May 2023

1985-2021 Marriage History File

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I. Introduction

These files contain data and documentation from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) Marriage History, 1985-2021. This file, MH85_21_readme.pdf, provides information about the contents of all the files in this package. See the PSID website for a description of sample SAS and SPSS programs needed to merge the family-year data with the cross-year individual data to create a traditional cross-year family-individual file or use the Data Center. It is recommended that one carefully reviews this material before proceeding with any work using the data files.

A. DATA

There is one data file:

- The 1985-2021 Marriage History File.

The 1985-2021 Marriage History File contains details about persons living in a PSID family, at the time of the interview, in any wave, from 1985 through 2021, and their respective spouses.

The data are in raw ASCII form. Refer to one of the associated program files - SAS, SPSS, or STATA -- for record format layout information, variable names (or numbers), variable labels (or names), and missing data codes.

File Attributes and Variables for Data Files

File name	Records	Number of variables	Variables
mh85-21.txt	63,599	20	MH1-MH20

B. SAS, SPSS, and STATA

These files contain SAS, SPSS, and STATA statements providing information about the variables in the data files. The naming conventions are the same as for the data files: mh85_21.sas contains SAS statements, mh85_21.sps contains SPSS statements, and mh85_21.do contains equivalent STATA statements.

The statements provide variable names and locations, variable labels, and missing data codes (note, the STATA file does not contain missing data codes). Not all variables in the collection have assigned missing data codes. The missing value specifications provided are consistent with those specified in the codebooks. One should check the codebook for each variable one is including in one's analysis to determine if other codes should also be defined as missing.

The SAS, SPSS, and STATA statements are NOT intended to represent completed and full programs for the respective statistical program packages to run extracts, analyses, etc. One must provide all other package-specific statements needed to complete a program.

File Attributes for Program Statement Files

Filename
mh85_21.sas
mh85_21.sps
mh85_21.do

C. DOCUMENTATION

PSID User Guide

For an overview of the 1985-2021 Marriage History File, 2021 questionnaire changes, and a description of our generated and hand coded variables, please see the PSID Main Interview User Manual, located on the PSID website: http://psidonline.isr.umich.edu/Guide/documents.aspx.

The following machine-readable documentation files are provided with this package.

File Description and Attributes for Documentation Files

Contents	Filename	Approximate # printed pages
1985-2021 Marriage History Codebook:	mh85_21_codebook.pdf	11

II. Additional Help

For general assistance, please contact:

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