they become available. These new variables will be concatenated at the end of the records already released. For example, we are already planning to re-release the child file, adding variables on child care arrangements and supplying a second weight that has been undercount adjusted.
- Simplifying the data structures so that less-experienced users may find a way to get direct access without knowing SAS or some other general statistical package. A new tabulator program will enable users to produce easy cross tabulations of data.

The documentation for the basic public-use files assumes a degree of experience that not all potential users may have. To partially address this, even in the absence of the tabulator versions, the codebooks prepared for each release will give guidelines on how to use the data. They will also include some information on other publicly available files that have similar structures.

The first two public-use files are in compressed ASCII format, contained in a self-extracting program, and must be downloaded and uncompressed. To download the files and save them to

your disk, go to the NSAF Web site and click on the name of the desired file. A window will appear asking for the location to save the file to. Enter the location and choose "Save." To unzip the file, go to the file manager or Windows Explorer and double-click the downloaded file. The extraction program will unzip the ASCII file into the same. To convert the ASCII file back to an SAS data set, download the *sample read-in data step* and change the infile statement to point to the downloaded, uncompressed file.

1.10 Contact Information

For more information on the MKA Public Use File and the National Survey of America's Families (NSAF), please contact us as follows:

Email is the quickest and most convenient approach. Please send communications to nsaf@ui.urban.org.

Please include your name, complete address, and phone number in any correspondence, so we can better serve you. All email inquiries will be answered within three working days, usually by a return e-mail.

Regular mail can also be used by writing to:

Assessing the New Federalism
National Survey of America's Families
Urban Institute
2100 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

If you use regular mail, please include your name, return postal address, email address, and phone number. Allow a week for us to get your request. All mail inquiries will be returned within three working days after receipt, if we can reply by email. If regular mail is required, add another week.

We have asked for telephone numbers so that we can clarify your question or request, if necessary.

1.11 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The following is a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and answers. The list will be updated on a monthly basis (last update 6/21/99). It may be useful to consult the FAQ sheet first when questions arise. To view the updated FAQ list, consult the NSAF home page at <http://newfederalism.urban.org/nsaf/>.

Release Dates for Survey Data

Question One:

When will the remaining Round One NSAF data become available?

Answer One:

Initial Child Public Use File Release — March 1999
Initial MKA Public Use File Release — July 1999
Initial Non-MKA Public Use File Release — September 1999
Final Child Public Use File Release — October 1999
Final MKA Public Use File Release — November 1999
Final Non-MKA Public Use File Release — December 2000
Overall Final Release of Public Use File — February 2000

Question Two:

When will the Round Two questionnaire be available to the public?

Answer Two:

The Round Two instrument is being made available as part of Methodology Report No. 12, to be released in early fall of 1999. Report No. 12 compares the Round One and Two questionnaires and will include the text of both.

Distribution of Survey Data

Question One:

Can I distribute the data from the NSAF Public Use Files to my colleagues, even though they personally have not registered with the Urban Institute?

Answer One:

We politely insist that all users of the Public Use File data register with the Urban Institute at <http://newfederalism.urban.org/nsaf/survey/nsafsurvey.cfm>. This measure is designed to prevent misuse of NSAF data.

Sampling

Question One:

How can the NSAF be nationally representative when only 13 states were surveyed?

Answer One:

A sample was also drawn from the balance of the nation in order to allow estimation of nationwide population parameters.

Household, MKA, and Child Identifiers

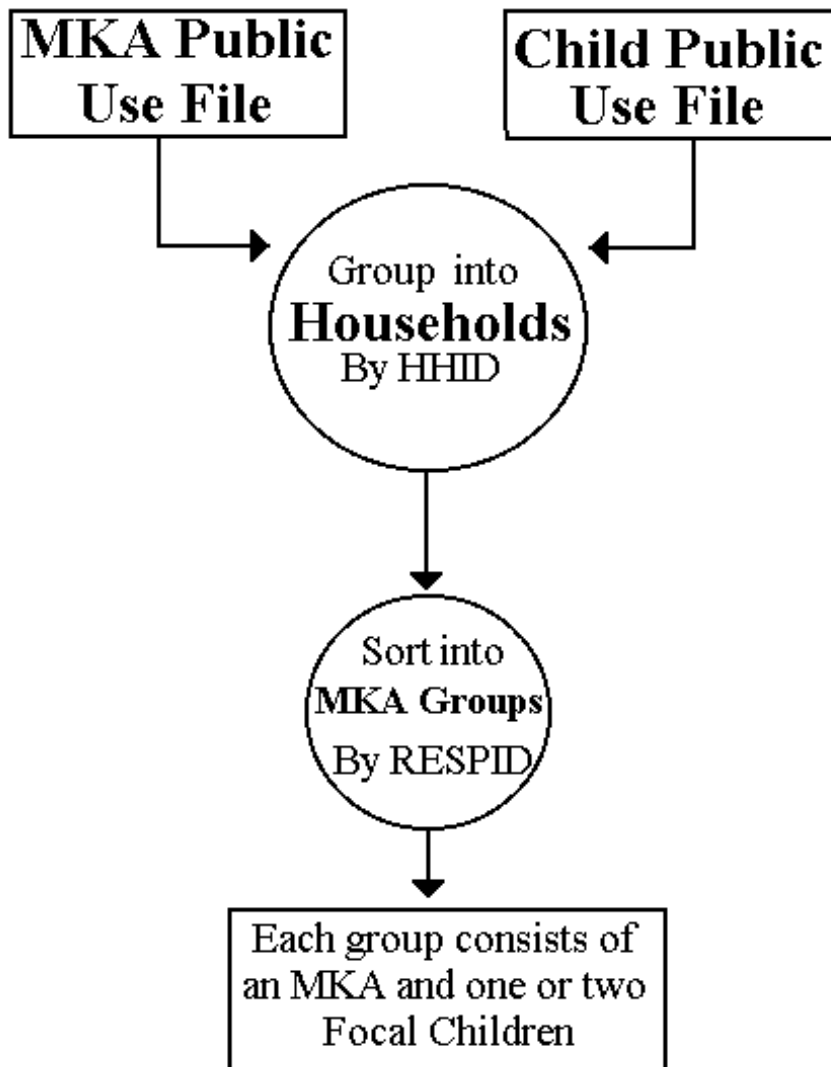
Question One:

How do the various identifiers on the file relate to the overall structure of the NSAF data?

Answer One:

The household identifier (HHID) can be used to group members of the same household together. The RESPID identifies each individual with a respondent—the person who provided the information. For children, the RESPID links them to their MKA; therefore, this variable, can be used to group individuals into families. Finally, each individual about whom information was collected has a unique identifier (PERSID). This structure is shown graphically in figure 4.

Figure 4.
Role of Identifiers in Structure of NSAF Data



Linking the MKA Public Use File to Child Public Use File

Question One:

How can the MKA file be linked to the Child File?

Answer One: In order to link the MKA file to the Child File, and later to the other public use files, users should employ a SAS MERGE statement in the following manner:

```
PROC SORT DATA=mka OUT=mkatemp;  
  BY respid;  
RUN;
```

```
PROC SORT DATA=focalchd OUT=fctemp;  
  BY respid;  
RUN;
```

```
DATA merge anotb bnota;  
  MERGE mkatemp(IN=A) fctemp(IN=B);  
  BY respid;  
  IF A AND B THEN OUTPUT merge;  
  IF A AND NOT B THEN OUTPUT anotb;  
  IF B AND NOT A THEN OUTPUT bnota;  
RUN;
```

(*Note:* In this example, the MKA data set is referred to as “mka,” while the child data set is referred to as “focalchd.” The resulting merged file is called “merge”.)

This procedure will yield a unified file combining records from the first two public use files.

Weights

No questions currently. The use of weights is covered in this introduction and in two reports in the NSAF methodology series (Nos. 3 and 4). The complex sample that was used in NSAF and that requires that weights be used is discussed in this methodology series in Reports No. 2 and 3.

Geographic Indicators

Question One:

Will substate geographic indicators be released?

Answer One:

Only state and census region indicators are available at present on this file because of concerns, already outlined, regarding the preservation of our confidentiality pledge to respondents. We are still studying this and may be able to provide more geographic

detail (e.g., census divisions) in later releases, but in any case, geographic data below the state level will remain quite limited.

Family Characteristics (i.e., relationships and poverty status)

No questions currently. The information on this file from NSAF gives only limited information on these topics. Later files will be much more detailed in this area.

MKA Characteristics (i.e., age, gender, race, ethnicity)

No questions currently. This is nearly complete as is, but family context variables could be created from later releases.

Health Measures

No questions currently. More information on the nature of the health insurance coverage and other issues will be released on later files. A full discussion of how NSAF health measures relate to other surveys will also be published.

Education Measures

No questions currently. Variables provided on this file are virtually complete as given.

MKA Characteristics, as Associated with the Child Public Use File

Question One:

Is there a variable that will give the education of the MKA associated with a particular focal child?

Answer One:

There are three education variables on the Child Public Use File that provide information on the education of the MKA associated with a specific focal child:

UMEDULEV—MKA's highest level of education

UMHSGRAD—MKA received high school diploma or GED

UMHIGDEG—MKA's highest educational degree

Other Adult Measures (i.e., attitudes toward child and attitudes about welfare)

No questions currently. Variables in this area of the NSAF are virtually complete as given. At present, there are no plans to impute for missing information.

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2 BASIC MKA VARIABLES

This chapter contains definitions of the basic sample selection and demographic MKA variables being released on this public use file. Included are entries that define the file's structure and will connect with the other files being released. The limited geographic variables on the file are defined, plus information on family setting (e.g., family poverty status). The MKA sample weights are also described. Finally, items such as age, gender, race, and ethnicity conclude the material covered.

The entries shown here are in order by file location. The first line of each entry provides a short acronym in all capital letters, a brief variable name, and at the far right, a page reference to chapter 9, which contains unweighted counts for each variable. The body of each entry provides definitional material and explains missing values.

HHID	Household identification number	9-4
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This is simply a unique number assigned to each household during survey processing. We included it as a convenience to researchers wishing to bring together interview records for the same household. The number assigned will be the same on subsequent files for the same household and therefore may be used to match records from one 1997 NSAF public use file to another.

Because the 1997 NSAF was largely an RDD telephone survey, we were unable to assure ourselves, as would be done in a completely face-to-face survey, that the Census Bureau definition of a "household" was strictly followed. We are, however, confident that no serious deviations took place. In any case, as is discussed in Report No. 3 in this methodology series, we did adjust the NSAF survey totals to an outside total of households obtained from the Census Bureau.

The traditional Census definition of a household, incidentally, includes all the persons who occupy a house, apartment, or other group of rooms or a room, that constitutes a housing unit. A group of rooms or a single room is regarded as a housing unit when it is occupied as separate living quarters. For it to be a separate housing unit the occupants must not live and eat with any other person in the structure; furthermore, there must be direct access from the outside or through a common hall. The Census Bureau household population counts we used in deriving the survey weights *excluded* persons living in group quarters, such as rooming houses, military barracks, and institutions. Inmates of institutions (mental hospitals, rest homes, correctional institutions, etc.) are not included in the survey. Population coverage includes the civilian (noninstitutional) population of the United States, plus members of the U.S. Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post, but excludes all other members of the armed forces.

the file should note that this weight does not adjust for the census undercount. NSAF will release undercount-adjusted weights at a later date.

Because of our concerns about respondent anonymity, after the first published NSAF estimates (in *Snapshots*), we elected to subsample the Milwaukee cases. The weights on the current file were adjusted upward to reflect this extra step by using the inverse of the subsampling probabilities. We did not, however, go back through all the coverage adjustment steps again, so very slight differences exist between the estimates from this file and those already published from the full sample. Chapter 1, section 8, of this codebook quantifies the small differences we found; it is believed that the subsampling should in no way impair use.

WGPR1–WGPR60 Replicate weights for MKA variables 9-70

This variable consists of 60 weights provided for researchers who wish to obtain sampling variance estimates using WesVar or other statistical software packages that use replicate weights. In chapter 1, section 7, of this codebook, issues of variance estimation are discussed and references are given to Report No. 4 in this series. Computer programs for doing the needed calculations are also covered. The subsampling done to preserve confidentiality has also been reflected in these replicate weights.

WGHLTH0 Weight for MKA health variables 9-69

This weight should be used for all health variables except BSATMED, NDEPRESA-NDEPRESE, UMH2, and UMH2NEG. In addition to adjusting for the probabilities and modifications encompassed by the MKA weight, this weight accounts for the fact that health questions were asked not of all MKAs, but randomly of either the MKA or the MKA's spouse/partner. As mentioned above, users of the file should note that none of these weights make adjustments for the census undercount. NSAF will release undercount-adjusted weights at a later date.

WGHLTH1–WGHLTH60 Replicate weights for MKA health variables 9-69

This variable consists of 60 health weights provided for researchers who wish to obtain sampling variance estimates for health variables using WesVar or other statistical software packages that use replicate weights. In chapter 1, section 7, of this codebook, issues of variance estimation are discussed and references are given to Report No. 4 in this series. Computer programs for doing the needed calculations are also covered. The subsampling done to preserve confidentiality has also been reflected in these replicate weights.

SITE**State of residence****9-51**

This geographic variable is closely tied to the main goal of the NSAF, which was to provide detailed information on 13 states plus Milwaukee, and also to sample the balance of the United States, so that national estimates would be possible, too. The Milwaukee data cannot be shown separately for confidentiality reasons, and after subsampling were combined with the rest of Wisconsin into a single code for the state as a whole.

UREGION**Region****9-67**

In the NSAF, we are employing the regional partitioning of the United States that has been set up by the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau divides the country into four regions and within each region into divisions, nine in all. The regions are Northeast, Midwest (formerly North Central), West, and South. The nine geographic divisions have been largely unchanged for the presentation of summary statistics since the 1910 Census:

NORTHEAST REGION. This region consists of two divisions: New England and Middle Atlantic. New England has six states: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Middle Atlantic Division has three states: New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

MIDWEST REGION. This region also consists of two divisions: East North Central and West North Central. East North Central has five states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The West North Central Division has seven states: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

WEST REGION. This region consists of the Mountain and Pacific Divisions. The Mountain Division has eight states: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, and New Mexico. The Pacific Division has five states: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

SOUTH REGION. The South Census Region has three divisions: East South Central, West South Central, and South Atlantic. The states are Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee for the East South Central Division and Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas for the West South Central Division. The South Atlantic Division includes the remaining states and the District of Columbia. The states are Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.

For the telephone sample, the addresses were derived from the area code of the telephone number. From the in-person component, they were obtained from the actual sample addresses. Divisions have been defined here, even though the Child Public Use File only shows the census region. As noted elsewhere, we are considering whether releasing census division-level geography would be possible in subsequent files.

This variable is categorical and takes on one of six values: 0.5 (families under 50 percent of the poverty level), 1 (families between 50 percent and 100 percent of the poverty level), 1.5 (families between 100 percent and 150 percent of poverty level), 2 (families between 150 percent and 200 percent of poverty level), 3 (families between 200 percent and 300 percent of poverty level), and, 4 (families above 300 percent of poverty level).

The construction of this variable involved determining family income and then relating that income to the official poverty threshold. Users may wish to keep in mind that one of the component variables used in the creation of this variable may have been imputed.

Family Income. To determine family income, for each person in the sample who is 15 years old and over, questions are asked on the amount of money income received in the preceding calendar year from each of the following sources:

- (a) Money wages or salary;
- (b) Net income from nonfarm self-employment;
- (c) Net income from farm self-employment;
- (d) Social Security or railroad retirement;
- (e) Supplemental Security Income;
- (f) Public assistance or welfare payments;
- (g) Interest (on savings or bonds);
- (h) Dividends, income from estates or trusts, or net rental income;
- (i) Veterans' payments or unemployment and workmen's compensation;
- (j) Private pensions or government employee pensions;
- (k) Alimony or child support, regular contributions from persons not living in the household, and other periodic income.

Although income statistics refer to receipts during the preceding year, the characteristics of the person, such as age, labor force status, and so on, and the composition of households refer to the time of the survey. The income of the household does not include amounts received by persons who are members of the household during all or part of the income year if these persons no longer reside with the household at the time of the interview. On the other hand, amounts are included if reported by persons who did not reside with the household during the income year but who were members of the household at the time of the interview.

Poverty thresholds. In this file, families and unrelated individuals are classified as being above or below the poverty level using a poverty index adopted by a Federal Interagency Committee in 1969. The index was slightly modified in 1981 and has been kept up since by using the consumer price index to adjust for price changes. (See *Current Population Reports*, Series P-60, No. 198, "Money Income and Poverty Status of Persons in the United States: 1996." For electronic access, see <http://www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/threshld/thresh96.html>.)

The modified index provides a range of income cutoffs or "poverty thresholds" adjusted to take into account family size, number of children, and age of the family householder or unrelated

was placed late in the interview and some respondents grew tired and ended the interview prematurely. One further comment on this variable: in a face-to-face surveys like the CPS, respondents are shown a flash card and asked to choose their response; in the NSAF, respondents were given the response categories verbally.

3 HEALTH STATUS VARIABLES

This chapter contains definitions for the MKA health status variables released on this second public use file. Information on health conditions that limit activity and overall current health status is included. These are taken mostly from questionnaire section F on “health status and

Many of the variables are created from the original responses given and have been imputed when missing. Some of these—those with a U as the first letter of the variable name—are constructed indices. A few, however, are provided in raw form.

Most of the health variables discussed here have several thousand cases coded as missing due to sampling. This refers to the fact that most health questions were not asked about all MKAs. Instead, either the MKA or the spouse/partner was randomly selected to respond to most health questions. In the cases coded as missing, the question was asked about the spouse/partner. Because of this sub-sampling, the health weights, rather than the basic MKA weights, should be used when working with most of these variables. The exceptions are BSATMED, NDEPRESA–NDEPRESE, UMH2, and UMH2NEG, for which the MKA weights should be used.

BSATMED Satisfaction with quality medical care 9-2

Respondents were asked about their degree of satisfaction with the medical care they received. The interviewer was not to interpret the question for the respondent. If the question was not understood, the interviewer repeated the question and asked the respondent to answer according to what the question meant to him or her.

This question was asked of all MKAs. In 566 cases, the MKA did have an opinion as to whether they he or she was satisfied. Six refused to answer the question, and in 69 cases, no response was ascertained. Like all opinion questions, it was not imputed.

Researchers should note that this is one of eight health variables for which the general MKA weight, rather than the health weight, should be used.

FDISBL Has health condition that limits work 9-3

The interviewer defined PHYSICAL, MENTAL, OR OTHER HEALTH CONDITION as an ongoing or chronic impairment or condition. This did not include pregnancy or childbirth as a CONDITION. It also did not include an injury that occurred three months ago or less (unless it resulted in obvious permanent limitation), or the effects of an operation that took place three months ago or less (unless these effects are obviously permanent).

The interviewer also defined LIMITS WORK as covering both working at a paid job or doing work around the house. Some examples of LIMITS WORK included:

- (1) Can do only certain types of jobs.
- (2) Able to work only for short periods of time
- (3) Have to rest often; can do certain household chores but not others
- (4) Need help doing housework because of the impairment or health condition
- (5) Do not need help but require longer than normal periods of rest between housekeeping activities

There were 9,399 cases coded missing due to sampling. Otherwise, because this variable was created, there are no inapplicables and no missing values. Forty six cases (0.2 percent of MKAs) were imputed for this variable; the imputation flag XDISBL indicates when the value has been imputed.

FHLTHP Current health status compared to 12 months ago 9-3

In asking this question the interviewer was to clearly state the list of alternative responses. If the respondent gave an answer other than one of the choices listed on the questionnaire (such as “pretty good”) or otherwise showed that he or she did not understand, the interviewer was to ask the question again, starting with the phrase “in general.”

There were 9,399 cases coded missing due to sampling. Twenty five cases (0.1 percent of MKAs) were imputed for this variable. The imputation flag for this variable is XHLTHP.

UCURCVG2 Current coverage 9-62

For this created variable, a nine-level hierarchy was employed to indicate the specific type health insurance coverage the respondent currently utilizes. Each MKA was assigned a value on the nine-level scale according to his or her answers to several of the questions in section E of the survey, dealing with health insurance coverage.

There were 9,399 cases coded missing due to sampling. Otherwise, because this variable was created, there are no inapplicables and no missing values. Users may wish to keep in mind that one of the component variables used in the creation of this variable may have been imputed.

UHICOV Current coverage— 3 level hierarchy 9-63

This three-level hierarchy further simplifies the scale used for the UCURCVG2 variable. Each MKA was classified as having private coverage, public coverage, or no coverage. Respondents were grouped according to their scores on the nine-level hierarchy.

As with the other variables of this type, there were the 9,399 cases coded missing due to sampling. Otherwise, because this variable was created, there are no inapplicables and no

missing values. Users may wish to keep in mind that one of the component variables used in the creation of this variable may have been imputed.

UVISIT Number of health care visits in past 12 months 9-69

This variable indicates the number of times the MKA saw a doctor, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant in the previous 12 months. The number of health care visits was calculated based on several questions from section E of the survey. These questions dealt with the number of times the MKA had seen one of the above-mentioned medical practitioners.

There were 9,399 cases coded missing due to sampling. Otherwise, because this variable was created, there are no inapplicables and no missing values. Users may wish to keep in mind that one of the component variables used in the creation of this variable may have been imputed.

USOURCE Usual source of care 9-68

This variable indicates the MKA's usual source of healthcare. Each MKA was assigned a value for this variable based on his or her response to question F16 (FPLACE) on the survey.

Again, there were 9,399 cases coded missing due to sampling. Otherwise, because this variable was created, there are no inapplicables and no missing values. Users may wish to keep in mind that one of the component variables used in the creation of this variable may have been imputed.

UNOCON Not confident in access to care 9-66

This variable was created to indicate whether or not the respondent was confident about his or her ability to get health care if necessary. This variable derived from answers to questions on section F of the survey.

Because this variable was created, there are no inapplicables and no missing values. There were, however, 9,399 cases coded missing due to sampling. Users may wish to keep in mind that one of the component variables used in the creation of this variable may have been imputed.

UCNGHL Fair/poor health status 9-61

This variable indicates whether the MKA's health status was not good. The respondent's score for this variable was based on his or her response to questions from section B of the survey.

Because this variable was created, there are no inapplicables and no missing values. There were, however, 9,399 cases coded missing due to sampling. Users may wish to keep in mind that one of the component variables used in the creation of this variable may have been imputed.

NDEPRESA Very nervous in past month 9-22

These five health-related opinion questions (identified here as NDEPRESA through NDEPRESE) were asked of all MKAs. We asked these questions because we want to understand how families are affected by changes around them.

For NDEPRESA, the interviewer was to ascertain whether the MKA felt he or she was a happy person in last month. Fifty-four people did not know whether they had felt happy in the last month. Fifty seven refused to answer, and no response was ascertained in 376 additional cases.

Researchers should note that this is one of eight health variables for which the general MKA weight, rather than the health weight, should be used.

NDEPRESB Felt calm and peaceful in last month 9-23

The interviewer was to record whether the respondent had felt calm and peaceful in last month. Fifty-five people did not know whether they had felt that way in the last month. Fifty one refused to answer, and in 376 cases, no response was ascertained.

Researchers should note that this is one of eight health variables for which the general MKA weight, rather than the health weight, should be used.

NDEPRESC MKA felt downhearted in last month 9-24

The interviewer was to record whether the MKA felt downhearted in the last month. There were 93 people who did not know whether they had felt that way in the last month. An additional 66 refused to answer, and in 376 cases no response was ascertained.

Researchers should note that this is one of eight health variables for which the general MKA weight, rather than the health weight, should be used.

NDEPRESD MKA was a happy person in the last month 9-25

For this question the interviewer was to record whether the MKA was a happy person in last month. There were 38 people who did not know whether they had felt that way in the last month. An additional 52 refused to answer, and in 376 cases no response was ascertained.

Researchers should note that this is one of eight health variables for which the general MKA weight, rather than the health weight, should be used.

NDEPRESE **MKA could not be cheered up in last month** **9-26**

The interviewer, for this question, was to record whether the MKA felt that could not be cheered up in the last month. For this question, there were 61 people who did not know whether they had felt that way in the last month, 55 refused to answer, and 376 cases in which no response was ascertained.

Researchers should note that this is one of eight health variables for which the general MKA weight, rather than the health weight, should be used.

UMH2 **100-point mental health scale** **9-65**

The parent mental health scale is derived by summing the responses to five items that ask how often in the past month the MKA had been--

- a very nervous person (NDEPRESA),
- felt calm or peaceful (NDEPRESB),
- felt downhearted and blue (NDEPRESC),
- had been a happy person (NDEPRESD), and
- felt so down in the dumps that nothing could cheer him or her up (NDEPRESE).

The response categories included all of the time (coded 1), most of the time (coded 2), some of the time (coded 3), and none of the time (coded 4). Responses to the questions about feeling calm or peaceful and being a happy person are reverse coded.

Responses are totaled creating a scale score ranging from 5 to 20. Scores for respondents who answered four of the five questions were first standardized to the 20-point scale and then all scores were rescaled--this time to 100 by multiplying by 5. A higher score indicates better mental health. Scores for respondents answering less than four questions were coded as I.

There were 42 cases coded inapplicable. Cases were coded inapplicable when more than one of the component variables (NDEPRESA–E) was coded missing or inapplicable.

Researchers should note that this is one of eight health variables for which the general MKA weight, rather than the health weight, should be used.

UMH2NEG **Negative (poor) mental health** **9-66**

This variable is created using scores from the parent mental health scale (100 points) (UMH2). It can be used to identify children living with an MKA who is in poor mental health. Children whose MKA scored 67 points or less on the mental health scale received a value of 1 for this variable. Children whose MKA's score was greater than 67 points received a value of 0. Children whose MKA's UMH2 score was coded as I were given an I for this variable as well.

There were 42 cases coded inapplicable. Cases were coded inapplicable when more than one of the component variables (NDEPRESA–E) was coded missing or inapplicable.

Researchers should note that this is one of eight health variables for which the general MKA weight, rather than the health weight, should be used.

4 EDUCATION AND TRAINING VARIABLES

This chapter contains definitions for the MKA education and training variables being released on this public use file. Included are entries on the MKA's educational level, whether or not the MKA received training from the government, and whether the MKA and other household members had recently participated in various other sorts of education and training programs. Some variables, notably those beginning with the letter U, have been created using responses to one or more survey questions. Most, however, are provided in raw form.

UBCPSED Educational level, CPS 9-60

This variable was created using responses to the question on highest level of schooling completed (LHIGRAD). Responses were coded according to the CPS three-level educational scale.

Since this variable was created, there are no missing values; However, responses for this variable were imputed in 168 cases (0.6 percent of MKAs). Consequently, researchers may wish to utilize the imputation flag XBCPSED when analyzing this variable.

LUNPJB Participates in unpaid job 9-6

This question asked whether anyone in the family had participated in an unpaid job. The respondent was instructed to include all jobs without pay that were provided by a government program. The job did not have to have been new the previous year, as long as unpaid work occurred at any point during the previous calendar year. The respondent was to report actual work at an unpaid job, not just program requirements to work at an unpaid job.

Seven people did not know whether they had worked in an unpaid job, 14 people refused to answer this question, and in 272 cases no response was ascertained. The social family income level was greater than 200% poverty in 12,592 cases; these cases were therefore coded inapplicable. In five cases coded inapplicable, the poverty level was not known. Thirteen cases were coded inapplicable for other reasons.

LWHUNP Ever participated in unpaid job in past 9-10

The interviewer recorded all individuals who had ever worked at an unpaid job provided by a government program. A negative response to this question indicates that someone in the family other than the MKA participated in an unpaid job in the past.

In 61 cases, no response was ascertained for this question. There were 14,347 cases coded inapplicable because no one in the family had worked in an unpaid job provided by the government (see LUNPJB). In 12,610 cases, the respondent was not asked the screener (see LUNPJB). There were fourteen cases coded inapplicable in which the respondent refused to

indicate whether or not anyone in the family had worked in an unpaid job provided by the government. Another 211 cases were coded inapplicable because no response was obtained for the screener. Finally, there were seven cases coded inapplicable who did not know whether anyone had worked in such a job.

LUNPREQ Had unpaid job for welfare 9-7

The interviewer defined REQUIREMENT FOR WELFARE: An unpaid job is “a requirement for welfare” if the money or other benefits provided by a welfare program will be cut off or reduced if the individual refuses to work at the job.

One person did not know whether their unpaid job was a requirement for welfare, while in 61 cases, no response was ascertained. In 27 cases coded inapplicable, someone other than the MKA worked at an unpaid job provided by the government. For 27,322 cases coded inapplicable, individuals were not asked whether they had participated in an unpaid job in the past (see LWHUNP).

LAFDC Unpaid job for AFDC 9-4

The interviewer marked all programs that were associated with any unpaid jobs last year for any of the family members listed in question L6 (LWHUNP). If necessary, the interviewer read the list of programs.

When obtaining an answer to these three questions (LAFDC, LFDSTMP, and LGENASS) the interviewer was to define:

AFDC (or Aid to Families with Dependent Children): A federal program administered by state or local government that makes payments to low-income families with children.

FOOD STAMPS: A program providing coupon books, checks or plastic cards that can be used to buy food.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE (or General Relief): Cash assistance from State and local programs for people who are not eligible for or who are waiting to enroll in other assistance programs.

In 61 cases, no answer was ascertained; 27,349 were not asked whether the unpaid job was a requirement for welfare (see LUNPREQ). One case was coded inapplicable because the respondent did not know whether the job was a requirement for welfare. Finally, there were 80 inapplicable cases who had unpaid jobs that were not requirements for welfare.

LFDSTMP Unpaid job for food stamps 9-5

The interviewer marked whether or not the respondent had received food stamps associated with any unpaid job. In 61 cases, no answer was ascertained. There were 27,349 cases coded inapplicable because the respondent was not asked whether their unpaid job was a requirement for welfare (see LUNPREQ). One case was coded inapplicable because the respondent did not know whether the job was a requirement for welfare. The remaining 80 inapplicable cases had unpaid jobs that were not required for welfare.

LGENASS Unpaid job for general assistance 9-5

When a reply to this question was received, the interviewer marked whether the respondent had received general assistance associated with any unpaid job.

In 61 cases, no answer was ascertained; 27,153 cases coded inapplicable were not asked whether their unpaid job was a requirement for welfare (LUNPREQ). See the above explanation LUNPREQ to see why these cases were coded inapplicable for that variable. One case was coded inapplicable because the respondent did not know whether the job was a requirement for welfare. The remaining 80 inapplicable cases had unpaid jobs that were not required for welfare.

LWHVCHR Given vouchers for education 9-10

The interviewer was to record all individuals who received a coupon or voucher for education or training last year. A negative response to this question indicates that someone in the family other than the MKA was given vouchers for education.

One person did not know whether he or she had received vouchers for education or training, and no response was ascertained for 61 respondents. In 14,316 cases coded inapplicable, no one in the family received vouchers to pay for education and training. An additional 13 respondents were coded inapplicable because they refused to say whether or not anyone in the family had received vouchers. Twenty two cases coded inapplicable did not know whether anyone received vouchers, and in 211 cases, no response was ascertained as to whether the respondent received vouchers.

There were 12,610 cases coded inapplicable because they were not asked whether they had received vouchers. Of these, 12,592 were coded inapplicable because their income level was more than 200 percent of the poverty level, five cases were coded inapplicable because their income level was unknown, and 13 cases were coded inapplicable for other reasons.

LUSVCHR Used voucher 9-7

The interviewer recorded all individuals who had actually used a coupon or voucher for education or training during the previous year by turning in the voucher to a school as part or all

of a payment for tuition or other expenses. Vouchers received last year but not used until the current year were not counted here.

In 61 cases, no response was ascertained for this variable. There were 27,172 cases coded inapplicable because the respondent was not asked who in the household received vouchers (see LWHVCHR). In one case coded inapplicable, the respondent did not know who received vouchers. Another 57 cases were coded inapplicable because the someone in the family other than the MKA received vouchers.

LJBCLAS Received help looking for work in 1996 9-6

The goal of this question is to report any participation in classes or workshops that help the MKA and his or her family members look for work, whether these classes were completed or not.

The interviewer was to define CLASSES OR WORKSHOPS TO HELP LOOK FOR WORK as any activities in which the individual was given advice or instruction on how to look for a job, or trained in skills needed to get a job, or in general skills needed to keep a job (for example, how to prepare a resume, how to find job openings, how to fill out an application, job interview practice, and how to meet employers' expectations). The respondent was instructed to include one-on-one help sessions with instructors or counselors and group events such as workshops, classes, and peer support gatherings.

This question was asked of all MKAs—there were no inapplicable cases. There were 33 people who did not know whether they had received help looking for work; 10 refused to answer; and in 78 cases no response was ascertained.

LWHJBCL Received help looking for work 9-8

The interviewer was to record all individuals who participated in classes or workshops to help them look for work last year. A negative response to this question indicates that someone in the family other than the MKA received help looking for work.

One person did not know whether he or she had participated in classes or workshops. In 75 cases, no response was ascertained. There were 25,5767 cases coded inapplicable because no one in the family took classes or workshops to help look for work (LJBCLAS). Ten cases were coded inapplicable because the respondent refused to indicate whether anyone took classes, and 33 cases in which the respondents did not know whether they had gotten any training were also coded inapplicable. Three cases were coded inapplicable after an answer for LJBCLAS was not ascertained.

LWHTRN Took job training courses

9-9

The interviewer recorded all individuals who took courses or participated in an apprentice program the previous year. A negative response to this question indicates that someone in the family other than the MKA had taken job training courses.

One person did not know whether anyone had taken job training courses, and in 75 cases, no response was ascertained. There were 21,003 cases coded inapplicable because no one in the family had participated in training for a specific job or trade. Thirty seven cases coded inapplicable did not know whether anyone had received training. Sixteen cases were coded inapplicable because the respondent refused to say whether anyone had been trained, while in three cases coded inapplicable, it was not ascertained whether anyone had been trained.

In 4,163 cases coded inapplicable, respondents were not asked whether anyone had received training (LTRAIN) because they had earned a bachelor's degree or higher. The remaining 202 cases were coded inapplicable for other reasons.

LWHHSCL Took GED classes

9-8

The interviewer was to record all individuals who took classes toward a high school diploma or GED during the previous year, even if they did not successfully complete the classes. A negative response to this question indicates that someone in the family other than the MKA took GED classes.

Seventy five respondents were not asked this question. In 4,620 cases coded inapplicable, no one in the family had taken classes to earn a high school diploma or GED. Nineteen cases were coded inapplicable because the respondent did not know whether anyone in the family had taken classes, while one respondent refused to say whether anyone had done so. In three cases, no answer was ascertained as to whether anyone had taken classes.

In 22,489 cases coded inapplicable the respondent was not asked the screener question, about whether anyone took classes (LHSCLS). These respondents were coded inapplicable for the screener question (LHSCLS) because they had earned at least a high school diploma or GED. Sixty five cases were coded inapplicable for other reasons.

LWHCRDT Took college courses

9-8

For this question, interviewers were to record all individuals who took any college courses last year toward either a two-year college degree (AA or Associate of Arts degree), a four-year college degree (BA or Bachelor of Arts degree), or another advanced degree (graduate or

professional degree). A negative response to this question indicates that someone in the family other than the MKA took college courses.

No response was ascertained for 75 cases. Of the cases coded inapplicable, there were 21,709 in which no one in the family had taken college courses for credit. Sixteen cases were coded inapplicable because the respondent did not know whether anyone had taken classes, while 12 respondents refused to say whether anyone had done so. In three cases, no answer was ascertained as to whether anyone had taken classes.

There were 2,486 cases coded inapplicable because the respondent was not asked the screener, which asked if anyone took classes (LCREDIT). Respondents were not asked whether they had taken classes if they had not earned a high school degree, or if the highest level of education achieved was unknown. Twenty four cases were coded inapplicable for other reasons.

5 HOUSING AND HARDSHIP VARIABLES

This chapter contains definitions for the MKA housing and hardship variables being released on this public use file. Included entries record whether the MKA lives in a home that is owned or rented, the cost of living in the current home, the ability of the MKA to pay for food and shelter, and so on.

MOWNRENT Own or rent 9-19

The interviewer was given the following defined response categories:

OWNED OR BEING BOUGHT BY SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD: Household member owns it outright (with no mortgage) or holds the mortgage on it. Use this category if a home has a mortgage and the respondent (MKA) says the bank owns the home. Also use this category if a mobile home is owned but is situated on rented land.

RENTED FOR CASH: The lease for the apartment or house is in the name of a household member.

OCCUPIED WITHOUT PAYMENT OF CASH RENT: Includes arrangements where no one in the household pays for rent.

This question was asked of all MKAs, so there are no inapplicable cases. This variable was imputed since it was used in the weighting (see Report No. 3). From the imputation flag (XMOWNRENT), users can see that the item was seldom missing. For more on differences in the distribution of the imputed and reported data, see Report No. 10.

This variable was imputed in 301 cases (1.1 percent of MKAs), and its imputation flag is XOWNRENT.

MLIVETM Time lived at this home 9-15

The respondent was to report how long he or she personally had lived in this dwelling unit. The interviewer instructed the respondent to ignore brief stays elsewhere as long as this address has been “home” throughout. However, if the respondent moved away and then returned to this address, he or she should report only the length of the most recent residence.

This question was asked of all MKAs, with no inapplicable cases. Twenty four respondents did not know how long they had lived at their current home, and 50 refused to say. In 184 cases, no response was ascertained.

MLIVEUN **Time lived at this home— unit of time** **9-15**

The interviewer was supposed to record the unit associated with the amount of time the respondent had lived at his or her current residence (see MLIVETM).

The question was asked of all MKAs; however, 74 cases were coded inapplicable: Of these 74 cases, 24 did not know how long they had lived at their current home, and 50 refused to say how long they lived in there current home. Also, in 184 cases, no response was ascertained.

MINSTATE **In-state or out-of-state move** **9-14**

For movers, the interviewer was instructed to define the response categories to this question as follows:

IN-STATE means within the boundaries of this State.

OUT-OF-STATE means from another State or country, even if it is a short distance, such as across a river that is a State boundary.

In 206 cases, no response was ascertained. There were 21,071 cases coded inapplicable because MKA had lived at his or her current home for more than one year. Another 24 cases were coded inapplicable because the respondent didn't know how long he or she had lived at the current location, while 50 individuals refused to say how long they had lived there.

MNBEDRMS **Number of bedrooms in house** **9-18**

The interviewer should define BEDROOM: Count only separate rooms whose primary purpose is sleeping. Do not include other rooms that people also sleep in. For example, do not count the living room, even when family members routinely sleep on the couch. (Efficiency apartments have no (zero) bedrooms.)

This question was asked of all MKAs; however, 135 cases were coded as inapplicable for unknown reasons. Fifteen respondents did not know how many bedrooms their house had, while 104 refused to answer, and in 183 cases, no response was ascertained.

MMORRENT **Monthly mortgage or rent** **9-16**

The interviewer was to define PAYMENT as the rent or mortgage that the respondent's family in the household actually paid. Respondents were to include utilities if included in the rent check. Likewise, they were to include taxes or insurance if paid with the mortgage check.

interviewer instructed the respondent not to include late payments that were paid in full within the usual 10 to 15-day grace period.

This question was asked of all MKAs, with no inapplicable cases. One person did not know whether he or she had been unable to pay the bills in the last month. In 1,732 cases, this variable was imputed. The variable XPAYRENT acts as an imputation flag for this variable. Due to problems in the creation of the imputation flag, there are 13 cases coded as missing for XPAYRENT. Users should consider these cases as not imputed.

MPAYHELP Try to get help when unable to pay bills 9-19

The interviewer was to define GET HELP to include getting money from relatives or friends. It was not to include getting the landlord to wait.

Five people did not know if they had tried to get help paying the bills, two refused to answer, and no response was ascertained for 183 cases. In 21,923 cases coded inapplicable, the respondent had not had trouble paying the bills (see MPAYRENT). Another 280 cases were coded inapplicable for other reasons.

MMOVEOUT Move in with other people in last 12 months 9-17

The respondent was instructed to answer YES if economic hardship, lack of money, or lack of family support was the main reason for moving in.

One respondent did not know whether he or she had had to move in with others, and 184 people were not asked. There were 21,854 cases coded inapplicable because the respondent did not have trouble paying the bills (See MPAYRENT). One case was coded inapplicable because the respondent did not know whether he or she had had trouble paying the bills. Another 242 cases were coded inapplicable for other reasons.

6 ISSUES, PROBLEMS, AND SOCIAL SERVICES VARIABLES

This chapter describes the variables dealing with various issues, problems, and social services associated with MKAs. These variables address parental attitudes toward their children, the danger to children perceived by parents, and the availability of programs to help concerned or troubled parents.

UAGG Parent aggravation scale score 9-58

Four questions were asked of the MKA in order to measure parent aggravation. These four questions are explained below under the variables NPCINTA–NPCINTD. The responses were summed for a possible total of 16 points. Higher scores indicate less aggravation. For indicator and benchmarking purposes, break points were set to distinguish levels of very high and very low aggravation. A score less than or equal to 11 indicates high aggravation in parenting; an MKA in this category had to answer “most” or “some of the time” to at least two of the four scale items. A score equal to 16 indicates low levels of aggravation in parenting; an MKA in this category had to answer “none of the time” to all four items being used to construct the scale.

There were 462 cases coded inapplicable for this variable. Cases were coded inapplicable when the respondent answered “don’t know” or refused to answer, or if no answer was ascertained for more than one of the four questions contributing to the aggravation score. Users may wish to keep in mind that one of the component variables used in the creation of this variable may have been imputed.

UAGGNEG Negative parent aggravation score 9-59

This variable is created using scores from the parent aggravation scale (See UAGG). It can be used to identify MKAs with high levels of aggravation. An MKA whose responses totaled 11 points or fewer on the parent aggravation scale received a value of 1 for this variable. MKAs whose score was greater than 11 points received a value of 0. MKAs whose aggravation scores (UAGG) were coded as missing or inapplicable were coded inapplicable for this variable. Consequently, there were 462 cases coded inapplicable. Users may wish to keep in mind that one of the component variables used in the creation of this variable may have been imputed.

UAGGPOS Positive parent aggravation score 9-59

This variable is created using scores from the parent aggravation scale (UAGG). It can be used to identify MKAs with low levels of aggravation. An MKA whose responses totaled 16 points on the parent aggravation scale received a value of 1 for this variable. MKAs whose score was less than 16 points received a value of 0. MKAs whose aggravation score (UAGG) was coded as missing or inapplicable were coded inapplicable for this variable, so, again, there were 462 cases coded inapplicable for this variable. Users may wish to keep in mind that one of the component variables used in the creation of this variable may have been imputed.

NPCINTA Child much harder to care for than most 9-27

We asked these four questions (NPCINTA–NPCINTD) because we wanted to understand how families and children are affected by changes around them. This question, the first in the sequence, asked the MKA how often in the past month he or she thought that the child was much harder to care for than most.

Since the question was asked of all MKAs, there were no cases coded inapplicable. There were, however, 161 respondents who did not know the answer. Forty eight refused to answer, while in 308 cases, no answer was ascertained.

NPCINTB Child really bothers MKA a lot 9-28

This question asked the MKA how often he or she had been bothered a lot in the last month by their child (see NPCINTA above).

The question was asked of all MKAs, so there were no cases coded inapplicable. However, 116 respondents did not know the answer, and 46 refused to answer. In 307 cases, no answer was ascertained.

NPCINTC MKA gives up more for child’s needs 9-29

This question was the third in a sequence of questions asked because we wanted to understand how families and children are affected by changes around them. Specifically, NPCINTC asked MKAs how often in the past month that they had given up more for the child’s needs than they ever expected.

This question was asked of all MKAs, so there were no cases coded inapplicable. There were 178 respondents who did not know the answer. And 48 who refused to answer. In 307 cases, no answer was ascertained.

NPCINTD MKA feels angry with child 9-30

This question was the last in a sequence of questions asked because we wanted to understand how families and children are affected by changes around them. Specifically, the NPCINTD question asked the MKA how often in the past month the MKA felt angry with the child.

This question was asked of all MKAs; therefore, there were no cases coded inapplicable. However, 121 respondents did not know the answer, and 47 refused to answer. In 307 cases, no answer was ascertained.

NSERVA Know place to help stay away from crime 9-32

This was the first of six questions (NSERVA–NSERVF) attempting to determine whether the respondent has personal knowledge of a real place, service, or program that could help them with parental issues or problems. The respondent did not need to know the name of a place to report YES, but he or she did need to know that a specific program existed to address the issue or problem. If the respondent thought there must be a program like that in his or her town but did not know a specific program, then the interviewer coded NO.

This question asks all MKAs about preventive programs to help teens avoid pregnancy, drugs, and crime. No cases were coded inapplicable. Two MKAs did not know whether they knew of such a place, and eight refused to say whether they knew. In 376 cases, no response was ascertained.

NSERVB Know place where family can get housing/food 9-33

This question asked respondents if they had personal knowledge of a real place, service, or program that provided emergency assistance. The respondent did not need to know the name of a place to report YES, but he or she did need to know that a specific program exists to address the issue or problem. If the respondent thought there must be a program like that in his or her town but did not know a specific program, then the interviewer coded NO.

No cases were coded inapplicable. Six respondents refused to say whether they knew of such a place. In 376 cases, no response was ascertained.

NSERVC Know place where family can go if fighting 9-34

This question asked respondents if they had personal knowledge of a real place, service, or program that provided family counseling but could also include child protective services if the situation were severe. The respondent did not need to know the name of a place to report YES, but he or she did need to know that a specific program existed to address the issue or problem. If the respondent thought there must be a program like that in his or her town but did not know a specific program, then the interviewer coded NO.

No cases were coded inapplicable. One respondent did not know whether he or she knew of such a place, and 10 refused to say whether they knew. In 376 cases, no response was ascertained.

NSERVD Know place steps in if children not cared for 9-35

This question asked respondents if they had personal knowledge of child protection agencies related to neglect. The respondent did not need to know the name of a place to report YES, but he or she did need to know that a specific program existed to address the issue or problem. If the

respondent thought there must be a program like that in his or her town but did not know a specific program, then the interviewer coded NO.

No cases were coded inapplicable. One respondent did not know whether he or she knew of such a place, and thirteen refused to say whether they knew. In 376 cases, no response was ascertained.

NSERVE Know place can get help if family member violent 9-36

This question asked respondents if they had personal knowledge about child protective services and domestic violence services. The respondent did not need to know the name of a place to report YES, but he or she did need to know that a specific program existed to address the issue or problem. If the respondent thought there must be a program like that in his or her town but did not know a specific program, then the interviewer coded NO.

No cases were coded inapplicable. Seven refused to say whether they knew of such a place. In 376 cases, no response was ascertained.

NSERVF Know place to get help for drugs/alcohol 9-37

This question asked respondents if they had personal knowledge of inpatient (or residential), outpatient (or nonresidential), and self-help groups (such as Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous). The respondent did not need to know the name of a place to report YES, but he or she did need to know that a specific program existed to address the issue or problem. If the respondent thought there must be a program like that in his or her town but did not know a specific program, then the interviewer coded NO.

No cases were coded inapplicable. Seven refused to say whether they knew of such a place. In 376 cases, no response was ascertained.

NWORRYA Worry about keeping out of trouble 9-39

This question asks whether the respondent has specific concerns or worries about the children's potential or actual involvement with sex, pregnancy, alcohol and drugs, crime, gangs, and violence. The respondent was to report NO if he or she had general parental concerns but no specific worries about their own children. For example, the interviewer recorded NO if the respondent said something like, "Oh sure, doesn't every parent worry?"

Fifteen respondents did not know whether they had worried about this issue, and three refused to answer. In 226 cases, no response was ascertained. There were 14,093 cases coded inapplicable because there was no child between the ages of 12 and 17 in the household. Another 21 cases were coded inapplicable for other reasons.

NWORRYB**Tried to get help to keep out of trouble****9-40**

The interviewer was to define GET ANY HELP as including talking to friends, talking to a therapist, talking to a priest or other religious counselor, or going to a specialized program.

Five respondents did not know whether they had tried to get help keeping their child out of trouble. In 146 cases, no response was ascertained. In 9,577 of the cases coded inapplicable, the respondent did not worry about keeping their children out of trouble with pregnancy, drugs, or crime (see NWORRYA). Fifteen cases coded inapplicable did not know whether or not they had worried about the issues mentioned in the screener (see NWORRYA). Three refused to say whether they had worried about these issues, while in 78 cases, no response was ascertained for the screener. There were 14,093 coded inapplicable for the screener because there was no child between the ages of 12 and 17 in the household. Twenty one cases were coded inapplicable for other reasons.

NWORRYCA**Help source for staying out of trouble****9-41**

The interviewer was to define the response categories as follows:

COMMUNITY PROGRAM: Some examples are a local settlement house, a “Y,” a religious social services agency, a youth or mentoring program, parks and recreation programs, or other community-organized activities.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM: Programs or counseling offered by schools, public health departments, or public social service agencies.

If the respondent is not sure whether to classify a program as **COMMUNITY** or **GOVERNMENT**, then code **COMMUNITY**.

Two people didn’t know where they had gotten help, one MKA refused to answer, and 146 people were not asked. Five cases coded inapplicable did not know whether or not they had gotten help keeping their children out of trouble with pregnancy, drugs, or crime. In 2,653 of the cases coded inapplicable, the respondent did not get help in keeping their children out of trouble. There were also 23,787 cases coded inapplicable because the respondent was not asked the screener (see NWORRYB).

NARGUE**MKA and children argue a lot****9-21**

The interviewer was to define ARGUE A LOT as regularly yelling, shouting, swearing, name-calling, and/or door-slamming between at least one parent and at least one child. This did not have to be “all the time.”

Thirty five respondents did not know whether they argued a lot with their children. Seven refused to say, while in 226 cases, no response was ascertained. Twenty one cases were coded inapplicable for other reasons. There were 14,093 cases coded inapplicable because there was no child between the ages of 12 and 17 in the household. Another 21 cases were coded inapplicable for other reasons.

NARGHLP Got help because argue a lot 9-20

The interviewer, as in question NWORRYB, defined GET ANY HELP to include talking to friends, talking to a therapist, talking to a priest or other religious counselor, or going to a specialized program.

In 149 cases, no response was ascertained for this question. Of cases coded inapplicable, 11,490 cases were coded inapplicable because the respondent did not argue a lot with the child. Another 14,114 cases were coded inapplicable because they were not asked the screener (see NARGUE).

There were 35 cases coded inapplicable because the respondent did not know if he or she argued a lot with the child (see NARGUE). Seven people coded inapplicable refused to answer the screener, and in 77 inapplicable cases no response was ascertained for the screener.

NVOLUNT How often volunteered in past year 9-38

The interviewer defined VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY as not including community service activities required by a court or required in order to receive social welfare benefits.

This question was asked of all MKAs. No cases were coded inapplicable. Twenty two respondents did not know how often they had volunteered in the past year. Nine refused to say, while in 307 cases, no response was ascertained.

NRELIG How often attended religious service in past year 9-31

In general, the respondent should determine how to interpret RELIGIOUS SERVICE. Interviewers did not include purely social events such as a church supper, picnic, or party.

This question was asked of all MKAs; therefore, there were no inapplicables. Thirteen respondents did not know whether they had attended a religious service in the past year. Twenty six refused to say, while in 306 cases, no response was ascertained.

7 EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS VARIABLES

This chapter defines the variables associated with employment and earnings of MKAs. These created variables deal with the amount of time MKAs worked, the amount of compensation they received, and other employment-related issues. These variables were all derived from responses to section I of the survey. The responses to the survey questions have been analyzed and simplified to create these more straightforward variables.

U_FTPT Full- or part-time worker this year 9-53

This variable indicates whether the MKA worked at a full- or part-time job during the current year. Responses were derived using the variable U_USHRS. If U_USHRS had a value greater than or equal to 35, the MKA was coded as full-time; if the value was less than 35, the respondent was considered to be part-time.

There were 8,240 cases coded inapplicable because the respondent had not worked at all during the year. In 21 cases, the relevant question was not asked.

U_FTFYLY Full-time, full-year worker last year 9-52

Derived from values for the variable U_WKSLY, this variable notes whether the MKA was a full-time, full-year worker in the previous year. A full-year worker was considered to be someone working 50 or more weeks out of the year. A full-time worker, as mentioned above, was someone working more than 35 hours a week.

There were 6,310 cases coded inapplicable because the respondent had not worked during the previous year. Twenty seven people were not asked the relevant questions.

U_FTPTLY Full- or part-time worker last year 9-53

This variable indicates whether the MKA worked at a full or part-time job during the previous year. Responses were derived using the variable U_HRSLY. If the U_HRSLY variable had a value greater than or equal to 35, the MKA was coded as full-time; if the value was less than 35, the respondent was considered part-time.

There were 6,310 cases coded inapplicable because the respondent had not worked during the previous year. Twenty seven people were not asked the relevant questions.

U_HRSLY Hours worked per week last year 9-54

This variable captures how many hours the MKA worked each week in the previous year. The values were based on responses to questions in section I (for example, IHRSLYE).

There were 6,310 cases coded inapplicable because the respondent had not worked during the previous year. Twenty seven cases were not asked the relevant questions.

U_LFSR **Labor force status code** **9-54**

Based on responses to questions in section I of the survey—mainly questions IEPMPNOW, ITEMP, and ILOOK—this variable indicates the MKA’s labor force status (whether he or she is working, looking for work, etc.).

This question was asked of all MKAs; no cases were coded inapplicable.

U_MAIN **Total earnings from main job last year** **9-55**

This variable records the MKA’s earnings from his or her main job in the past year. Values for this variable were calculated based on the MKA’s responses to several questions from section I of the survey, for example, those dealing with wage and time worked.

No cases coded inapplicable. If the respondent had not had a job in the previous year, or if it was unknown whether he or she had held a job, a value of zero was assigned for this variable.

U_OTHJOB **Other earnings last year** **9-55**

Calculated based on responses to question ISEOTHPY, this variable indicates income earned from jobs other than the MKA’s main job.

No cases coded inapplicable. If the MKA had no other job, or if it was not known whether he or she had other jobs, a value of zero was assigned for this variable.

U_USHRS **Hours worked per week this year** **9-56**

This variable indicates the number of hours the MKA usually worked each week in the current year. Depending on how the MKA was currently employed, each score for this variable was calculated from responses to questions in section I.

There were 8,240 cases coded inapplicable because the respondent was not employed at the time of the interview. In 21 cases, no response was ascertained.

U_WKSLY

Weeks worked last year

9-57

This variable records the number of weeks the MKA worked in the past year. This number is calculated based on questions from section I of the survey, specifically questions ILYWKSA, ILYWKSC, and ILYUNTC. The question from which the answer was derived varied according to the employment situation of the MKA.

There were 6,310 cases coded inapplicable because the respondent had not worked in the previous year.

U_EARN

Total earnings last year

9-52

Calculated by summing the total earnings from all other jobs—U_MAIN + U_SEMPL + U_OTHJOB—this variable represents the MKA's total earnings in the previous year. Values for this variable have been top-coded for confidentiality reasons. Respondents earning more than \$75,000 a year have been assigned a value of \$75,000; there were 473 such cases.

No cases were coded inapplicable. If the respondent had not earned money the previous year a value of zero, or less than zero, was recorded. Although data from the component variables utilized in constructing this variable was heavily imputed (see Report No. 10), at this time there is no imputation flag for this variable; an imputation flag will be provided in later files.

8 OPINION VARIABLES

This chapter discusses the opinion variables included in the second public use file. These questions were designed to determine respondents' views on issues such as welfare, the family, and work. In no case were answers to these questions imputed.

PBABIES Welfare encourages babies before marriage 9-42

The interviewer did not interpret this question for the respondent. If the question was not understood, the interviewer repeated the question and asked the respondent to answer according to what the question meant to him or her. Respondents indicated whether they felt welfare encouraged babies before marriage.

This question was asked of all MKAs, with no cases coded inapplicable. There were 1,169 respondents who did not know how they felt about this issue, 42 who refused to answer, and 402 who were not asked.

PNOTWORK Mothers of young children should not work 9-43

The interviewer did not interpret this question for the respondent. If the question was not understood, the interviewer repeated the question and asked the respondent to answer according to what the question meant to him or her. The respondent indicated whether he or she felt mothers of young children should not work.

This question was asked of all MKAs, with no cases coded inapplicable. There were 699 respondents who did not know how they felt about this issue, 52 who refused to answer, and 402 who were not asked.

PONFEET Welfare helps people get on their feet 9-44

The interviewer did not interpret this question for the respondent. If the question was not understood, the interviewer repeated the question and asked the respondent to answer according to what the question meant to him or her. This question asked the respondent whether he or she felt welfare helps people get on their feet

All MKAs were asked this question. No cases were coded inapplicable. There were 693 respondents who did not know how they felt about this issue, 28 who refused to answer, and 302 who were not asked.

PSINGPAR Single mother is as effective as married couple 9-45

The interviewer did not interpret this question for the respondent. If the question was not understood, the interviewer repeated the question and asked the respondent to answer according to what the question meant to him or her. The respondent indicated whether he or she felt that a single mother is as effective as a married couple.

This question was asked of all MKAs, with no cases coded inapplicable. There were 313 who respondents did not know how they felt about this issue, 31 who refused to answer, and 402 who were not asked.

PWANTKID If want children, ought to marry 9-46

The interviewer did not interpret this question for the respondent. If the question was not understood, the interviewer repeated the question and asked the respondent to answer according to what the question meant to him or her. The respondent indicated whether he or she felt that if a person wants children, he or she ought to marry.

This question was asked of all MKAs, with no cases coded inapplicable. There were 514 respondents who did not know how they felt about this issue, 46 who refused to answer, and 402 who were not asked.

PWORKIMP Working for pay is important 9-47

The interviewer did not interpret this question for the respondent. If the question was not understood, the interviewer repeated the question and asked the respondent to respond according to what the question meant to him or her. The respondent indicated whether he or she felt working for pay is important.

This question was asked of all MKAs, with no cases coded inapplicable. There were 199 respondents who did not know how they felt about this issue, 21 who refused to answer, and 402 who were not asked.

PWORKMOM Working mothers as good as nonworking ones 9-48

The interviewer did not interpret this question for the respondent. If the question was not understood, the interviewer repeated the question and asked the respondent to answer according to what the question meant to him or her. The respondent indicated whether he or she felt that a working mother can establish as secure a relationship as a non-working mother.

This question was asked of all MKAs with no cases coded inapplicable. There were 365 respondents who did not know how they felt about this issue, 23 who refused to answer, and 402 who were not asked.

PWRKLESS

Welfare makes people work less

9-49

The interviewer did not interpret this question for the respondent. If the question was not understood, the interviewer repeated the question and asked the respondent to answer according to what the question meant to him or her. The respondent indicated whether he or she felt welfare makes people work less.

This question was asked of all MKAs, with no cases coded inapplicable. There were 962 respondents who did not know how they felt about this issue, 52 who refused to answer, and 402 who were not asked.

9 FREQUENCIES

In this chapter both weighted and unweighted counts of valid values for each item are provided. Along with each count there are several items of information provided to document the data file. These are each described below:

Variable Name: For each entry in this data dictionary, a mnemonic string of characters is provided as the variable name. The string begins with the letter of the section on the questionnaire that the variable comes from. For variables created at the Urban Institute, a U is employed as the first letter in the string. For variables that were imputed when an entry was missing, there is a companion variable on the file with an X as the first letter of its name. The remaining characters, up to seven more, are a short description of the variable.

Label: The label is a short description of the variable; the *sample read-in data step* will load the label into the data set when using SAS to manipulate the data.

Type is either numeric (N) or character (C).

Length: The length field is appropriate for character variables only.

Survey/Derived describes whether the variable comes directly from the interview or is a created variable.

Question Num: Survey variables will have a question number.

Question Text: Text from the questionnaire is provided if the variable was obtained directly.

Allowable Non-Missing Values: A list of all of the possible non-missing values for the variable and the description of the values.

Unweighted and Weighted Frequencies: For most variables in the codebook, weighted and unweighted frequencies of the variable in the data file are shown.

Missing values: Missing values are of four types:

.D	Don't Know
.I	Inapplicable
.N	Not Ascertained
.R	Refused To Answer

When present, these will be included in the frequency counts alongside valid values. Character variables will store the period with the letter, whereas numeric variables will store only the letter.

APPENDIX A- COMPARISONS TO CHILD PUBLIC USE FILE

Several of the variables released on this public use file also appear on the Child Public Use File; this makes comparisons possible between the two files. Although there are many possible comparisons, this appendix delineates just a few key variables to illustrate the relationship between the two files. Users who have obtained both files can make their own comparisons and use these tables to check their programming.

As the comparisons that follow show, the child and MKA files will yield similar frequencies in percentage terms; however, the counts will be larger for the child file, since there are more children than MKAs. These differences in frequencies serve as a reminder. When comparing between files, researchers should remember to use the appropriate weights. Even though the variable MKAAGE deals with MKA age, the child weight should be used, since it comes from the child file.

The following variables appear on both the MKA Public Use File and the Child Public Use File. If the variable appears differently on the MKA file and the child file, the MKA file name is marked after the child file name.

*MOWNRENT	PWNATKID
NDEPRESA	*PWORKIMP
NDEPRESB	PWORKMOM
*NDEPRESC	PWRKLESS
NDEPRESD	UAGG
NDEPRESE	UAGGNEG
NPCINTA	UAGGPOS
NPCINTB	UINCRPOV
NPCINTC	UMEDULEV
NPCINTD	UMHIGDEG
PBABIES	*UMKAAGE (as AGE on MKA file)
PNOTWORK	UMKAETH (as UBETH on MKA file)
PNOTWORK	*UMKAGEND(as SEX on MKA file)
PONFEET	*UMKARACE(as UBRACE on MKA file)
SINGPAR	

Variables marked with an asterisk (*) are compared in this appendix.