A Panel Study of Income Dynamics:
1985-2021 Childbirth and Adoption History File Documentation

(Release 1)

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Section I: Overview of the 1985-2021 Childbirth and Adoption History File

The 1985-2021 Childbirth and Adoption History File is designed to facilitate access to information collected in the 1985 through 2021 waves of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) regarding retrospective histories of childbirth and adoption. This file contains details about childbirth and adoption events of eligible people living in a PSID family at the time of the interview in any wave from 1985 through 2021.

Each set of records for a specified individual contains all known cumulative data about the timing and circumstances of his or her childbirth and adoption experience up to and including 2021, or those waves during that period when the individual was in a responding family unit. If an individual has never had any children, one record indicates that report. Similarly, if the individual never adopted any children, one record contains the denial.

Records contain identifiers for the individual and his or her children; dates of birth for both parent and child; geographic identifiers about the place of birth; the child's birth order, birth weight, birth length, race, and date of death; the year of most recent report and number of births or adoptions for the parent. Several significant changes have been made since 1985. Beginning with the 2005 Wave, the child's Hispanicity (CAH27) was also asked. In 2013, a much extended series of questions about the pregnancy, delivery, whether contraception had been used prior to the pregnancy, and whether the child was wanted by the mother/father was introduced. Most of these questions are asked of childbirth records only and many of them are only asked if the reported child was a newborn. Also, the ethnicity question series has been dropped, as of the 2013 Wave. The ethnicity variables on the cumulative file (CAH32-CAH34) have been maintained but they will only apply to records obtained between years 1985-2011.

In addition, the set of race variables (CAH28–CAH30) have had a series of changes that are important to note. In 2007, an important change was made to the code frame for these variables.

In 2005, the code frame for race was:

1) White
2) Black
3) Native American
4) Asian/Pacific Islander
5) Latino Origin or Descent
6) Color Besides Black or White
7) Other

In 2007 the code frame was changed to:

1) White
2) Black, African-American, or Negro
3) American Indian or Alaskan Native
4) Asian
5) Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
7) Other

That is, the "color besides black or white" code was dropped, and the "Asian/Pacific Islander" code was split into "Asian" and "Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander".

In order to maintain the cumulative file, there were two types of recoding:

(a) For those children in the 1997-2005 records who had a race mention of 5, Latino Origin or Descent, we:

- Recoded the Hispanicity question (CAH27) to a new value of 6 (Latino, no further information), and
- Recoded their race questions (CAH28-30) to 7 (Other)

(b) In the 2013 CAI interviewing instrument, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander were two separate categories. To maintain consistency with the previously collected records, 2013 records coded as either Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander were combined into Code 5, as in the 2007 code frame. The same approach was applied for 2015 forward.

The 1985-2021 Childbirth and Adoption File stores information in an efficient manner that allows a high degree of flexibility in linking with the PSID's Individual File. This file is designed to link to the 1968-2021 Individual File. Linkages can be done from either the parent's or the child's standpoint. These linkages are more limited for children than for parents, since some children have never lived in a PSID study family and hence have no record on the 1968-2021 Individual File.

Data users who want only some of the detail of the childbirth data will find childbirth and adoption history information summarized on Public Release versions of the PSID Individual and Family files. Individual-file variables include number of births, birth dates of most children, identifiers of mother and father, whether the mother was married at the time the individual was born, and birth order of the individual. Family variables include the number of births in the prior calendar year to the Reference Person, Spouse, Partner and Other Family Unit Members (OFUMs). For particulars, see Section VI below.

Individuals for Whom the Data are Available

The childbirth and adoption history data were collected about individuals in responding families who were of childbearing age (i.e., individuals meeting the age requirements who had values in the range of 1-20 for the "Sequence Number" variable in a given wave). In waves when individuals were nonresponse or in an institution, no information was collected about them.

The types of individuals for whom childbirth and adoption information was asked and the detail gathered about their history differed somewhat during the collection period from 1985 through 2021 :

- 1985 followed one pattern, and 1986-2021 followed another.
- Beginning in 1997, some new questions were added for births and adoptions reported during that wave.
- In 2005 the Hispanicity question was added, and
- In 2007 the code frame for the race questions was altered.

To keep respondent burden to a minimum and data quality high, different question sequences about these events have been used for PSID individuals depending on their circumstances. Childbirth history information was gathered as described below:

(a) In the 1985 Wave, a complete retrospective birth history was asked for a Head, Wife, or "Wife" of any age

(b) From 1986 on:

(i) Birth history was simply updated for changes since the prior calendar year for a female Reference Person, Spouse, or Partner aged 44 or younger providing she had been either a Reference Person, Spouse, or Partner in the prior wave's interview

(ii) Birth history was also simply updated for changes since the prior calendar year for a male Reference Person of any age who was also a Reference Person in the prior wave's interview, unless he was married to a Spouse aged 45 or older who had also been his Spouse in the prior wave's interview, (in which case no childbirth information was asked);

(iii) A complete retrospective birth history was reported for a New Reference Person, New Spouse, or New Partner of any age; and

(c) In all waves from 1985 through 2011, a complete retrospective birth history was reported for an Other Family Unit Member (OFUM) aged 12-44 at the time of the interview. Starting in 2013, the minimum age requirement for these questions was raised from 12 to 15.

Starting in 2013, the way child histories were collected changed significantly. Before 2013, each eligible person in a-c above was asked about his/her biological and adopted children individually. In 2013, PSID asked the first eligible person about his/her children and then asked who the other parent was of that child. During processing, the child information reported from one individual to the other was copied, as per the 'other parent' report.

This makes it possible for a person who might otherwise only be eligible for an update (questions only about births/adoptions since the previous wave) to receive updated information for any child(ren) reported prior to the current wave. For example, if the FU has a new Reference Person with a Spouse who was Reference Person, Spouse, or Partner the previous wave, a full retrospective report of the Reference Person's children was obtained. If the Spouse is named as the "other parent" for any of them, those records would be copied to her report, even if the child had been born before the previous interview and already reported previously by the Spouse.

Adoption history data were gathered in a fashion similar to childbirth history, except that information was collected for PSID family-unit Reference Persons, Spouses and Partners, but not for OFUMs (type e above).

A number of complexities in the overall study design present special challenges for collecting and processing the demographic history data:

(a) In any wave of the PSID, some family members appear in the study for the first time, although most are people who have been participating for years.

(b) From one wave to the next, a PSID individual can enter or leave eligibility for being asked marital or childbirth histories by passing the threshold ages for these questions. For reports from 1985-2011, the entry age for eligibility is 12 and the exit threshold for eligibility was 45 for many persons. As of 2013, the entry age for eligibility is 15 and the exit threshold for eligibility is 45

(c) A PSID individual can change his or her relationship to Reference Person from one wave to the next and this can affect whether the demographic event-history information is self-reported or proxy-reported by a parent or by some other relative.

(d) From one wave to the next, the range of demographic events asked about a given individual can expand--information about adoptions is gathered for Reference Persons, Spouses, and Partners, but not for OFUMs.

(e) A PSID individual can become nonresponse, after which time demographic event history information is not updated

(f) While both Heads and Wives/"Wives" were interviewed in 1985 (each giving a self-report), only one person (usually the Head/Reference Person) has been the respondent in each year since then.

In the 1990 Wave, a sample of 2,043 Latino households was added to the PSID sample to provide the representative information about Latinos that is now available for blacks and non-Latino whites in the original PSID. The Latino sample size was increased to 2,308 households in 1992. This sample was dropped from the PSID in 1996. The childbirth and adoption history data of the Latino sample are also included in this file.

In the 1992 Wave, the PSID undertook a pilot effort to recontact former respondents who had attrited from the study and persuade some of them to rejoin. Additional information regarding the 1992 recontact samples is discussed in the 1992 PSID Documentation, pp. 1-3; but briefly, four types of recontact samples were selected for inclusion in this round of interviewing. They differed in the detail gathered about their childbirth and adoption history.

(a) 1992 Reinterview recontact families: families who were last interviewed during the 1990 Wave, but attrited in 1991.

(b) 1992 Splitoff recontacts who were sample members who moved out of a responding 1991 family, but who were not interviewed themselves in 1991.

(c) 1992 Sample recontacts who were designated as members of original 1968 Panel families who were last interviewed at some time between 1969 and 1989.

(d) 1992 Latino recontacts who were families in the original Latino National Political Survey sample, but either refused or were never contacted by the PSID during the 1990 Wave when the Latino sample was added to the study.

Splitoff, Sample, and Latino recontacts (the last three types described above), like all other New Heads/Wives/"Wives", were asked complete retrospective birth and adoption histories. The birth and adoption histories of Reinterview recontacts (the first type above) were updated for changes since January 1991. Since this group of people was interviewed in 1990, but not 1991, information was lost for births or adoptions occurring between the 1990 interview and January of 1991. The unaccounted-for time varies from a month or two up to a maximum of nine to ten months. Reinterview recontacts can be identified on the cross-year Individual Files by data values of 2 or 3 for "1992 Follow Status" (ER30799).

In 1993, 1994, and from 1997 on, the PSID also recontacted attritors, but these individuals were asked to complete retrospective birth and adoption histories.

Background for the Childbirth and Adoption History Files

The 1985-2021 Childbirth and Adoption History File originated with the 1985 collection of comprehensive, retrospective questions about a number of demographic events, including childbirth, adoption, marriage, separation, divorce and substitute parenting. In each wave from 1986 through the present, these histories, excepting substitute parenting, were updated for eligible individuals.

All the retrospective data collected in 1985 on these demographic phenomena are included in the 1985 Ego-Alter File. This file is mostly of interest for the substitute parenting information and for child-specific information on public program participation and health care surrounding a birth. The program participation and health care questions include whether prenatal care was received and where it was received, whether the mother had private health insurance, and whether she received Medicaid, WIC, food stamps, free government food, ADC/AFDC, or other public assistance. These questions were collected about children reported in the 1985 interview if the parent was a female Head, Wife, or "Wife" in 1985 and the child was born between January, 1979 and the time of the 1985 interview.

Both the substitute parenting and the program participation/health care sequences were discontinued after the initial retrospective in 1985.

Beginning in 1986, it was decided to release the demographic history data annually as two separate files: the Childbirth and Adoption History File and the Marriage History File. These files are cumulative, and so their size increases each year as more events happen and additional people become eligible.

Data on childbirth and adoption are assembled into one file to facilitate analysis that may treat births and adoptions in the same framework. A primary function of the childbirth and adoption information is to clarify the relationships between individuals in the PSID. This information helps distinguish step relations from biological and adoptive ties.

How to Obtain the File and Whom to Contact About Questions

The 1985-2021 Childbirth and Adoption File is available online:

http://simba.isr.umich.edu/Zips/ZipMain.aspx

If one has questions that are not answered by this documentation, one can contact PSID staff through the PSID website:

http://psidonline.isr.umich.edu/Guide/Contact_Us.aspx

Section II: Questionnaire Detail

The flow of the PSID questionnaire is complex. In addition, as described above in Section I, the types of individuals asked for history information and the detail gathered about their history changed.

The analyst may find it helpful to actually see the questionnaires. The 1986-2011 sequences are identical to each other, with the addition, beginning in 1997, of questions about birth location, race and ethnicity. And beginning in 2005, a question about the child's Hispanicity was added. In 2013 an additional set of 75 variables were added to the CAH file the majority focusing on pregnancy, prenatal care, aspects of the delivery and infant care of the child. Most of these questions apply to childbirth records only and more specifically only to reports of newborns.

PDF format versions of the 1968-2021 main questionnaires are also available on our website. In the more recent waves, they contain the complete series of questions for Reference Person/Spouse/Partner/OFUM marriage and birth/adoption history. For some earlier years, however, where supplementary forms were used to collect details about childbirth and adoptions, or for OFUMs' marriages and childbirths, those supplements are not available on the website as of this writing.

Section III: Structure of the File

Number of Records

The 1985-2021 Childbirth and Adoption History File contains a total of 145,599 records, with 106,684 childbirth records and 38,915 adoption records. The file has a one-record-per-event general structure. Each record contains information for a childbirth or an adoption event. For example, if an individual has one biological child and one adopted child, the file contains one childbirth record and one adoption record for him or her. The same parent may appear on both childbirth and adoption records.

Multiple records for a given parent can result from an individual having (or adopting) more than one child. Although the parent remains the same in such circumstances, the child differs from one record to the next. An individual who has his or her own children may also be an adoptive parent. The maximum number of childbirth records for a specific individual is 18 for biological children, and nine for adoption records.

A given child can also have multiple records on the file, if the birth or adoption was reported for two or more individuals. Since a child has two biological parents, the same birth can produce two records on the file, one for the father as parent, and, the other, for the mother. The same applies to the adoption history data, and a child could have as many as four records on the file if he or she was both born and adopted within the study, i.e., was adopted by sample relatives.

Sort Order of the File

The 1985-2021 Childbirth and Adoption File is sorted, in ascending order, by "1968 Interview Number of Parent" (CAH3) and "Person Number of Parent" (CAH4), "Type of Record" (CAH2),

birth order (CAH9), birth year and month for the child (CAH15 and CAH13), and "Person Number of Child" (CAH11). The childbirth records for an individual are followed by his or her adoption records. The record for an individual's oldest child is followed by that for the second oldest child, etc. All records for the first eligible member of a 1968 PSID family are followed by all records for the next eligible member in the same family of origin. When all of the childbirth and adoption records for all eligible members in the first family are exhausted, records for eligible members in the second family follow.

Variables on the File

The 1985-2021 Childbirth and Adoption History File contains 107 variables, which can be categorized into those relevant to the parent, those specific to the child, and some aggregate information about the childbirth or adoption history for the parent. Please note that CAH14 is removed from the file for confidentiality purposes therefore users will find a gap between CAH13 and CAH15.

Note: Variables listed in purple apply to childbirth records only

Other Information:

CAH1 Release Number
CAH2 Record Type (childbirth or adoption)
CAH104 Year Most Recently Reported Number of Children
CAH106 Number of Natural or Adopted Children
CAH108 Number of Birth or Adoption Records

Information specific to the parent:

CAH3 1968 Interview Number of Parent
CAH4 Person Number of Parent
CAH5 Sex of Parent
CAH6 Month Parent Born
CAH7 Year Parent Born
CAH8 Marital Status of Mother When Ind Born

Information specific to the child or to the pregnancy/delivery:

CAH9 Birth Order
CAH10 1968 Interview Number of Child
CAH11 Person Number of Child
CAH12 Sex of Child
CAH13 Month Child Born
CAH14 Day Child Born *(removed from the public file)*
CAH15 Year Child Born
CAH16 Birth Weight of Child in Ounces
CAH17 Whether More than 5 ½ Pounds
CAH18 Whether More than 9 Pounds
CAH19 Birth Length in Inches

CAH20 Whether Birth Length was estimated
CAH21 Whether Mother Breastfed
CAH22 State Where Child Born
CAH23 County Where Child Born *(suppressed on the public file)*
CAH24 Where Child Was When Last Reported
CAH25 Month Child Moved Out or Died
CAH26 Year Child Moved Out or Died
CAH27 Hispanicity
CAH28 Race of Child, 1st Mention
CAH29 Race of Child, 2nd Mention
CAH30 Race of Child, 3rd Mention
CAH31 Asian Sub Group *(suppressed on the public file)*
CAH32 Primary Ethnic Group of Child (question dropped as of 2013)
CAH33 Secondary Ethnic Group of Child, 1st Mention (question dropped as of 2013)
CAH34 Secondary Ethnic Group of Child, 2nd Mention (question dropped as of 2013)
CAH35 Whether Multiple or Single Birth
CAH36 Whether Child Part of a Multiple Birth
CAH37 Type of Multiple: Identical/Fraternal
CAH38 Multiple Identification – Mention 1
CAH39 Multiple Identification – Mention 2
CAH40 Multiple Identification – Mention 3
CAH41 Whether Often Mistaken for Each Other
CAH42 Whether R is Father/Mother
CAH43 Whether R Able to Report Pregnancy Detail
CAH44 Number of Weeks when Mother Learned she was Pregnant
CAH45 Whether Learned at Less than 3 Months
CAH46 Whether Learned at Less than 6 Months
CAH47 # Cigarettes Smoked 6 Months Prior to Learning Pregnant
CAH48 Whether Smoked After Learning Pregnant
CAH49 # Cigarettes Smoked after Learning Pregnant
CAH50 Whether Drank Alcoholic Beverages
CAH51 How Often Drank Alcoholic Beverages
CAH52 Whether Cesarean Delivery
CAH53 Whether Mother's first Cesarean Delivery
CAH54 Number of Weeks Gestation
CAH55 Whether Pre-term Delivery
CAH56 Whether Employer Insurance Paid for Delivery
CAH57 Whether Private Insurance Paid for Delivery
CAH58 Whether Medicaid Paid for Delivery
CAH59 Whether Military Insurance Paid for Delivery
CAH60 Whether Tricare Insurance Paid for Delivery
CAH61 Whether Indian Insurance Paid for Delivery
CAH62 Whether Veteran's Administration Paid for Delivery
CAH63 Whether Paid Delivery Out-of-pocket
CAH64 Whether No Payment Required for Delivery
CAH65 Whether Paid for Delivery Other Method
CAH66 Number of Days in the Hospital
CAH67 Whether Infant had Care in ICU
CAH68 Number of Days in ICU/Specialty Care
CAH69 Whether Infant Required Assisted Ventilation
CAH70 Number of Days Required Assisted Ventilation

CAH71 Whether Mother Received Prenatal Visits
CAH72 Number of Weeks Pregnant at First Prenatal Visit
CAH73 Whether First Prenatal Visit at Less than 3 Months
CAH74 Whether First Prenatal Visit at Less than 6 Months
CAH75 Number Prenatal Visits
CAH76 Type of Facility Where Received Prenatal Care
CAH77 Whether Employer Insurance Paid for Prenatal Care
CAH78 Whether Private Insurance Paid for Prenatal Care
CAH79 Whether Medicaid Paid for Prenatal Care
CAH80 Whether Military Insurance Paid for Prenatal Care
CAH81 Whether Tricare Insurance Paid for Prenatal Care
CAH82 Whether Indian Insurance Paid for Prenatal Care
CAH83 Whether Veteran's Administration Paid for Prenatal Care
CAH84 Whether Paid Prenatal Care Out-of-pocket
CAH85 Whether No Payment Required for Prenatal Care
CAH86 Whether Paid for Prenatal Care Other Method
CAH87 Mother's Weight in Pounds at Delivery
CAH88 Mother's Weight in Pounds Prior to Pregnancy
CAH89 Whether Mother Lost/Gained Weight - Computed
CAH90 Confirmed Whether Mother Lost Weight
CAH91 Confirmed Whether Mother Gained Weight
CAH92 Confirmed Whether Mother Remained the Same Weight
CAH93 Whether Mother Lost/Gained Weight - Reported
CAH94 Amount Mother Lost/Gained - Reported
CAH95 Whether Respondent was Mother/Father of Newborn
CAH96 Whether Used Contraception before Pregnancy
CAH97 Whether Mother Stopped Contraception before Pregnancy
CAH98 Whether Stopped Contraception because Wanted to become Pregnant
CAH99 Whether Received Infertility Information
CAH100 Whether Pregnancy Wanted by Mother
CAH101 Whether Pregnancy Timing/Wanted by Mother
CAH102 Whether Pregnancy Wanted by Father
CAH103 Whether Pregnancy Timing/Wanted by Father
CAH105 Year Most Recently Reported This Child
CAH107 Relationship to Adoptive Parent (adoption records only)

Section IV: Idiosyncrasies, Data Cleaning and Variable Detail

Several aspects of the Childbirth and Adoption History merit particular attention. This section discusses what they are and how to handle them.

How to Identify Individuals Who Have Never Had or Adopted a Child

One caution, particularly relevant to event-history analysis, concerns the records for individuals who have never had or adopted any children. Such a person has a data record denying the event. If he or she has neither had nor adopted any children, the file has two records, one for each type of event. On these records, codes indicating "Inapplicable" (9s) are padded in the fields for details

about the child, with the exception of Child's 1968 Interview Number and Child's Person Number (CAH10 and CAH11); both of these variables are padded with zeroes.

How to Identify Individuals for Whom Births or Adoptions Were Not Ascertained

Persons who may or may not have had or adopted children but for whom the PSID has been unable to determine anything relating to that particular type of parental experience also have one record for each demographic phenomenon on the file. On these records, the "Number of Births/Adoptions" variable (CAH108) has a value of 98, although this value is not unique to such individuals. Missing data codes (8s or 98s) are padded in all the fields for that record, with the exception of Child 1968 ID (CAH10) and Child Person Number (CAH11). These two variables contain values of 9s, which do uniquely identify this sort of record.

Treatment of Individuals Who Become Nonresponse

The Childbirth and Adoption History File is cumulative; that is, all individuals who have ever been eligible for the childbirth or adoption history question sequences since they were first begun in 1985 have at least one record on the file. Thus, each new version is current through the most recent wave for individuals in responding families, but the data are up to date only through the last year that nonresponse individuals were living in a responding family.

The childbirth and adoption history is current through 2021 for those in a responding PSID family at the time of the 2021 interview and who are otherwise eligible for the childbirth and/or adoption history questions. For those who were nonresponse in the 2021 Wave or who are no longer eligible for the questions, the history is current through the last year they were in an interviewed family unit and eligible. For example, if an individual became non-response for the 1988 Wave and has not returned to a PSID family, his or her childbirth history (and adoption history, if applicable) is current only through 1987. Similarly, if an OFUM who has remained in a responding family is now 47 years old, his or her childbirth history has not been updated in the last few waves, since OFUMs' childbirth information is not collected once they achieve 45 years of age. The variable indicating recency of an individual's childbirth or adoption reports is CAH104.

Location Data About the Child's Place of Birth

Beginning in the 1997 Wave, information about a child's place of birth was added to the child-specific questions. This was asked only for biological children reported from 1997 forward if they were born since January 1 of the preceding wave, but the birth year restriction was waived for adoption reports. The birth location data comprise two variables using FIPS state and county codes. Foreign births are coded with the PSID foreign country code scheme, in which the state variable contains values of zero and the county variable indicates the specific foreign country.

Because of the PSID's policy on respondent confidentiality, only the variable for the state in which the birth occurred is included on the Childbirth and Adoption History File. The county variable is classified as restricted and suppressed in the public release file. Access to sensitive data must be obtained by a special request and confidential data use contract.

Idiosyncrasies, Data Cleaning and Treatment of Incomplete or Inconsistent Information

PSID tried very hard to assure access to all available information while also recording occurrences of missing data or unclear identification of children. In some situations, a parent was reported to have had biological or adopted children, but details about some or all of the children were not reported. PSID staff can and do assign an identifier to such a child, as it is clear that the child has never been part of the study.

Sometimes the same child is reported in more than one wave. In such cases, the initial report was chosen as the source for the child's sex, birth date, birth weight, etc., unless the information was not ascertained. In that event, a succeeding year's report was used on the principle that known information is better than missing information. However, values for the child's current whereabouts (CAH24), and death date (CAH25-CAH26) if applicable, are always picked up from the most recent report. The variable indicating the most recent wave in which the child was specifically mentioned, (CAH105), shows in which wave that happened.

If a child had ever been in the study and his or her birth or adoption records contained missing information about sex or birth date, values from the cross-year Individual File were used. Additionally, parental reports of a child's sex or birth dates were cross-checked for discrepancies, and Individual File data were consulted to help us resolve the differences where possible. Once birth dates were known, the spacing of births to the same mother was checked. All cases where successive children were born less than ten months apart were checked for possible coding, reporting or transcription errors in birth dates.

Aside from multiple births, a few cases remain where the children are nearer than ten months apart in age. Most of these are legitimate but, in some cases, it is known that the dates are incorrect but they remain unresolved.

Parent and child birth dates were compared in order to check births occurring to a parent under 13 years old, and to mothers aged 50 or older. Twenty-two cases of very young birth parents and four cases of very old birth mothers remain on the file. Most of the children have never been in the study (their Person Numbers have values of 800-995); as a result, there were no other sources of information to consult for satisfactory confirmation. The parental birth dates are consistent with the cross-year Individual File.

However, birth dates of all children ever in the study were not universally checked against the Individual File. Some discrepancies with the Individual File may still be present.

On a related note, a parent's birth date is copied from the current wave of the Individual File when his or her births first appear on the cumulative Childbirth and Adoption History File. This birth date is not updated in later years for the initial record(s). If a new child is subsequently reported for the parent, then his or her birth date from that later wave is used in construction of the new record. Thus, birth dates for the same parent may disagree across children if the reports were not collected in the same wave. These discrepancies were cleaned to some extent, but only as a by-product of other cleaning activities.

Attempting birth date consistency with the Individual File is made difficult because of parents' and children's varying years of participation in the study. In the longer term, the PSID hopes to clean these dates but, for the present, it is advised that analysts to use the parent's birth date or age variables from the most recent year of Individual File data for which he or she is present in the study.

The sex and birth date checks resulted in many corrections to both the Childbirth and Adoption History File and the cross-year Individual File. As an added benefit, some spurious child identifiers have been corrected.

Other data cleaning steps ensured that each child had no more than one birth mother and father. In a few cases, birth parents also claimed that they had adopted the child. These reports were verified against information in interviewer thumbnail sketches and marginal notes for corroboration.

Child identifiers were compared to cross-year individual data and to the 1985-2021 Marriage History File to confirm that no spurious cases of intergenerational incest occur.

Our final checks assured that all individuals who had ever qualified for childbirth or adoption questions had records of the appropriate type on the file, and that individuals who had never qualified for a specific type did not.

Who has Cross-Year Information

Please keep in mind another PSID intricacy when matching across files: while all parents were present in a PSID family, some children identified in the birth and adoption histories have never been present in a PSID family unit during the years the study has been in progress; these children have values for "Person Number of Child" in the range 800-995. Consequently, each parent has been in a PSID family unit and has a record on the 1968-2021 Individual File, but his or her child may or may not.

What Cross-Year File to Use for Merging

The 1985-2021 Childbirth and Adoption History File matches the 1968-2021 Public Release Individual File exactly. If you attempt to merge the 1985-2021 Childbirth and Adoption History File with an earlier Individual file, some cases on the Individual File will NOT match and may assign erroneous parent-child relationships! See the next section for details.

Birth Order and Number of Children

Children of a specified parent are ordered from the oldest to the youngest based on their birth dates. If no birth dates contain missing data, then each child is rank ordered from the earliest to the most recent date. If one or more birth dates contain missing data, then missing data are assigned to the order variable (CAH9) for all births. The birth order variable applies only to childbirth records.

Occasionally it is possible to assign birth order to some of the children, even though others may have missing information for birth dates. This can happen if an individual's retrospective history contains non-missing information about the number of existing children, although their birth dates are missing, but in a subsequent year the individual reports an update about a new birth. For example, a new Reference Person moves into the study. At that time, PSID received a report about two children living with his ex-wife, but did not obtain information about their birth dates. The children are assigned values of 98 for birth order (CAH9) because which one is older is unknown. In the next wave, the Reference Person and Spouse have a new baby. This brings the total

number of children to three, and it is known, with certainty, that the new baby is his third oldest child.

In cases with known birth years for all children, unknown birth months can cause order for a pair of children to be assigned missing data values if they are born in the same year but with no evidence of twinhood. Updating the number of an individual's children can have a negative effect on the number of children (CAH106). If the number and order of all prior children is known but it has not been ascertained whether he or she has had any additional children, then the order values for the known children remain as they are but missing data values must be assigned to the variable for total number of children. The 2021 file has 82 parents who fall into this category.

Adoption Dates

The adoption date was not collected as part of the adoption history data. The cross-year Individual Files do, however, record move-in dates for adopted children coming to live in responding PSID families.

Section V: Linking Records

Using the Childbirth and Adoption History File in Conjunction with the Individual File

The Childbirth and Adoption History File is designed to be linked with the Individual File for analysis purposes. The Childbirth and Adoption History File has only a modest amount of information about the parent and his or her child. The analyst will no doubt want to access the much greater volume of data available for these individuals on the Family and Individual Files. Those files can provide abundant information for many individuals dating back to 1968 when the PSID began, although for some, the span of available data is more limited or nonexistent.

When matching the 1985-2021 Childbirth and Adoption History File to individual data, only the 1968-2021 Individual File should be used. During file merging and cleaning, a number of unique individual identifiers were corrected. Special care was taken to ensure perfect correspondence in individual identifiers between this file, the 1985-2021 Marriage History File, and the 1968-2021 Individual File.

Because of the corrections, do not attempt to match this file with any other PSID data file or a subset derived from it using these unique individual identifiers. Non-matches in individual records definitely will occur if any other file besides the above-named is used.

Data processing is required to link records between these two files. To achieve linkages, one must match on the parent's unique individual-specific identifier. This unique identifier is a combination of two variables: "1968 Family Interview Number" (CAH3) and "Person Number" (CAH4). The corresponding variables for these identifiers on the cross-year Individual File are ER30001 and ER30002. Care must be taken with regard to the proper files to use, the choice of individuals on the Childbirth and Adoption File for whom matches are attempted, and the years for which data are available.

Parents and children vary substantially in terms of which years they have been present in PSID family units over the course of the study. This affects the availability of data for them on the main files because valid information is obtainable on that file only in the years that an individual is present in a PSID family unit ("present" means living in the family unit or having left it to enter an institution). For more details about PSID tracking procedures and classification of people into family units, see the discussion in Section 8 on "Family Composition and Change," in A PANEL STUDY OF INCOME DYNAMICS: A USER'S GUIDE, by Martha Hill (Sage Publications, 1992). First there is the matter of whether any record exists for an individual. If a record does exist, then the question is in which years of the study are data available for that individual and his or her family.

If a person, either parent or child, has a record on the 1968-2021 Individual File, but less than the full range (42 waves) of data in that record, variables in the years when he or she was not present in a PSID family unit are, for the most part, filled with zeros. In addition, the annual individual-level variable "Type of Individual Data Record" in those years indicates that he or she is non-response.

As noted in the cautions in Section IV, all eligible individuals have records on the 1968-2021 Individual File because they were present in a PSID family unit during that time period. However, many children do not have records on that file, since indeed they have never been present in a PSID family at any time during the course of the study. Children who have been present in a PSID family unit at some time since the study began have records on the 1968-2021 Individual File. Values for their Person Numbers are in the range 001-399. Children who have never been present have Person Number values in the range 800-995.

Even though all parents have records on the 1968-2021 Individual File, that file does not necessarily contain data for all of them for all years of the study. Some parents first entered the study in, e.g., 1985, and thus only have data since that year. Others have logged more than thirty years of inclusion in the study. Similarly, there is considerable variation among children regarding which years, if any, they were included in the study.

For those persons with records on both the Individual File and the Childbirth and Adoption History File, linkages rely on a match of individual-specific identifier variables that appear on both files. As noted earlier, the unique identifier involves two variables: "1968 Family Interview Number" and "Person Number". The corresponding set of variables on the two files must match to properly link an individual's records from the two sources. The variable names for these two variables are ER30001 and ER30002 on the Individual File. On the Childbirth and Adoption File, they are CAH3 and CAH4 for the parent and CAH10 and CAH11 for the child. Note that such linkages involve a one-to-many-match. One record on the Individual File may have more than one matching record on the Childbirth and Adoption History File because the specified individual has multiple children or has both childbirth and adoption records.

Using the Childbirth and Adoption History File with Other Demographic History Files

Some analysts may be interested in linking information from different records on the Childbirth and Adoption History File or linking information from records on different demographic files. For instance, access to all childbirth records for an individual is needed to identify full and half siblings; that is, biological children of the same parent. To determine, for example, ages of children of single parents based on marital spells data, one would need to merge records on the Marriage History and CAH files. To make links such as these, one must match on the unique individual-specific identifier, which is a combination of two variables -- "1968 Family Interview Number" and

"Person Number" (MH2 and MH3 for the person designated as the individual on the 1985-2021 Marriage History File; CAH3 and CAH4 for the person designated as the parent on the 1985-2021 Childbirth and Adoption History File).

Section VI: Childbirth Information Available on the Individual and Family Files

Some of the information provided on the Childbirth and Adoption History Files is also available on the final release versions of the cross-year Individual Files. In addition, the Individual Files contain some detail relating to fertility issues that the Childbirth and Adoption History Files do not, and they provide information involving a combination of detail about marriage and fertility that would otherwise require data management.

Individual-level Childbirth Variables

The following listing shows all of the variables available on current cross-year Individual Files relating to childbirth.

ER32009	1968 ID of Mother
ER32010	Person Number of Mother
ER32011	Year Mother Born
ER32012	Total Number of Children Born To Mother
ER32013	Rank Order of Birth to Mother
ER32014	Birth Weight of This Individual
ER32015	Marital Status of Mother When Individual Born
ER32016	1968 ID of Father
ER32017	Person Number of Father
ER32018	Year Father Born
ER32019	Total Number of Children Born to Father
ER32020	Rank Order of Birth to Father
ER32021	Year Birth Info Most Recently Updated
ER32022	Number of Live Births to This Individual
ER32023 ER32024	Month and Year First/Only Child Born
ER32025 ER32026	Month and Year Youngest Child Born
ER32027 ER32028	Month and Year Second Youngest Child Born
ER32029 ER32030	Month and Year Third Youngest Child Born
ER32031 ER32032	Month and Year Fourth Youngest Child Born

ER32021-ER32032 are compiled from the birth history information collected from 1985 through the year of final release data. ER32009-ER32015 contain childbirth data for the individual's mother, and ER32016-ER32020 contain similar information for his or her father.

Family-Level Childbirth Variables

Four variables are generated for each Public Release family file utilizing childbirth information current through that wave. They are:

Number of Children Born to Reference Person Only in the Prior Calendar Year
Number of Children Born to Spouse/Partner Only in the Prior Calendar Year
Number of Children Born Jointly to Reference Person and Spouse/Partner in the Prior Calendar Year

Number of Children Born to Other Family Unit Members in the Prior Calendar Year

Section VII: Codebook

The item-by-item descriptions for all of the variables in the Childbirth and Adoption History File can be found in the codebook. Unweighted frequencies were calculated for each variable.