Chapter 4: Topical Guide to the Mature Women

4.1 Age

The data set includes the respondent’s date of birth and age as of the initial survey year. The initial survey year age variable, ‘Age, 67,’ was provided by the Census Bureau based on information collected during the 1966 household screening; complete information is available for most respondents. As age inconsistencies were discovered, Census made date of birth information available in the late 1970s. Additional age variables have been collected in the “Household Roster” section of the questionnaire for those interviewed in recent rounds (i.e., ‘Age of Respondent, 87’ and ‘Age of Respondent, 89’).

During the 1981 interview, respondents were asked whether the Census birth date information was correct. In 144 cases, the respondent reported a birth date different from that originally provided by Census; the 1981 variable contains revised birth dates for those cases. The 1987 and 1989 “Household Roster” collected additional date of birth information for the respondent. During the 1995–99 surveys, the respondent was asked to confirm or correct the most recent birth date information available.

Table 4.1.1 provides reference numbers for date of birth and age variables; Table 4.1.2 presents age distributions for the Mature Women. Data for reported age and birth dates include a small number of inconsistencies. As a result, attempts to restrict the universe according to age-related variables may lead to unwanted or incorrect results. The User Notes below discuss some of the idiosyncratic aspects of these variables.

Table 4.1.1 Reference Numbers for Date of Birth & Age Variables

Year	Date of Birth of R	Age of R
1967	R00022.01–R00022.03	R00022.
1981	R04916.–R04916.20	–
1987	R08171.–R08173.	R08174.
1989	R09205.–R09207.	R09208.
1995	R16067.–R16070.	R16071.
1997	R35040.-R35043.	R35044.
1999	R42763.–R42766.	R42767.

Related Variables: In addition to the information collected on the respondent, most surveys have also collected age data on household members. See the “Household Composition” section of this guide for more information.

Survey Instruments: The respondent's age and date of birth were derived from the 1966 *Household Screener*. The respondent’s age or date of birth was subsequently collected in the “Household Roster” section of the questionnaire. If the respondent's age or birth date is asked in a particular survey year, an open coded answer box for the respondent will be found in the "Household Roster."

> ***User Notes:*** Users are encouraged to carefully examine all age and birth date variables when performing any age-related analysis. Birth data collected at the time of screening may have been provided by a family member, giving rise to possible inconsistencies when comparing a respondent's reported age with age calculated from date of birth. In cases where age was unknown, interviewers were directed to obtain a "best estimate" of a respondent's "exact age" at the time of screening and to make corrections later if possible. Furthermore, a respondent may be inconsistent in different interviews in reporting her age. The date of birth inconsistencies are documented in the codebook. Birth date corrections were made in 1981. The birth date corrections should be used carefully and users are advised to make any additional corrections on a case-by-case basis.

There are varying numbers of out-of-scope cases in the Mature Women cohort for two reasons: (1) the birth date variables in a handful of cases are inconsistent with the stated age of the respondent and (2) some borderline cases that may actually be in scope for the calendar year of the survey are not necessarily in scope at the time the interview took place. CHRR has investigated causes of birth date inconsistencies and has discovered that they arise from birth data originally provided by the Census Bureau. Unfortunately, these data are generally not recoverable because many of the affected respondents have since attrited. An additional difficulty is that the date of birth for some cases is not reported.

It may be to the user's advantage to calculate his or her own variable for age based on the reported date of birth. When birth date variables are either unavailable or out of scope, the user may wish to investigate other age-related variables, such as schooling information, in order to establish age.

Notes on Table 4.1.2: Table 4.1.2 presents age distributions for the Mature Women. In order to construct the most accurate ages possible, ages were created using the most recent date of birth information available. That is, information from the 1999 interview was used first, then 1997 data, then 1995, etc.

In some cases, the date of birth was incomplete. If the respondent did not report a year of birth in any of the three interview years, then no age was calculated. There are two respondents for whom this applies. If no month of birth was recorded for a respondent, then the respondent was assigned a birth month of June. If no day of birth was recorded, then the respondent was assigned to be born on the 30th of the month. This method of calculating ages places a number of respondents out of range for the age requirements for the sample. Respondents should have been aged 30 to 44 as of March 31, 1967. Calculating ages as of this date indicates that 16 of the respondents were younger than 30 and 44 of the respondents were over the age of 44.

Table 4.1.2 Ages of Interviewed Respondents by Survey Year: 1967–99

	Survey Year																		
Age[1]	67	68	69	71	72	74	76	77	79	81	82	84	86	87	89	92	95	97	99
= 29	16	7	5	3	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
30	241	9	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
31	302	233	9	1	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
32	352	293	223	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
33	310	343	282	8	1	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
34	311	298	324	222	9	1	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
35	265	299	288	270	215	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
36	295	257	291	313	262	9	1	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
37	331	287	248	279	311	208	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
38	352	324	277	282	270	249	8	–	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
39	357	342	308	243	273	301	207	7	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
40	353	343	330	269	239	259	249	195	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
41	350	335	326	300	266	265	296	242	7	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
42	365	336	317	315	294	232	247	284	188	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
43	378	353	326	311	313	254	261	239	236	7	1	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
44	373	365	333	316	305	284	223	243	275	186	7	1	–	2	–	–	–	–	–
45	97	357	354	316	306	306	246	214	231	229	179	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
46	9	94	344	326	310	301	273	228	239	266	221	7	1	–	1	–	–	–	–
47	11	9	91	345	317	293	287	257	202	225	256	172	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
48	7	11	9	332	338	300	286	278	219	231	216	215	7	1	–	–	–	–	–
49	1	7	11	88	316	303	282	280	248	194	218	245	163	6	1	2	–	–	–
50	–	1	7	8	88	323	282	266	267	210	186	211	210	162	1	–	–	–	–
51	2	–	1	11	9	308	298	274	270	238	203	212	248	201	7	–	–	–	–
52	1	2	–	7	10	86	304	284	256	262	234	177	204	237	163	1	1	–	–
53	–	1	2	1	7	9	298	276	260	261	257	197	207	198	191	1	–	–	–
54	–	–	1	–	1	11	84	279	272	246	249	230	178	203	236	6	1	2	–
55	1	–	–	2	–	7	9	79	261	245	235	248	186	172	192	155	1	–	–
56	1	1	–	1	2	1	11	9	266	260	234	241	224	181	199	187	1	–	2
57	–	1	1	–	1	–	7	11	76	252	248	226	241	222	163	225	6	1	–
58	–	–	1	–	–	2	1	7	9	255	249	228	239	236	168	185	143	1	1
59	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	1	11	74	244	238	224	238	201	192	160	6	1
60	1	–	–	1	1	–	2	–	6	9	72	232	221	217	226	163	207	135	1
61	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	2	1	11	8	240	227	212	223	166	169	158	5
62	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	1	–	6	11	70	223	218	213	190	176	211	129
63	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	2	1	5	7	229	214	193	213	159	163	153
64	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	1	–	1	11	70	224	213	219	148	178	201
65	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	1	–	2	–	5	7	68	203	198	175	150	155
66	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	2	1	11	7	210	181	197	148	158
67	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	5	10	62	202	197	175	143

Note: This table is based on R00022.01–R00022.03 (1967), R04916.00–R04916.20 (1981), R08171.–R08173. (1987), R09205.-R09207. (1989), R16068.-R16070. (1995), R35041.-R35043. (1997), and R42763.–R42766. (1999), with the most recent date of birth variables used when available.
[1] Age of respondent is calculated as of June 30 of the interview year.

Table 4.1.2 (Continued) Ages by Survey Year: 1967–99

	Survey Year																		
Age[1]	67	68	69	71	72	74	76	77	79	81	82	84	86	87	89	92	95	97	99
68	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	2	1	6	6	188	188	184	146
69	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	11	196	177	190	163
70	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	1	–	2	–	5	57	181	176	180
71	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	2	1	6	172	162	173
72	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	10	175	172	171
73	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	2	5	54	151	157
74	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	1	6	173	167
75	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	1	–	–	10	51	140
76	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	2	5	5	157
77	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	1	9	47
78	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	5	3
79	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	1	9
80	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	4
81	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	1
82	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
83	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
84	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
85	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
86	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
87	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total Int'd	5083	4910	4712	4575	4471	4322	4172	3964	3812	3677	3542	3422	3335	3241	3094	2953	2711	2608	2467
Not Int'd	–	173	371	508	612	761	911	1119	1271	1406	1541	1661	1748	1842	1989	2130	2372	2475	2616
Birth Year n/a	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

Note: This table is based on R00022.01–R00022.03 (1967), R04916.00–R04916.20 (1981), R08171.–R08173. (1987), R09205.-R09207. (1989), R16068.-R16070. (1995), R35041.-R35043. (1997), and R42763.–R42766. (1999), with the most recent date of birth variables used when available.
[1] Age of respondent is calculated as of June 30 of the interview year.

4.2 Alcohol Use

Questions on the use of alcohol were asked in the 1989 and 1995-99 surveys of the Mature Women. For those respondents who currently consumed alcoholic beverages, the 1989 survey included questions on the number of days in the past month/week that they used alcohol as well as the quantity and type of alcohol usually consumed per day. The 1995–99 surveys asked respondents if they had consumed any alcoholic beverages since the last interview; if so, respondents were asked about their use in the past 30 days. Table 4.2.1 shows the reference numbers for the alcohol use questions in the various surveys.

Table 4.2.1 Reference Numbers of Alcohol Use Questions

Question	Reference Numbers			
	1989	1995	1997	1999
Do you drink beer, wine, or liquor now?	R09619.	–	–	–
Have you had any alcoholic beverages since the date of your last interview?	–	R33655.	R41339.	R50911.
Have you had any alcoholic beverages during the last 30 days?	–	R33656.	R41340.	R50912.
During the last 30 days, on how many days did you drink any alcoholic beverages?	R09620., R09621.	–	–	–
Thinking back to the last day you had a drink, about how many drinks did you have that day?	–	R33657.	R41341.	R50913.
On the days that you drink, about how many drinks do you have on the average day?	R09623.–R09625.	R33658.	R41342.	R50914.

Survey Instruments: The "Health" sections of the 1989 and 1995–99 surveys contain the questions about alcohol use.

4.3 Attitudes & Expectations

Respondents have answered questions about their attitudes and expectations on a wide variety of topics. Many questions refer to attitudes about work and retirement. Periodically, the surveys ask about satisfaction with life in general, housework, and child care.

Attitudes toward retirement: As this cohort has aged, the surveys have begun eliciting attitudes and expectations about retirement (see Table 4.3.1 for reference numbers). In 1979, 1982, 1984, and 1986, respondents were asked at what age they expected their husbands to retire; those who were participating in the labor market at the time of the survey were also asked at what age they expected to retire. Additionally, these women were asked if they intended to continue working after their husband's retirement. The 1989 and 1995–99 surveys included questions on attitudes toward retirement in general. For example, respondents were asked to agree or disagree with statements such as "Work is the most meaningful part of life" and "People who don't retire when they can afford to are foolish."

Table 4.3.1 Reference Numbers for Questions on Attitudes and Expectations toward Work

Year	Husband's attitude toward R working	Expected age of retirement	Expected age of husband's retirement	General attitude toward retirement
1967	R00339.	–	–	–
1972	R02448.	–	–	–
1977	R03678.	–	–	–
1979	–	R04805.	R04820.	
1982	R06074.	R06438.	R06459.	–
1984	–	R07089.	R07099.	–
1986	–	R07660.	R07687.	–
1987	R08395.	–	–	–
1989	–	–	–	R09892.–R09896.
1995	–	–	–	R34878.–R34882.
1997	–	–	–	R42013.-R42017.
1999	–	–	–	R51505.–R51509.

Attitudes toward women working: To capture societal sentiment about women participating in the labor force, the survey has asked a wide variety of questions about working women/mothers. In select years, respondents were asked how their husbands felt about the respondents' working (see Table 4.3.1). There was also a series of questions which elicited attitudes about the circumstances under which respondents felt it was acceptable for married women with young children to hold jobs outside the home. Table 4.3.2 lists reference numbers for questions about women's roles in the labor market. Although these questions have not been asked in every survey year, a pattern of changing attitudes about working mothers can be observed in Table 4.3.3.

Table 4.3.2 Reference Numbers for Attitudes toward Wives Working Questions

Statements	Survey Year 72	77	82	87
Wife can work without neglecting her family	R02435.	R03664.	R06058.	R08379.
Women's place is in the home	R02436.	R03665.	R06059.	R08380.
Job gives wife interesting outside contacts	R02437.	R03666.	–	–
Wife with a family doesn't have time for employment	R02438.	R03667.	R06060.	R08381.
A working wife feels more useful	R02439.	R03668.	R06061.	R08382.
Employment of wives leads to juvenile delinquency	R02440.	R03669.	R06062.	R08383.
Employment of parents needed to keep up with cost of living	R02443.	R03672.	R06063.	R08384.
Working wives raise the standard of living	R02441.	R03670.	–	–
Working wives lose interest in home and family	R02442.	R03671.	–	–
It is better for all if man is outside achiever and woman takes care of family	–	–	R06064.	R08385.
Men should share the work around the house with women	–	–	R06065.	R08386.
Working mothers can have as secure relationship with child as non-working mothers	–	–	R06066.	R08387.
Women are happier if they stay home and take care of kids	–	–	R06067.	R08388.
Rearing children should not inhibit career	–	–	R06068.	R08389.

Table 4.3.3 Attitudes toward Married Women's Participation in the Labor Market (Unweighted)

Conditions[1]	probably or definitely not all right: Survey Year 67	72	77	82	87	no opinion, undecided: Survey Year 67	72	77	82	87	probably or definitely all right: Survey Year 67	72	77	82	87
...if necessary to make ends meet															
number	314	270	222	128	113	39	18	22	10	18	4716	4077	3662	3359	3065
percentage[2]	6.2	6.0	5.6	3.6	3.5	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.6	92.8	91.2	92.4	94.8	94.6
...if she wants & husband agrees															
number	1116	661	403	241	207	68	19	30	28	25	3886	3684	3472	3228	2956
percentage[2]	22.0	14.8	10.2	6.8	6.4	1.3	0.4	0.8	0.8	0.8	76.5	82.4	87.6	91.1	91.2
...if she wants & husband disagrees															
number	4105	3292	2532	1830	1514	140	67	123	113	161	822	1004	1247	1554	1510
percentage[2]	80.1	73.6	63.9	51.7	46.7	2.8	1.5	3.1	3.2	5.0	16.2	22.5	31.5	43.9	46.6

Source: Table is based on responses to the following questions: R00335.–R00337. in 1967; R02444.–R02446. in 1972; R03673.–R03675. in 1977; R06069.–R06071. in 1982; and R08390.–R08392. in 1987.

[1] The question asked respondents the following: How do you feel about a married woman with children between the ages of 6 and 12 taking a full-time job outside the home under the following conditions?

[2] This refers to the percentage of the total interviewed population in that survey year giving the indicated response. This total was 5083 in 1967, 4471 in 1972, 3964 in 1977, 3542 in 1982, and 3241 in 1987.

Attitudes toward life: In addition to attitudes about work and working, respondents provided data on their feelings about life in general. In each survey since 1979, respondents have answered to a global life satisfaction question on how they were feeling these days (e.g., R04856.). They are asked to classify themselves overall as very happy, somewhat happy, somewhat unhappy, or very unhappy. Additional measures of psychological well-being are discussed in the "Health" section of this guide.

Attitudes toward housekeeping and child care: Respondents were asked about their opinions on working in the home as a part of the non-paid labor force. In 1967 (R00341.), 1979 (R04676.), 1982 (R06076.), and 1987 (R08397.), the women were asked for their general attitudes (i.e., "How do you feel about keeping house in your own home?").

At select survey points, the women were asked more detailed questions about their responsibility for a variety of household tasks. Beginning in 1974 and continuing until 1989, a series of questions was asked of respondents about the degree of their responsibilities for select household chores. The response categories included respondent has sole responsibility, respondent shares responsibility, others have responsibility, and not applicable. In some of these survey years, respondents who answered that they shared responsibility for a particular task with others or that others had sole responsibility for the task were asked for their relationship to the other person who usually performed (shared) the task. In addition, those women who shared responsibility with someone else for a given task were asked the frequency (less than half of the time, about half the time, or more than half the time) with which they performed the task. In the 1981 survey, respondents were asked how they felt about performing each task (like, dislike, or don't mind). Table 4.3.4 summarizes this series of items.

Additional questions regarding the respondent's general attitudes toward taking care of children (R00342. in 1967) and her attitude toward the use of child care centers specifically (R01686.–R01688. and R01707. in 1971) have been collected irregularly. See the "Child Care" section of this guide for more information about child care arrangements.

Table 4.3.4 Reference Numbers for Questions on Respondent Responsibility for Household Tasks

Survey Year	Child care	Cleaning dishes	Cleaning house	Cooking	Family paperwork	Grocery shopping	Care of ill/ disabled	Washing clothes	Yard/home maintenance
Extent of respondent responsibility for task[1]									
1974	R03022.	R03024.	R03025.	R03023.	–	R03021.	–	R03026.	R03027.
1976	R03229.	R03231.	R03232.	R03230.	–	R03228.	–	R03233.	R03234.
1981	R04996.	R05002.	R05005.	R04999.	R05014.	R04993.	–	R05008.	R05011.
1982	R06095.	R06101.	R06104.	R06098.	R06113.	R06092.	–	R06107.	R06110.
1984	R06799.	R06808.	R06811.	R06805.	R06820.	R06796.	R06802.	R06814.	R06817.
1987	R08416.	R08425.	R08428.	R08422.	R08437.	R08413.	R08419.	R08431.	R08434.
1989	R09405.	R09414.	R09417.	R09411.	R09426.	R09402.	R09408.	R09420.	R09423.
Relationship of other person sharing/performing task									
1981	R04997.	R05003.	R05006.	R05000.	R05015.	R04994.	–	R05009.	R05012.
1982	R06096.	R06102.	R06105.	R06099.	R06114.	R06093.	–	R06108.	R06111.
1984	R06800.	R06809.	R06812.	R06806.	R06821.	R06797.	R06803.	R06815.	R06818.
1987	R08417.	R08426.	R08429.	R08423.	R08438.	R08414.	R08420.	R08432.	R08435.
1989	R09406.	R09415.	R09418.	R09412.	R09427.	R09403.	R09409.	R09421.	R09424.
Frequency respondent performs task									
1982	R06097.	R06103.	R06106.	R06100.	R06115.	R06094.	–	R06109.	R06112.
1984	R06801.	R06810.	R06813.	R06807.	R06822.	R06798.	R06804.	R06816.	R06819.
1987	R08418.	R08427.	R08430.	R08424.	R08439.	R08415.	R08421.	R08433.	R08436.
1989	R09407.	R09416.	R09419.	R09413.	R09428.	R09404.	R09410.	R09422.	R09425.
Respondent's attitude toward performing task									
1981	R04998.	R05004.	R05007.	R05001.	R05016.	R04995.	–	R05010.	R05013.

[1] Numbering of response categories may change over time. Users should consult the codebook for precise coding.

Related Variables: The "Job Satisfaction" section of this guide describes questions about the respondent's attitude toward her current job. The "Job Search" section discusses questions on reservation wages, hypothetical job offers, and plans to seek work in the future. See the section on "Health" for additional measures of emotional well-being.

Survey Instruments: Questions on attitudes are found in various questionnaire sections, including "Attitudes about Work," "Attitudes," and "Health."

User Notes: The attitudes toward women working questions were also asked of the Older Men, Young Men, Young Women, and NLSY79 respondents in multiple surveys, permitting comparisons across generations and gender and over time. Questions on household tasks have likewise been addressed to Young Women and NLSY79 respondents.

4.4 Child Care

Two sets of child care variables have been collected: (1) information on the type and location of child care arrangements and (2) data on the extent of responsibility for various household tasks including child care. An additional series of questions in the "Current Labor Force Status" section of the questionnaire included "child care" and/or "family reasons" as reasons for being out of the labor force or unemployed.

Types and Locations of Child Care Arrangements: Data were collected on the types and locations of child care arrangements, plus select details on the costs, the number of hours child care was required, the preferred child care arrangements, the attitude toward child care/day care centers, and the impact of child care availability on job search activity. Details concerning child care arrangements are available for the 1967, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1977, and 1995 interviews.

In general, different sets of questions were administered to respondents based upon their labor market status and/or the presence of children under age 18 in the household. Coding categories for the specific type of child care arrangement varied somewhat over the years but typically included: in own home by relative (specified and unspecified), in own home by nonrelatives, in relative's home, in nonrelative's home, and at day care or group care center.

The 1971 survey contained an expanded set of coding categories for types of child care arrangements and identified the kinds of child care arrangements utilized by a respondent for different-aged children. In 1995, the survey included questions on the number of days of work lost by the respondent because of child care and total child care costs for each child.

Finally, a set of variables created for certain survey years includes such information as types and location of child care arrangements, costs per hour worked, preferred child care arrangements, and changes in family child care responsibilities between survey years.

Extent of Child Care Responsibility: Information on the extent of responsibility for various household tasks including child care was collected during the 1974, 1976, 1981, 1982, 1984, 1987, and 1989 interviews. The basic question in this series asked whether the task of child care, including helping with children, was the sole responsibility of the respondent (or another person) or whether the responsibility was shared (see also the "Attitudes & Expectations" section of this guide). The 1995 questionnaire asked whether the respondent had any responsibility for the care of children under the age of 18 who lived in her household.

Survey Instruments & Documentation: Questions on types and locations of child care arrangements and the extent of responsibility for child care tasks can be found in the "Child Care," "Work Attitudes," "Work Experience," "Current Labor Force Status," and "Family Background" sections of the questionnaires. The codebook provides derivations for the series of created child care variables.

References

Parnes, Herbert S.; Jusenius, Carol L.; and Shortlidge, Jr., Richard L. *Dual Careers, Volume 3: A Longitudinal Study of the Labor Market Experience of Women.* Manpower Research Monograph 21, vol. 3. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1975.

Parnes, Herbert S.; Shea, John R.; et al. *Dual Careers, Volume 1: A Longitudinal Study of the Labor Market Experience of Women.* Manpower Research Monograph 21, vol. 1. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1970.

Waite, Linda J.; Suter, Larry E.; and Shortlidge, Jr., Richard L. "Changes in Child Care Arrangements of Working Women from 1965 to 1971." *Social Science Quarterly* 58,2 (September 1977): 302–11.

4.5 Cigarette Use

Information on the use of cigarettes was collected only in the 1989 and 1995–99 surveys. The 1989 survey included questions for both current and past users. Respondents were asked the age when they first started smoking regularly and the number of cigarettes/packs they smoked on a usual day. Respondents who had stopped smoking as of the interview date provided the age when they last smoked regularly. The 1995–99 surveys simply asked whether or not respondents currently smoked. Table 4.5.1 provides reference numbers for the cigarette use questions.

Table 4.5.1 Reference Numbers of Cigarette Use Questions

Question	Reference Numbers			
	1989	1995	1997	1999
Do you smoke cigarettes now?	R09608.	–	–	–
Do you smoke cigarettes?	–	R33654.	R41338.	R50910.
On the average, how many cigarettes do you usually smoke in a day (present smoker)?	R09609., R09610.	–	–	–
How old were you when you first started smoking regularly (present smoker)?	R09612.	–	–	–
Did you ever smoke cigarettes?	R09613.	–	–	–
On the average, how many cigarettes did you usually smoke in a day (past smoker)?	R09614., R09615.	–	–	–
How old were you when you last smoked regularly (past smoker)?	R09617.	–	–	–
How old were you when you first smoked regularly (past smoker)?	R09618.	–	–	–

Survey Instruments: The "Health" sections of the 1989 and 1995–99 surveys contain the questions on cigarette use.

4.6 Class of Worker

In each survey year, respondents provided data on their class of worker status. In the 1967–92 surveys, respondents reported whether they (1) worked for a private company or an individual for wages, salary, or commission; (2) were government employees; (3) were self-employed in their own business, professional practice, or farm; or (4) were working without pay in a family business or farm. Beginning with the 1995 survey, the categories changed; respondents are now classified as working for (1) the government, (2) a private for-profit company, (3) a nonprofit organization, or (4) a family business. A further question asked at each interview determines whether the business or professional practice is incorporated. After 1977, the government classification includes data on whether the level of government is federal, state, or local. The reference job for these class of worker variables is usually the "current or last job"; however, during the early survey years, the reference job was the "current job." Definitions for class of worker classifications are available in Figure 4.6.1.

Each year, survey staff create collapsed versions of the class of worker variables combining the questions described above. These variables distinguish between (1) wage and salaried workers (including those self-employed respondents who work in an incorporated business), (2) government employees, (3) workers self-employed in unincorporated businesses or farms, and (4) those working without pay on family farms or businesses. These collapsed variables are available for all respondents regardless of current employment status; class of worker status for respondents who are unemployed or out of the labor force is derived from the last job reported.

Class of worker data are available not only for the current or last job but also, during select survey years, for one or more intervening jobs held since the date of the last interview or for dual jobs held during the survey week. Of related interest is the series of class of worker variables for the longest job held between/after certain life course events (school, marriage, birth of child), which was collected for select universes during the 1967 fielding of the survey.

Survey Instruments & Documentation: Questions relating to class of worker can be found in the "Current Labor Force Status," "Work Experience," or "Work History" sections of the questionnaires. The method of creating the collapsed class of worker variables is provided within the codebook.

User Notes: Employment information collected during the early survey years focused on "jobs," while more recent surveys center on "employers." Users are urged to carefully consult the survey instruments and to be sensitive to the possibility that persons reporting a new job may still be with their former employer.

In 1997 and 1999, self-employed respondents were not asked the same class of worker question as those who were employed in an outside organization or a family business. To obtain the total number of employed respondents, researchers should combine the class of worker variables with the self-employment flag for each job (e.g., R36375.).

Figure 4.6.1 Definitions of CPS Class of Worker Entries

Private Employees are those who work for wages, salary, commission, tips, piece-rates, or pay in kind. This applies regardless of the occupation at which the employee worked, whether general manager, file clerk, or porter. Includes persons working for pay for settlement houses, churches, unions, and other private nonprofit organizations.

Federal Government Employees are those who work for any branch of the Federal Government. Includes persons who were elected to paid Federal offices, civilian employees of the Armed Forces, and some members of the National Guard. Also includes employees of international organizations (e.g., United Nations) and employees of foreign governments, such as persons employed by the French Embassy or by the British Joint Services Mission.

State Government Employees are those who work for State governments and include paid State officials (including statewide JTPA [Job Training and Partnership Act] administrators), State police, and employees of State universities and colleges.

Local Government Employees are those who work for cities, towns, counties, and other local areas. Included would be city-owned bus lines, electric power companies, water and sewer service, local JTPA offices, etc. Also includes employees of public elementary and secondary schools.

Self-employed Worker refers to a person working for profit or fees in their own business, shop, office, or farm.

Without Pay refers to a person working without pay on a farm or in a business operated by a related member of the household. Room and board and a cash allowance are not counted as pay for these family workers.

Never Worked refers to a person looking for work who never before held a full-time job lasting two consecutive weeks or more.

Source: *Interviewer's Manual: Current Population Survey.* Washington, DC: Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, July 1985.

4.7 Discrimination

Questions on work-related discrimination were fielded in 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1989, and 1995. In general, respondents indicated whether they had experienced a particular type of discrimination (age, race, religion, nationality, or sex). If a respondent experienced any type of discrimination, a follow-up question elicited information on the type(s) of discriminatory practice experienced (e.g., the respondent believed that she was not hired, interviewed, or promoted; was demoted or laid off; or was paid less for the same work).

As Table 4.7.1 indicates, information on the various types of work-related discrimination and discriminatory practices has been collected across survey years. The reference period for 1972–89 was the five-year period preceding each interview. In 1995, the reference period was since the date of last interview.

Table 4.7.1 Types of Work-Related Discrimination Data by Survey Year

	Survey Year					
Type of Discrimination	72	77	82	87	89	95
Age	*	*	*	*	*	*
Sex	*	*	*	*	*	*
Race	*	*	*	*	*	*
Religion	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nationality	*	*	*	*	*	*
Marital Status		*	*	*	*	*
Health/Handicap/Disability		*	*	*	*	*
Weight						*
Sexual Orientation						*
AIDS						*

Survey Instruments: Discrimination questions can be found in the "Retrospective Work History," "Work Attitudes," and "Attitudes" sections of the questionnaires.

User Notes: From 1982–89, the format of the discrimination questions shifted from a single "most important" response to that of a "mark all that apply." These multiple responses have been coded in a geometric progression; users should refer to section 3.3, "Mature Women Codebook System," and Appendix C in this guide for more information. In 1995, the question format shifted again; respondents were asked to give a yes or no response for each type of discrimination. Therefore, answers are no longer coded in a geometric progression.

4.8 Educational Status & Attainment

Data on the educational status and attainment of respondents were collected at select survey points as part of the broader collection of information on respondents' training investments. An overview of education-specific variables both for the respondent and for family members not residing in her household is presented below by topic. Information about the educational status and attainment of family members residing in the respondent's household is also available; see the "Household Composition" section of this guide for more information.

Educational Attainment

1. ***Highest Grade Completed.*** Highest grade completed variables are available for the entire cohort in several years. In 1967, a 'Highest Grade Completed' variable (R00790.) was created from a series of questions eliciting information on the highest grade of regular school the respondent had attended, whether that grade had been completed, and whether additional coursework in which the respondent had been enrolled after full-time school ended had resulted in a diploma. In the 1977 (R03815.) and 1989 (R09897.) surveys, respondents directly reported their attainment level. In each survey since 1979, all respondents reporting school enrollment since the last interview have been asked to state the highest grade they have completed. These variables are "update" variables and are available for less than the full universe of respondents. For the 1979–92 surveys, researchers needing data on educational attainment for a more complete universe of respondents than those to whom the update questions are administered should locate the last summary variable available and use the update information to supplement that variable. Beginning in 1995, a created variable, 'Highest Grade Completed, xx (Revised),' provides the highest grade completed for all interviewed respondents.

2. ***High School Enrollment and Date of Diploma.*** The 1977 survey elicited information about high school enrollment dates and the date the high school diploma was received. The 1981 survey asked respondents whether they had ever attended high school, if they had received a high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED), which they had received, and when.

3. ***College Enrollment and College Degree.*** The 1977 survey asked whether respondents had ever attended college. For those reporting college enrollment, information was collected on the highest degree ever received and the date the degree was received. Each subsequent survey except 1992 has asked whether the respondent has attended college since the last interview. Respondents reporting college enrollment state the number of weeks and hours per week in attendance, whether a college degree was received, and the type of degree received. The 1986 questionnaire also included two questions on educational expenses incurred by the respondent or her husband in the past 12 months.

High School and College Curricula

1. ***High School.*** Respondents have provided retrospective information about their high school curricula during three interviews. The 1967 survey collected information on the type of vocational or commercial curriculum taken in high school. In 1972, the survey asked respondents how well they had done in their English courses in high school. Finally, the 1981 survey included a series of questions on whether the respondent had been enrolled in high school mathematics courses, the type of course (e.g., algebra, geometry, trigonometry), the length of time the course lasted, and how well the respondent had done in these courses.

2. ***College.*** Information about major field of study in college has been gathered at numerous survey points. The 1977 survey asked all respondents who had ever been enrolled in college about their field of study. This information was updated in each subsequent survey except 1992 for all respondents reporting college enrollment since their last interview.

Location of Schools

The only location information available for this cohort is a 1971 variable providing the state of the last high school attended.

Related Variables: The 1977 survey obtained enrollment information and highest grade attended/ completed for all natural and adopted children as well as the husband's children. In addition, information on the highest grade attended/completed of the respondent's four eldest living children was collected during the 1986 survey. The 1982, 1984, and 1987–97 interviews asked the respondent if any of her children had attended college in the past 12 months. All of these interviews except 1984 followed up by asking how much she and her husband had contributed toward college expenses each year.

Survey Instruments & Documentation: The variables described above can be found in the "Education and Training" sections of the 1967, 1977, and 1982–99 questionnaires and the "Education Expenses" section of the 1986 instrument. The question on the location of the high school is located in the "Family Background" section of the 1971 questionnaire. The 1977 series of questions about the children is located in the "Marital History, Fertility & Other Family Background" section of the questionnaire. Appendices of the *Codebook Supplement* present the fields of study classification systems and Census division/state codes.

4.9 Family Background

The Mature Women surveys provide researchers with a variety of family background data. The surveys have collected information on three primary topics: parents, siblings, and the respondent's family background at age 15.

Parent Background

In the 1967 interview, the women were asked about the birth countries of their parents and grandparents; Table 4.9.1 depicts the results.

Table 4.9.1 Birth Country of Parents and Grandparents

Country	Mother	Father	Maternal Grandfather	Maternal Grandmother	Paternal Grandfather	Paternal Grandmother
U.S. or Canada	4409	4356	3622	3696	3588	3633
N or W Europe[1]	190	212	332	378	346	310
C or E Europe[2]	137	160	65	70	55	67
S Europe[3]	136	179	32	31	41	37
Latin America[4]	69	67	8	8	9	9
Other	82	91	10	9	12	10
Not available	60	18	1014	991	1032	1017

Note: This table is based on R00504.–R00509. from the 1967 survey.

1 Austria, Belgium, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Norway, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, Wales.

2 Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, U.S.S.R., Yugoslavia.

3 Andorra, Azores, Gibraltar, Gozo, Greece, Italy, Liechtenstein, Malta, Monaco, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Trieste, Vatican City, Europe– Country not specified.

4 Mexico, Central America, South America.

Information on the life status of the respondent's and her husband's parents was collected in 1967, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1981, 1984, 1989, and 1997. The 1981 survey also asked how frequently respondents had contact with their parents and parents-in-law, as well as the distance they lived from each. In 1984, 1989, and 1997, respondents were again asked about the distance they lived from their parents and parents-in-law. These surveys also collected information on whether the respondent's or her husband's parents needed help for health reasons and, if so, who provided the care. The 1992 and 1997 surveys collected additional information on the respondents' biological parents including their current ages (if they were still alive) or the ages when they died. For all deceased parents, the survey collected information on the main cause of death. In 1981, 1984, 1989, and 1997, information was collected about the distance each parent lived from the respondent. The 1997 survey also asked about each parent's overall health condition. Other information from this detailed 1997 series of questions is discussed in the "Transfers" section of this guide.

Siblings

The Mature Women surveys collected data about siblings in two survey years. The first collection, in 1977, asked respondents to provide the name, sex, birth date, and highest grade completed of up to 10 siblings who were not living in their home on the date of the survey. Respondents were also asked to count how many brothers and sisters lived in their home currently; information about these siblings is on the 1977 "Household Roster." In 1981, the survey asked how many living brothers and how many living sisters the respondent had. The respondent also answered questions about how often she contacted her closest sibling and the distance that sibling lived from the respondent's home.

User Notes: The sampling design for the Original Cohorts produced a number of multiple respondent households. A small number of Mature Women have a sister in the Mature Women cohort or a brother in the Older Men cohort. These multiple respondent households provide a great deal of data about a respondent's siblings in addition to that collected during the regular surveys. For more information, see the "Screening" section in chapter 2 and the "Household Composition" section in this chapter.

Respondent Background at Age 15

The 1967 survey asked respondents where they were born and how long they had lived at their current residence. Of the 5,083 respondents, 4,836 (95.1%) reported having been born in the United States.

Information was also collected during the initial interview about the living arrangements of respondents when they were 15 years old, including with whom the respondent lived and whether the residence was in a large or small city or in the country. In addition, the survey collected the occupation and the highest grade completed of the respondent's parents; these findings are reported in Tables 4.9.2 and 4.9.3 below.

Related Variables: In each survey, information is collected on all members of the respondent's household; see the "Household Composition" section of this guide for details. More information about the respondent's background is available in the "Race, Ethnicity & Nationality" section of this guide.

Survey Instruments: Questions pertaining to family background can be found within the "Family Background" sections of the questionnaires. Questions about life status of parents are located in the "Health" or "Parents and Transfers" sections of the questionnaires.

Table 4.9.2 Occupation of Mother and Father of Respondent at Age 15

Occupation	Mother	Father
Professional, Technical & Kindred	101	234
Managers, Officials & Proprietors	55	446
Clerical & Kindred	129	155
Sales Workers	109	115
Craftsmen, Foremen & Kindred	22	663
Operatives & Kindred	384	866
Private Household Workers	437	134
Service Workers, Except Private Household	204	231
Farmers & Farm Managers	58	1089
Farm Laborers & Foremen	248	125
Laborers, Except Farm & Mine	17	376
Armed Forces	1	33
No Job	2760	216
Not Available	558	400
Total	5083	5083

Note: This table is based on R00515. and R00809. (mother) and R00512. and R00811. (father/head of household) from the 1967 survey. In households without a father, mother information is found under the father/head of household variables. R00511. can be used to determine the respondent's relationship to the head of the household.

Table 4.9.3 Highest Grade Completed by Mother and Father of Respondent at Age 15

Grade Level	Mother	Father
None	137	145
1–2	76	89
3–5	445	548
6–8	1536	1343
9–11	603	373
12	752	478
1–3 years of college	226	148
4 years of college	106	104
5+ years of college	15	65
Don't Know	857	992
NA	330	798
Total	**5083**	**5083**

Note: This table is based on R00517. and R00514. from the 1967 survey. In households without a father, mother information is found under the father/head of household variables. R00511. can be used to determine the respondent's relationship to the head of the household.

4.10 Fertility

The Mature Women surveys contain two types of information on fertility. In most surveys, information is collected about each child living in the respondent's household at the time of the interview. This information is found in the "Household Record" and includes the child's age, date of birth, and sex. Post-1976 surveys specified whether the child was an adopted son or daughter or an adopted son or daughter by marriage. For more information about data collected in the household record (also called the "Household Roster"), see the "Household Composition" section of this guide.

Household record information only provides a partial picture of each respondent's fertility because it does not capture children given up for adoption, children who died, and children who reside outside the home. To remedy this problem, a series of questions asked in the 1977 survey reviewed each respondent's total fertility. This series collected detailed information about each of up to 19 children ever born to the respondent and about each of up to 5 adopted children or children from an earlier marriage of her husband. Information available for each child includes sex; date of birth; life status; whether the child was still residing in the respondent's home and, if not, the month and year the child left the household; the child's school enrollment status; and the highest grade he or she had completed.

To ensure that researchers can create a complete fertility record for each respondent, the 1982 survey asked for information about any children born or adopted since the 1977 questions were fielded. Since the women were ages 45–59 in 1982, combining these two sections likely provides a complete record of child bearing and rearing for each respondent; any additional new children should be included on the household record.

To provide researchers with a clearer picture of the socio-economic status of the respondent's children, a special set of questions was fielded in 1986. These questions asked the respondent to describe the marital and fertility history of her four oldest biological or adopted children. The series provides information for each child on sex, age, age at first marriage, number of marriages, the way the first marriage ended, number of children, highest grade attended, and highest degree received.

In addition to these large sections, information was gathered during select surveys on the total number of children ever born to the respondent, the number of children of specific age ranges living with her at the time of the interview, and the number of children she had either adopted or who had come to live in her household from her husband's previous marriage.

User Notes: While it is difficult to construct a complete fertility history for the Mature Women, many researchers do not need all this information. Those who only need the total number of children ever born to a respondent can find this information in Question 88A (R04180.) in the 1977 interview. If the respondent had any children between 1977 and 1982, the additional number of children is reported in Question 92A (R06343.) in the 1982 survey.

Related Variables: The "Intrafamily Transfers" section, administered in 1999, collected information about transfers of time and money between respondents and their children. Some demographic data were gathered as part of this collection. For more information, interested users should refer to the "Transfers" section of this guide.

Survey Instruments: Fertility questions can be found within the "Marital History, Fertility, and Other Family Background," "Children," or "Family Background" sections of the questionnaires.

4.11 Fringe Benefits

This section reviews the fringe benefit data collected for the Mature Women. Additional information on other work-related benefits can be found in the "Pension Benefits & Pension Plans" section of this guide.

Data on the availability of fringe benefits provided by employers of respondents were collected in 1977, 1982, 1987, 1989, and 1995–99. At each survey point, information was gathered about the following fringe benefits: (1) medical, surgical, and hospital insurance; (2) life insurance; (3) a retirement pension program; (4) paid sick leave; (5) paid vacation; (6) training/educational opportunities; (7) profit sharing; and (8) stock options. In addition, select surveys collected data on the availability of paid and unpaid maternity leave, flexible work hours, child day care, paid personal time, time off for child care, time off for elder care, a flexible menu of benefits, free/discounted meals or merchandise, or dental insurance. Table 4.11.1 below summarizes by survey year the numbers of employed respondents reporting the availability of each type of fringe benefit.

Related Variables: Additional information has been collected on eligibility for and receipt of various kinds of retirement benefits and/or on coverage by medical insurance. Users interested in these sets of questions should refer to the "Income & Assets," "Health," or "Pension Benefits & Pension Plans" sections in this guide.

Survey Instruments: The "Current Labor Force Status," "Current Labor Force Status and Work History," "Employment," and "Employer Supplement" sections of the questionnaires contain the questions on fringe benefits.

User Notes: The universe for the fringe benefit series is restricted to those respondents who have worked since the last interview and who were employed in a private business or as government workers.

Multiple entry "mark all that apply" questions typically found in the fringe benefit sections were coded as geometric progressions through 1989. Program statements to unpack such variables are presented in Appendix C of this guide. Beginning in 1992, each type of benefit is reported in a separate variable with a yes or no response. With this new format, geometric progressions are no longer used.

Table 4.11.1 Numbers of Employed Respondents Reporting the Availability of Various Types of Fringe Benefits at Their Current Job

Reporting Availability[1]	1977	1982	1987	1989	1995	1997	1999
One or More Benefits	1445	1703	1315	1229	356	246	166
No Benefits	313	265	246	246	238	195	175
Type of Benefit							
Medical/Surgical/Hospital Insurance	1184	1304	966	875	314	216	140
Dental Insurance	–	–	–	–	205	156	86
Life Insurance	975	1049	769	710	248	179	104
Retirement Pension Program	1033	1044	796	729	262	196	127
Training/Education Opportunities	545	674	534	517	191	127	70
Profit Sharing	215	242	204	197	79	51	26
Stock Options	176	168	153	134	–	42	22
Free or Discounted Meals	200	292	215	214	–	–	–
Free or Discounted Merchandise	240	291	211	176	–	–	–
Paid Sick Leave	1129	1230	947	816	241[2]	173[2]	105[2]
Paid Vacation Leave	1208	1366	1003	910	269[2]	173[2]	113[2]
Paid Maternity Leave	–	–	–	319	212	149	89
Unpaid Maternity Leave	–	–	–	133	–	–	–
Flexible Work Hours	–	471	420	374	142	108	74
Child Day Care	–	–	–	36	26	15	4
Paid Personal Time	–	–	–	376	–	–	–
Time off for Child Care	–	–	–	72	–	–	–
Time off for Elder Care	–	–	–	60	–	–	–
Flexible Menu of Benefits	–	–	–	143	–	–	–
Other	–	123	115	147	–	–	–

Universe: Respondents who were working, at the survey date, within a private company or as a government worker.
Note: For 1978-95, this table is based on R03380., R05369., R07918., R08978., and R20074.–R20259. For 1997 and 1999, numbers are derived from the currently employed flag for each job (e.g., R44404.) and the fringe benefits series for each job (e.g., R44548.-R44563.).

[1] The numbers will not sum to the universe total because respondents may receive more than one benefit.

[2] A few respondents reported availability of combined sick/vacation leave, a separate category added in 1995 and not represented in this table.

4.12 Geographic Residence & Environmental Characteristics

A limited number of geographic variables are available in this data set. Due to Census Bureau confidentiality concerns, such variables provide only broad geographical demarcations of the respondent's area of residence, e.g., the name of the Census division, whether the residence was located in the South or non-South, and whether the residence was in an SMSA. A series of comparison variables contrast the respondent's current state/SMSA of residence with those of her birthplace, previous residences, and current job. A set of geographic mobility questions have been included in recent surveys. Finally, characteristics of the respondent's environment are available in several variables describing the size of the labor force and unemployment rate for the labor market of current residence; this series stops with the 1989 interview. Specific information on the names of the county, state, or metropolitan statistical area(s) in which respondents reside is not available.

Due to the fact that Census procedures for the geocoding of geographical boundaries were deliberately frozen in the mid-1970s, users are advised to be skeptical about all variables relating to location below the state level except those delineating movement between counties. For more information, see the User Notes at the end of this section.

Geographic Residence

Some of the primary sets of geographic variables are described below. Table 4.12.1 depicts the years for which various created variables are available.

Table 4.12.1 Created Variables for Geographic Residence and Mobility by Survey Year

Created Variables	Survey Years				
	1967	1968	1969–89	1992	1995–99
Region of Residence (South/Non-South)	*	*	*	*	*
Residence Comparison:					
State, County	*	*	*	*	*
SMSA	*	*	*	*	
Size of Labor Market	*	*	*		
Residence in SMSA	*	*	*		
Residence Status (Mover)	*	*	*	*	*
Unemployment Rate for Labor Market	*		*		

Birthplace: Information for each respondent identifies the birthplace in relation to the respondent's permanent residence as of the initial survey year. Coding categories include same state; different state, same region; different region, with the region identified; and outside the U.S. Birthplace information is also available for each respondent's mother, father, and maternal/paternal grandparents; see Table 4.9.1 in the "Family Background" section of this guide for a breakdown of birth country of parents and grandparents. The decision rules used to create a nationality variable for each respondent are discussed within the "Race, Ethnicity & Nationality" section of this guide.

Region of Residence (Revised): A series of variables indicates whether the location of the respondent's permanent address was in the South or in one of the non-South regions of the United States, e.g., the Northeast, North Central, or West. A listing of states constituting the various Census divisions is provided in Appendix 3 in the *Codebook Supplement*. The three divisions comprising the South include the South Atlantic Division, the East South Central Division, and the West South Central Division. Users should note that both a revised version and a non-revised version of the 'Region of Residence' variables are present. Revised versions should be used whenever available. See the User Notes at the end of this section for more information.

Census Division of Current Residence: A series of variables is available for the early years that identifies the Census division (e.g., New England, Middle Atlantic, Mountain, Pacific, etc.) of the respondent's permanent address. Appendix 3 of the *Codebook Supplement* contains a listing of the nine Census divisions and the states comprising each.

Residence - SMSA (SMSA Status): A series of revised variables identifies whether the current residence of a respondent is "central city of the SMSA," "balance (not central city) of the SMSA," or "not in SMSA." Two versions of these variables are present: (1) 'Current Residence in SMSA' and (2) 'SMSA Status in (YR) (Revised).' The revised version of these variables should be used when it is available. The User Notes at the end of this section discuss issues relating to the SMSA classification systems in use by Census.

Residence Status (Mover): A series of revised variables indicates whether a respondent has moved (i.e., reported a permanent address change) since the initial survey year. Residence in the first survey year is coded "1." Code "2" in a subsequent survey year indicates that the respondent has had an address change from the original residence, and code "3" indicates that no move occurred.

Comparisons of Current Residence with Previous State/County/SMSA: This set of variables, available for each survey year, does not reveal the actual state, county, or SMSA of the respondent's current residence, but rather codes movement of the respondent in relationship to the permanent address reported in the first survey. The respondent's county, state, and SMSA are all coded "1" for 1967. A code of "2" in a given survey year indicates that the respondent had moved to, for example, a different county. A subsequent move in year 10 back to the 1967 county would again be coded "1." "Appendix

10: New Geographic and Environmental Variables" in the *Codebook Supplement* provides a further explanation of this coding system along with a listing of other geographic variables present through the mid-70s. The SMSA comparison series was discontinued after 1989 for reasons described in the User Notes below.

Comparison of Current Residence & Location of Current Job: A set of variables present for select survey years compares each respondent's location of current residence with the location of her current (or last or longest) job. Coding categories include same SMSA or county; different SMSA or county, same state; different state, same division; different division; abroad; and other. The User Notes section below includes a discussion of issues affecting SMSA boundaries.

Geographic Mobility: Information on the geographic mobility of respondents was collected during 1982 and 1989–97. Data were collected, for those whose residence had changed, on date of move to current residence, location of previous residence, number of miles between current and previous residence, length of time the respondent lived in her previous residence, and reason(s) she moved. The 1982 interview included an extended series on the impact of the move on the respondent's and her husband's employment, e.g., attitude toward job and effect on seniority, pension, retirement, and earnings.

Second Residence: Information on whether a respondent resided in another residence during part of the year was collected during the 1992 and 1995 interviews. Variables provide information on the specific months of the year the respondent was in residence at that location and give the year she first started spending time there. The location of the second residence is compared with that of the respondent's current residence using the same coding categories as the comparison of the respondent's residence and current job (above).

Type of Property of Residence: A single variable identifies whether the respondent's property in the original survey year was "urban" or a "farm" or "nonfarm" residence with varying acreage and sales.

Type of Area of Residence: A single 1967 variable identifies whether the respondent lived in (1) an "urbanized area" of a certain size (over 3 million, under 250,000, etc.), (2) an "urban place outside an urbanized area" of varying population sizes, or (3) a "rural" area.

Environmental Characteristics

Two sets of created variables provide information on characteristics of the labor market in which a respondent resided. The geographical unit used to define "residence" for the revised versions of the following variables was the 1970 Primary Sampling Unit (PSU), a geographical sampling area made up of one or more contiguous counties or Minor Civil Divisions (MCD).

Residence - Size of Labor Force: Two series of created variables provide information about the size of the labor force in the respondent's area of residence. The first series, present for 1967–77, is based on data from the 1960 Census. In the mid-70s, when problems with address information were discovered, the Census Bureau recreated the variables using the 1970 Census data. This more accurate revised series of variables is present for 1967–89.

Residence - Unemployment Rate for Labor Market: Two series of variables provide data, drawn from the 1970 *Census of Population* and varying years of the *Current Population Surveys (CPS)*, for the unemployment rate of the respondent's labor market of current residence. These variables are present for the 1967 and 1969–89 surveys. Unemployment rates were calculated for each *CPS* PSU by summing the total number of unemployed for the 12-month period and dividing by the total number in the labor force. A combined unemployment rate was computed for PSUs in the same Special Labor Market Area (i.e., combinations of two or more PSUs) and assigned to each PSU within the area.

Survey Instruments: These geographic residence variables are, for the most part, created by Census Bureau personnel from the permanent address information available for each respondent. Information on the birthplace of each respondent and of each respondent's parents and grandparents was collected from the respondent during the initial survey year; questions can be found in the "Family Background" section of the questionnaire. Information on the location of a current job used to construct the comparison of current residence with location of job was collected in the "Current Labor Force Status" questionnaire sections.

User Notes: Users should be aware of a number of changes in the geographic data over the years. Important information about inconsistencies, revisions, and privacy issues is contained in the following paragraphs.

The amount of geographic information that the Census Bureau has provided to CHRR has always been limited. This was, in part, the trade-off for the richness of data available in all other topical areas. Census felt that the detailed information available for each respondent in combination with the geographic location was sufficient, in some cases, to identify specific respondents. To protect respondent identities and fulfill the promise of anonymity, only gross geographic measures such as South/non-South, size of the labor force from the 1970 Census, and unemployment rate from the 1970 Census and current CPS are consistently released.

As data were analyzed based on respondents' permanent addresses, some peculiar and inconsistent results were observed. When specifications for the creation of these variables were checked, a problem with the type of address information utilized, permanent versus temporary, was uncovered. It was not clear in all cases exactly which address had been used by Census as the respondent's permanent address or which respondents had their original data based on address information from the screening as opposed to the first interview. As a result of these problems, the entire series of geographic variables was revised in the mid-1970s.

While in most instances the geographic information from the early surveys will be consistent with that in the revised series, there are a number of instances when this will not be true. Thus, the revised series should be considered as replacing all earlier geographic information even though the unrevised information has been left on the data sets. Users will find the word "REVISED" appended to the variable titles of most of these variables; the custom of appending REVISED was continued after the mid-1970s revisions to alert users to the fact that the same methodology continued to be utilized to create subsequent years' variables. Notes that appear within the codeblock of the unrevised variables reference the appendix of the *Codebook Supplement* that describes the revised variables released at that point in time. It is strongly suggested that this new set of variables be used in any analysis that includes geographic mobility.

After Congress passed the Privacy Act of 1974, Census froze the definitions of NLS geographic variables in an attempt to carry out the spirit of the new law. SMSA codes assigned to the 'Residence - SMSA Status' variables were those in effect as of January 1, 1976 (Office of Management and the Budget). As time passed, these geographic variables became increasingly less useful since the information Census provided was based on definitions that did not correspond to current geographical definitions.

Due to the increasingly inaccurate boundaries and the limitations imposed by the Privacy Act, BLS and CHRR decided to restrict the set of variables that would be created to those that were known to be accurate. For all post-1990 surveys, the following variables are no longer created: (1) 'Comparison of Current Residence with Previous SMSA,' (2) 'Residence - Size of Labor Force,' and (3) 'Residence - Unemployment Rate for Labor Market' (both Census and CPS versions). Characteristics of the respondent's local labor market are no longer released, nor are measures of the geographic proximity of the respondent's residence to the employer (except what can be approximated by length of travel). Also unavailable is information on whether the location of a respondent's employer is in an SMSA. Any variables reflecting SMSA status and related comparison variables were discontinued. Retained for continued release were: (1) 'Residence Status (Mover),' a set of variables that had always been based on permanent address comparisons, and (2) three other variables based on definitions that had remained the same since the inception of the surveys (i.e., 'Region of Residence [Revised],' 'Comparison of Current Residence with Previous State,' and 'Comparison of Current Residence with Previous County'). These last two comparison variables do not reveal the existing geographic location of the respondent, only her movement into and out of the state and/or county. The standard set of mobility questions that allows researchers to track reasons associated with mobility will continue to be included in each questionnaire.

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4.13 Health

This section details the health-related data collected from respondents. These data take three distinct forms. First, information on the respondent's physical health has been gathered during many of the surveys. Second, the post-1981 surveys have collected information on the respondent and her family members' health insurance coverage. Third, measures of psychological well-being are available at select survey points.

Physical Health

A comprehensive set of health-related variables is available for all respondents. In the early survey years, this data collection focused on health as related to employment, with questions in most interviews about whether the respondent's health limited her work activity or prevented her from working altogether. Information was collected in four surveys regarding whether any of the health problems were the result of an accidental injury and whether the most serious injury occurred on the job. Respondents were also asked at multiple survey points to identify one or more specific workplace characteristics that they would have trouble working under because of their health (e.g., places that were hot, damp, or that had fumes or noise).

Most surveys have also asked respondents about their current health status and perceived health changes over time. Each respondent was asked during the 1967, 1986, and 1992–99 surveys to rate her health as excellent, good, fair, or poor compared to other women her age. Periodic questions have also been fielded on whether the respondent considered her health to have remained about the same or to have changed for the better or worse over a set period of time (e.g., the past five years, since the last interview). Self-reported height and weight data are available for respondents interviewed during 1992, 1997, and 1999; weight was also asked in 1995.

As the cohort aged, the health collection expanded. Information on the specific diseases that limited the amount or kind of work that the respondent could do was collected during the 1989 and 1992 surveys. Details on up to four health conditions (e.g., cancer, heart trouble, diabetes, hypertension, senility) and the length of time that the respondent has been limited by the primary health condition were coded during each year. In 1997 and 1999, a similar series of questions asked all respondents about high blood pressure, cancer, and heart disease, including some limited information about treatment.

In 1971, 1977, 1982, 1987, and 1989, respondents who reported that health limited the amount or kind of work they could do were also asked if their health problems prevented them from performing a predetermined set of other activities such as walking, using stairs, stooping or crouching, etc. In 1995 and 1999, a similar set of activity questions was addressed to all respondents. During each of these surveys except 1999, respondents were also asked whether they experienced certain health-related problems (e.g., pain, tiring easily, weakness, aches or swelling, fainting spells or dizziness, anxiety or depression, and/or shortness of breath).

In 1995–99, two additional sections expanded the health module's focus. First, a new menopause section determined the respondent's current ovulation status. If the respondent had stopped ovulating, she dated her last ovulation and stated why her period stopped. Additional questions asked if the respondent had surgery to remove her ovaries or uterus. This section ended by querying about hormonal supplements and birth control pill usage to control menopausal or aging symptoms.

A second new series in 1995–99 informs researchers about these women's day-to-day driving activities. The section asked if the respondent ever drove a car and if she had driven over the last 12 months. Those who had driven in the last 12 months were asked the number of miles driven and whether they drove after dark. Those who had not driven in the last 12 months, but who had during their lifetime, stated when they stopped driving.

Health Insurance

During the 1981, 1986, and 1989–99 surveys, information was collected on whether the respondent and/or other family members were covered by health insurance. This series gathered information on whether any family member was covered by medical or hospital insurance and the specific source of the coverage for each family member (e.g., a group policy through the respondent's or spouse's employment, a policy purchased directly from the company, Medicaid, or Veterans benefits). Table 4.13.1 depicts respondents reporting health care coverage by provider.

The 1992–99 surveys asked those respondents who were covered by health insurance through their current or former employer whether they and their husbands expected to be covered by health insurance after the respondent retired. In these interviews, respondents who had employer-provided health care also stated whether they contributed toward the cost of the policy.

Table 4.13.1 Medical Insurance Coverage of Respondent by Provider (Unweighted): 1981–99

Source of Insurance	1981	1986	1989	1992	1995	1997	1999
Total respondents interviewed	3677	3335	3094	2953	2711	2608	2467
R or any member of R's household covered by medical insurance	3023	2980	2791	2741	2520	2385	2285
R's provider:							
From R's job	1045	1015	718	522	304	194	135
From husband's/partner's job[1]	1392	1007	486	258	179	129	89
Directly from insurance company	369	452	416	475	265	255	229
Medicaid	–	171	212	217	278	80	90
Veterans benefits	–	40	22	12	4	6	8
From R's former job	–	–	233	267	207	199	191
From husband's/partner's former job	–	–	438	437	367	312	275
From other family member's job	–	–	9	5	2	5	6
Medicare	–	–	–	404	736	1063	1141
Other	107	172	129	34	49	44	41
Don't know/Refused	5	13	8	16	17	6	10
Total Rs covered	2918	2870	2671	2647	2408	2293	2215

Source: This table is based on R05142., R05144., and R05146. in 1981; R07374. and R07376. in 1986; R09440. and R09442. in 1989; R10776. and R10778. in 1992; R33708., R33711., and R33764. in 1995; and R41396., R41399., R41401. in 1997; and R50972., R50975., and R50978. in 1999.

[1] Partner was added to this question beginning with the 1989 survey.

Psychological Well-being

In 1989, the full 20-item CES-D (Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression) scale was administered to the Mature Women respondents (R09791.–R09810.). This scale measures symptoms of depression and discriminates between clinically depressed individuals and others; it is highly correlated with other depression rating scales (see Radloff 1977; Ross and Mirowsky 1989). The 1995–99 surveys contained a reduced set of seven items from the original 20-item CES-D scale. The CES-D items can be found in the data set by searching for the phrase "Attitude in past week."

The complete 10-item Affect Balance Scale developed by Norman Bradburn (1969) was administered to the Mature Women respondents in 1981 (R05226.–R05235.). This measure of positive and negative feelings in the weeks before the interview provides an indication of the respondent's general psychological well-being. The statements ask, for example, whether the respondent felt particularly excited or interested in something in the past few weeks, whether she was so restless she could not sit long in a chair, and whether she felt that things were going her way.

At three survey points, the Mature Women gave responses to a measure of internal-external locus of control. Internal control refers to the perception of events as being under personal control; external control involves events being perceived as unrelated to one's own behavior. In 1969, 1972, and 1977, an 11-item abbreviated version of Rotter's (1966) Internal-External Control Scale was used. The abbreviated scale was constructed by including only those items of the original 23-item Rotter scale which were the most general and oriented to the adult world of work (see Parnes et al. 1974, Appendix to Chapter VI). Reducing the number of items would have required an overall reduction in the range of scores. To avoid this situation, the response format was modified to four choices rather than two as in the original scale. The respondent was thus asked how closely each of the 11 statements represented her own view of the issue. The total score is obtained by summing the values of all 11 items, resulting in a range of 11 to 44 in order of increasing external control. The modified scale has been shown to be highly correlated with the original 23-item scale (see Parnes et al. 1974, Appendix to Chapter VI).

Related Variables: Additional information on the respondent's general satisfaction with life can be found in the "Attitudes & Expectations" section of this guide. Questions on job satisfaction can be found in the "Job Satisfaction" section of this guide.

Survey Instruments: Health and health insurance questions are located within the "Health" section of the questionnaires. The CES-D scale items for 1989 can be found in the "Retirement and Pension" section of the survey instrument. In 1995–99, the reduced CES-D scale items are located in the "Health" section of the questionnaire. Components of the Rotter scale can be found in the "Work Attitudes" section of the appropriate survey year questionnaires.

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4.14 Household Composition

This section first describes variables related to household and family composition, characteristics of household members, and household residence. Household identification and linkages between members of multiple respondent households are then discussed. Some familiarity with the following survey instruments which gather information on households is helpful: the Original Cohort *Household Record Cards*, the Original Cohort "Household Roster," and the household screeners that were used to select respondents for the various cohorts. The "Survey Instruments and Other Documentation" section in chapter 3 of this guide provides detailed descriptions of each of these instruments. The availability of information on partners is discussed in the "Marital Status & Marital Transitions" section of this guide. Those interested in information detailing the geographic residence (e.g., state, county, or SMSA) of NLS respondents should refer to the "Geographic Residence & Environmental Characteristics" topical discussion.

Household Characteristics

Household and Family Composition: During each survey year, a complete listing of family or household members is obtained in the "Household Roster" or household enumeration section of the questionnaire. Through 1982, only family members (i.e., related household members) are included on the "Household Roster," although some information about unrelated household members was collected in a separate series of questions in 1982. In more recent years, all household members are listed on the "Household Roster"; however, variable titles have not been altered to reflect this change. For example, 'Household Record - Family Member # 5: Relationship to R' may actually provide the relationship to the respondent of an unrelated household member. The number of family or household members on the roster has varied from 9 to 23 across survey years; users can determine whether unrelated household members were listed and the total number included for a given year by examining the questionnaire. Name, relationship, and date of birth items are generally transcribed from the *Household Record Cards*, documents that are completed before the interview begins. Items in the "Household Roster" can be easily found on the CD-ROM by searching for the word "Record."

Characteristics of Household Members: Although questions and universes have varied slightly across surveys, basic information about the age, relationship to the respondent, and labor force participation of members listed on the roster has been collected each year. Information about educational status and attainment of family members was gathered in each year through 1987. Gender, while not reported in the roster before 1997, can usually be inferred from the relationship code; see the User Notes below for details. Table 4.14.1 summarizes the survey years and universes for which the various types of information have been collected.

Table 4.14.1 Mature Women Household Roster Questions 1967–99

Key: F = Family members, H = Household members; Numbers indicate age restrictions

Survey year	Relationship to R	Age/date of birth (DoB)	Gender	Enrollment status	Highest grade attended (not enrolled members only)	Highest grade completed	Expected educational attainment	Work last week?	Weeks worked last year	Usual hours per week worked	Occupation (if worked in past year)
1967	F	F age	–	F 6-24	F ≥ 6	F ≥ 6	F 6-24	–	F ≥ 14	F ≥ 14	F ≥ 14
1969	F	F age	–	F 6-24	F 6-24	F 6-24	F 6-24	–	F ≥ 14	F ≥ 14	F ≥ 14
1971	F	F age	–	F 6-24	F 6-24	F 6-24	F 6-24	–	F ≥ 14	F ≥ 14	F ≥ 14
1972	F	F age	–	F 6-24	F 6-24	F 6-24	F 6-24	–	F ≥ 14	F ≥ 14	F ≥ 14
1974	F	F age	–	F 6-24	–	–	–	–	F ≥ 14	F ≥ 14	F ≥ 14
1976	F	F age	–	F 6-24	–	–	–	–	F ≥ 14	F ≥ 14	F ≥ 14
1977	F	F DoB	–	F ≥ 3	F ≥ 3	F ≥ 3	–	–	F ≥ 14	F ≥ 14	F ≥ 14
1979	F	F age	–	F 6-24	–	–	–	–	F ≥ 14	F ≥ 14	F ≥ 14
1981	F	F age	–	F ≥ 3	–	–	–	–	F ≥ 14	F ≥ 14	F ≥ 14
1982	F	F DoB	–	F ≥ 3	F ≥ 3	F ≥ 3	–	–	F ≥ 14	F ≥ 14	F ≥ 14
1984	H	H both	–	H ≥ 3	–	–	–	–	H ≥ 14	H ≥ 14	H ≥ 14
1986	H	H both	–	H ≥ 3	–	–	–	–	H ≥ 14	H ≥ 14	H ≥ 14
1987	H	H both	–	H ≥ 3	–	–	–	–	H ≥ 14	H ≥ 14	H ≥ 14
1989	H	H both	–	–	–	–	–	H ≥ 14	H ≥ 14	H ≥ 14	H ≥ 14
1992	H	H both	–	–	–	–	–	H ≥ 14	H ≥ 14	H ≥ 14	H ≥ 14
1995	H	H both	H	–	–	–	–	H ≥ 14	H ≥ 14	H ≥ 14	–
1997	H	H both	H	–	–	–	–	H ≥ 14	H ≥ 14	H ≥ 14	–
1999	H	H both	H	–	–	H ≥ 3	–	H ≥ 14	H ≥ 14	H ≥ 14	–

Although unrelated household members were not included on the household roster until 1984, the 1982 questionnaire asked for the relationship, age, and sex of up to six unrelated household members in a separate series of questions.

Household Residence: Data on the type of residence in which the respondent lived are only available for 1995–99. In these surveys, the "Interviewer Remarks" section included a question about the type of dwelling, with answer categories such as detached house, apartment in building with or without elevator, trailer, etc.

User Notes: Beginning in 1992, most information on the respondent's husband is gathered in the main body of the questionnaire rather than the "Household Roster" section.

Relationship codes for family and household members have varied across survey years. From 1967–76, family members were given one of twelve codes identifying only direct relationships like spouse, children, parents, and siblings, with sex usually identified (e.g., son, daughter, other relative - male). Any other family members were simply coded as "other relative." The 1977–92 surveys used an expanded set of codes, with sex usually identified, that included grandparents; children by marriage; adopted, step-, and foster children; partners; and boarders and other nonrelatives. In 1995, codes with sex not identified were added for adopted, step-, and foster children; boarders; and partners.

Household Identification and Linkages

The sampling design used to select respondents often generated more than one NLS respondent from the same household. More than half of the respondents from the Mature Women cohort shared the same household with at least one other respondent from the same or another cohort at the time the screening was performed (see Tables 4.14.2 and 4.14.3). To facilitate use of this unique aspect of NLS data, constructed variables link respondents sharing the same household at the time of the 1966 screening.

Table 4.14.2 Distribution of Respondents Living within Single & Multiple Respondent Households: The Original Cohorts

Household Type[1]	Older Men		Mature Women		Young Men		Young Women	
Single Respondent	3353	66.6%	2509	49.4%	1031	19.7%	1018	19.7%
Multiple Respondents	1681	33.4	2574	50.6	4194	80.3	4141	80.3
2 Respondent Households	871	17.3	1347	26.5	1997	38.2	1887	36.6
3 Respondent Households	481	9.6	775	15.2	1206	23.1	1216	23.6
4 Respondent Households	234	4.6	311	6.1	650	12.4	637	12.3
5 Respondent Households	71	1.4	115	2.3	264	5.1	300	5.8
6 Respondent Households	17	0.3	21	0.4	49	0.9	75	1.5
7 Respondent Households	5	0.1	3	0.1	21	0.4	20	0.4
8 Respondent Households	1	[2]	1	[2]	1	[2]	5	0.1
9 Respondent Households	1	[2]	1	[2]	6	0.1	1	[2]
Total Respondents	**5034[3]**	**100%**	**5083**	**100%**	**5225**	**100%**	**5159**	**100%**

[1] Household types for all cohorts are based on data gathered during the household screening. Reference numbers are R00003.–R00021. (Older Men, Mature Women, and Young Men) and R00003.–R00021.55 (Young Women).
[2] Less than 0.05%.
[3] Data are available on a total of 5,020 respondents. Originally 5,027 men were interviewed. However, seven men had duplicate records, for a total of 5,034. All fourteen records were eliminated from the data files.

Table 4.14.3 Distribution of Respondents by Intra- & Inter-Cohort Households: The Original Cohorts

Household Type and Cohort(s)[1]	Older Men[2]	Mature Women	Young Men	Young Women	Households
Total Respondents	5034	5083	5229	5159	12,382
Single Respondent	3353	–	–	–	3353
	–	2509	–	–	2509
	–	–	1031	–	1031
	–	–	–	1018	1018
Multiple Respondent					
Intra-Cohort Respondents[3,4]	105	–	–	–	50
	–	74	–	–	36
	–	–	1697	–	785
	–	–	–	1645	743
Inter-Cohort Respondents[3,5]					
OM-MW	574	572	–	–	567
OM-YM	936	–	1167	–	931
OM-YW	843	–	–	1069	839
MW-YM	–	1415	1792	–	1406
MW-YW	–	1508	–	1957	1502
YM-YW	–	–	2253	2260	1880
OM-MW-YM	240	239	306	–	238
OM-YM-YW	402	–	513	519	401
OM-MW-YW	232	231	–	301	231
MW-YM-YW	–	618	786	799	614
OM-MW-YM-YW	123	122	159	160	122

1 All information on respondents residing in the same household is based on information collected at the 1966 screenings. Reference numbers include: R00003.–R00021. (Older Men, Mature Women, and Young Men) and R00003.–R00021.55 (Young Women).
2 Includes 14 records dropped from the public data file.
3 Categories are not mutually exclusive. For example, a household containing three Young Men and one Mature Woman would be included as an intra-cohort Young Men household as well as an inter-cohort Mature Women-Young Men household.
4 The number of respondents from households in which at least two respondents from the same cohort resided together at the time of the 1966 screenings.
5 The number of respondents from two or more cohorts who resided in the same household at the time of the 1966 screenings. Older Men is abbreviated OM, Mature Women is MW, Young Men is YM, and Young Women is YW.

Variables specifying the dominant relationships (e.g., siblings, spouses, parents-children) are available within each Original Cohort data set. These variables provide the identification codes of other respondents originating from the same household by relationship and cohort, e.g., 'Identification Code of 1st Sister.' The following relationship linkages are available: spouses (Older Men and Mature Women, Young Men and Young Women), mothers and children (Mature Women and Young Women, Mature Women and Young Men), fathers and children (Older Men and Young Women, Older Men and Young Men), and siblings (Young Women and Young Men). Table 4.14.4 depicts the numbers and types of pairs that existed during the initial survey years among members of the four Original Cohorts.

Table 4.14.4 Number & Types of Dominant Pairs Identified during the Initial Survey Years: The Original Cohorts

Pairs	Young Women	Young Men	Mature Women
Older Men Pairs			
Spouse Pairs	–	–	492
Parent-Child Pairs	988	1098	–
Mature Women Pairs			
Parent-Child Pairs	1848	1671	–
Young Men Pairs			
Spouse Pairs	584	–	–
Sibling Pairs	1814	902	–
Young Women Pairs			
Sibling Pairs	949	–	–

Note: This table is based on R00003.50 (Older Men and Mature Women), R00003.01–R00003.52 (Young Men), and R00003.50–R00003.52 and R00021.01–R00021.55 (Young Women).

CHRR staff developed relationship codes based on a Census tape that included the identification numbers of all individuals who shared a household during the screening procedure. The following logic was used in assigning relationship codes: if a 47-year-old man from the Older Men cohort said he had a 38-year-old wife and a 38-year-old woman from the Mature Women cohort with the same household ID said she had a 47-year-old husband, husband-wife relationships were assigned. A one-year difference was allowed between the reported ages; three years of interview information were checked. Although these matches represent unique samples for a number of research topics, users should be aware that they typically include demographically non-representative matches. For example, father-daughter matches from the Older Men and Young Women Cohorts include fathers who were at least 45 years of age in 1966 and daughters who were no older than 24 in 1968.

Although other types of relationships may have existed, only spouse, sibling, or parent/child relationship codes were assigned. However, identification of other relationship types is possible through use of created variables (R00003. to R00021.) that provide, by cohort, both the identification numbers of other respondents in the household (e.g., ‘Identification Code of 1st Older Male in R’s Household’) and of the household (‘Identification Code of R’s Household’). To determine the nature of other relationships, users can match characteristics of household members from the first respondent’s survey information (e.g., the age the first respondent claims for a cousin) with characteristics of household members on the second respondent’s household roster (e.g., the age the second respondent claims for a cousin), as was done for the development of the relationships described above.

Note that phrases such as "Younger Female," "Older Male," etc., within the titles of the constructed variables refer to the cohort—not to the relative age to the respondent. For example, a 14-year-old male has a 17-year-old sister; both are respondents. On his record, she would be called a "Younger Female" because she is in the Young Women cohort.

Survey Instruments: Generally, information on the "Household Roster" was transcribed from the *Household Record Cards*. The "Household Roster" is located within the "Family Members," "Family Background," or "Household Members" sections of the questionnaires.

User Notes: Users are warned that the relationships were inferred from data on the public data files. CHRR did not have access to detailed information from the Census Bureau (names, etc.) to confirm these linkages. Only "dominant" relationships were considered, as discussed above. While these pairings are believed to be fairly accurate, they and the matching algorithms may have been affected by, for example, misreporting of age in the "Household Roster."

Once a family relationship was assigned, it was generally considered binding even if the household members lived separately. For instance, if the son of a mother/son pair left for college between the screening and the first interview, but a mother/son relationship could still be established based on information collected on the mother's "Household Roster" (for anyone away at college), a mother/son relationship was assigned. Similarly, if a husband/wife pair was divorced several years after the initial interview, this pair would still be linked as spouses. Data from the marital status variables would need to be used to update the relationship.

The data files for all four Original Cohorts include identification numbers for all other respondents in the household, which can be accessed by searching for the word "Identification." However, the **relationship** of the other respondent is not always identified. While identification numbers of spouses in other cohorts are given for all four cohorts, only the Young Men and Young Women files include identification numbers for parent-child pairs. Therefore, for example, a mother-daughter relationship cannot be identified by looking at the Mature Women data file; users can only discover that a respondent in the Young Women's cohort lives in the same household. They must use the Young Women data files to discern whether that pair is a mother-daughter relationship.

4.15 Income & Assets

Respondents have been asked numerous questions about their income, assets, and debts over the course of the surveys. While many researchers use income as the primary measure of the economic resources available to a respondent, users can draw a more complete picture of economic well-being by examining both income and wealth. Wealth, which is equal to a respondent's assets minus her debts, reflects the total financial resources available to the respondent.

Data Summary: In every survey year, respondents were asked about their income. Table 4.15.1 presents the broad range of income questions asked since 1967, including wages, business and farm income, rental income, interest and dividends, public assistance support sources, and alimony. In early survey years, respondents were asked about the combined income of themselves and their husbands; in later years, respondents were asked separate questions on how much income they and their husbands received (pretax) from the various sources. Beginning in 1987, respondents were also asked about the income of their partners. In years when the entire survey was shortened, some income sources were combined into fewer questions; in years when a more in-depth survey was used, the questions were separated.

In addition to the in-depth questions about the income of the respondent and her husband or partner, respondents also provided their estimate for total income of all individuals in the family in some years, while in other years they were asked to estimate the total income of all individuals except their husbands and themselves. Finally, respondents have been asked in select years about their ability to get along on their family's income, with choices ranging from "always have money left over" to "can't make ends meet."

Correctly gauging respondent income is a complicated task. Respondents may misreport their total income due to the many sources of income and debt they must consider. A final income figure is calculated based on questions about individual income sources. The 1987–99 surveys first asked respondents about the total income of all people living at the residence. Respondents were then asked to provide a detailed breakdown of each type of income for themselves and their spouses/partners. These questions provide researchers with a method of checking how close an individual's rough guess of income is to the more finely derived total.

Table 4.15.1 Income Questions: 1967–99

Question[1]	Survey Year														
	67	68	69	71	72	74	76	77	79, 81	82	84	86	87	89, 92	95–99
Wage & Salary	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Business Income	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Farm Income	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Interest, Dividends	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rental Income	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Social Security	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Pension Income	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Unemployment Compensation	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Workers' Compensation	*		*	*	*			*		*			*	*	*
Disability Income	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Welfare (AFDC)	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Food Stamps	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Alimony, Child Support	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Assistance from Relatives	*		*					*		*		*	*	*	
Total Family Income		*		*					*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ability to Get Along on Income									*	*	*	*	*		
R and Husband/Partner Keep Joint or Separate Accounts															*

[1] All income categories are not asked as separate questions in all years; categories were most often combined in telephone surveys.

Respondents have periodically been asked a full set of asset questions. Table 4.15.2 depicts the questions pertaining to assets by survey year; note that mail and telephone surveys are omitted from the table because no asset questions were asked in those surveys. When respondents are asked the full selection of questions, they provide information on the value and mortgage of their home, cash assets, business and farm activity, vehicles, and other debts. In several years, respondents have also been asked to rate their overall financial position as better than, worse than, or about the same as the previous year.

Respondents have been asked a number of times (1967, 1969, 1971, 1972) about their ownership of specific types of physical assets (not included in Table 4.15.2 due to space). Respondents stated in these years if they had purchased in the last year a new or used washing machine, dryer, stove, refrigerator, freezer, air conditioner, television, garbage disposal, stereo, or dishwasher, and if they had spent money on any major remodeling.

Table 4.15.2 Asset Questions: 1967–99

Question	Survey Year								
	67	69	71	72	77	82, 87	89	92	95–99
Own Home/Apartment	*		*	*	*	*	*		*
Market Value of Property	*		*	*	*	*	*		*
Amount Owed on Property	*		*	*	*	*	*		*
Have Estate/Trust							*		*
Amount Estate/Trust							*		*
Have Money Assets	*		*	*	*	*	*		*
Amount of Money Assets	*		*	*	*	*	*		*
Have Savings Bonds	*		*	*	*	*	*		*
Amount of Savings Bonds	*		*	*	*	*	*		*
Have Stocks/Bonds	*		*	*	*	*	*		*
Value of Stocks/Bonds	*		*	*	*	*	*		*
Have IRA/Keogh/401k/Life Insurance							*		*
Amount IRA/Keogh/401k/Life Insurance							*		*
People Owe You Money	*				*	*	*		*
Amount Owed to You	*				*	*	*		*
Own Farm/Business/Real Estate	*		*	*	*	*	*		*
Market Value Farm/Business/Real Estate	*		*	*	*	*	*		*
Amount Debts Farm/Business/Real Estate	*		*	*	*	*	*		*
Own Vehicles	*		*	*	*	*	*		*
Owe Any Money on Vehicles	*		*	*	*		*		*
Amount Owe on Vehicles	*		*	*	*		*		*
Market Value of Vehicles			*	*	*		*		*
Make/Model/Year of Vehicles	*		*						
Owe Money to Creditors	*		*	*	*	*	*		*
Amount Owed to Creditors	*		*	*	*	*	*		*
Received Inheritance since DOLI							*		*
Received Life Insurance Settlement									*
Better/Worse Financially		*	*	*				*	*

Nonresponse: One major concern when asking individuals about their income and wealth is nonresponse bias. While it is outside the scope of this chapter to fully investigate nonresponse bias, this section briefly describes nonresponse in 1997 as an example of the issues raised. There are two primary types of questions on income and assets (or debts): general questions asking whether the respondent received income from a particular source or owned a particular asset, and specific questions asking about the amount of income or the value of the asset. Factors that are likely to contribute to nonresponse are suspicion, uncertainty, shared responsibility for family finances, and complex financial arrangements.

Table 4.15.3 provides information on response rates to questions on income in the 1997 survey. Respondents who refuse to answer, who respond with "don't know," or who are valid or invalid skips are all counted as nonresponses. The cohort has high response rates on the receipt questions—generally around 95 percent. The percentages in the amount column are based only on individuals who reported receiving that type of income. These amount questions show much lower response rates. For example, the response rate for business and farm income drops by more than 19 percent.

Table 4.15.3 Response Rates to Income Questions (Unweighted): 1997

Respondent's Income	Receive Income from Source?	Amount[1]
Wages/Salaries/Tips	95.8%	86.9%
Business/Farm	95.5	76.3
Unemployment Benefits	96.1	90.9
Social Security	95.8	89.5
Retirement Pension	95.5	–
Private Pension	–	88.5
Military Pension	–	77.8
Federal Gov. Pension	–	89.5
State/Local Pension	–	88.7
Union Pension	–	88.9
IRA/KEOGH	–	70.6
Other	–	81.4

Note: This table is calculated from R41534.–R41538., R41540., R41544., R41546., and R41556.–R41570.
[1] Universe is restricted to individuals who receive income from the relevant source.

Table 4.15.4 provides information on response rates to questions on wealth in the 1997 survey. The table again shows high response rates on the ownership questions, averaging around 95 percent. The amount column is based only on individuals who own a particular asset or have a particular debt. These amount questions have much lower response rates.

Table 4.15.4 Response Rates to Questions on Wealth (Unweighted): 1997

Type of Wealth		Ownership	Amount[1]
Assets:	Money Assets[2]	93.1%	67.6%
	Securities[2]	92.6	50.5
	Trusts	94.6	47.6
	Primary Residence	96.6	85.2
	Vehicles	95.9	75.5
Liabilities:	Mortgage	–	92.7
	Vehicle Debt	98.9	85.2

Note: This table is calculated from R41463.–R41465., R41473.–R41474., R41483.–R41484., R41501.–R41502., and R41528.–R41531.

[1] Universe is restricted to individuals who have the relevant asset or debt.

[2] In addition, 26.3% of respondents answered the stepladder questions for money assets and 37.0% for securities.

Beginning in 1995, questions about some asset categories incorporated a "stepladder" to obtain some information from respondents who initially refused to answer or did not know the answer to an asset value question. For example, if a respondent refused to state or didn't know the value of her securities, she was then asked whether the value was over $15,000. If she answered affirmatively, she was asked whether the value was over $40,000. If the value of the securities was less than $15,000, she reported whether it was more than $5,000. This system was used to obtain some information about several asset categories; the ranges of the values are adjusted so that they are appropriate for each category. Users should consult the questionnaire or codebook if they are interested in determining the types of assets and ranges for which stepladders were used in 1995 and subsequent surveys.

Top Coding: To ensure respondent confidentiality, income variables exceeding particular limits are truncated each survey year so that values exceeding the upper limits are converted to a set maximum value. These upper limits vary by year, as do the set maximum values. From 1967 through 1972, upper limit dollar amounts were set to 999999. From 1974 to 1980, upper limit amounts were set to maximum values of 50000, and from 1981 to 1984 the set maximum value was 50001. Beginning in 1986, income amounts exceeding $100,000 were converted to a set maximum value of 100001. The top coding system changed in 1999; this is reflected in the codebook page for each variable.

From the cohort's inception, asset variables exceeding upper limits were truncated to 999999. Beginning in 1977, assets exceeding one million were converted to a set maximum value of 999997. Starting in 1992, the Census Bureau also topcoded selected asset items if it considered that release of the absolute value might aid in the identification of a respondent. This topcoding was conducted on a case-by-case basis with the mean of the top three values substituted for each respondent who reported such amounts.

Created Values and Summary Statistics: CHRR staff have created a small number of summary income and asset variables for this cohort. The standard variable, 'Total Family Income' or 'Total Net Income of Family,' was created only in years when personal interviews were conducted: 1967, 1969-72, 1977, 1982, and 1987–99. This variable is created by adding up all of the individual's income categories. Should any of the categories be unavailable, the created variable for that year is labeled "not available." A small number of cases each year have negative income; these individuals have business expenses that are larger than their business and other income. The peak number of respondents with negative family income occurred in 1977, when nine individuals fell into this category.

The data set also includes a standard summary variable for wealth entitled 'Total Net Family Assets,' created in 1967, 1971, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1989, and 1995–99. 'Total Net Family Assets' is created by adding up the individual's housing, savings, bond, IRA, insurance, and business assets and then subtracting mortgages, loans, and other debts; it excludes automobile wealth. Users are cautioned that a number of respondents have negative net family assets.

Related Variables: The 1989–99 questionnaires include a large number of detailed questions about the respondent's and her spouse's pension and pension income. These surveys provide information on the income from specific types of pension income, instead of grouping all pension payments together as in earlier surveys. For further information on pensions, see the "Pension Benefits & Pension Plans" section of this guide. Income sources are also discussed in the "Public Assistance Support Sources" and "Social Security & Disability" sections of this guide.

Survey Instruments: Each year's questionnaire has a section on "Income" or "Assets & Income" where the variables described above are located.

User Notes: A number of respondents have husbands or children in the other NLS Original Cohorts. If the respondent is part of a multiple respondent household, researchers may be able to compare the respondent's income and asset information with that provided by other members of her family. (For more information on the possible linkages, users should refer to the "Household Composition" section of this guide.) Using the husband-wife pairs may provide a more complete picture of a respondent's available resources, while the mother-child pairs provide researchers with information on how income and assets are propagated across generations.