

# **Marriage History File 1985-2023**

## **Codebook**

**Number of Variables**

20

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**MH1 "RELEASE NUMBER" NUM(1.0)**  
 Release Number

*For Release 2 we have made a handful of changes for one individual and 4 record changes in order to synchronize with Release 2 of the Childbirth and Adoption History file.*

Count	%	Value/Range	Code Value/Range Text
-	-		1 Release number 1, May 2025
65,226	100.00		2 Release number 2, December 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
29,698	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.
22,483	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

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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
12,649	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
27,169	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	49.21	1	1	Male	
33,126	50.79	2	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	1	January; winter	
4,946	7.58	2	2	February	
5,434	8.33	3	3	March	
4,988	7.65	4	4	April; spring	
5,199	7.97	5	5	May	
5,136	7.87	6	6	June	
5,543	8.50	7	7	July; summer	
5,727	8.78	8	8	August	
5,665	8.69	9	9	September	
5,486	8.41	10	10	October; fall; autumn	
5,244	8.04	11	11	November	
5,479	8.40	12	12	December	

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773 1.19 98 NA; DK

**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
64,443	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
21,536	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.
12,735	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.
275	.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

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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
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
3,843	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	21.26	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
9,847	15.10	800 - 995	Spouse who has never been in any sample family
276	.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.*

<u>Count</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Value/Range</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Value/Range</u>	<u>Text</u>
32,569	49.93		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

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-	-	10 Tenth marriage
-	-	11 Eleventh marriage
1	.00	12 Twelfth marriage
1	.00	13 Thirteenth marriage
613	.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
2,183	3.35	1	1	January	
2,438	3.74	2	2	February	
2,471	3.79	3	3	March	
2,785	4.27	4	4	April	
3,288	5.04	5	5	May	
4,535	6.95	6	6	June	
3,511	5.38	7	7	July	
3,847	5.90	8	8	August	
3,534	5.42	9	9	September	
3,118	4.78	10	10	October	
2,826	4.33	11	11	November	
3,079	4.72	12	12	December	
31	.05	21	21	Winter	
66	.10	22	22	Spring	
91	.14	23	23	Summer	
37	.06	24	24	Fall; autumn	
4,825	7.40	98	98	NA; DK	
22,561	34.59	99	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
39,735	60.92	1,905 - 2,023		Year married	
2,930	4.49	9,998		NA; DK	
22,561	34.59	9,999		Inap.: 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
15,334	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)
47,728	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)
49,438	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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**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.*

<u>Count</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Value/Range</u>	<u>Code Value/Range Text</u>
22,559	34.59	0	None
24,323	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
634	.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.*

<u>Count</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Value/Range</u>	<u>Code Value/Range Text</u>
30,298	46.45	1	Married
22,560	34.59	2	Never married
3,301	5.06	3	Widowed
6,786	10.40	4	Divorced, annulment
2,039	3.13	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.*

<u>Count</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Value/Range</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Value/Range</u>	<u>Text</u>
47,486	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		