
Panel Study of Income Dynamics, 1968–1999:
Supplemental Files

Part 5: Marriage History File, 1985–1999
(Waves 18–31)

Sandra Hofferth, Frank P. Stafford, Wei-Jun J. Yeung,
Greg J. Duncan, Martha S. Hill, James Lepkowski,
and James N. Morgan

PANEL STUDY OF INCOME DYNAMICS, 1968-1999:
SUPPLEMENTAL FILES

(ICPSR 3202)

Principal Investigators

Sandra Hofferth, Frank P. Stafford, Wei-Jun J. Yeung,
Greg J. Duncan, Martha S. Hill, James Lepkowski,
and James N. Morgan
University of Michigan, Survey Research Center

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Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106

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Sandra Hofferth, Frank P. Stafford, Wei-Jun J. Yeung, Greg J. Duncan, Martha S. Hill, James Lepkowski, and James N. Morgan

PANEL STUDY OF INCOME DYNAMICS, 1968-1999: SUPPLEMENTAL FILES
(ICPSR 3202)

SUMMARY: The Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) is an ongoing data collection effort begun in 1968 in an attempt to fill the need for a better understanding of the determinants of family income and its changes. The PSID has continued to trace individuals from the original national sample of approximately 4,800 households, whether those individuals are living in the same dwelling or with the same people. The investigators hoped to discover whether most short-term changes in economic status are due to forces outside the family or if they can be traced to something in the individual's own background or in the pattern of his or her thinking and behavior. The data can shed light on what causes family income to rise above or fall below the poverty line. In line with the theoretical model, the questions asked fall generally under the headings of economic status, economic behavior, demographics, and attitudes. Specifically, they deal with topics such as employment, income sources and amounts, housing, car ownership, food expenditures, transportation, do-it-yourself home maintenance and car repairs, education, disability, time use, family background, family composition changes, and residential location. In the early years, respondents were asked supplemental questions about their housing and neighborhood characteristics, child care, achievement motivation, job training, and retirement plans. In more recent years, special topics have included extensive supplements on education, military combat experience, health, kinship networks, and wealth. Supplemental datasets, each with detailed information about a particular topic collected over the years, are released separately from the core files (PANEL STUDY OF INCOME DYNAMICS, 1968-1999: ANNUAL CORE DATA [ICPSR 7439]). Supplemental information on additional topics, such as flows of time and money, help among families and their friends, and motivation and efficacy, is gathered on an intermittent basis. Part 1, the 1985 Ego-Alter File, presents information on retrospective histories of marriage, childbirth, adoption, and substitute parenting. Part 2, the 1984-1987 Work History Supplement File, contains more detailed information on individual employment histories than is presented in the core files, including multiple job changes. Part 3, the Validation Study, was designed to assess the quality of cross-sectional and over-time economic data obtained in the PSID. The first wave of the Validation Study was conducted in 1983 and a second wave was conducted in 1987. For the Validation Study, the

standard PSID questionnaire was administered to a sample drawn from a single large manufacturing firm. Questionnaire results were compared to company records to verify respondents' answers to questions such as hours worked, sick time taken, periods of unemployment, and changes of position within the company. Part 4, the Time and Money Transfers Supplement File, 1988, was designed to facilitate access to the detailed information collected in the 1988 wave of the PSID regarding transfers, in the form of time and money, between a PSID family unit and other persons during the 1987 calendar year. Part 5, the Marriage History File, 1985-1999 (Waves 18-31), was designed to facilitate access to detailed information collected in the 1985 through 1999 waves of the PSID regarding retrospective marriage histories. This file contains detailed information about marriages of people of marriage-eligible ages living in a PSID family at the time of the interview in any wave between 1985 and 1999. Each record contains all past-year and most-recent-year details about the timing and circumstances of a marriage for a specified individual. Variables in this file include the identifiers for each individual and his/her spouse, month and year of marriage/divorce/widowhood, order of the specific marriage, total number of marriages, and the most recent year wave when data were collected. Part 6, Relationship History File, 1968-1985 (Waves 1-18), presents information on pairs of individuals who were members of family units descended from a common, original family in the 1968 sample. The Relationship History File was designed to identify relationships that might not be evident using traditional data collection methods, which often define relationships in terms of the relationship of the individual to the head of household. There are two records for each pair (one record per individual). Variables include relationship, age, gender, and a set of residential status variables. This file is designed for use with Appendix C for Relationship History File (Part 7). Part 8, Childbirth and Adoption History File, 1985-1999 (Waves 18-31), was designed to facilitate access to detailed information collected in the 1985 through 1999 waves of the PSID regarding retrospective histories of childbirth and adoption. This file contains detailed information about any individual living with a PSID family at the time of the interview in any wave from 1985 through 1999 and his/her biological or adopted children. Each record contains all present-year and past-year details about the timing and circumstances of childbirth and adoption for an individual. Variables in this file include the identifiers for each parent and child, month and year of birth for both parent and child, birth order, birth weight and date of death for a child, year of most recent report, number of births/adoptions, etc. Data in this file are structured in a one-record-per-event format, with each record representing a specific childbirth or adoption event. Part 9, the Self-Administered Questionnaire Supplemental File, 1990 (Wave 23),

provides information about the health care needs of older panel members in the core (but not Latino) sample. Each household head and wife aged 50 or older was mailed a self-administered questionnaire. Questions focused on the respondent's health, health care coverage, and long-term care coverage. Part 10, Telephone Health Care Cost Questionnaire Supplemental File, 1990 (Wave 23), was administered by telephone at the time of the main interview to heads and wives aged 65 or older. The questions in this supplement focused on detailed health care costs for eligible heads and wives. Data include separate cost and payment source information associated with every hospitalization or nursing home stay during the 12 months prior to the 1990 interview. Similar cost and payment data about outpatient surgery, other office visits, oral surgery, prescription medication, eyeglasses and hearing aids, and professional and nonprofessional home care were also collected. Some additional questions were included about help with domestic duties, both paid and unpaid, help with financial planning, and cash and noncash gifts. Part 11, the Parent Health Supplement, 1991 (Wave 24), is a subset of the Wave 24 data that supplies supplemental information concerning the health of the parents of the household head and wife. Parts 12-14 comprise the wealth supplemental files for 1984, 1989, and 1994. Part 12, Family Wealth Supplement Data, 1984 (Wave 17), and Part 13, Family Wealth Supplement Data, 1989 (Wave 22), were derived, respectively, from the Public Release II versions (final release versions) of Parts 18 and 19 of ICPSR study 7439, and Part 14, Family Wealth Supplement Data, 1994 (Wave 27), was derived from Part 202, Family File, 1994 (Wave 27), an early release version. The components of wealth were collected at the family level. Part 15, Estimating Risk Tolerance from the 1996 PSID, asked how willing employed respondents were to take jobs with different income prospects. Parts 16 and 17 focus on active saving and cover the time periods 1984-1989 and 1989-1994, respectively. Sequences in these files are intended to measure flows of money into and out of different assets such as putting money into or taking it out of the stock market, putting money into annuities or cashing them in. In combination with changes in the companion wealth components these measures can be used to study savings versus capital gains.

UNIVERSE: Households that had at least one member of the noninstitutionalized population of the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia. The portion of the sample called the SRC subsample, when taken by itself, was representative of the households in the coterminous United States in 1968. The second subsample consisted of the low-income nonelderly households sampled by the Census Bureau for the 1966-1967 Survey of Economic Opportunity. These households, drawn with unequal probabilities of selection that depended on geographic location, age, race, and

income, were added to the sample to ensure that there would be a sufficient number of low-income and, especially, Black low-income households to permit separate analyses of these populations.

SAMPLING: The sample is a combination of a representative cross-section of nearly 3,000 families selected from the University of Michigan Survey Research Center's (SRC's) master sampling frame and a subsample of about 1,900 low-income families previously interviewed by the Census Bureau for the Office of Economic Opportunity. The combined sample is appropriately weighted to be representative of all people in the United States. Heads of the same families have been interviewed each year since 1968, as have the heads of families containing members who were part of a 1968 household and later left to start households of their own or to join another household. Panel losses have been more than offset by the addition of these newly formed families, bringing the present sample size to near 7,000. The sample for Part 3, the Validation Study, was drawn from a single large manufacturing firm in the Detroit area.

NOTE: (1) The files in this data collection were originally included in PANEL STUDY OF INCOME DYNAMICS (ICPSR 7439), which has been broken out by ICPSR into three separate data collections: PANEL STUDY OF INCOME DYNAMICS, 1968-1999: ANNUAL CORE DATA (ICPSR 7439), PANEL STUDY OF INCOME DYNAMICS, 1968-1999: SUPPLEMENTAL FILES (ICPSR 3202), and PANEL STUDY OF INCOME DYNAMICS, 1989-1990: LATINO SAMPLE (ICPSR 3203). (2) Weights are provided for analysis. The weights for individuals are different from those for families. (3) The codebooks and data collection instruments are provided as Portable Document Format (PDF) files. The PDF file format was developed by Adobe Systems Incorporated and can be accessed using PDF reader software, such as the Adobe Acrobat Reader. Information on how to obtain a copy of the Acrobat Reader is provided on the ICPSR Web site. (4) Users are encouraged to check the PSID Web site at <http://www.isr.umich.edu/src/~psid/> for updates to this collection. A complete bibliography of publications can also be accessed at the site.

EXTENT OF COLLECTION: 16 data files + machine-readable documentation (PDF) + SAS data definition statements + SPSS data definition statements

EXTENT OF PROCESSING: UNDOCCHK.PR/ CONCHK.PR/ SCAN/ REFORM.DOC

DATA FORMAT: Logical Record Length with SAS and SPSS data definition statements

Part 1: Ego-Alter File, 1985
(Wave 18)
File Structure: rectangular
Cases: 41,368
Variables: 81
Record Length: 82
Records Per Case: 1

Part 3: Validation Study, 1983
and 1987 (Waves 16 and 20)
File Structure: rectangular
Cases: 603
Variables: 642
Record Length: 1,427
Records Per Case: 1

Part 5: Marriage History File,
1985-1999 (Waves 18-31)
File Structure: rectangular
Cases: 43,220
Variables: 20
Record Length: 51
Records Per Case: 1

Part 7: Appendix C for
Relationship History File
Record Length: 120

Part 9: Self-Administered
Questionnaire Supplemental
File, 1990 (Wave 23)
File Structure: rectangular
Cases: 2,429
Variables: 201
Record Length: 260
Records Per Case: 1

Part 2: Work History
Supplement File, 1984-1987
(Waves 17-20)
File Structure: rectangular
Cases: 12,620
Variables: approx. 5,093
Record Length: 9,566
Records Per Case: 1

Part 4: Time and Money
Transfers Supplement File,
1988 (Wave 21)
File Structure: rectangular
Cases: 32,850
Variables: 14
Record Length: 31
Records Per Case: 1

Part 6: Relationship History
File, 1968-1985 (Waves 1-18)
File Structure: rectangular
Cases: 426,608
Variables: 137
Record Length: 552
Records Per Case: 1

Part 8: Childbirth and
Adoption History File,
1985-1999 (Waves 18-31)
File Structure: rectangular
Cases: 75,693
Variables: 23
Record Length: 49
Records Per Case: 1

Part 10: Telephone Health Care
Cost Questionnaire
Supplemental File, 1990 (Wave
23)
File Structure: rectangular
Cases: 1,178
Variables: 1,181
Record Length: 3,286
Records Per Case: 1

Part 11: Parent Health
Supplement, 1991 (Wave 24)
File Structure: rectangular
Cases: 2,910
Variables: 1,411
Record Length: 2,659
Records Per Case: 1

Part 13: Family Wealth
Supplement Data, 1989 (Wave
22)
File Structure: rectangular
Cases: 7,114
Variables: 19
Record Length: 79
Records Per Case: 1

Part 15: Estimating Risk
Tolerance From the 1996 PSID
(Wave 29)
File Structure: rectangular
Cases: 8,517
Variables: 3
Record Length: 13
Records Per Case: 1

Part 17: Active Savings,
1989-1994 (Wave 27)
File Structure: rectangular
Cases: 8,628
Variables: 17
Record Length: 117
Records Per Case: 1

Part 12: Family Wealth
Supplement Data, 1984 (Wave
17)
File Structure: rectangular
Cases: 6,918
Variables: 19
Record Length: 74
Records Per Case: 1

Part 14: Family Wealth
Supplement Data, 1994 (Wave
27)
File Structure: rectangular
Cases: 8,628
Variables: 19
Record Length: 84
Records Per Case: 1

Part 16: Active Savings,
1984-1989 (Wave 22)
File Structure: rectangular
Cases: 7,114
Variables: 15
Record Length: 103
Records Per Case: 1

A Panel Study of Income Dynamics:
1985-1999 Marriage History File Documentation

(Version 1)

Survey Research Center
Institute for Social Research
The University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

2002

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Section I: Overview of the 1985-1999 Marriage History File

The 1985-1999 Marriage History File is designed to facilitate access to information collected in the 1985 through 1999 waves of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) regarding retrospective histories of marriages. This file contains details about marriage events of eligible people living in a PSID family at the time of the interview in any wave between 1985 and 1999. The PSID definition of "eligible" is described in detail below.

Each set of records for a specified individual contains all known cumulative data about the timing and circumstances of his or her marriages up to and including 1999, or those waves during that period when the individual was in a responding family unit. If an individual has never been married, one record indicates that report.

The number of variables are few; they contain relevant identifiers for the individual and his or her spouse, dates of marriages/divorce/widowhood, the order of the specific marriage, total number of marriages and the most recent wave in which data were collected.

The 1985-1999 Marriage History File stores information in an efficient manner that allows a high degree of flexibility in linking with the PSID's Individual File. It is designed to be linked to the 1968-1999 Individual File. Linkages can be done from either the individual's or the spouse's standpoint. These linkages are more limited for spouses than for individuals, since some spouses have never been part of the PSID and hence have no record on the 1968-1999 Individual File.

Data users who want only some of the detail of the marriage data will find marriage history information summarized on Public Release II versions of the PSID Individual files in several individual-level summary variables. These variables include number of marriages, beginning and ending dates for the first and the most recent marriages, marital status of the individual at the time of the most recent interview, and the most recent wave when marriage data were collected. For particulars, see Section VI below.

Individuals for Whom the Data are Available

The marriage history data were collected about individuals of marriage-eligible age in responding PSID families, i.e., those with values of 1-20 for the "Sequence Number" variable in a given wave. In waves when individuals were non-response or in an institution, no information was collected about them. The types of individuals asked for marriage history information and the detail gathered about their history differed over the waves from 1985 through 1999; 1985 followed one pattern, and 1986 through 1999 followed another.

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. Marriage history information was gathered as described below:

- (a) in the 1985 wave, a complete retrospective marriage history was asked of a Head, Wife, or "Wife" of any age;
- (b) in all succeeding waves, marriage history was updated for changes since the beginning of the prior calendar year for a Head, Wife, or "Wife" of any age who was also a Head, Wife, or "Wife" in the prior wave's interview;
- (c) in succeeding waves, details about first and current or most recent marriages were asked for a New Head, New Wife, or New "Wife" of any age;
- (d) in all waves from 1985 through the present, details about first and current or most recent marriages were asked for an Other Family Unit Member (OFUM) aged 12-44 at the time of the interview.

These latter two groups, although initially asked about only first and last marriages, may have additional marriage records on the file if those marriages occurred while the individual was in a responding family.

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, whereas 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 example, the entry age for eligibility is 12, and for family members other than Head, Wife, or "Wife" the exit threshold for eligibility is 45.
- (c) A PSID individual can change his or her relationship to Head 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 or contract--information about adoptions is gathered for Heads, Wives, and "Wives" but not other family members.
- (e) A PSID individual can become non-response, after which time demographic event history information is not updated.
- (f) While both Heads and Wives/"Wives" were interviewed in 1985, only one person (usually the Head) 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 marital history data of the Latino sample are also included in this file.

In the 1992 interview, the PSID undertook a pilot effort to recontact former respondents who had attrited from the study and persuade 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 identified for inclusion in this round of interviewing. They differed in the detail gathered about their marriage history.

- (a) 1992 Reinterview recontact families were last interviewed during the 1990 wave, but attrited in 1991.
- (b) 1992 Splitoff recontacts were sample members who moved out of a responding 1991 family but who were not interviewed themselves in 1991.
- (c) 1992 Sample recontacts were designated as members of original 1968 Panel families who were last interviewed at some time between 1969 and 1989.
- (d) 1992 Latino recontacts 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 questions detailing their first and most recent marriages. The marriage history of Reinterview recontacts (the first type above) was updated for changes in 1991 and 1992. Since this latter group of people was interviewed in 1990, but not 1991, information was lost for events 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" (V30799/ER30799).

In 1993, 1994, and from 1997 onward the PSID also recontacted attriters, but these individuals were asked the same retrospective marriage histories as persons new to the study. That is, reports of their first and current or most recent marriages were sought.

Background for the Marriage History Files

The 1985-1999 Marriage 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. These sets of questions were discontinued after the initial retrospective in 1985. For more details about the 1985 Ego-Alter File, refer to A Panel Study of Income Dynamics: 1985 Ego-Alter File Documentation.

Beginning in 1986, we 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.

How to Obtain the File and Whom to Contact About Questions

The 1985-1999 Marriage History File is available through the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). It can be requested by contacting the ICPSR Member Services:

e-mail: netmail@icpsr.umich.edu
main website: <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/>
telephone: (734) 763-5010

This file and documentation are also available on the Internet. The URL (location) of the PSID home page is:

<http://www.isr.umich.edu/src/psid/>

If you have questions that are not answered by this documentation, you can contact PSID staff through our website; click on "Contact Us!" on our home page.

Section II: Questionnaire Detail

The flow of the PSID questionnaire is complex. 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 1985 sequence is available in the PDF format version of the main 1985 documentation volume on pp. 23-31 and pp. 58-68, located on our website. The 1986-1999 sequences are identical to each other, with the addition, beginning in 1997, of questions about birth location, race and ethnicity. PDF format versions of the 1991-1996 main questionnaires are also available on our website. They contain the questions for Head/Wife/"Wife" marriage history, but do not include the supplementary forms used for details about childbirth and adoptions, or for OFUMs' marriages and childbirths. These supplements are not available on the website as of this writing. The website also includes Computer-Assisted Interview (CAI) Documentation for 1993 forward, and this version of the PSID interview schedule does incorporate the specifics of the questions asked about each spouse and the questions asked for OFUMs.

Section III: Structure of the File

Number of Records

The 1985-1999 Marriage History File contains a total of 43,220 records. This file has a one-record-per-marriage general structure. Each record contains information for a specified marriage for an individual, or information that indicates the individual has no marriage data. Information for an individual is current as of the most recent wave that marriage history was collected for him or her.

Multiple records for a given individual result from an individual having more than one marriage. Although the individual remains the same in such circumstances, the spouse differs from one record to the next. The maximum number of marriage records for a given individual is eight on the 1985-1999 Marriage History File. A few multiple records for a given spouse also exist. This occurs when an individual has remarried the same person. In situations where two individuals were married to each other twice and were both present in a responding family unit, the file has four records for this pair, two records for each of the two individuals.

Sort Order of the File

The 1985-1999 Marriage History File is sorted, in ascending order, by "1968 Interview Number of Individual" (V1), "Person Number of Individual" (V2), and "Order of This Marriage" (V8). Details for an individual's first marriage are followed by those for his or her second, third, etc., or the most recent marriage. As noted in Section I, complete marriage histories were gathered for Heads, Wives and "Wives" in 1985, but information on only first and most recent marriages was initially collected for New Heads, Wives, and "Wives" in 1986 through 1999 and OFUMs in any wave from 1985 forward.

All records for the first eligible member of a 1968 PSID family are followed by those for the next eligible member in the same family of origin. When all of the 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 1985-1999 Marriage History File contains twenty variables, which can be categorized into those relevant to the individual, those specific to his or her spouse, those in regard to the marriage in question, and some aggregate information about the marriage history for the individual.

Information specific to the individual:

- V1 1968 Interview Number of Individual
- V2 Person Number of Individual
- V3 Sex of Individual
- V4 Month Individual Born
- V5 Year Individual Born

Information specific to the spouse:

V6 1968 Interview Number of Spouse
V7 Person Number of Spouse

Information specific to the marriage:

V8 Order of This Marriage
V9 Month Married
V10 Year Married
V11 Status of This Marriage
V12 Month Widowed or Divorced
V13 Year Widowed or Divorced
V14 Month Separated
V15 Year Separated

Aggregate Information for the marriage history of this individual:

V16 Year Most Recently Reported Marriage
V17 Number of Marriages of This Individual
V18 Last Known Marital Status
V19 Number of Marriage Records
V20 Release Number

Section IV: Idiosyncracies, File Cleaning and Variable Detail

Several aspects of the 1985-1999 Marriage History File merit particular attention. This section discusses what they are and how to handle them.

How to Identify Individuals Who Were Never Married

One caution, particularly relevant to event-history analysis, concerns the records for individuals who have never married. The file has one record for each such person. On these records, the "Number of Marriages" variable (V17) has a value of zero. Codes indicating "Inapplicable" (9s) are padded in the fields for marriage details, with the exception of Spouse ID (V6) and Spouse Person Number (V7); both of these variables have values of zero.

How to Identify Individuals For Whom No Marriage Data Were Ascertained

Persons who may or may not have married but for whom the PSID has been unable to determine anything relating to his or her marriage situation, not even marital status, also have one record on this file. On this type of record, the "Number of Marriages" variable (V17) 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 Spouse 1968 ID (V6) and Spouse Person Number (V7). These two variables contain values of 9s, which do uniquely identify this sort of record.

Treatment of Individuals Who Become Non-response

The Marriage History File is cumulative. That is, all individuals who have ever been eligible for the marriage history question sequences since it was 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 non-response individuals were living in a responding family.

The marriage history is current through 1999 for those in a responding PSID family at the time of the 1999 interview and who are otherwise eligible for marriage history questions. For those who were non-response in the 1999 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 marriage history is current only through 1987. Similarly, if an OFUM who has remained in a responding family is now 47 years old, his or her marriage history has not been updated in the last few waves, since OFUMs' marriage information is not collected once they achieve 45 years of age. The variable indicating recency of an individual's marriage reports is V16.

Idiosyncracies, Data Cleaning and Treatment of Incomplete or Inconsistent Information

We have tried very hard to assure access to all available information while also recording occurrences of missing data or unclear identification of spouses. In some situations, the individual was reported to have married, i.e., his or her marital status is known to be divorced, widowed, separated, or currently married, but details about the marriage or the identification of the spouse were not reported. PSID staff can and do assign an identifier to such a spouse, as it is clear that the spouse has never been part of the study.

Often the same event (e.g., a divorce) is reported in more than one successive interview. In such cases, the initial report is chosen as the source for the associated date of the event (e.g., month and year of a divorce) unless the date was not ascertained. In that event, the succeeding year's reported date was used on the principle that known dates are better than missing dates.

Individuals from whom we have reports of their marriages to each other may disagree on the status. This seeming inconsistency can be legitimate if the currentness of the spouses' reports differs. The variable indicating the wave in which the marriage history was most recently updated is V16. As an example, in 1990 a female sample member marries, and her new husband-head moves into the study. In that wave we receive reports of their mutual marriage, and each of them has a record on the Marriage History File registering the other as spouse. They each receive values of 1990 for V16. In each successive wave their marriage is reconfirmed, and values for V16 are updated until 1994, when they separate and divorce. He, the non-sample husband and former head, leaves the PSID but the sample wife remains response. The record for her marriage to him is updated to indicate the revised status, the dates of separation and divorce are added, and V16 receives a value of 1994. But his record is not updated; his status remains married, and V16 retains a value of 1993.

The preparation of the 1985-1999 file involved a great effort to eliminate real inconsistencies. If a couple no longer living together disagreed on their marital status but both were responding at the same time, PSID staff attempted to reconcile the differences. Marriage and birth dates were cross-checked to ensure that marriages do not occur until an individual is at least 13 years old. Eleven marriages remain in which the individual reports a start date before that age. We are unable to resolve these cases. In most of them, marriage at age 11 or 12 is possible. Five of these persons are females from the 1990 Latino sample, and two are from the 1997 immigrant sample. For the latter, subsequent birth date information may clarify matters.

On a related note, an individual's birth date is copied from the current wave of the Individual File when his or her marriages first appear on the cumulative Marriage History File. This birth date is not updated in later years for the initial record(s). If a new marriage subsequently occurs for the individual, then his or her birth date from that later wave is used in the construction of the new record. Thus, birth dates for the same individual may disagree across marriages 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 is made difficult because of individuals' varying years of participation in the study. In the longer term, we hope to clean these dates, but for the present we advise analysts to use the individual'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.

We checked the internal consistency of marriage dates: termination dates must not precede marriage dates, and an earlier marriage must end by the time a later marriage begins. All cases in which divorce dates preceded separation dates were checked for coding/data entry errors and against corroborating sources (e.g., if the spouse had ever been in the study, his or her date of move out was compared to the separation date). In 60 cases, indeed the couples did not separate until after their divorces were finalized.

In 31 cases, we were unable to resolve the final status of a person's earlier marriage. These individuals appear to be bigamists, and probably are. The earlier marriage records have values of 7 for the status variable (V11).

Yearly fluctuations in status were reconciled as information from each successive wave was incorporated. For example, divorcees have been known to reported themselves as widowed after their ex-spouses' deaths; their statuses were recoded to divorced. Individuals who separate and then resume living together were recoded as married. The fact of their former separation must of necessity disappear from the file. Interruptions of this sort can be found by comparing the couple's data records on the cross-year individual file for co-residence, that is, comparing their yearly family interview numbers and sequence numbers (e.g., for 1990, V30642/ER30642 and V30643/ER30643). And every attempt was made to reconcile differing reports of status between couples if they were present in the same wave.

Spouse identifiers were checked against cross-year individual data and against the 1985-1999 Childbirth and Adoption History File to ensure that no spurious cases of intergenerational incest occur. If both spouses had been in the study, their genders from the cross-year individual file were checked against each other.

Our final checks assured that all individuals who had ever qualified for marriage history questions had records on the file, and that individuals who had never qualified did not.

Who has Cross-Year Information

Please keep in mind another PSID intricacy when matching across files: while all individuals were present in a PSID family, many spouses identified in the marriage histories have never been present in a PSID family unit during the years the study has been in progress; these spouses have values for "Person Number of Spouse" (V7) in the range 900-996. Consequently, each individual has been in a PSID family unit and has a record on the 1968-1999 Individual File, but his or her spouse may or may not.

What Cross-Year File to Use for Merging

The 1985-1999 Marriage History File matches the 1968-1999 Public Release I Individual File exactly. If you attempt to merge the 1985-1999 Marriage History File with earlier individual data releases, some cases on the merged file will NOT match and may result in the assignment of some erroneous spousal relationships! See the next section for details.

Marriage Order

As described in Section I, in the initial wave of demographic event history collection in 1985, all Heads, Wives and "Wives" were asked to provide details about all of their marriages. But in subsequent waves, the retrospective marriage history questions for new Heads, Wives and "Wives" permitted detailed information about only two marriages, the first and the current or most recent. OFUMS were never asked about all their marriages; even in 1985 we requested reports about only the first and current or most recent. Even so, the Marriage History File contains complete histories for most individuals, since more than two marriages is a relatively rare event. The number of individuals reporting more than two marriages is 1007; 589 of them have reported all their marriages, but 418 have not.

The order of each marriage for an individual is indicated in V8; values are assigned to each marriage in chronological order. The 418 individuals for whom we have received incomplete reports have gaps in the values for marriage order across their records. For example, if a person has been married three times but we have received detailed information about only the first and last marriages, the first marriage is assigned a value of 1 and the last marriage receives a value of 3. No record for marriage number 2 is on the file. These individuals can easily be identified, as values for the number of their marriages (V17) are greater than values for the number of their records (V19), of course excluding cases where the number of marriages contains missing data.

The relative order of marriages is always clear because of the way in which the questions are asked and updated. A missing beginning date for a marriage does not cause its order to be unknown. However, 260 individuals have a marriage of unknown order. This has happened in two different circumstances. If the interviewer did not obtain a complete marriage history when the individual entered the study but he or she was known then to be or have been married, we created a record for that current or most recent marriage with the information available. This situation accounts for the overwhelming majority of the cases (257). These persons have a known spouse at V6-V7, a known marital status at V11, but the number of their marriages is not ascertained (V17=98) and the number of records for them (V19) equals 1.

The second, much rarer circumstance in which a marriage is known to have taken place but its order is not ascertained occurs when the total number of marriages is not ascertained, but the person reports a first and a last. Only three individuals on the file fit this profile. Their first marriage receives an order value of 1, of course, but the last must of necessity have a value of 98. At least through the 1999 wave, however, no person has more than one marriage with order unknown.

Section V: Linking Records

Using the Marriage History File in Conjunction with the Cross-year Individual File

The Marriage History File is designed to be linked to PSID Individual data for analysis purposes. The Marriage History File has only a modest amount of information about the individual and his or her spouse(s). 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 1985-1999 Marriage History File to individual data, only the 1968-1999 Individual File should be used. During file merging, a number of unique individual identifiers were corrected. Special care was taken to ensure perfect correspondence in individual identifiers between this file, the 1985-1999 Childbirth and Adoption History File, and Public Release I of the 1968-1999 Individual File.

Because of the corrections, do not attempt to match this file with any other PSID data file or a subset derived therefrom 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 unique individual-specific identifier. This unique identifier is a combination of two variables: "1968 Family Interview Number" (V1) and "Person Number" (V2). The corresponding variables for this unique identifier on the cross-year Individual File are V30001 and V30002 (or ER30001 and ER30002). Care must be taken with regard to the proper files to use, the choice of individuals on the Marriage History File for whom matches are attempted, and the years for which data are available.

Individuals and spouses 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 those files only in the years that the 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", p. 55 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 individual or spouse, has a record on the 1968-1999 Individual File but less than the full range (31 waves) of data in that record, variables in the waves 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 among the cautions in Section IV, all eligible individuals have records on the 1985-1999 Individual File because they were present in a PSID family unit during that time period. However, many spouses do not have records on that file, since indeed they have never been in a PSID family at any time during the course of the study. Spouses who have been present in a PSID family unit at some time since the study began have records on the 1985-1999 Individual File. Values for their Person Numbers are in the range 001-228. Spouses who have never been present have Person Number values in the range 900-996.

Even though all individuals have records on the 1968-1999 Individual File, that file does not necessarily contain data for all of them for all years of the study. Some of them first entered the study in, e.g., 1985, and thus only have data since that year. Others have logged as many as thirty-two years of inclusion in the study. Similarly, there is considerable variation among spouses regarding which years, if any, they were included in the study.

For those persons with records on both the Individual File and the Marriage 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 V30001 and V30002 (or ER30001 and ER30002) on the Individual File. On the Marriage History File, they are V1 and V2, respectively, for the person designated "individual" and V6 and V7 for the person designated "spouse". 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 Marriage History File because the specified individual has multiple marriages.

Using the Marriage History File with Other Demographic History Files

Some analysts may be interested in linking information from different records on the Marriage History File, or linking information from records on different demographic files. For example, access to both marriage and childbirth records for an individual are needed to determine, via comparisons of marriage and childbirth dates, the number of biological children an individual has when he or she remarries.

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" (V1 and V2 for the person designated as the individual on the 1985-1999 Marriage History File; V2 and V3 for the person designated as the parent on the 1985-1999 Childbirth and Adoption History File).

Section VI: Marriage Information Available on Individual Files

Some of the information provided on Marriage History Files is also available on Public Release II versions of the cross-year Individual File. In addition, the Individual File contains some detail relating to marriage issues that the Marriage History File does not.

The following listing shows all of the marriage history related variables included in Public Release II versions of the cross-year Individual File. All are individual-level variables.

V32033	Year Marital Info Most Recently Updated
V32034	# Marriages of This Individual
V32035 V32036	Month and Year First/Only Marriage Began
V32037	Status of First/Only Marriage
V32038 V32039	Month and Year First/Only Marriage Ended
V32040 V32041	Month and Year Separated First/Only Marriage
V32042 V32043	Month and Year Most Recent Marriage Began
V32044	Status of Most Recent Marriage
V32045 V32046	Month and Year Most Recent Marriage Ended
V32047 V32048	Month and Year Separated Most Recent Marriage
V32049	Last Known Marital Status

These variables are compiled from marriage history information collected from the 1985 wave through the most current wave of final-release individual information included on the file.

Section VII: Codebook

The item-by-item descriptions for all of the variables in the Marriage History File follow. Unweighted frequencies were calculated for each variable.

The PSID: 1985-1999 Marriage History File

Codebook

Generated on 22JUN2001 at 14:01:16.

Variable List

V1	1968 INTERVIEW NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL
V2	PERSON NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL
V3	SEX OF INDIVIDUAL
V4	MONTH INDIVIDUAL BORN
V5	YEAR INDIVIDUAL BORN
V6	1968 INTERVIEW NUMBER OF SPOUSE
V7	PERSON NUMBER OF SPOUSE
V8	ORDER OF THIS MARRIAGE
V9	MONTH MARRIED
V10	YEAR MARRIED
V11	STATUS OF THIS MARRIAGE
V12	MONTH WIDOWED OR DIVORCED
V13	YEAR WIDOWED OR DIVORCED
V14	MONTH SEPARATED
V15	YEAR SEPARATED
V16	YEAR MOST RECENTLY REPORTED MARRIAGE
V17	NUMBER OF MARRIAGES OF THIS INDIVIDUAL
V18	LAST KNOWN MARITAL STATUS
V19	NUMBER OF MARRIAGE RECORDS
V20	RELEASE NUMBER

V1

1968 INTERVIEW NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL

Number: 1

Type: Num Width: 4 Decimals: 0 Location: 1-4

1968 Interview Number (1968 ID Number) of the Individual

This variable is the identification number for the 1968 Family Unit with which the individual is associated, whether or not he or she actually resided in that Family Unit. The combination of this variable and the individual's Person Number (V2) provides unique identification for him or her. These two variables are the same identifiers as those on the cross-year Individual File. Ranges of values are also meaningful, as indicated below.

17746	1-2930	Individual is associated with a family from the SRC cross-section sample.
1485	3001-3511	Individual is associated with a family from the New Immigrant sample.
15778	5001-6872	Individual is associated with a family from the Census sample.
8211	7001-9308	Individual is associated with a family from the Latino sample.

V2

PERSON NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL

Number: 2

Type: Num Width: 3 Decimals: 0 Location: 5-7

Person Number of the Individual

This variable, in combination with 1968 Interview Number (V1), provides a unique identifier for the individual throughout the PSID. Ranges of values are also meaningful, as indicated below.

22035	1-19	Individual who was living in an original core, Latino, or New Immigrant sample family at the time of the initial interview
6	20	Individual who was spouse of the original core, Latino, or New Immigrant sample Head and was living in an institution at the time of the initial interview
336	21-26	Individual who was a child or stepchild of the original core, Latino, or New Immigrant sample Head and was under 25 and in an institution at the time of the initial interview
6099	30-169	Individual who has at least one sample parent and who was born into the sample since the original core, Latino, or New Immigrant interview
14735	170-226	Individual who has no sample parent, or who moved into the sample for the first time after the original core, Latino, or New Immigrant interview
9	227	Individual who was spouse of an original core, Latino, or New Immigrant sample Head and who moved out in the year prior to the initial interview

V6

1968 INTERVIEW NUMBER OF SPOUSE

Number: 6

Type: Num Width: 4 Decimals: 0 Location: 15-18

1968 Interview Number (1968 ID Number) of the Spouse

This variable is the identification number for the 1968 Family Unit with which the spouse is associated, whether or not he or she actually resided in that Family Unit during the course of the PSID. The combination of this variable and the spouse's Person Number (V7) provides unique identification for him or her. These two variables are the same identifiers as those on the cross-year Individual File. Ranges of values are also meaningful, as indicated below.

14544	0	Inap.: no spouse; never married (V17=0)
13128	1-2930	Spouse was associated with a family from the SRC cross-section sample.
900	3001-3511	Spouse was associated with a family from the New Immigrant sample.
9381	5001-6872	Spouse was associated with a family from the Census sample.
5139	7001-9308	Spouse was associated with a family from the Latino sample.
128	9999	NA or DK whether ever married

Missing Data: 0,9999

V7

PERSON NUMBER OF SPOUSE

Number: 7

Type: Num Width: 3 Decimals: 0 Location: 19-21

Person Number of the Spouse

This variable, in combination with the spouse's 1968 Interview Number (V6), provides a unique identifier for him or her. Ranges of values are also meaningful, as indicated below.

14544	0	Inap.: never married (V17=0)
12570	1-19	Spouse who was living in an original core, Latino or New Immigrant sample family at the time of the initial interview
10	20	Spouse who was spouse of the original core, Latino, or New Immigrant sample Head and was living in an institution at the time of the initial interview
188	21-26	Spouse who was a child or stepchild of the original core, Latino, or New Immigrant sample Head and was under age 25 and in an institution at the time of initial interview

784	30-169	Spouse who has at least one sample parent and who was born into the sample since the original core, Latino, or New Immigrant interview
8207	170-226	Spouse who has no sample parent, or who moved into the sample for the first time after the original core, Latino, or New Immigrant interview
38	227	Spouse who was spouse of an original core, Latino, or New Immigrant sample Head and who moved out in the year prior to the initial interview
21	228	Spouse who was spouse of original core, Latino, or New Immigrant sample Head and who died in the year prior to the initial interview
6730	900-990	Spouse who has never been in any sample family
128	999	NA or DK whether ever married

Missing Data: 0,999

V8

ORDER OF THIS MARRIAGE

Number: 8

Type: Num Width: 2 Decimals: 0 Location: 22-23

Order of This Marriage

This variable indicates the order of this marriage relative to the individual's other marriages, from earliest to most recent. Within records for an individual, gaps in the values for this variable may exist because detailed marriage histories are incomplete for some individuals. See "Marriage Order" in Section IV of the front matter for a larger discussion.

22229	1	First marriage
4914	2	Second marriage
937	3	Third marriage
148	4	Fourth marriage
40	5	Fifth marriage
10	6	Sixth marriage
9	7	Seventh marriage
1	8	Eighth marriage
387	98	NA; DK
14545	99	Inap.: never married (V17=0)

Missing Data: 98,99

V9 MONTH MARRIED Number: 9

Type: Num Width: 2 Decimals: 0 Location: 24-25

Month in which this Marriage Occurred

1638	1	January
1654	2	February
1646	3	March
1882	4	April
2183	5	May
3077	6	June
2286	7	July
2591	8	August
2246	9	September
1974	10	October
1993	11	November
2209	12	December
7	21	Winter
16	22	Spring
35	23	Summer
9	24	Fall; autumn
3229	98	NA; DK
14545	99	Inap.: never married (V17=0)

Missing Data: 98,99

V10 YEAR MARRIED Number: 10

Type: Num Width: 4 Decimals: 0 Location: 26-29

Year in which this Marriage Occurred

27017	1901-1999	Year married
1658	9998	NA; DK
14545	9999	Inap.: never married (V17=0)

Missing Data: 9998,9999

V11 STATUS OF THIS MARRIAGE Number: 11

Type: Num Width: 1 Decimals: 0 Location: 30

Status of This Marriage

This variable indicates the status of this marriage in the wave in which marriage history was most recently collected for this individual (V16).

16407 1 Marriage intact
2324 3 Marriage ended in widowhood
8564 4 Marriage ended in divorce or annulment
1214 5 Spouses separated
31 7 Other: more recent marriage also reported, but no evidence of divorce or widowhood. Individual is probably a bigamist.
135 8 NA; DK
14545 9 Inap.: never married (V17=0)

Missing Data: 8,9

V12 MONTH WIDOWED OR DIVORCED Number: 12

Type: Num Width: 2 Decimals: 0 Location: 31-32

Month in which This Marriage Ended in Widowhood or Divorce

733 1 January
605 2 February
733 3 March
616 4 April
662 5 May
772 6 June
640 7 July
670 8 August
616 9 September
647 10 October
611 11 November
663 12 December
21 21 Winter
33 22 Spring
52 23 Summer
28 24 Fall; autumn
2921 98 NA or DK month; NA or DK status of marriage (V11=8)
32197 99 Inap.: marriage has not ended (V11=1,5,7); never married (V17=0)

Missing Data: 98,99

V19

NUMBER OF MARRIAGE RECORDS

Number: 19

Type: Num Width: 1 Decimals: 0 Location: 50

Number of Records for This Individual

The values for this variable indicate the total number of records on the file for this individual. For example, a value of 2 in this variable indicates that he or she has two records, that is, two marriages. A value of 1 indicates an individual with one record on the file. The single record for an individual is used to record either one marriage, no marriages, or entirely missing data about marital history. Therefore, if this variable contains a value of 1, use values in V17, Number of Marriages, to determine which of these three possibilities is indicated.

31834 1 One record for this individual: one
marriage, no marriages, or an unknown
number of marriages
9415 2 Two records for this individual
1587 3 Three records for this individual
268 4 Four records for this individual
75 5 Five records for this individual
12 6 Six records for this individual
21 7 Seven records for this individual
8 8 Eight records for this individual

V20

RELEASE NUMBER

Number: 20

Type: Num Width: 1 Decimals: 0 Location: 51

Release Number

43220 1 Release number