

Marriage History File 1985-2023

Codebook

Number of Variables

20

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MH1 "RELEASE NUMBER"

NUM(1.0)

Release Number

Count	%	Value/Range	Code Value/Range Text
65,224	100.00	1	Release number 1, May 2025

MH2 "1968 INTERVIEW NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL"

NUM(4.0)

1968 Interview Number (1968 ID Number) of the Individual

This variable is the identification number for the 1968 Family Unit with which this 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 (MH2) provides unique identification for him or her. These two variables are the same identifiers as those used throughout the PSID for individuals. Ranges of values are also meaningful, as indicated below.

Count	%	Value/Range	Code Value/Range Text
29,697	45.53	1 - 2,930	Individual is associated with a family from the SRC cross-section sample.
3,280	5.03	3,001 - 3,511	Individual is associated with a family from the 1997 New Immigrant sample.
1,553	2.38	4,001 - 4,851	Individual is associated with a family from the 2017 New Immigrant sample.
22,482	34.47	5,001 - 6,872	Individual is associated with a family from the Census sample.
8,212	12.59	7,001 - 9,308	Individual is associated with a family from the Latino sample.

MH3 "PERSON NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL"

NUM(3.0)

Person Number of the Individual

This variable, in combination with 1968 Interview Number (MH2), provides a unique identifier for this individual throughout the PSID. Ranges of values are also meaningful, as indicated below.

Count	%	Value/Range	Code Value/Range Text
24,574	37.68	1 - 19	Individual who was living in an original core, Latino, New Immigrant 97/99, or New Immigrant 17/19 sample family at the time of the initial interview
7	.01	20	Individual who was spouse of the original core, Latino, New Immigrant 97/99, or New Immigrant 17/19 sample Reference Person and was living in an institution at the time of the initial interview
377	.58	21 - 26	Individual who was a child or stepchild of the original core, Latino, New Immigrant 97/99, or New Immigrant 17/19 sample Reference Person and was under 25 and in an institution at the time of the initial interview
12,648	19.39	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

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27,168	41.65	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
11	.02	227	Individual who was spouse of an original core, Latino, New Immigrant 97/99, or New Immigrant 17/19 sample Reference Person and who moved out in the year prior to the initial interview
439	.67	229 - 399	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

MH4 "SEX OF INDIVIDUAL"

NUM(1.0)

Sex of Individual

Count	%	Value/Range	Code	Value/Range	Text
32,100	49.22	1	Male		
33,124	50.78	2	Female		

MH5 "MONTH INDIVIDUAL BORN"

NUM(2.0)

Individual's Month of Birth

Note that the individual's birth date on this file may be inconsistent with his or her age and birth date on the PSID main files. See Section IV: Idiosyncrasies, Data Cleaning and Variable Details for more information.

Count	%	Value/Range	Code	Value/Range	Text
5,606	8.59	1	January; winter		
4,946	7.58	2	February		
5,434	8.33	3	March		
4,988	7.65	4	April; spring		
5,200	7.97	5	May		
5,135	7.87	6	June		
5,543	8.50	7	July; summer		
5,727	8.78	8	August		
5,665	8.69	9	September		
5,486	8.41	10	October; fall; autumn		
5,243	8.04	11	November		
5,478	8.40	12	December		
773	1.19	98	NA; DK		

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MH6 "YEAR INDIVIDUAL BORN"

NUM(4.0)

Individual's Year of Birth

Note that the individual's birth date on this file may be inconsistent with his or her age and birth date on the PSID main files. See Section IV: Idiosyncrasies, Data Cleaning and Variable Details for more information.

Count	%	Value/Range	Code Value/Range Text
64,441	98.80	1,884 - 2,008	Year born
783	1.20	9,998	NA; DK

MH7 "1968 INTERVIEW NUMBER OF SPOUSE"

NUM(4.0)

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. The combination of this variable and the spouse's Person Number (MH8) provides unique identification for him or her. These two variables are the same identifiers as those used throughout the PSID for individuals. Ranges of values are also meaningful, as indicated below.

Count	%	Value/Range	Code Value/Range Text
21,535	33.02	1 - 2,930	Spouse was associated with a family from the SRC cross-section sample.
1,983	3.04	3,001 - 3,511	Spouse was associated with a family from the 1997 New Immigrant sample.
978	1.50	4,001 - 4,851	Spouse was associated with a family from the 2017 New Immigrant sample.
12,733	19.52	5,001 - 6,872	Spouse was associated with a family from the Census sample.
5,138	7.88	7,001 - 9,308	Spouse was associated with a family from the Latino sample.
276	.42	9,999	NA or DK whether ever married
22,581	34.62	0	Inap.: no spouse; never married (MH18=0)

MH8 "PERSON NUMBER OF SPOUSE"

NUM(3.0)

Person Number of the Spouse

This variable, in combination with 1968 Interview Number (MH7), provides a unique identifier for the spouse throughout the PSID. Ranges of values are also meaningful, as indicated below.

Count	%	Value/Range	Code Value/Range Text
14,372	22.03	1 - 19	Spouse who was living in an original core, Latino or New Immigrant sample family at the time of the initial interview
11	.02	20	Spouse who was spouse of the original core, Latino, New Immigrant 97/99, or New Immigrant 17/19 sample Reference Person and was living in an institution at the time of the initial interview

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217	.33	21 - 26	Spouse who was a child or stepchild of the original core, Latino, New Immigrant 97/99, or New Immigrant 17/19 sample Reference Person and was under age 25 and in an institution at the time of initial interview
3,842	5.89	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
13,870	21.27	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
49	.08	227	Spouse who was spouse of an original core, Latino, New Immigrant 97/99, or New Immigrant 17/19 sample Reference Person and who moved out in the year prior to the initial interview
21	.03	228	Spouse who was spouse of original core, Latino, New Immigrant 97/99, or New Immigrant 17/19 sample Reference Person and who died in the year prior to the initial interview
139	.21	229 - 399	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
9,845	15.09	800 - 995	Spouse who has never been in any sample family
277	.42	999	NA or DK whether ever married
22,581	34.62	0	Inap.: never married (MH18=0)

MH9 "ORDER OF THIS MARRIAGE"

NUM(2.0)

Order of This Marriage

Order of this marriage relative to the individual's other marriages, from earliest to most recent.

Count	%	Value/Range	Code	Value/Range	Text
32,570	49.94	1	First marriage		
7,537	11.56	2	Second marriage		
1,578	2.42	3	Third marriage		
270	.41	4	Fourth marriage		
67	.10	5	Fifth marriage		
17	.03	6	Sixth marriage		
10	.02	7	Seventh marriage		
2	.00	8	Eighth marriage		
1	.00	9	Ninth marriage		
-	-	10	Tenth marriage		
-	-	11	Eleventh marriage		
1	.00	12	Twelfth marriage		

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1	.00	13 Thirteenth marriage
610	.94	98 NA; DK
22,560	34.59	99 Inap.: never married (MH18=0)

MH10 "MONTH MARRIED" NUM(2.0)

Month in which this Marriage Occurred

Values indicate the month or season the marriage took place.

Count	%	Value/Range	Code Value/Range Text
2,182	3.35	1	January
2,438	3.74	2	February
2,471	3.79	3	March
2,785	4.27	4	April
3,288	5.04	5	May
4,535	6.95	6	June
3,511	5.38	7	July
3,846	5.90	8	August
3,535	5.42	9	September
3,118	4.78	10	October
2,825	4.33	11	November
3,079	4.72	12	December
31	.05	21	Winter
66	.10	22	Spring
91	.14	23	Summer
37	.06	24	Fall; autumn
4,826	7.40	98	NA; DK
22,560	34.59	99	Inap.: never married (MH18=0)

MH11 "YEAR MARRIED" NUM(4.0)

Year in which this Marriage Occurred

Count	%	Value/Range	Code Value/Range Text
39,733	60.92	1,905 - 2,023	Year married
2,931	4.49	9,998	NA; DK
22,560	34.59	9,999	Inap.: never married (MH18=0)

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MH12 "STATUS OF THIS MARRIAGE"

NUM(1.0)

Status of This Marriage

This variable indicates the status of this marriage as of the wave indicated in MH17.

Count	%	Value/Range	Code Value/Range Text
23,482	36.00	1	Marriage intact
3,394	5.20	3	Marriage ended in widowhood
13,856	21.24	4	Marriage ended in divorce or annulment
1,652	2.53	5	Spouses separated
31	.05	7	Other: more recent marriage also reported, but no evidence of divorce or widowhood. Individual is probably a bigamist.
249	.38	8	NA; DK
22,560	34.59	9	Inap.: never married (MH18=0)

MH13 "MONTH WIDOWED OR DIVORCED"

NUM(2.0)

Month in which This Marriage Ended in Widowhood or Divorce

Values indicate month or season marriage ended in divorce, annulment, widowhood, or some other means.

Count	%	Value/Range	Code Value/Range Text
1,175	1.80	1	January
986	1.51	2	February
1,190	1.82	3	March
1,022	1.57	4	April
1,082	1.66	5	May
1,235	1.89	6	June
1,053	1.61	7	July
1,090	1.67	8	August
1,012	1.55	9	September
1,064	1.63	10	October
1,006	1.54	11	November
1,062	1.63	12	December
57	.09	21	Winter
89	.14	22	Spring
139	.21	23	Summer
85	.13	24	Fall; autumn
4,152	6.37	98	NA or DK month; NA or DK status of marriage (MH12=8)
47,725	73.17	99	Inap.: marriage has not ended (MH12=1,5,7); never married (MH18=0)

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MH14 "YEAR WIDOWED OR DIVORCED"

NUM(4.0)

Year in which This Marriage Ended in Widowhood or Divorce

Count	%	Value/Range	Code Value/Range Text
15,335	23.51	1,915 - 2,023	Year marriage ended
2,164	3.32	9,998	NA or DK year; NA or DK status of marriage (MH12=8)
47,725	73.17	9,999	Inap.: marriage has not ended (MH12=1,5,7); never married (MH18=0)

MH15 "MONTH SEPARATED"

NUM(2.0)

Month of Separation for This Marriage

Values indicate month or season spouses stopped living together.

Count	%	Value/Range	Code Value/Range Text
1,181	1.81	1	January
808	1.24	2	February
827	1.27	3	March
777	1.19	4	April
820	1.26	5	May
1,095	1.68	6	June
856	1.31	7	July
842	1.29	8	August
854	1.31	9	September
806	1.24	10	October
772	1.18	11	November
823	1.26	12	December
64	.10	21	Winter
78	.12	22	Spring
106	.16	23	Summer
56	.09	24	Fall; autumn
5,023	7.70	98	NA or DK month; NA or DK status of marriage (MH12=8)
49,436	75.79	99	Inap.: married or widowed (MH12=1,3); never married (MH18=0)

MH16 "YEAR SEPARATED"

NUM(4.0)

Year of Separation for This Marriage

Count	%	Value/Range	Code Value/Range Text
12,725	19.51	1,915 - 2,023	Year separated
3,063	4.70	9,998	NA or DK year; NA or DK status of marriage (MH12=8)

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49,436 75.79 9,999 Inap.: married or widowed (MH12=1,3); never married (MH18=0)

MH17 "YEAR MOST RECENTLY REPORTED MARRIAGE" NUM(4.0)

Year of the Most Recent Marriage Report for This Individual

Count	%	Value/Range	Code	Value/Range	Text
730	1.12	1,985			Most recently collected in 1985
743	1.14	1,986			Most recently collected in 1986
691	1.06	1,987			Most recently collected in 1987
680	1.04	1,988			Most recently collected in 1988
601	.92	1,989			Most recently collected in 1989
1,106	1.70	1,990			Most recently collected in 1990
1,216	1.86	1,991			Most recently collected in 1991
2,104	3.23	1,992			Most recently collected in 1992
1,910	2.93	1,993			Most recently collected in 1993
2,102	3.22	1,994			Most recently collected in 1994
5,775	8.85	1,995			Most recently collected in 1995
5,883	9.02	1,996			Most recently collected in 1996
1,127	1.73	1,997			Most recently collected in 1997
926	1.42	1,999			Most recently collected in 1999
1,132	1.74	2,001			Most recently collected in 2001
1,700	2.61	2,003			Most recently collected in 2003
1,402	2.15	2,005			Most recently collected in 2005
1,387	2.13	2,007			Most recently collected in 2007
1,594	2.44	2,009			Most recently collected in 2009
1,626	2.49	2,011			Most recently collected in 2011
2,082	3.19	2,013			Most recently collected in 2013
1,716	2.63	2,015			Most recently collected in 2015
2,033	3.12	2,017			Most recently collected in 2017
2,385	3.66	2,019			Most recently collected in 2019
2,440	3.74	2,021			Most recently collected in 2021
20,133	30.87	2,023			Most recently collected in 2023

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MH18 "NUMBER OF MARRIAGES OF THIS INDIVIDUAL"

NUM(2.0)

Number of Marriages of This Individual

Values indicate the total number of marriages reported for this individual as of the most recent year of report indicated in MH17.

Count	%	Value/Range	Code Value/Range Text
22,559	34.59	0	None
24,324	37.29	1	One
13,054	20.01	2	Two
3,639	5.58	3	Three
725	1.11	4	Four
192	.29	5	Five
46	.07	6	Six
38	.06	7	Seven
10	.02	8	Eight
2	.00	9	Nine
-	-	10	Ten
-	-	11	Eleven
2	.00	12	Twelve
2	.00	13	Thirteen
631	.97	98	NA; DK

MH19 "LAST KNOWN MARITAL STATUS"

NUM(1.0)

Most Recently Reported Marital Status of This Individual

This variable indicates the marital status reported for this individual as of the wave indicated in MH17.

Count	%	Value/Range	Code Value/Range Text
30,297	46.45	1	Married
22,560	34.59	2	Never married
3,301	5.06	3	Widowed
6,786	10.40	4	Divorced, annulment
2,038	3.12	5	Separated
242	.37	8	NA; DK

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MH20 "NUMBER OF MARRIAGE RECORDS"

NUM(2.0)

Number of Records for This Individual

Values indicate the total number of records that this individual has on this file. For example, a value of 2 indicates that this individual has 2 records (2 marriages) on this file. A single record for an individual is used to record either one marriage, zero marriages, or entirely missing data about marital history. Use values in MH18 (# of marriages) to determine which kind of record a value of 1 in this variable indicates.

Count	%	Value/Range	Code Value/Range Text
47,484	72.80	1	One record for this individual: one marriage, no marriages, or an unknown number of marriages
14,400	22.08	2	Two records for this individual
2,676	4.10	3	Three records for this individual
484	.74	4	Four records for this individual
120	.18	5	Five records for this individual
24	.04	6	Six records for this individual
28	.04	7	Seven records for this individual
8	.01	8	Eight records for this individual