

MEPS Annual Methodology Report

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Introduction

This report documents the principal design, training and data collection activities of the Household Component of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey for survey year 2007. These activities were conducted under Contract 290-02-0005, awarded in July 2002. As modified, the contract covers MEPS Panels 8-13.

Previous methodology reports have documented activities performed during the calendar year covered by the report. This report covers a somewhat different time span in that it includes all work associated with the fielding and support of the panels and rounds in the field during the survey year. Since much of the work performed for preparing to field a new panel occurs in the latter half of the year preceding the fielding, excluding a description of that work from the report lessens the cohesiveness of the discussion.

The report touches only briefly on procedures and operations that remained unchanged from prior years. It focuses primarily on features of the project that were new or that were changed or enhanced during 2007 and presents the results of the data collection activities conducted during the year. The report also provides a summary overview of data processing activities that supported data deliveries for the year. The tables within the report document 2007 data collection results. A comprehensive set of tables showing data collection results from prior years is included in Appendix A.

Survey year 2007 was met with new challenges as the CAPI conversion from DOS to Windows was implemented for Panel 12 Round 1. In addition, the Panel 12 sample of households was selected from PSUs in the new NHIS PSU sample fielded for the NHIS in 2006, which resulted in an expansion of the number of PSUs where cases were located. At the same time, the household component continued to maintain the 'steady state' schedule of recruiting, training, data collection, and data delivery established over the course of the past several years.

Chapter 1 of the report describes sample preparation activities. Chapters 2 through 5 discuss activities associated with the data collection for 2007 including field staff recruiting, training, materials development, questionnaire updates that took place in the Fall of 2006, data collection procedures and results, and home office processing support. Chapter 6 provides an analysis of the results of the data collection for Panel 12 Round 1 and Chapter 7 describes the data processing and delivery tasks that occurred during 2007.

This chapter summarizes the activities associated with the preparation for and conduct of data collection for the MEPS Household Component (HC) for survey year 2007. Interviews conducted during the survey year were for Panel 10 Round 5, Panel 11 Rounds 3 and 4, and Panel 12 Rounds 1 and 2.

1.1 Sample Design and Size

Each year, MEPS draws its household sample from among responding households in the previous year's National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). In 2006, the NHIS introduced a new sample design, which meant that the MEPS sample for 2007 – the Panel 12 sample – would be drawn from a new set of primary sampling units. The new NHIS sample design included a group of entirely new PSUs and a sample of new segments in PSUs from the original sample that were retained in the new design. During the spring of 2006, NCHS provided a sample listing that identified the counties in the original (1995-2005) sample design that also appeared in the new design, counties that were excluded from the new design, and counties that were new to the new design. These lists of counties were re-grouped into MEPS-unique PSUs. With the new sample, the spring 2007 workload for MEPS Panels 10, 11, and 12 was distributed in:

- 102 MEPS-PSUs that overlapped with the original design. For 2007 interviewing, these PSUs included households in all three panels;
- 102 original MEPS-PSUs that were not part of the new NHIS sample. These PSUs had no new sample for Panel 12 but will continue in MEPS until the remaining interviews with Panels 10 and 11 are complete; and
- 46 MEPS-PSUs that are new to the design. For 2007 interviewing, these PSUs contained only Panel 12 households.

Combining the 2007 panel with the 2005 and 2006 panels scheduled for fielding in the spring of 2007 resulted in a total of 250 MEPS PSUs that needed interviewer coverage, an increase of 55 PSUs from around 195 PSUs that had been in previous MEPS panels.

In order to reduce the burden associated with introducing a new sample design in the same year the new windows-based Round 1 instrument was to be launched, AHRQ reduced the MEPS sample size for Panel 12 from a budgeted size of 9,048 reporting units (RUs) to 7,467 RUs. Unlike prior MEPS panels, which have been selected from the first three quarters of the NHIS, the 2007 sample was limited to the first two quarters of 2006 NHIS interviews. As with the Panel 10 and 11 samples, Panel 12 contained an oversample of Asian, low income, and Black households. Panel 12 also contained an oversample of Hispanic households.

The decision to limit the selection of households to the first two quarters of 2006 NHIS (Panels 1 and 4) interviews enabled AHRQ to deliver the final sample earlier than in prior years. This, in turn, allowed additional time to process the sample and identify new areas requiring interviewer recruitment. For the new sample it was necessary to map the counties in the new design and identify the counties that overlapped in the original sample and those that needed assignment to a new MEPS PSU. The sample sizes in many of the new PSUs were quite small – too small to provide a reasonable workload for a local interviewer. Planning, therefore, had to address the need for coverage in areas without local staff, as well as staffing in new areas.

The full 2007 MEPS sample was received on August 29, 2006, and work began immediately on reviewing NHIS household composition and designating the sample at a reporting unit level (groups of related household members living at a single NHIS dwelling unit (DU).) In addition, new PSU numbers were assigned, sample from new counties that were contiguous with original sample counties were merged into existing PSUs, and field supervisor regions were restructured to accommodate the new PSU design. Project managers assessed the location of current MEPS staff in relation to the new sample locations and in light of expected workloads in the three panels to be fielded in 2007. Recruiting goals were established and recruiting began in earnest in September of 2006.

Table 1-1 shows the starting sample sizes for Panels 1 to 12 and the number of NHIS PSUs from which each panel was drawn.

Table 1-1. Initial MEPS sample size and number of NHIS PSUs, all panels

Panel	Initial sample size (RUs)	NHIS PSUs
1	10,799	195
2	6,461	195
3	5,410	195
4	7,103	100
5	5,533	100
6	11,026	195
7	8,339	195
8	8,706	195
9	8,939	195
10	8,748	195
11	9,654	195
12	7,467	183

For the new NHIS sample design (introduced in the 2006 NHIS), PSUs were characterized differently than in the earlier sample design. NHIS has broken down what would have been large self-representing PSUs into smaller PSUs which consist of one or more counties and are defined as individual SPSUs (stratification PSUs). The Panel 12 sample contained 183 NHIS PSUs as they would have been defined in the pre-2006 NHIS sample design. These 183 PSUs are associated with 269 SPSUs.

Table 1-2 on the following page summarizes the combined workload for the January-June and July-December periods from spring 2001 through fall 2007. (Table A-1 in Appendix A shows the data collection periods and sample sizes for all panels and rounds.)

Across the three panels that were active during the first half of 2007, the combined workload was 21,326 RUs. This was the smallest composite HC sample fielded since 2001, and was due to the reduction in sample size for Panel 12. For the two panels that were active during the second half of the year, the total initial workload was 12,906 RUs. This sample was the smallest Fall workload on MEPS, again, due to the reduction in size of Panel 12.

1.2 Sample Delivery and Processing

As mentioned earlier, the entire 2007 sample was delivered at one time and included households interviewed in just the first two quarters of the 2006 NHIS. In addition to work associated with configuring the field structure to accommodate the new PSU design, earlier receipt of the full

sample allowed the project to review the NHIS sample file formats to identify new variables or values and to make necessary changes to the project programs that use the sample file information.

Table 1-2. Data collection periods and starting RU-level sample sizes, Spring 2001 through Fall 2007

January-June 2001	21,069	July-December 2001	13,777
Panel 4 Round 5	5,547	Panel 5 Round 4	4,426
Panel 5 Round 3	4,496	Panel 6 Round 2	9,351
Panel 6 Round 1	11,026		
January-June 2002	21,915	July-December 2002	15,968
Panel 5 Round 5	4,393	Panel 6 Round 4	8,977
Panel 6 Round 3	9,183	Panel 7 Round 2	6,991
Panel 7 Round 1	8,339		
January-June 2003	24,315	July-December 2003	13,814
Panel 6 Round 5	8,830	Panel 7 Round 4	6,655
Panel 7 Round 3	6,779	Panel 8 Round 2	7,159
Panel 8 Round 1	8,706		
January-June 2004	22,552	July-December 2004	14,068
Panel 7 Round 5	6,578	Panel 8 Round 4	6,878
Panel 8 Round 3	7,035	Panel 9 Round 2	7,190
Panel 9 Round 1	8,939		
January-June 2005	22,548	July-December 2005	13,991
Panel 8 Round 5	6,795	Panel 9 Round 4	6,843
Panel 9 Round 3	7,005	Panel 10 Round 2	7,148
Panel 10 Round 1	8,748		
January-June 2006	23,278	July-December 2006	14,280
Panel 9 Round 5	6,703	Panel 10 Round 4	6,708
Panel 10 Round 3	6,921	Panel 11 Round 2	7,572
Panel 11 Round 1	9,654		
January-June 2007	21,326	July-December 2007	12,906
Panel 10 Round 5	6,596	Panel 11 Round 4	7,005
Panel 11 Round 3	7,263	Panel 12 Round 2	5,901
Panel 12 Round 1	7,467		

This was especially important for the 2007 MEPS sample which was loaded into a new database structure for use with the Windows application. Since the plan for transition to the windows system retained a link to the Cheshire database, the file processing for the Panel 12 sample required no adaptation of the processing plan from earlier years. The Panel 12 sample was processed and loaded into Cheshire as had been done in earlier Panels. The data then was transformed from Cheshire into the database structure for the windows based system.

Each year, the NHIS sample includes a percentage of households classified as ‘partial completes’. Table 1-3 shows the percentage of NHIS interviews classified as “partially complete” in panels 3 through 12. The NHIS partial completes are, as a group, more difficult to complete in MEPS than

the full NHIS completes and therefore receive special monitoring. For Panel 12 the percentage of partial completes fell to 19 percent from 23 percent in the Panel 11 sample.

Table 1-3. Percentage of NHIS households with partially completed interviews in Panels 3 to 12

Panel	Percentage with partially completed interviews
3	10
4	21
5	24
6	22
7	17
8	20
9	19
10	16
11	23
12	19

Instrument and Materials Designs

2

This chapter describes changes to the computer assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) instrument and supporting field materials made in support of the data collection activities for Spring and Fall 2007 (Panel 10 Round 5, Panel 11 Rounds 3 and 4, and Panel 12 Rounds 1 and 2).

As mentioned earlier, the Panel 12 Rounds 1 and 2 questionnaires were the first instruments programmed in the new windows-based system, Blaise/WVS. Most of the questionnaire changes, as described below, were made to the Panel 12 instruments. Few changes were made to the Panel 10 Round 5 and Panel 11 Rounds 3 and 4 instruments to minimize the effort to maintain the DOS-based system, Cheshire, in which these instruments were programmed. A more detailed discussion about the design effort for the Blaise/WVS instrument is provided in Chapter 3 of the 2006 MEPS Annual Methodology Report, Deliverable 74, June 1, 2007.

2.1 Questionnaire Changes for Spring and Fall 2007

During 2007, the following revisions were made to the MEPS CAPI instrument:

- **Relationships.** Two categories (foster brother and foster sister) were added to the relationship list for all Panel 12 instruments. For Panel 12 Round 2, two questions were added to identify legal guardians.
- **Conditions.** The Condition Enumeration section was redesigned for all rounds of Panel 12 so that pregnant household members are identified on a roster. In addition, the questionnaire was changed so that the flag identifying pregnant household members could be set regardless of whether that woman had been identified as pregnant in a previous round.
- **Health Status.** Physical and mental health status questions were moved from the CE section to the new Priority Conditions Enumeration section in the Panel 12 interviews.
- **Preventive Care.** For Panel 12, seven questions were moved from the Priority Conditions section asked in all rounds to the Preventative Care section, which is only asked in Rounds 3 and 5.
- **Access to Care.** Starting in Panel 12 Round 2, all households are asked whether all members are comfortable conversing in English. Also, data about usual source of care

providers are recorded at the usual source of care level instead of at the provider level. For both Panel 11 Round 4 and Panel 12 Round 2 all household members are asked if they were born in the United States, and the number of years a household member has resided in the United States is now collected as an exact number instead of as a range.

- **Employment.** In all rounds of the Panel 12 instrument, the method of assigning ID numbers to job records was modified.
- **Health Insurance.** In Panel 12 Round 2, “Health Insurance Purchasing Alliance” was removed as a response category for questions about other sources of health insurance.
- **Pregnancy Detail.** In all rounds of the Panel 12 instrument, the pregnancy detail section was eliminated and questions were moved into event sections (Hospital Stays, Outpatient, and Medical Visits).
- **Outpatient Department.** For Panel 12, the response category “Throat Swab” was added to the question that asks which treatments were received during an outpatient visit and to the associated showcard.
- **Medical Provider Visits.** For Panel 12, the response category “Throat Swab” was added to the question that asks which treatments were received during an ambulatory office visit and to the associated showcard. The response category “Indian Health Service (IHS) Facility” was added to the question asking where the treatment was received.
- **Charge Payment.** A pick list of common sources of payment was added to the pop-up screen in the Panel 12 instrument. For Panel 12 rounds 1-2, and Panel 11 Rounds 3-4, the term “third party payer” was changed to “source of payment.”
- **Prescribed Medicines.** For all rounds of Panel 12, a new variable was set when a prescribed medicine was reported but the person had not yet taken the medication at the time of the interview.

Table 2-1 shows the supplements in the CAPI instrument for the rounds administered in calendar year 2007.

2.2 Field Pretesting of the Blaise/WVS Instrument

Extensive pretesting was done throughout 2006 in preparation for the launch of the Blaise/WVS instrument. After the Round 1 training was completed in February of 2007, further pretesting was performed for the Rounds 2 and 3 instruments.

Table 2-1. Supplements to the CAPI core questionnaire (including hard-copy materials) for 2007

Supplement	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
Child Health		X		X	
Priority Conditions			X		X
Preventive Care			X		X
Access to Care		X		X	
Satisfaction with Health Care		X		X	
Income			X		X
Assets					X
Medical Provider Authorization Forms	X	X	X	X	X
Pharmacy Authorization Forms			X		X
Self-Administered Questionnaire		X	Round 2 follow-up only	X	Round 4 follow-up only
Diabetes Care Supplement			X		X
Institutional History Form		X	X	X	X
Priority Condition Enumeration	X	New RU members only	X	New RU members only	X

- Round 2 Pretest.** To test both the Round 2 Blaise/WVS instrument and the home study materials that would be sent out to interviewers in July 2007, a small pretest was conducted. Training took place at Westat on March 13, 2007. Six interviewers read the home study materials and conducted a self-paced mock interview. Home office staff members were available to answer questions and to note any problem areas in the materials or the instrument.
- A total of 72 interviews were completed between March 13th and March 20th, and a debriefing session was held with interviewers on the evening of March 20th. Interviewers provided feedback on the training materials and discussed navigation issues that seemed to increase the duration of the interview.
- Round 3 Pretest.** Six interviewers (5 experienced and 1 with no previous experience administering the Round 3 questionnaire) were trained on the Round 3 instrument on September 17th, 2007. The training session included a mock interview and a lecture which covered the supplemental sections in Round 3. A total of 25 interviews were conducted in the field, 21 of which were observed by home office staff. The cases were selected to cover a range of household sizes and health care coverage types. In addition, 5 interviews were conducted in Spanish in order to test the Spanish version of the questionnaire.

Ten additional interviews were conducted by Westat home office staff without respondents to test the instrument's handling of questions which cross over two survey years. These cases used a February 2008 interview date, and scripted answers were used in order to confirm that dates from the previous year were handled appropriately by the questionnaire.

No problems occurred with the data rollover from Round 2 or with the instrument's handling of cross-year dates.

2.3 Changes to Materials and Procedures for Spring and Fall 2007

With the conversion to the windows-based applications, a number of instructional manuals and supporting materials required updating to reflect changes in field procedures and administration of the new instrument and field management system. Also, there was a heightened awareness of the protection of respondent data in 2007 that led to taking more active steps to assuring the security of data collected. This also led to some procedural and material changes.

Because of the challenges posed by learning and operating in two different data collection systems, changes to materials and procedures were kept to a minimum to ease burden on the interviewers. Respondent contact materials (brochure, advance letters, etc.) were not changed materially; nor were the administrative forms used for record keeping revised in any significant way.

Changes made to MEPS materials and manuals are described below.

Instructional Manuals

- **Field Interviewer Manual.** The changes in the field interviewer manual were primarily associated with the Interviewer Management System (IMS) that was part of the Basic Field Operating System (BFOS) in the windows-based system. The manual included an additional section with instructions and screenshots for documenting the use of the IMS. It still retained a section on the DOS-based field management system since it was still in use on Panel 10 and 11.
- **Field Supervisor Manual.** Like the interviewer manual, a section was added to provide instruction on the use of the new Supervisor Management System (SMS). It also included a discussion of the new field reports generated from the SMS.
- **Question by Question Specifications.** A new set of specifications were developed that included instruction on making entries in the Blaise/WVS questionnaire and provided new screen shots illustrating the questions and paths through the new instrument. The only change made to content was to cover revisions to the Round 1 instrument.
- **CAPI Reference Manual.** A new CAPI reference manual was written to provide information on the use and care of the new laptop used for the windows-based systems

and detailed instructions on data transmission and the new email package. In addition, it covered navigation techniques unique to the new instrument.

- WVS/CAITRAIN. Though this is not a manual, it is an instructional device. It is a self-paced tutorial on the laptop that interviewers used to learn how to navigate in Blaise/WVS. This tutorial is a corporate system that was developed for the first time for use on MEPS.

Security-Related Revisions

- Summary of Events. The summary of events is a hard copy document that displays health care utilization reported in a previous round interview. The interviewer showed it to the respondent as an aid to recall and bounding of the reference period for reporting events. This form was included in the hard copy case materials for each household. Due to concerns that lost case materials would not be recovered and the confidential nature of the information on this form, it was no longer provided in the case materials for use in the interview. However, it was still printed and provided to the supervisors who could relay information from the form to the interviewer in preparation for an interview.
- Instructions for reporting lost case materials and stolen laptops. As part of our compliance with the security C&A, interviewers are required each year to read procedures for reporting lost or stolen materials and laptops and sign a receipt indicating they read the material. This procedure takes place at training for new interviewers and is mailed to the existing field staff each year, with new confidentiality pledges to sign and return.
- Laptop Passwords. At the start of each cycle of data collection (Spring and Fall), passwords are changed on all interviewer and supervisor laptops as a safeguard against access to the laptop by an unauthorized user.
- Authorization Forms. Both the pharmacy and medical provider authorization forms were revised to delete an entry area for a social security number. In addition, language changes were made to clarify that revocation of the authorization only applied to data collection that had not yet taken place. The pharmacy authorization form was revised to include language that indicated that the authorization form allowed for collection of prescribed medications related to the treatment of mental health conditions.

3.1 Recruiting for 2007

Recruiting for 2007 began in September of 2006 following delivery of the Panel 12 sample. As mentioned earlier, the new sample design for Panel 12 required recruiting in new PSUs and supplementing staff in existing PSUs that were in both the old and new sample designs. The PSUs that were only in the new design had small workloads and many PSUs did not have an adequate number of cases to support a local interviewer. After a detailed review of the location of the new work and the amount of existing work in overlap PSUs, as well as the interviewers who were currently on staff at the time, decisions were made as to where to recruit and how many to recruit. Consideration was also given to the number of talented travelers currently on staff who could also cover new PSUs with small workloads.

There were 153 interviewers recruited and 139 completed the training programs. With the addition of these new trainees, the project began 2007 data collection with a total of 515 interviewers. Of these, 57 worked in PSUs with only Panel 10 Round 5 and Panel 11 Round 3 work and did not attend the windows-based training programs. There were 78 interviewers (15%) who were lost to attrition during the spring interviewing rounds. An additional 47 (11%) of those remaining were lost during the fall round. Total attrition for the year was 24 percent.

3.2 2007 Trainings

The conversion to the new windows-based system coupled with the new sample design for Panel 12 resulted in the need for a new training approach. In PSUs in the old and new samples, new interviewers needed to be hired who could interview in the DOS instrument for Panel 10 Round 5 and Panel 11 Round 3 as well as the Windows instrument for Panel 12 Round 1. There were a small number of interviewers that required only a round 1 training on the windows-based applications since they would work in the new PSUs with only round 1 sample. A third group requiring training was the existing MEPS interviewers who needed training only on the windows-based applications.

The conversion to the windows-based platform required training at several levels: field managers and supervisors as well as home office trainers. These sessions were held in December 2006 and are discussed below.

Training for Trainers

In preparation for the large-scale training effort held in early 2007, all home office and field supervisory staff scheduled to staff the conversion trainings were required to participate in one of two ‘trainer training’ sessions conducted concurrently at the Westat Training and Conference Center in Rockville, MD, December 1-3, 2006.

Field supervisors and managers were trained together, while home office staff comprised the second session. The three day course provided a ‘dry run’ of the experienced interviewer Panel 12 Round 1 windows-based training program and included a review of training logistics, roles, and responsibilities.

Field Supervisory Staff Training

Prior to attending ‘trainer training,’ field supervisors and managers received a short, home study memo providing details on the upcoming training, an overview of the Panel 12 Round 1 sample, a highlight of the changes to the round 1 questionnaire, and an introduction to the windows based applications.

Immediately following the ‘trainer training,’ field supervisors and managers remained at Westat to participate in a second, three-day training on the new management system for Panel 12 Round 1. Training included the Supervisor Management System (SMS), Outlook (email), and practice using Microsoft Word and Excel.

Interviewer Training

Three different interviewer training sessions were held: (1) a “split” training program to teach new interviewers rounds 3 and 5 instruments in the DOS-based system, send them home to work for

several weeks, and then bring them back a few weeks later to introduce the windows-based applications for round 1; (2) a round 1-only training on the new windows-based applications for interviewers experienced with the DOS-based system; and (3) a round 1 only training for interviewers working in PSUs that only had round 1 work in Panel 12.

The training for Rounds 3 and 5 in the DOS instrument took place January 10-15 in Los Angeles. Bilingual training was held for Spanish-speaking interviewers on January 16. Of the 114 interviewers attending this training, 109 successfully completed the program. After a few weeks to gain experience completing Round 3/5 interviews in the field, these interviewers returned for Round 1 training in the windows-based applications. This session was held February 1-4. A total of 103 interviewers completed the Round 1 training session.

Two sessions were held to introduce the Round 1 windows-based applications to experienced interviewers; the first was from January 22-25, and the second was from January 28-30. Bilingual trainings for these sessions were held on January 26 and 30, respectively. A total of 319 interviewers were trained in these sessions.

Finally, Round 1 training was held for 39 newly hired interviewers who were working in new PSUs. These interviewers received a modified version of the Round 1 training to accommodate the fact that this group did not have prior experience with Rounds 3 and 5 of the interview in the DOS-based system. Of the 39 trainees, 36 completed the training.

Experienced interviewers received a home study package to review changes in the DOS Round 3/5 instrument. This home study program, modeled on 2006 home study materials, addressed changes both to the DOS-based instrument and to interviewing procedures. Included with the home study package were updates to the question by question (Q by Q) manuals, a glossary, a new job aid booklet, and a laminated flow card.

Prior to their training on the Windows-based instrument, experienced interviewers received another home study package. This discussed the Panel 12 sample, and included an introduction to the windows-based systems, including screenshots.

The fall 2007 rounds of data collection also required training. For the majority of interviewers, this was performed via a home study. Interviewers with no previous experience on Round 2 interviews (those working in new PSUs) were brought to an in-person training at the Westat Home Office in

order to introduce Round 2 concepts. This training took place July 30 – August 1 with the remaining 19 interviewers working in new PSUs.

In addition, a “refresher” training was conducted at the same time with a small group of interviewers who had been identified as needing more training with the windows-based instrument. The focus of this training was navigation, but Round 2 concepts and supplements were also reviewed during the session. A total of 14 interviewers attended this session which took place July 30 – 31 at the Westat home office.

Interviewers new to MEPS were sent a home study package consisting of a “What’s New” memo; a Round 2 job aid booklet; new chapters and supplemental pages for the windows-based Q by Q specifications; replacement show cards for items HX-1 and HX-4 (bilingual interviewers received both English and Spanish replacement cards); and a review exercise.

All experienced interviewers (including those attending the refresher training) received the same home study package as the new interviewers. Experienced interviewers also received a booklet on Panel 12 paperwork and materials to complete a scripted mock interview. Field Supervisors determined whether the mock should be completed individually, over the phone with another interviewer, or with the Supervisor.

4.1 Schedule

Table 4-1 shows the calendar dates and number of weeks per round in the standardized, “steady state” data collection schedule for the 5 rounds of MEPS household data collection. The data collection schedule has remained essentially unchanged since 2002. There is a two week interval between the end of rounds 1 and 3 and the start of rounds 2 and 4. Rounds 3 and 5 begin in mid-January of each year followed by a February 1 start-up for round 1. The later start of round 1 allows for a minimum 4 week reference period for the first round of MEPS interviews. The fixed schedule for data collection provides a secure anchor for scheduling the related activities that prepare for or immediately follow the data collection, such as the preparation of field materials for subsequent rounds and identification of the sample for the Medical Provider Component.

Table 4-1. Data collection schedule and number of weeks per round of data collection

Round	Dates	No. of weeks in round
1	February 1 – July 15	23
2	August 1 – December 15	20
3	January 10 – June 15	22
4	July 1 – December 1	21
5	January 15 – May 31	19

However, due to response rate issues, the Panel 12 Round 1 data collection period was extended by one week to allow more time for conversion. This delayed the start of Panel 12 Round 2 by one week and shortened the round 2 field period by one week (which maintained its original ending date). More discussion on reasons for extending the round 1 field period is provided in the next section.

4.2 Operations

Pre-field activities, including advance letter mail outs, advance contact calls, and assignment material preparation remained unchanged from prior years. Data collection support activities such as home office tracking, disseminating information from the respondent calls to the Alex Scott line, mailing

of refusal letters, and so on, were also relatively unchanged from prior years. Procedural changes were kept to a minimum so interviewer tasks were not more burdensome during the conversion year.

Data collection in the spring of 2007 presented new challenges for field interviewers and their supervisors. The challenges stemmed from the conversion to the windows-based instrument and field management system and the introduction of the new PSU sample for Panel 12 Round 1 with the resulting geographic dispersion of the sample.

Interviewers working in PSUs with both the new and old samples were required to interview using two different laptops – one for the DOS-based questionnaire and management system and a second one for the windows-based applications. Interviewers are encouraged to work as efficiently as possible, being prepared to contact as many households as possible in each trip to the field. Thus, interviewers had to be prepared to carry two laptops into the field on most days they were interviewing and they needed to make sure they took the correct laptop to the door when making contact. Interviewers had to report on their contact attempts in two different management systems, each requiring separate transmissions. Similarly, picking up new case assignments and sending completed cases required two separate transmissions, adding time to their reporting tasks.

In order to maintain one system of communication in the field, interviewers who were not working on the new system (i.e., interviewers working in PSUs not continuing in the new sample design) were provided with a second laptop with the same email system used in the windows-based laptop. These interviewers also had the burden of two laptops with two transmissions – one for use with their DOS-based system and one for communication using the new email package.

As described earlier, during the sample preparation for Panel 12, the counties in the new sample were mapped and those that were contiguous to overlap counties (counties in both the new and old samples) were assigned to the same PSU. This resulted in some very large geographic areas covered within a MEPS PSU. Experienced interviewers had acquired extensive knowledge of the location of the segments in the old sample design, but now had to become familiar with new segment locations in different counties, contributing to an increase in the amount of time they spent in the field contacting households.

The new sample design also posed challenges to the supervisors who had to make case assignments in geographic areas they were not familiar with and planning for covering work in very small PSUs without local staff. The supervisors also had two laptops to use for managing the data collection

effort, and the Supervisor Management System (SMS) in the windows-based application required on line connectivity to the management database at the home office.

Interviewers went through an adjustment period as they became more familiar with and gained confidence in using the Blaise/WVS instrument and interviewer management system. Although field activities proceeded in much the same manner as in prior years, the interviewers tasks were more challenging, required more time to complete, and interviewers needed more support from their field supervisor and home office.

About 8 weeks before the scheduled end of Panel 12 Round 1 data collection, it was clear that the response rate and production were well behind expectations. AHRQ was kept informed of the problems and a decision was reached to extend the field period for Panel 12 by one week. Although the Panel 12 sample was small in size, its geographic spread made it difficult to adequately work all cases with local staff and the need for travel increased. Panel 10 and 11 work in PSUs that would be leaving the new MEPS sample were also thinly staffed since a decision was made not to replace staff in those PSUs when recruiting for 2007.

Close supervision of the last 6 weeks of the Panel 12 Round 1 field effort was maintained at the home office. Home office staff worked very closely with the field managers to develop plans for raising completion rates and response rates. Phone conferences between the home office staff and the field managers occurred at least twice a week so that plans for travel and use of the best of the field force to complete the work could be coordinated across regions.

Reports were generated that provided the statistics needed to monitor the remaining work at a PSU level. Specifically, each PSU was examined for the number of pending cases by pending status of initial refusal, second refusal, broken appointment, tracking, and other pending, number of NHIS partial completes in the remaining cases, and number and skill level of local interviewing staff. Using all of this information enabled the field managers and home office staff to effectively manage the final weeks of data collection and raise the response rate.

A number of PSUs needed strong, traveling interviewers to help bring up production and conduct refusal conversion to build response rates. Table 4-2 shows the number of interviews completed on travel status for work conducted in spring 2005 through 2007. The table shows a significant increase in the amount of travel in the spring 2007 data collection effort. While the total percentage of interviews completed on travel did not change significantly with the 2007 data collection effort, the percentage of the round 1 cases completed on travel status did increase in a significant way. For

Spring 2007, 30.3% of the interviews completed on travel status were round 1 interviews, as compared to 20.2% in Spring 2006 and 18.7% in Spring 2005.

Table 4-2. Percent of total interviews conducted on travel

Data Collection Period		All Completes	Completed On Travel	
			N	Percent
Spring 2005	P10R1, P9R3, 5P8R5	20,762	3,470	16.7
	P10R1 Only	N	1,343	18.7
	Percent	34.6	38.7	
Spring 2006	P11R1, P10R3, P9R5	20,939	3,498	16.7
	P11R1 Only	N	1,528	20.2
	Percent	36.2	43.7	
Spring 2007	P12R1, P11R3, P10R5	19,369	3,439	17.8
	P12R1 Only	N	1,552	30.3
	Percent	30.5	45.1	

The Medical Provider Component continued to have difficulty securing cooperation from two large pharmacy chains and the procedure for collecting patient profiles from these two pharmacies was folded into the Household Component data collection. Unlike this effort in 2006, the decision to collect the profiles was made before the field period for the Panel 11 Round 4 data collection effort started so the request for profiles could be made at the end of the round 4 interview, instead of mailing the requests later in the field period.

For Panel 11, Round 4 households, letters with instructions and lists of RU members who used the corporate pharmacies were assembled and included in the case folder for each household who reported using one of these pharmacies and for whom authorization forms had been signed. Respondents were told that upon receipt of the patient profile(s), they would be paid \$30 for the time and effort made to collect the profile(s).

Since the Panel 10 Round 5 households had completed their last in person MEPS interview, a mail out was organized to send requests to the households reporting use of these pharmacies. The mail out occurred on August 24, 2007 and these households were also told that they would be sent a check for \$30 for returning patient profiles.

This approach for collecting patient profiles was more successful than expected. Results of the effort for 2006 and 2007 are shown in Table 4-3. In 2006, when all patient profile requests were made by mail, patient profiles were collected from nearly 13 percent of the households reporting use of Pharmacy 1 and 20% of the households reporting use of Pharmacy 2. This is only slightly lower than the results obtained from the mail request for Panel 10 Round 5 households in 2007 (13% for Pharmacy 1 and 22% for Pharmacy 2.) The gain in response rate came from the increase in collection of profiles when the request was made in person at the end of the Panel 11 Round 4 interview. In person requests resulted in 46 percent of the households providing profiles for Pharmacy 1 and 34 percent of the households providing profiles for Pharmacy 2. Overall, for both in person and mail collection, 30 percent of the households provided profiles from Pharmacy 1 and 29 percent provided them from Pharmacy 2 in 2007.

Table 4-3. Results of patient profile collection for medications prescribed in 2006

2006 Results (P10R3 and P9R5) - All mail collection					
	Total Number	Total Rec'd	Percent Received	Total Complete	Completes as a Percent of Total
Pharmacy 1					
RUs	1770	289	16.3%	225	12.7%
Pairs	2795	408	14.6%	323	11.6%
Pharmacy 2					
RUs	226	65	28.8%	46	20.4%
Pairs	299	96	32.1%	69	23.1%

2007 (P11R3 and P10R5) - In-person and mail collection					
	Total Number	Total Rec'd	Percent Received	Total Complete	Completes as a Percent of Total
Pharmacy 1					
RUs	2191	962	43.9%	666	30.4%
Pairs	3308	1349	40.8%	979	29.6%
Pharmacy 2					
RUs	244	102	41.8%	69	28.3%
Pairs	323	129	39.9%	95	29.4%

Table 4-3. Results of patient profile collection for medications prescribed in 2006 (continued)

2007 (P11R3) - In-person collection					
	Total Number	Total Rec'd	Percent Received	Total Complete	Completes as a Percent of Total
Pharmacy 1					
RUs	1135	710	62.6%	524	46.2%
Pairs	1733	1080	62.3%	785	45.3%
Pharmacy 2					
RUs	125	62	49.6%	43	34.4%
Pairs	167	82	49.1%	59	35.3%

2007 (P10R5) - All mail collection					
	Total Number	Total Rec'd	Percent Received	Total Complete	Completes as a Percent of Total
Pharmacy 1					
RUs	1056	252	23.9%	142	13.4%
Pairs	1575	269	17.1%	194	12.3%
Pharmacy 2					
RUs	119	40	33.6%	26	21.8%
Pairs	156	47	30.1%	36	23.1%

Quality control measures received increased attention with the CAPI conversion and new sampled areas. Concerns about the length of the round 1 interview led to an increase in observations by home office staff in order to observe the administration of the new instrument. Validation procedures continued as they have in the past with 20 percent of each panel's sample pre-selected for validation. In addition, all interviews conducted in less than 30 minutes were validated. Over 31 percent of the finalized cases in Spring 2007 data collection were validated. About 33 percent of the finalized cases in Fall 2007 were validated.

4.3 Data Collection Results

Table 4-4 provides an overview of the data collection results, showing sample sizes, average interviewer hours per completed interview, and response rates for Panels 8 through 12. (Table A-2 in Appendix A shows the data collection results for all panels.) In looking at response rates across all rounds of data collection for the past 5 years, with rare exception, the rates have been declining. This observation is not limited to the MEPS survey; it's a pattern that has occurred across most cross sectional surveys, including the NHIS.

The most notable difference across panels is the hours per complete for Panel 12 Rounds 1 and 2. While the administration time of the Blaise/WVS instruments is significantly higher than the Cheshire instruments, most of the additional hours can be attributed to the new sample design for Panel 12. Many of the PSUs/counties had such small caseloads and interviewers could not build the efficiency needed to keep the hours low. In addition, the cases were geographically dispersed, requiring more driving time. This is substantiated when looking at the number of hours per complete being spent in the current Panel 13 Round 1 and comparing it to Panel 12 Round 1. At week 10 in the round 1 field period, Panel 12 was experiencing 11.3 hours per complete. Panel 13, at week 10, is at 8.8 hours per complete. With the large sample size in Panel 13 combined with the existing Panel 12 work, interviewers can work more efficiently and keep the hours per complete lower.

Table 4-5 shows response rates and the components of nonresponse for round 1 of the five most recent MEPS panels. The refusal rates stayed the same between Panel 11 and 12. The increase in response rate for Panel 12 was the result of fewer cases in the other types of nonresponse category.

As shown in Table 4-6, the Panel 11 round 4 response rate increased by 0.5 percent from Panel 10 Round 4. This change corresponded to a 0.5 percent decline in the refusal rate. In Panel 12 Round 2, the response rate was 0.7 percent lower and the refusal rate was 0.9 percent higher than in Panel 11 Round 2.

Medical provider authorization form signing rates are shown in Table 4-7 for Panels 8 through 12. (Table A-3 in Appendix A shows the signing rates for all panels and rounds to date.) Panel 11 Round 4 had a signing rate of 69.7 percent, the same rate as Panel 10 Round 4. All other rounds worked in 2007 have lower signing rates than corresponding rounds worked in 2006.

Table 4-8 shows signing rates for pharmacy authorization forms for Panels 8 through 11 (Table A-4 in Appendix A shows the signing rates for all panels and rounds to date.) In 2007, the signing rates for these forms for both Panel 10 Round 5 and Panel 11 round 3 also were lower than the previous year's rates.

Table 4-4. MEPS HC data collection results, Panels 8 through 12

Panel/round		Original sample	Split cases (movers)	Student cases	Out-of-scope cases	Net sample	Completes	Average interviewer hours/complete	Response rate (%)	Response rate goal
Panel 8	Round 1	8,706	441	73	175	9,045	7,177	10.0	79.3	84.0
	Round 2	7,159	218	52	36	7,393	7,049	7.2	95.4	95.0
	Round 3	7,035	150	13	33	7,165	6,892	6.5	96.2	97.5
	Round 4	6,878	149	27	53	7,001	6,799	7.3	97.1	97.0
	Round 5	6,795	71	8	41	6,833	6,726	6.0	98.4	97.0
Panel 9	Round 1	8,939	417	73	179	9,250	7,205	10.5	77.9	84.0
	Round 2	7,190	237	40	40	7,427	7,027	7.7	94.6	95.0
	Round 3	7,005	189	24	31	7,187	6,861	7.1	95.5	97.5
	Round 4	6,843	142	23	44	6,964	6,716	7.4	96.5	97.0
	Round 5	6,703	60	8	43	6,728	6,627	6.1	98.5	97.0
Panel 10	Round 1	8,748	430	77	169	9,086	7,175	11.0	79.0	84.0
	Round 2	7,148	219	36	22	7,381	6,940	7.8	94.0	95.0
	Round 3	6,921	156	10	31	7,056	6,727	6.8	95.3	98.0
	Round 4	6,708	155	13	34	6,842	6,590	7.3	96.3	97.0
	Round 5	6,596	55	9	38	6,622	6,461	6.2	97.6	97.0
Panel 11	Round 1	9,654	399	81	162	9,972	7,585	11.5	76.1	84.0
	Round 2	7,572	244	42	24	7,834	7,276	7.8	92.9	95.0
	Round 3	7,263	170	15	25	7,423	7,007	6.9	94.4	98.0
	Round 4	7,005	139	14	36	7,122	6,898	7.2	96.9	97.0
Panel 12	Round 1	7,467	331	86	172	7,712	5,901	14.2	76.5	84.0
	Round 2	5,901	157	27	27	6,058	5,584	9.1	92.2	95.0

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Table 4-5. Summary of nonresponse for Round 1, 2003-2007

	2003 P8 R1	2004 P9 R1	2005 P10 R1	2006 P11R1	2007 P12R1
Net sample of RUs (N)	9,045	9,250	9,086	9,972	7,712
Response rate (%)	79.3	77.9	79.0	76.1	76.5
Refusal rate (%)	15.5	17.5	16.6	18.4	18.4
Unlocated rate (%)	3.2	3.0	3.3	3.8	3.9
All remaining nonresponse (%)	2.0	1.6	1.1	1.7	1.2

NOTE: Figures in tables showing results of field work are drawn from the database used to monitor ongoing production and from the 'delivery' database, which reflects minor adjustments made in post-data collection processing. This is the source of several discrepancies in totals shown in the tables.

Table 4-6. Summary of nonresponse for Rounds 2 and 4, 2004-2007

	2004 P8R4	2005 P9R4	2006 P10R4	2007 P11R4	2004 P9R2	2005 P10R2	2006 P11R2	2007 P12R2
Net sample of RUs (N)	7,011	6,964	6,842	7,122	7,427	7,381	7,834	6,058
Response rate (%)	97.1	96.5	96.3	96.8	94.6	94.0	92.9	92.2
Refusal rate (%)	1.7	2.2	2.5	2.0	3.9	4.5	5.3	6.2
Unlocated rate (%)	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.0
All remaining nonresponse (%)	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6

Table 4-7. Signing rates for medical provider authorization forms for Panels 8 through 12

Panel/round		Authorization forms requested	Authorization forms signed	Signing rate (%)
Panel 8	Round 1	2,287	1,773	77.5
	Round 2	22,533	17,802	79.0
	Round 3	19,530	14,064	72.0
	Round 4	19,718	14,599	74.0
	Round 5	15,856	11,106	70.0
Panel 9	Round 1	2,253	1,681	74.6
	Round 2	22,668	17,522	77.3
	Round 3	19,601	13,672	69.8
	Round 4	20,147	14,527	72.1
	Round 5	15,963	10,720	67.2

Table 4-7. Signing rates for medical provider authorization forms for Panels 8 through 12 (continued)

Panel/round		Authorization forms requested	Authorization forms signed	Signing rate (%)
Panel 10	Round 1	2,068	1,443	69.8
	Round 2	22,582	17,090	75.7
	Round 3	18,967	13,396	70.6
	Round 4	19,087	13,296	69.7
	Round 5	15,787	10,476	66.4
Panel 11	Round 1	2,154	1,498	69.5
	Round 2	23,957	17,742	74.1
	Round 3	20,756	13,400	64.6
	Round 4	21,260	14,808	69.7
Panel 12	Round 1	1,695	1,066	62.9
	Round 2	17,787	12,524	70.4

Table 4-8. Signing rates for pharmacy authorization forms

Panel/round		Authorization forms requested	Authorization forms signed	Signing rate (%)
Panel 8	Round 3	14,391	11,533	80.1
	Round 5	13,422	11,049	82.3
Panel 9	Round 3	14,334	11,189	78.1
	Round 5	13,416	10,893	81.2
Panel 10	Round 3	13,928	10,706	76.9
	Round 5	12,869	10,260	79.7
Panel 11	Round 3	14,937	11,328	75.8

Signing rates for all authorization forms continue to decline with each panel and each year. In 2007, field supervisors made a concerted effort to increase signing rates. Home office staff provided weekly signing rates to the field and closely monitored signing rates at an interviewer level. However, refusals to sign authorization forms continue to increase.

Table 4-9 shows the results of the Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ) data collection. SAQ collection begins in rounds 2 and 4 of a panel, with follow up for nonresponse in Rounds 3 and 5. Table 4-9 shows both the round-specific response rate and the combined

rate after the follow-up round was completed. (Table A-5 in Appendix A shows the results of the SAQ collection for all applicable panels and rounds to date.) The combined rates for the first year of Panel 11 and second year of Panel 10 showed decreases in response rates from their counterparts in the prior panels. In 2007, the signing rate for Panel 12 round 2 was 0.6 percent higher than the rate for Panel 11 Round 2.

Table 4-9. Results of self-administered questionnaire (SAQ) collection

Panel/round		SAQs requested	SAQs completed	SAQs refused	Other nonresponse	Response rate (%)
Panel 8	Round 2	12,533	10,765	203	1,565	85.9
	Round 3	1,568	846	234	488	54.0
	Combined, 2003	12,533	11,611	-	-	92.6
	Round 4	11,996	10,534	357	1,105	87.8
	Round 5	1,400	675	344	381	48.2
	Combined, 2004	11,996	11,209	-	-	93.4
Panel 9	Round 2	12,541	10,631	381	1,529	84.8
	Round 3	1,670	886	287	496	53.1
	Combined, 2004	12,541	11,517	-	-	91.9
	Round 4	11,913	10,357	379	1,177	86.9
	Round 5	1,478	751	324	403	50.8
	Combined, 2005	11,913	11,108	-	-	93.2
Panel 10	Round 2	12,360	10,503	391	1,466	85.0
	Round 3	1,626	787	280	559	48.4
	Combined, 2005	12,360	11,290	-	-	91.3
	Round 4	11,726	10,081	415	1,230	86.0
	Round 5	1,516	696	417	403	45.9
	Combined, 2006	11,726	10,777	-	-	91.9
Panel 11	Round 2	13,146	10,924	452	1,770	83.1
	Round 3	1,908	948	349	611	49.7
	Combined, 2006	13,146	11,872	-	-	90.3
	Round 4	12,479	10,771	622	1,086	86.3
Panel 12	Round 2	10,061	8,419	502	1,140	83.7

The response rates for the Diabetes Care Supplement (DCS) are shown in Table 4-10. (Table A-6 in Appendix A shows the results of Diabetes Care supplement (DCS) collection for all applicable panels and rounds to date.) Since the DCS is collected only during Rounds 3 and 5, with no follow-up in the subsequent round, efforts to gain a high response rate are limited to the one round in which the DCS is requested. The DCS rates in the table include the results of an additional follow-up effort conducted by telephone throughout the field period. The response rate for the DCS continued to drop in Panel 11 Round 3. The response rate for Panel 10 Round 5 improved slightly from Panel 9 Round 5, from 89.2 percent to 89.5 percent.

Table 4-10. Results of diabetes care supplement (DCS) collection*

Panel/round		DCSs requested	DCSs completed	Response rate (%)
Panel 8	Round 3	971	885	91.1
	Round 5	977	894	91.5
Panel 9	Round 3	1,003	909	90.6
	Round 5	904	806	89.2
Panel 10	Round 3	1,060	939	88.6
	Round 5	1,078	965	89.5
Panel 11	Round 3	1,188	1,030	86.7

* Tables represent combined DCS/proxy DCS collection.

Table 4-11 summarizes the Round 1 data collection results for the panels begun in calendar years 2003 through 2007. As reflected in the table the Panel 12 sample was somewhat smaller than other recent panels, an accommodation to the increased effort anticipated with the new CAPI system and beginning work in the new PSUs.

Although the figures in the table for 2007 reflect only small differences from 2006, the improvement in response rate from 76.1 percent to 76.6 percent was significant. While launching the new CAPI application and needing to build and manage staff in the new PSUs, a number of which had very small samples, the project was able not only to avoid any further decline in response levels but to actually increase the rate slightly. The refusal rate remained unchanged from the previous year. Although some increase in the rate of

unlocated households might have been expected from the increased ‘age’ of the NHIS sample – drawn totally from the first two quarters of 2006 – the unlocated rate remained essentially unchanged from 2006.

Table 4-11. Summary of MEPS Round 1 response, 2003-2007 panels

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total sample (N)	9,220	9,429	9,240	10,139	7,883
Out of scope (%)	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.5	2.1
Complete (%)	79.3	77.9	79.0	76.1	76.6
Nonresponse (%)	20.7	22.1	21.0	23.9	23.4
Refusal (%)	15.5	17.5	16.6	18.4	18.4
Not located (%)	3.2	3.0	3.3	3.8	3.9
Other nonresponse (%)	2.0	1.6	1.1	1.7	1.2

NOTE: Includes reporting units added to sample as “splits” and “students” from original NHIS households, which were given the same ‘complete’ or ‘partial complete’ designation as the original NHIS household.

Table 4-12 shows the Round 1 results by NHIS completion status (this table includes only the originally sampled NHIS households and excludes sample units added during data collection as a result of ‘split’ households or the identification of student reporting units). The proportion of partial completes in the Panel 12 sample was down from the 2006 peak and generally in line with levels of the 2003 and 2004 samples. As in prior panels, the differential in response rate between the NHIS completes and partial completes remained about 16 percentage points. Although the overall response rate for the round increased over Panel 11, the component response rates for the original sample NHIS completes and partial completes both declined slightly. The differences in proportion of NHIS completes and response rates for the splits and students account for this apparent anomaly.

Table 4-12. Summary of MEPS Round 1 response, 2003-2007 panels, by NHIS completion status

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Original NHIS sample (N)	8,706	8,939	8,748	9,654	7,467
Percent complete in NHIS	80.4	81.4	84.0	77.0	80.6
Percent partial complete in NHIS	19.6	18.6	16.0	23.0	19.4
MEPS Round 1 response rate					
Percent complete for NHIS completes	82.2	81.0	81.2	80.1	79.8
Percent complete for NHIS partial completes	68.7	64.4	69.6	64.4	63.3

NOTE: Includes only households in sample originally provided from NHIS.

Table 4-13 presents the completion percentages for the NHIS completes and partial completes by race/ethnicity for the 2004-2007 panels. The proportion of Hispanics in the sample was 2 percent less than in the prior years, while the proportion of Asians was almost 2 percent greater than in 2006. There was a small decline in the response rate for the Hispanics (from 80.4 percent to 78.7 percent), small increases for the Asian and Blacks (71.1 percent to 71.4 percent for the Asians; 80.8 percent to 81.5 percent for the Blacks), and a larger increase for the White/other group (73.6 percent to 75.1 percent). Continuing the pattern of prior years, the response rates for the Asian and White/other groups were lower than for the Black and Hispanic groups. Of all the groups shown in the table, the White/other partial completes had the lowest response rate.

Table 4-13. Summary of MEPS Round 1 response rates, 2004-2007 panels, by race/ethnicity and NHIS completion status

	2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Percent of net sample	Percent complete						
Asian total	4.8	66.2	4.6	71.1	4.6	71.1	6.2	71.4
NHIS complete	3.6	71.6	3.8	75.3	3.1	75.7	4.8	74.3
NHIS partial	1.2	50.0	0.8	50.7	1.6	62.3	1.4	61.5
Black total	15.5	80.7	17.8	82.5	15.9	80.8	16.4	81.5
NHIS complete	12.7	83.4	14.7	83.8	12.3	83.9	13.2	83.7
NHIS partial	2.8	68.3	3.0	76.1	3.6	70.2	3.1	72.0
Hispanic total	19.5	82.8	19.2	82.5	19.4	80.4	17.4	78.7
NHIS complete	15.4	84.7	17.3	82.9	13.9	83.0	13.1	81.7
NHIS partial	4.1	75.5	4.0	81.1	5.5	74.1	4.3	69.7
White/other total	60.1	76.5	58.4	77.4	60.0	73.6	60.0	75.1
NHIS complete	49.8	79.7	49.8	79.6	47.5	77.8	49.3	78.6
NHIS partial	10.3	61.5	8.6	64.5	12.6	57.8	10.7	59.2
All groups		77.9		79.0		76.1		76.6
NHIS complete	81.6	80.8	83.6	80.8	76.7	79.6	80.4	79.7
NHIS partial	18.4	64.9	16.4	70.0	23.3	63.9	19.6	63.7

NOTE: Includes reporting units added to sample as "splits" and "students" from original NHIS households, which were given the same 'complete' or 'partial complete' designation as the original NHIS household.

Table 4-14 presents the same breakouts as Table 4-13, but highlights refusals, which comprise most of the nonresponse. In general, the declines in response rate that appear in Table 4-13 are reflected in corresponding increases in refusal rates in Table 4-14.

Table 4-14. Summary of MEPS refusal rates, 2002-2007 panels, by race/ethnicity and NHIS completion status

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Asian						
NHIS complete	18.6	18.6	22.1	20.1	19.3	18.1
NHIS partial	17.3	28.5	30.4	42.3	31.4	24.8
Black						
NHIS complete	7.6	9.4	11.2	9.9	10.9	10.8
NHIS partial	18.0	14.1	19.3	17.0	22.9	20.2
Hispanic						
NHIS complete	7.2	8.5	8.8	9.3	8.4	10.2
NHIS partial	10.6	12.1	14.9	12.3	15.6	17.4
White, not Hispanic						
NHIS complete	15.1	16.0	18.3	17.9	18.2	18.6
NHIS partial	31.4	28.0	32.4	31.3	35.9	36.0
All groups						
NHIS complete	14.6	15.4	17.5	16.6	18.4	18.4
NHIS partial	12.6	13.8	15.5	15.0	15.3	15.9
NHIS partial	24.1	22.4	26.4	24.5	28.7	28.5

Table 4-15 presents response information for a combination of race/ethnicity and sample domain categories. In general, the response patterns for 2007 are similar to those of prior years. Each of the low-income groups had a higher response rate than the associated non-low-income group. The Asian and the White/other, non-low-income groups had the lowest response rates and highest refusal rates. The highest rate for not-located households was among the Hispanic, low-income group.

Table 4-15. Summary of MEPS Panel 12 Round 1 response rates, by sample domain by NHIS completion status

	Net sample (N)	Complete (%)	Refusal (%)	Not located (%)	Other nonresponse (%)
By race/ethnicity and domain					
Asian	573	72.3	19.4	5.4	3.0
NHIS complete	441	75.7	17.2	4.1	2.9
NHIS partial complete	132	60.6	26.5	9.8	3.0
Black, low income	379	84.2	8.4	6.3	1.1
NHIS complete	326	85.3	7.4	6.4	0.9
NHIS partial complete	53	77.4	15.1	5.7	1.9
Black, not low income	880	80.7	14.1	4.7	0.6
NHIS complete	692	83.2	12.3	4.2	0.3
NHIS partial complete	188	71.3	20.7	6.4	1.6
Hispanic, low income	429	80.9	8.4	9.6	1.2
NHIS complete	339	82.9	8.0	8.3	0.9
NHIS partial complete	90	73.3	10.0	14.4	2.2
Hispanic, not low income	908	77.8	13.5	6.8	1.9
NHIS complete	668	81.1	11.2	5.8	1.8
NHIS partial complete	240	68.3	20.0	9.6	2.1
White/other, low income	422	81.5	13.3	4.0	1.2
NHIS complete	357	84.3	11.8	3.4	0.6
NHIS partial complete	65	66.2	21.5	7.7	4.6
White/other, not low income	4,130	74.4	22.7	2.0	0.9
NHIS complete	3,387	77.8	19.5	1.8	0.9
NHIS partial complete	743	58.5	37.4	3.1	0.9
All groups	7,721	76.6	18.4	3.9	1.2
NHIS complete	6,210	79.7	15.9	3.3	1.0
NHIS partial complete	1,511	63.7	28.5	6.1	1.7

NOTE: Includes reporting units added to sample as "splits" and "students" from original NHIS households, which were given the same 'complete' or 'partial complete' designation as the original household.

Table 4-16 summarizes the results of refusal conversion efforts, by the administrative regions into which the sample is divided for operations. The initial refusal rates range from a low of 14.7 percent to a high of 35.4 percent, and the conversion rates range from a low of 14.4 percent to a high of 47.1 percent. The overall conversion rate of 28.2 percent exceeded the rates of the two previous panels by 1.4 to 4.0 percent.

Table 4-16. Summary of MEPS Panel 12, Round 1 results: ever refused, final refusals, and refusal conversion rate, by region

Region Description	Net Sample (N)	Percent Ever Refused (%)	Percent Converted (%)	Final Refusal Rate (%)	Final Response Rate (%)
Total Sample	7,721	25.4	28.2	18.4	76.6
Chicago	276	34.8	35.4	21.7	71.7
AL, FL	199	24.6	20.4	19.6	79.4
NC	295	22.7	29.9	16.6	79.0
ID, MT, WA, WY	238	16.4	35.9	10.1	86.1
GA, SC	287	29.3	36.9	18.5	77.7
MS, TN, AR	253	18.2	21.7	13.8	83.8
TX	274	20.8	29.8	15.3	78.8
SoCA	232	22.8	34.0	15.1	78.9
NV, CA, OR, UT	255	20.0	47.1	10.2	88.2
SoCA	336	26.8	14.4	22.3	64.6
IL, IN, MI	233	30.5	26.8	22.3	74.7
LA, KY	224	21.4	27.1	15.6	79.9
MA, ME, VT	210	33.8	22.5	26.7	72.4
MD, DC, VA	157	26.8	38.1	19.7	79.0
PA, WV, OH	154	35.1	20.4	26.6	70.8
NY City, NJ	282	34.0	27.1	27.0	61.7
NY, NJ	176	21.0	21.6	16.5	72.7
FL	348	30.7	26.2	23.3	66.1
MN, WI	288	20.5	32.2	13.9	84.0
TX	236	19.9	36.2	13.1	79.7
AZ	177	20.9	27.0	16.4	78.5
MD, VA, FL, TN	278	29.5	29.3	21.2	71.9
RI, CT, NY	189	31.7	28.3	22.8	75.7
NJ, Phila, DE	328	34.5	26.5	25.0	68.9
NY, PA	188	27.1	21.6	21.8	77.1
MI	178	35.4	20.6	28.1	68.5
AK, HI, CA	245	26.1	26.6	18.4	77.6
OH	247	19.0	25.5	14.6	80.6
IL, KS, MO	235	21.3	32.0	14.5	83.8
CA	218	19.7	34.9	12.4	83.5
OK, TX	245	14.7	44.4	8.2	85.7
CO, IA, NE, SD	240	22.5	14.8	18.8	78.3

Table 4-17 shows results by region for the effort to locate households that required tracking during the Round 1 field period. The 16.5 percent of the sample that required tracking was about 2 percent higher than the previous two panels. The higher proportion requiring tracking is likely a reflection of the longer elapsed time between NHIS participation and MEPS contacts, but the outcome – an overall unlocated rate of 3.8 percent, was the same as for the previous panel.

Table 4-17. Summary of MEPS Panel 12 Round 1 results: ever traced and final not located, by region

Region description	Total sample (N)	Percent ever traced (%)	Percent not located (%)
Total Sample	7,883	16.5	3.8
Chicago	277	18.8	5.1
AL, FL	202	16.8	1.0
NC	299	16.1	3.0
ID, MT, WA, WY	244	16.8	2.9
MS, TN, AR	274	13.1	2.2
GA, SC	308	14.6	3.2
TX	275	22.5	4.7
SoCA	232	18.1	5.6
NV, CA, OR, UT	266	14.7	0.4
SoCA	338	18.9	8.9
IL, IN, MI	236	11.9	2.5
LA, KY	228	13.2	2.6
MA, ME, VT	212	12.7	0.9
MD, DC, VA	159	13.8	1.3
PA, WV, OH	155	7.7	1.3
NY City, NJ	284	20.1	10.2
NY, NJ	184	17.4	8.7
FL	348	21.3	8.6
MN, WI	298	16.8	1.0
TX	238	24.8	6.3
AZ	180	21.1	4.4
MD, VA, FL, TN	289	20.4	5.5
RI, CT, NY	192	12.0	1.0
NJ, Phila, DE	331	13.9	3.3
NY, PA	203	7.9	1.0
MI	180	12.2	2.8
AK, HI, CA	246	18.3	2.0
OH	249	15.3	2.4
IL, KS, MO	242	13.2	1.2
CA	219	14.6	3.2
OK, TX	249	19.7	5.6
CO, IA, NE, SD	246	18.7	1.6

Home Office Processing and Support

The variety of home office support activities carried out in prior years continued through 2007. The home office responds to the toll-free respondent information line and relays information from respondent calls to the field. Table 5-1 shows the number and types of calls received during 2007 (Table A-8 in Appendix A shows the number and types of calls from 2000 through 2007).

Table 5-1. Calls to the respondent information line, 2006 and 2007

Reason for call	Spring 2006 (Panel 11 Round 1, Panel 10 Round 3, Panel 9 Round 5)				Fall 2006 (Panel 11 Round 2, Panel 10 Round 4)	
	Round 1		Rounds 3 and 5		Rounds 2 and 4	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Address/telephone change	7	1.3	24	7.5	11	4.1
Appointment	61	11.3	124	39.0	103	38.1
Request callback	146	27.1	96	30.2	101	37.4
No message	72	13.4	46	14.5	21	7.8
Other	16	3.0	12	3.8	8	3.0
Proxy needed	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Request SAQ help	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Special needs	4	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
Refusal	216	40.1	15	4.7	26	9.6
Willing to participate	17	3.2	1	0.3	0	0.0
Total	539		318		270	

Reason for call	Spring 2007 (Panel 12 Round 1, Panel 11 Round 3, Panel 10 Round 5)				Fall 2007 (Panel 12 Round 2, Panel 11 Round 4)	
	Round 1		Rounds 3 and 5		Rounds 2 and 4	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Address/telephone change	8	2.1	21	7.3	23	7.6
Appointment	56	14.6	129	44.8	129	42.6
Request callback	72	18.8	75	26.0	88	29.0
No message	56	14.6	37	12.8	33	10.9
Other	20	5.2	15	5.2	6	2.0
Proxy needed	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Request SAQ help	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Special needs	5	1.3	0	0.0	1	0.3
Refusal	160	41.8	10	3.5	21	6.9
Willing to participate	6	1.6	1	0.3	2	0.7
Total	383		288		303	

The number of respondents calling in 2007 and the reasons for their calls were not significantly different from 2006. There were fewer calls in most categories, corresponding to the smaller size of the Panel 12 sample. Although the number of callers was lower, the percentage of refusal calls in Panel 12 Round 1 was slightly higher than it had been for Panel 11 Round 1 in the previous year. However, the percentage of refusal calls for rounds 2-5 was lower in 2007. The percentage of calls to make appointments for an interview increased considerably in 2007.

Home office staff monitor production and provide reports and feedback (such as CAPI interviews conducted in less than 30 minutes) to field managers and supervisors for review and follow up. The home office prints validation abstracts, which contain information from the interview, and sends them to the quality control assistants for validation calls. Home office staff also print and distribute split processing reports that provide information for conducting interviews with a split RU. Refusal letter requests and requests for locating information from an outside tracking service also are managed at the home office.

Completed case folders are sent to the home office from the field, and the contents of the folders are reviewed and recorded in the receipt system. Authorization forms are edited for completeness and scanned into an image database. Problems with authorization forms are documented and feedback is sent to the field supervisor to review with the interviewer. The receipt department also tracks interview dates and notifies the field if the case materials for a completed interview have not arrived within 2 weeks of the interview date. SAQs and DCS questionnaires also are receipted and prepared for coding. Supply requests from the field are emailed to the MEPS supply center at the home office and requests are filled promptly. An inventory of supplies is maintained in a database so that shortages are identified early for additional printing.

The MEPS CAPI Hotline continued to provide technical support for field interviewing activities during 2007. Hotline staff are available 7 days a week to help field staff resolve CAPI, Field Management System, transmission, laptop, and modem problems. The CAPI Hotline serves as a focal point for tracking and shipping all field laptops, maintaining systems for monitoring field laptop assignment, and coordinating laptop repair.

Panel 12 Data Collection: Interview Timing and Utilization Measures

6

A major goal in introducing the new CAPI application during 2007 was to maintain continuity with the prior application, both in project operations and in data content. With relatively few exceptions the new application did not break new ground in terms of content or basic approaches to collecting the MEPS interview data. In most respects, the new instrument replicated the question wording and sequence of the prior application, with changes concentrated in the screen presentation and the keyboarding actions used to record respondents' answers in the new system.

A number of new reports were developed to monitor the performance of the new instrument against prior panels. Attention focused particularly on comparisons of interview length and health care utilization between the new Panel 12 interviews and prior panels. Early timing reports showed the Panel 12 interviews to be taking substantially longer than those of recent prior panels and generated efforts to identify the factors behind the longer interviews. These efforts were documented in a separate report (Report on MEPS Panel 12 Blaise/WVS Interview Administration Time, December 21, 2007). In the early utilization reports, which compared the new panel with the earlier ones on measures such as total events reported per person and per Reporting Unit (RU), events reported by specific event type, and event reporting by sample domain, Panel 12 figures were consistently lower than those of the prior panels. Although it was recognized that reliable utilization comparisons could not be made until weights for the Panel 12 sample were available, these reports stimulated additional efforts to identify factors, including the length of the Round 1 interviews that might be affecting the utilization measures. This section of the methodology report presents selected findings from the analyses of interview length and utilization.

Interview Timing

Interviews conducted in Round 1 of Panel 11 had an average interview administration time of 73 minutes. In the early weeks of Panel 12, the average Round 1 administration time was approaching 100 minutes. Although this mean did decline gradually over the remainder of the Round 1 field period, it remained substantially greater than the Panel 11 mean. Table 6-1 shows the final mean times for Panel 12 Round 1 interviews broken out to show mean interview times within two classifications of the Round 1 interviewers. The first breakout reflects interviewers classified in terms of their prior MEPS interviewing experience and training. The "experienced" group, field staff who

were already familiar with the content of the MEPS interview from work on prior panels, participated in a three-day in-person training to acquaint them with the new application. New staff selected to work in areas where the preceding MEPS panels were still being interviewed participated in two in-person training sessions separated by a two-week interval. In the first, they learned to administer the older, DOS-based Cheshire CAPI instrument. In the second, they learned the new Blaise/WVS instrument. In the table, they are identified as the “1/3/5” group. New staff selected to work in areas that had no sample from prior MEPS panels participated in a single in-person training session to learn only the Blaise/WVS instrument. In the table, they are identified as the “1 Only” group.

Table 6-1. Average interview time, by interviewer groups, Panel 12 Round 1 (single-session and legal break cases only)

Interviewer Training Group	Number of Complete Groups	Single-Session		Legal Break	
		N	Minutes Per RU	N	Minutes Per RU
1 Only	1-9 RUs	47	115.98	9	168.89
	10 + RUs	404	96.24	29	153.24
Subtotal		451	98.29	38	156.95
1/3/5	1-9 RUs	230	108.12	14	175.07
	10 + RUs	545	96.51	67	183.55
Subtotal		775	99.96	81	182.09
Experienced	1-9 RUs	621	87.11	38	143.58
	10 + RUs	3,170	86.78	281	128.54
Subtotal		3,791	86.83	319	130.33
Total Sample		5,017		438	

The second level breakout in the table divides each of the training groups into two further groups of interviewers based on the number of interviews completed: those who completed relatively few Round 1 interviews (1-9), and those who completed 10 or more interviews. The major column divisions in the table also require mention. The calculation of timing information for the Round 1 interviews was complicated by the fact that a substantial number of interviews were not completed in a single session with the respondent. Multiple session interviews resulted either from an interviewer’s deliberate exit from an interview before reaching the end, using one of the designated exit points in the application (“legal” breaks), or from instances in which the application was exited at anything other than one of the designated exit points (“illegal” breaks). These instances included situations in which the interviewer exited the interview inappropriately or in which some feature of the application caused the exit, presenting the interviewer with a blank (white, blue, or black) screen.

In most of these latter instances, the interviewer could reboot and continue the interview, but an accurate accounting of the actual interview administration time was not possible. For that reason, the table shows mean administration times only for the cases completed in a single session and for those completed with legal breaks only. For this latter group, the means include actual interview administration time only and not the time *between* sessions. They reflect actual interviewing time but understate total burden on respondents.

The mean times for the single session cases show a noticeable difference between the experienced interviewers on the one hand and the two groups of newly trained interviewers on the other, with the experienced interviewers averaging 86.8 minutes per interview and the new groups of interviewers averaging just less than 100 minutes per interview. Within each of the training groups, the mean time for those who completed fewer interviews (1-9) was greater than for those who completed 10 or more interviews, although this difference was quite small in the experienced group. These timings suggested that CAPI experience and prior experience specifically with the MEPS interview were important factors and that with additional experience, the times for the newly trained groups would be expected to decline as well. The same general pattern of differences, but with more noticeable differences between the two groups of experienced interviewers, is seen in the timings for the interviews with appropriate (“legal”) breaks. –The fact that, at 86.8 minutes per interview, the mean time for the experienced group was still greater than the mean from all Panel 11 interviewers suggests the presence of factors other than familiarity with the new application that were affecting interview length.

Table 6-2 is similar to Table 6-1, but focuses on the proportions of cases completed in a single session vs. those completed in multiple sessions. Most of the percentage differences in the table are relatively small, indicating that the multi-session interviews were dispersed among all of the interviewer groups. The totals do indicate that the interviewers who completed fewer Round 1 interviews had a higher proportion of cases with illegal breaks than the interviewers who completed 10 or more cases. For two of the three training groups, the 1/3/5 and experienced groups, the proportion of completes with a legal break was greater for the interviewers who completed 10 or more cases. The reason for this difference is not known, but could be associated with the fact that the more productive interviewers tend to receive the more difficult cases to interview – the cases that might be more likely to require two sessions to complete.

Table 6-2. Panel 12 Round 1 single-session vs. multi session interviews, by interviewer training groups and interviewer production groups

Interviewer Training Group	Interviews Completed Group	Single-Session		Legal Break		Illegal Break		No Timing		All Cases	
		N	Row Pct	N	Row Pct	N	Row Pct	N	Row Pct	Row Total	Row Pct
1 Only	1-9 RUs	47	74.6	9	14.3	7	11.1	0	0.0	63	100.0
	10 + RUs	404	89.8	29	6.4	16	3.6	1	0.2	450	100.0
Subtotal		451	87.9	38	7.4	23	4.5	1	0.2	513	100.0
1/3/5	1-9 RUs	230	86.5	14	5.3	20	7.5	2	0.8	266	100.0
	10 + RUs	545	84.6	67	10.4	32	5.0	0	0.0	644	100.0
Subtotal		775	85.2	81	8.9	52	5.7	2	0.2	910	100.0
Experienced	1-9 RUs	621	81.9	38	5.0	42	5.5	57	7.5	758	100.0
	10 + RUs	3,170	85.0	281	7.5	199	5.3	80	2.1	3,730	100.0
Subtotal		3,791	84.5	319	7.1	241	5.4	137	3.1	4,488	100.0
Subtotal	1-9 RUs	898	82.6	61	5.6	69	6.3	59	5.4	1,087	100.0
Subtotal	10+ RUs	4,119	85.4	377	7.8	247	5.1	81	1.7	4,824	100.0
Total		5,017	84.9	438	7.4	316	5.3	140	2.4	5,911	100.0

Table 6-3 shows mean times and break status for the Panel 12 sample classified in terms of the NHIS completion outcome. As noted earlier, approximately 19 percent of the Panel 12 sample were classified as “partial complete” in the NHIS interview, and the response rate for these households was 16.5 percent lower than that for the NHIS interviews classified as “complete”. The mean times in the table suggest that, despite the difference in response rate, the interviews successfully conducted with the partial complete households were similar to those conducted with the ‘full’ completes. Similarly, the distribution of the full and partial completes in the columns (shown) and rows of the table (not shown), further suggests that interviewers did not experience a noticeably different rate of break offs with the NHIS partial completes.

Table 6-3. Average interview time, by NHIS completion status, Panel 12 Round 1

	Single-Session			Legal Break			Illegal Break		Time Not Avail	
	N	Col Pct	Minutes Per RU	N	Col Pct	Minutes Per RU	N	Col Pct	N	Col Pct
Partial Complete	795	15.8	89.6	78	17.8	136.1	56	17.7	34	24.3
Complete	4,222	84.2	89.9	360	82.2	143.5	260	82.3	106	75.7
Total Sample	5,017		89.9	438		142.2	316		140	

Utilization and Round 2 Response

Table 6-4 shows the Round 1 end-of-round utilization comparison between Panel 12 and the preceding 3 panels, presenting both direct measure and proportional comparisons between Panel 12 and its predecessors. Though unweighted, on the majority of the comparison measures, the figures for Panel 12 are lower than for the prior panels.

Table 6-4. MEPS Round 1 Summary Utilization Comparison: as of 7/31/2007

	P9	P10	P11	P12	P12 to P9	P12 to P10	P12 to P11
All events							
Total number of complete cases	6,876	7,032	7,113	5,598	0.814	0.796	0.787
Total number of RUs with events	5,627	5,643	5,807	4,522	0.804	0.801	0.779
Total number of events	34,398	32,539	34,973	25,208	0.733	0.775	0.721
Average number of persons per RU	2.677	2.671	2.677	2.681	1.001	1.004	1.001
Average number of events per RU with events	5.003	4.627	4.917	4.503	0.900	0.973	0.916
Average number of events per person with events	3.405	3.244	3.347	3.128	0.919	0.964	0.935
Percent of completed cases with events	81.8%	80.2%	81.6%	80.8%	0.987	1.007	0.989
Average events per RU	5.003	4.627	4.917	4.503	0.900	0.973	0.916
Average events per person	1.869	1.732	1.837	1.680	0.899	0.970	0.914
DN events							
Total number of RUs with events	2,189	2,059	2,245	1,766	0.807	0.858	0.787
Total number of events	4,771	4,368	4,746	3,667	0.769	0.840	0.773
Average number of events per RU with events	2.180	2.121	2,114	2.076	0.952	0.979	0.982
Average number of events per person with events	1.456	1.442	1.430	1.381	0.948	0.958	0.966
Percent of completed cases with events	31.8%	29.3%	31.6%	31.5%	0.991	1.077	1.000
Average events per RU	0.848	0.774	0.817	0.811	0.956	1.048	0.992
Average events per person	0.259	0.233	0.249	0.244	0.943	1.051	0.980
PM events							
Total number of RUs with events	5,053	5,050	5,239	3,965	0.785	0.785	0.757
Total number of events	23,132	22,966	24,465	17,716	0.766	0.771	0.724
Average number of events per RU with events	4.578	4.548	4.670	4.468	0.976	0.982	0.957
Average number of events per person with events	2.998	2.959	3.063	2.922	0.975	0.987	0.954
Percent of completed cases with events	73.5%	71.8%	73.7%	70.8%	0.964	0.986	0.962
Average events per RU	4.111	4.070	4.213	3.918	0.953	0.963	0.930
Average events per person	1.257	1.223	1.285	1.180	0.939	0.965	0.919

Table 6-4. MEPS Round 1 Summary Utilization Comparison: as of 7/31/2007 (continued)

	P9	P10	P11	P12	P12 to P9	P12 to P10	P12 to P11
MV events							
Total number of RUs with events	4,884	4,929	5,091	3,876	0.794	0.786	0.761
Total number of events	23,322	22,446	24,285	17,011	0.729	0.758	0.700
Average number of events per RU with events	4.775	4.554	4.770	4.389	0.919	0.964	0.920
Average number of events per person with events	2.975	2.863	2.962	2.724	0.916	0.951	0.920
Percent of completed cases with events	71.0%	70.1%	71.6%	69.2%	0.975	0.988	0.967
Average events per RU	4.145	3.978	4.182	3.762	0.908	0.946	0.900
Average events per person	1.267	1.195	1.275	1.133	0.895	0.948	0.889
HS events							
Total number of RUs with events	372	426	408	349	0.938	0.819	0.855
Total number of events	509	540	570	453	0.890	0.839	0.795
Average number of events per RU with events	1.368	1.268	1.397	1.298	0.949	1.024	0.929
Average number of events per person with events	1.195	1.107	1.208	1.153	0.965	1.042	0.954
Percent of completed cases with events	5.4%	6.1%	5.7%	6.2%	1.152	1.029	1.087
Average events per RU	0.090	0.096	0.098	0.100	1.107	1.047	1.021
Average events per person	0.028	0.029	0.030	0.030	1.092	1.050	1.008
ER events							
Total number of RUs with events	850	814	777	652	0.767	0.801	0.839
Total number of events	1,183	1,077	1,072	850	0.719	0.789	0.793
Average number of events per RU with events	1.392	1.323	1.380	1.304	0.937	0.986	0.945
Average number of events per person with events	1.263	1.176	1.234	1.187	0.940	1.009	0.962
Percent of completed cases with events	12.4%	11.6%	10.9%	11.6%	0.942	1.006	1.066
Average events per RU	0.210	0.191	0.185	0.188	0.894	0.985	1.018
Average events per person	0.064	0.057	0.056	0.057	0.881	0.988	1.006
OP events							
Total number of RUs with events	935	858	835	709	0.758	0.826	0.849
Total number of events	2,391	1,965	1,985	1,661	0.695	0.845	0.837
Average number of events per RU with events	2.557	2.290	2.377	2.343	0.916	1.023	0.986
Average number of events per person with events	2.269	2.040	2.123	2.105	0.928	1.032	0.992
Percent of completed cases with events	13.6%	12.2%	11.7%	12.7%	0.931	1.038	1.079
Average events per RU	0.425	0.348	0.342	0.367	0.864	1.055	1.075
Average events per person	0.130	0.105	0.104	0.111	0.852	1.058	1.062

Table 6-4. MEPS Round 1 Summary Utilization Comparison: as of 7/31/2007 (continued)

	P9	P10	P11	P12	P12 to P9	P12 to P10	P12 to P11
HH events							
Total number of RUs with events	232	250	261	150	0.647	0.600	0.575
Total number of events	739	730	773	506	0.685	0.693	0.655
Average number of events per RU with events	3.19	2.92	2.96	3.37	1.059	1.155	1.139
Average number of events per person with events	3.07	2.77	2.79	3.22	1.051	1.166	1.155
Percent of completed cases with events	3.4%	3.6%	3.7%	2.7%	0.794	0.754	0.730
Average events per RU	0.131	0.129	0.133	0.112	0.852	0.865	0.841
Average events per person	0.040	0.039	0.041	0.034	0.840	0.867	0.831
OM events							
Total number of RUs with events	1,132	1,094	1,189	822	0.726	0.751	0.691
Total number of events	1,450	1,388	1,520	1,043	0.719	0.751	0.686
Average number of events per RU with events	1.281	1.269	1.278	1.269	0.991	1.000	0.993
Average number of events per person with events	1.102	1.099	1.113	1.097	0.995	0.998	0.986
Percent of completed cases with events	16.5%	15.6%	16.7%	14.7%	0.892	0.944	0.878
Average events per RU	0.258	0.246	0.262	0.231	0.895	0.938	0.881
Average events per person	0.079	0.074	0.080	0.069	0.882	0.940	0.871

Tables 6-5 and 6-6 show the results of several efforts to identify factors that might have affected the Panel 12 utilization rates. Table 6-5 shows the per-person total event and office-based event means for the three interviewer training groups. Table 6-6 shows the rates for the interviewers who completed 1-9 interviews and those who completed 10 or more. The more experienced and more productive interviewers show higher utilization rates in both tables, again suggesting that increased experience, whether from prior CAPI work or repetition with a new application, is associated with higher levels of utilization reporting. Similar comparisons for prior panels, however, have not been made.

Table 6-5. Mean total events and office-based events, by interviewer training group

	Interviews	Total Events	Office-Based Events
Total	5,911	1.69	1.14
1 Only	513	1.61	1.01
1/3/5	910	1.63	1.08
Experienced	4,488	1.71	1.16

Table 6-6. Mean total and office-based events per person, by interviewer production level

	Interviews	Total Events	Office-Based Events
All interviews	5,911	1.69	1.14
1-9	1,087	1.55	1.04
10 or more	4,824	1.72	1.16

Mode of interview was also examined as a possible factor contributing to the difference in utilization measures. Although the MEPS interview is designed for in-person administration, a limited number of interviews are conducted each year to accommodate situations that would require extensive travel or respondents who agree to participate only if they can be interviewed by telephone. When production in Panel 12 Round 1 proceeded more slowly than scheduled, field supervisors were given greater leeway to authorize telephone interviews. Examination of the Panel 12 utilization rate raised the question of differences between the telephone and in-person interviews. Table 6-7 compares the distribution of the telephone interviews in Panel 12 with those of Panel 11 by month of the Round 1 field period. The table shows only slightly higher rates of telephone interviews in Panel 12 (6.8 vs. 5.7 percent) and a very similar distribution of telephone interviews over the course of the two field periods. Table 6-8 compares two Panel 12 utilization measures by mode of interview. In this table, the student RUs, which by definition are single-member RUs, are shown separately. Among the non-student RUs, the utilization means for the telephone interviews are slightly lower than those for the in-person interviews among the 1- and 2-person RUs, but higher for the telephone interviews among the RUs with 3 or more persons. In Table 6-9, the two Panel 12 measures are compared by mode with Panel 11. In each of the comparisons, the Panel 12 mean is lower than the Panel 11 mean.

Table 6-7. Number of Round 1 completes by month of the field period and mode of interview, Panel 11 Round 1 and Panel 12 Round 1

Interview Month	Panel 11						Panel 12					
	In Person			Telephone			In Person			Telephone		
	N	Row Pct	Col Pct									
Unknown	6	100.0	0.1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
Jan	17	100.0	0.2	0	0.0	0.0	2	100.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
Feb	1,825	99.6	25.5	8	0.4	1.9	1,564	99.1	28.4	15	0.9	3.7
Mar	2,391	98.5	33.5	37	1.5	8.6	1,688	98.4	30.7	27	1.6	6.7
Apr	1,320	96.6	18.5	47	3.4	10.9	871	95.4	15.8	42	4.6	10.4
May	825	90.9	11.5	83	9.1	19.2	567	90.7	10.3	58	9.3	14.4

Table 6-7. Number of Round 1 completes by month of the field period and mode of interview, Panel 11 Round 1 and Panel 12 Round 1 (continued)

Interview Month	Panel 11						Panel 12					
	In Person			Telephone			In Person			Telephone		
	N	Row Pct	Col Pct									
Jun	512	82.3	7.2	110	17.7	25.5	495	81.3	9.0	114	18.7	28.2
Jul	250	63.0	3.5	147	37.0	34.0	320	68.4	5.8	148	31.6	36.6
Total	7,146	94.3		432	5.7		5,507	93.2		404	6.8	

Table 6-8. Average total events and MV events per RU and per person, by RU size and mode of interview for Panel 12, Round 1

RU Size	Total Events				MV Events				
	In Person		Telephone		In Person		Telephone		
	Number of RUs	Mean Per Person							
Original	1 person RU	1,386	2.75	109	2.57	1,386	1.91	109	1.81
	2 person RU	1,648	2.48	102	2.37	1,648	1.72	102	1.74
	3 person RU	902	1.51	63	1.56	902	1.01	63	0.96
	4+ person RU	1,535	1.18	99	1.59	1,535	0.76	99	1.01
Student	1 person RU	36	1.53	31	1.32	36	1.06	31	0.84

Table 6-9. Mean total events and MV events per person, Panel 12 and Panel 11, Round 1

	In Person					Telephone				
	Panel 11		Panel 12		Difference	Panel 11		Panel 12		Difference
	N	Events Per Person	N	Events Per Person		N	Events Per Person	N	Events Per Person	
Total Events	7,146	1.84	5,507	1.68	0.16	432	2.28	404	1.84	0.44
MV Events	7,146	1.28	5,507	1.13	0.15	432	1.46	404	1.23	0.23

The longer administration times for the Panel 12 Round 1 interviews raised concern that the burden of the Round 1 interviews might affect response rates in Round 2. This concern increased during the Round 2 field period as the weekly response rate remained consistently lower than those of prior panels; at completion the Round 2 response rate was 92.2 percent, .7 percent less than the rate for Panel 11, Round 2. Tables 6-10 and 6-11 were generated to investigate aspects of the relationship between Round 1 status and Round 2 outcome. Table 6-10 shows, for the major outcome categories

of Round 2, the mean interview time for the Round 1 interviews completed in a single session. Among these households, the mean Round 1 interview time was only about 4 minutes longer (94.1 vs. 90.5 minutes) for the nonresponse cases than for the Round 2 responders. Table 6-11 shows the Round 2 outcome categories by the break status of the Round 1 interview, that is, whether the Round 1 interview was completed in a single session or in multiple sessions. Here, too, the table shows minimal differences in Round 2 response rate relative to the break status in Round 1: the response rate for the group with legal breaks was 2.6 percent less than that for the group with no breaks. Table 6-12 shows the Round 2 response rates separately for households that cooperated in Round 1 only after having refused at least once and those that never refused in Round 1. This table does show a larger difference in response rate, with almost 18 percent of the households that were interim refusals in Round 1 becoming final refusals in Round 2.

Table 6-10. Panel 12 Round 2 interview outcome, by mean Round 1 interview time (Round 1 interviews with no breaks)

Round 2 Interview Outcome	Single-Session	
	Number of RUs	Minutes Per RU
Complete	4,771	90.45
Out of Scope	14	58.43
Final Nonresponse	380	94.11
Total	5,165	90.63

Note: New split RUs in Round 2 carried Round 1 interview time of original RUs.

Table 6-11. Panel 12 MEPS survey participants' interview outcome in Round 2 by Round 1 interview break status

Interview Break Status in Round 1	Total	Round 2 Interview Outcome								
		Complete		Out of Scope		Nonresponse		Net Sample	Nonresponse Rate	Response Rate
		N	Col Pct	N	Col Pct	N	Col Pct			
Total	5,951	5,478		21		452		5,930	7.6	92.4
No Break	5,165	4,771	87.1	14	66.7	380	84.1	5,151	7.4	92.6
Legal Breaks	454	406	7.4	3	14.3	45	10.0	451	10.0	90.0
Illegal Breaks	332	301	5.5	4	19.0	27	6	328	8.2	91.8

Table 6-12. Panel 12 MEPS survey participants' interview outcome in Round 2 by Round 1 ever refused status

Ever Refused in Round 1	Round 2 Interview Outcome						
	Total	Completes	Out of Scope	Refused	Net Sample	Percent Refused	Response Rate
Total	6,085	5,584	27	474	6,058	7.82	0.922
No	5,517	5,118	26	373	5,491	6.79	0.932
Yes	568	466	1	101	567	17.81	0.822

Table 6-13 shows the Round 2 response categories by the month in which the Round 1 interviews were completed. This table shows a declining response rate for those completed later in the Round 1 field period. Although the reasons these cases were completed in the latter months of the field period is not considered here, it seems likely that many of these late cooperators were completed late in the field period because they were 'difficult' in some respect – hard to locate, hard to find at home, or difficult to persuade to participate. These types of difficulty – like the interim refusal in Round 1 – likely had some carry-over effect in the Round 2 decision not to cooperate further.

Table 6-13. Panel 12 MEPS survey participants' interview outcome in Round 2 by Round 1 interview month

Round 1 Interview Month	Round 2 Interview Outcome						
	Total	Complete	Out of Scope	Refused	Net Sample	Percent Refused	Response Rate
Total	6,085	5,584	27	474	6,058	7.82	0.922
Jan	2	2	0	0	2	0.00	1.000
Feb	1,626	1,552	2	72	1,624	4.43	0.956
Mar	1,769	1,661	2	106	1,767	6.00	0.940
Apr	940	854	9	77	931	8.27	0.917
May	638	573	3	62	635	9.76	0.902
Jun	631	548	2	81	629	12.88	0.871
Jul	479	394	9	76	470	16.17	0.838

Note: New splits in Round 2 carried Round 1 interview month of original RUs.

In order to guide efforts in addressing attrition between Round 1 and subsequent rounds, we initiated an analysis of the various factors that could influence response in later rounds, starting with Round 2 response rates. Our preliminary analysis suggests the mode of interview in Round 1, the number of contact attempts in Round 1 and whether Round 1 resulted in a refusal might be

predictive of the Round 2 outcome. We need to continue work in specifying the logistic regression model to assess the importance of other variables, such as:

- In the Round 1 only training group;
- In the Round 1/3/5 training group;
- Interview length, Round 1 (Single-session interviews only);
- Presence of any legal break off in Round 1;
- Presence of any illegal break off in Round 1;
- Any refusal in Round 1;
- NHIS completion status;
- Number of events reported per person in Round 1;
- Interviewed by telephone in Round 1; and
- Number of contact attempts in Round 1.

We will also extend analysis to include later rounds of Panel 12 and to create comparisons with earlier MEPS panels.

Data Processing and Data Delivery

7

This chapter describes the principal data files produced from the MEPS data during 2007 and summarizes the data processing activities that supported Westat's data delivery work during the year.

The MEPS project's primary objective is to produce three major data files for public release each calendar year. The three released files are:

- A Point-in-Time Public Use File (PUF) based on the first part of each calendar year. This file is based on data from Round 3 of the continuing panel and Round 1 of the new panel. It contains data on survey administration, demographics, employment, health status, and health insurance coverage.
- A Full-Year Use and Insurance PUF based on utilization data for a full calendar year from two panels: Rounds 3, 4, and 5 of the panel completing its second year and Rounds 1, 2, and 3 of the panel completing its first year. The Use and Insurance PUF contains person-level summary information on the use of health care services during the full calendar year. It also includes administrative, demographic, access to care, disability days, health status, health insurance coverage, and employment indicators at the person level and data from self-administered questionnaires (a general health self-assessment questionnaire and a diabetes care supplement questionnaire) completed by appropriate household respondents.
- A Full-Year Use and Expenditure PUF, which covers the same calendar period as the Full-Year Use and Insurance PUF, but includes charge and payment information obtained from the MPC data collection that has been matched with the appropriate calendar year HC data and imputed. This person-level file is created by AHRQ from a series of event-level files delivered by Westat, the Use and Insurance PUF for the year, and a set of person-level income and asset variables constructed by AHRQ from the CAPI source data.

During 2007, Westat prepared and delivered two of these three files:

- Full-Year Use and Insurance PUF, 2005 (Panel 9, Year 2; Panel 10, Year 1) 05/21/07
- Point-in-Time PUF, 2006 (Panel 10 Round 3; Panel 11 Round 1) 07/16/07

For the third major file, Westat delivered component event PUFs on a flow basis, which were used by AHRQ to prepare the full year Use and Expenditure PUF. Westat also delivered PUFs containing information on employment (JOBS PUF), health conditions as reported by household respondents (Conditions PUF), private health insurance (Person Round Plan PUF), and an

Appendix PUF that includes records showing the links between the Conditions PUF and the Event PUFs (CLNK PUF) and the Prescribed Medicines PUF and the Event PUFs (RXLK PUF). During 2007, these files were delivered to AHRQ on the dates shown below:

- Full-Year JOBS PUF, 2005 (Panel 9, Year 2; Panel 10, Year 1) 05/11/07
- Full-Year Use and Expenditure PUF, 2005 (final event PUF)
(Panel 9, Year 2; Panel 10, Year 1) 10/12/07
- Full-Year Person Round Plan PUF, 2005 (Panel 9, Year 2; Panel 10, Year 1) 10/19/07
- Full-Year Conditions PUF, 2005 (Panel 9, Year 2; Panel 10, Year 1) 11/13/07
- Full Year Appendix PUF, 2005 (Panel 9, Year 2; Panel 10, Year 1) 11/13/07

The project also delivered a series of files with person- and family-level weights, a number of files with person-level insurance and health status indicators that are not released in a PUF, a file of household-reported employers and insurers to be used for the MEPS Insurance Component, and a file of the geocodes associated with household addresses for calendar year 2005. Other ad hoc file deliveries were made as needed to support the analytic editing and imputation tasks. Files containing income information from the HC and prescribed medicine information from both the household and pharmacy surveys were delivered for editing and imputation by AHRQ. Medical Provider Component (MPC) data, which are used in constructing the public use expenditure files but are not separately released for public use, were delivered for use in AHRQ's Data Center. Other interim files produced in the course of Westat's data delivery work were also delivered to AHRQ for use in analytic tasks or for quality control purposes. Table 7-1 is a comprehensive listing of the files delivered during 2007.

Throughout the year, data processing activities proceeded simultaneously along several different delivery paths, with activity focused separately on each of the current panels for the Point-in-Time and Full-Year Files. The concurrent nature of the data processing activities is illustrated in Figure 7-1, which summarizes the processing tasks that were active during the August-October 2007 time period. During this period, different teams were working simultaneously on the 2005 Full Year Use and Expenditure PUF, the 2006 Full Year Use and Insurance PUF, the 2005 Event PUFs, and the 2007 Point in Time PUF, as well as the corresponding 2006 JOBS, 2005 Person Round Plan, 2005 and 2006 Conditions, and 2005 Appendix PUFs. Because of the interrelation of the delivery steps to one another and to the ongoing data collection, changes in the schedule for any one task can affect the data delivery process in multiple ways. Figure 7-2 shows the main steps in preparing the Point-in-Time File. Figure 7-3 shows the process flow for the full-year files.

In data delivery work for calendar year 2007, Westat continued its efforts to accelerate delivery of the full-year data files. As in the data delivery work for calendar year 2006, Westat continued to move editing steps earlier in the process wherever possible and to manage processing tasks in waves to advance end dates.

Westat also continues to closely monitor and document any changes in source data for any potential use by AHRQ. This task, first performed by Westat in the 2002 calendar year, continues to involve extensive analysis and reporting of the differences in the data between years across all components of MEPS. In 2007, the analysis of the expected data differences between years was intensified due to the extensive design changes introduced in Panel 12. In particular, the conditions-related design changes were extensively reviewed to determine how they will affect the 2007 Conditions PUF and to determine the best way to ensure data continuity and quality.

Accommodating new tasks in an already intricate and escalating schedule has required increasing effort over time. Over the years, the project has institutionalized the practice of developing and updating comprehensive data delivery schedules that integrate key dates for the data collection; data capture, coding, editing, and imputation; weights construction; and documentation production tasks. These schedules, which are produced by a scheduling system developed for this purpose, provide a framework for coordinating ongoing activities and for assessing the potential impact of proposed changes. During 2007, Westat further increased the quality control checks applied throughout the stages of processing. With each iteration of the processing cycle, checks have been added and increasingly standardized across all data products, with prior years' data providing an expanding base for comparisons to detect anomalies or changing data patterns.

Table 7-1. Files deliveries during 2007

Date	Delivery	Group	Description
01/19/07	2005	WGTS	Delivery of Person-Level Base Weight and Family Membership Flag for FY2005
02/12/07	2005	UEPD	2005 Household Prescribed Medicine and Associated Files
02/20/07	2005	EMPL	Delivery of the Full Year 2005 Pre-Top-Coded Hourly Wage Variables and Person-Level, Uncondensed Industry and Occupation Codes
02/20/07	2005	GNRL	FY 2005 (Panel 9 and Panel 10) Delivery Database Snapshots JOBS files with industry and occupation codes COND files with condition codes and CCS codes
03/07/07	2000, 2001	HLTH	Delivery of the variables SQPQELIG from 2000 and SAQELIG from 2001
03/09/07	2005	ADMN	2005 FAMID Variables and CPS Family Identifier
03/09/07	2005	INCO	2005 Income File
03/09/07	2005	WGTS	Use PUF Person-Level Weight and Single Panel Person-Level Weight for FY2005
03/15/07	2005	HINS	Delivery of the 2005 HINS Month-by-Month, TRICARE plan, Private and Medicaid HMO/Gatekeeper, PMEDIN/DENTIN Variables
03/15/07	2005	HINS	Delivery of the 2005 HINS Building Block Variables and COVERM Tables for Panel 9 Rounds 3 - 5 and Panel 10 Rounds 1 - 3
03/15/07	2005	HINS	Delivery of the FY 2005 HINS Medicare Managed Care Variables for the Data Center
03/30/07	2005	UEPD	2005 PMED supplemental file - Health Variables
04/06/07	2005	UEPD	2005 MDDB File
04/06/07	2005	UEPD	2005 Pharmacy File
04/06/07	2005	WGTS	Delivery of the P9P10 Full Year 2005 End-of-Year MSA Variable based on the 1993 MSA Definition
04/06/07	2005	WGTS	Person-Level, SAQ, and DCS Weights for the Use PUF for FY 2005
04/09/07	2005	HINS	Delivery of the HINS Ever Insured in FY 2005 variables LASTAGE and INSCV805 to be added to the internal "MEPS Master Files"
04/12/07	2005	UEGN	2005 UEGNINS Variable for use in the Prescribed Medicines Imputation
04/23/07	2005	UEPD	Pharmacy 2005 Third Party Payer Analysis
04/23/07	2005	UEPD	2005 PRND Level Source of Payment File & 2005 Event Level Source of Payment File for Household Prescribed Medicine
04/23/07	2005	UEGN	2005 Final Imputation Files: DN, OM, and HHP
04/23/07	2005	WGTS	Variance Strata and PSU Variables for FY 2005
04/26/07	2006	WGTS	Delivery file providing a linkage between the person records sampled for MEPS Panel 11 and the person records in the NHIS weights file
04/27/07	2005	DEMO	MOPID and DAPID Variables for FY 2005
05/03/07	2005	HLTH	CHBMIX42 (Child BMI) Prior to Recoding for Children Ages 2 - 5 for the AHRQ Master Files for FY 2005
05/03/07	2005	HLTH	Adult and Child Height and Weight for the AHRQ MEPS Master Files for FY 2005 (includes final BMI specs)
05/03/07	2005	HLTH	BMI Building Block and Resulting Variables for FY 2005

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Table 7-1. Files deliveries during 2007 (continued)

Date	Delivery	Group	Description
05/04/07	2006	WGTS	Creation of the Delivery Files for the 2006 PIT P10R3/P11R1: PUF and Internal Files
05/11/07	2005	COND	2005 Preliminary Conditions File and Associated Documents for NCHS Review
05/11/07	2005	GNRL	2005 Jobs File Delivery for Web Release
05/14/07	2006	UEPD	2006 MDDB File
05/15/07	2006	HINS	2006 HINS Point in Time Delivery Preliminary Data File for Benchmarking
05/18/07	2005	UEGN	2005 MPC Raw Files
05/18/07	2006	GNRL	2006 Point in Time Crosswalk Data File (PERSID and DUPERSID)
05/18/07	2006	WGTS	Internal Use File used for the Weights Development for 2006 Point in Time
05/18/07	2006	WGTS	Internal Use File used for the weights development for 2006 Point-in-Time
05/18/07	2006	INCO	2006 NHIS Link File
05/21/07	2005	GNRL	Full Year 2005 Use Delivery for Web Release
05/31/07	2006	EMPL	Point in Time 2006 Pre-Top-Coded Hourly Wage Variables
06/01/07	2005	PRPL	Delivery of the FY 2005 OOPELIG2 Dataset for Approval
06/04/07	2005	UEGN	2005 Final Imputation Files for HHA (Version 1)
06/04/07	2005	CODE	2005 File of GEO Coded Addresses - for the MEPS Master Files
06/08/07	2005	UEGN	2005 Event Level Preliminary Expenditure Files for DV and OM
06/11/07	2005	COND	FY 2005 Preliminary CLNK File
06/22/07	2005	PRPL	Delivery of the FY 2005 PRPL Hotdeck Imputation Results for Approval
06/22/07	2005	GNRL	Addendum to the FY 2005 (Panel 9 & Panel 10) Delivery Database Snapshots Edited Segments since the last delivery of 2/20/07
06/22/07	2005	UEGN	Final Imputation File: MVN
06/29/07	2005	WGTS	Person-Level Poverty Adjusted Weight for FY 2005
07/06/07	2005	UEGN	2005 Final Imputation Files: MVE, ER, OP, HS, and SBD
07/13/07	2005	UEGN	Event Level Preliminary Expenditure File for HH
07/16/07	2006	GNRL	2006 Point in Time Delivery for Web Release
07/19/07	2005	WGTS	Individual Panel Raked Person Weights for P9P10FY05
07/27/07	2005	UEGN	2005 MPC SBD Raw File
07/27/07	2005	PRPL	FY 2005 OOPELIG3 Dataset, Benchmarking results, and POSTIMPFIN results for final approval of OOPPREM variables
08/02/07	2005	WGTS	Poverty-adjusted Family Level Weight, CPS like Family Level Weight, Poverty-adjusted DCS and SAQ Weights for FY 2005
08/13/07	2005	UEGN	Event Level Preliminary Expenditure Files for OB, ER, and OP
08/15/07	2005	GNRL	2005 Expenditure Event PUFs for the Non-MPC Event Types (OM, DV, and HH) and All Related Files for Web Release
08/27/07	2005	UEGN	2005 Event Level Preliminary Expenditure File for IP

Table 7-1. Files deliveries during 2007 (continued)

Date	Delivery	Group	Description
09/17/07	2005	GNRL	2005 Expenditure Event PUFs for the MPC Event Types (ER, OB, and OP) and All Related Files for Web Release
10/02/07	2005	PRPL	2005 PRPL SAS Dataset for Use by AHRQ and SSS
10/02/07	2005	UEPD	2005 PRND Level Third Party Payer File
10/12/07	2004	GNRL	Panel 9 Round 1 ROCA Segment
10/12/07	2005	GNRL	2005 Inpatient Hospital Stay Expenditure Event PUF for Web Release
10/19/07	2005	PRPL	FY 2005 Person Round Plan PUF and Related Files for Web Release
10/25/07	2005	PRPL	Replacement Files for the Delivery of the 2005 Person Round Plan (PRPL) PUF and related files for Web Release
11/09/07	2006	WGTS	ADMN/DEMO variables used for weights development for P10P11FY06
11/13/07	2006	HINS	HINS Panel 11 Rounds 1 – 3 At Any Time/At Interview Date/At 12-31 Variables
11/13/07	2005	GNRL	HC096: Delivery of the 2005 Conditions File and All Related Files for Web Release
11/13/07	2005	GNRL	HC-094I: Delivery of the Appendix to the 2005 Event Files and All Related Files for Web Release
12/10/07	2006	HINS	FY 2006 HINS Panel 10 Rounds 3 – 5 At Any Time/At Interview Date/At 12-31 Variables
12/10/07	2005	UEPD	Resubmission of 2005 PRND Level Source of Payment File & 2005 Event Level Source of payment File for Household Prescribed Medicine
12/11/07	2005	UEPD	Pharmacy 2005 Third Party Payer Analysis
12/13/07	2005	UEGN	MPC 2005 Sampling Data & Codebook
12/19/07	2005	GNRL	FY 2005 ROCA Segment
12/20/07	2005	UEGN	2005 MPC Raw MEPS Master Files
12/21/07	2005	UEGN	2005 Post-imputation Files for the MEPS Master Files – AHRQ
12/21/07	2005	UEGN	2005 Post-Edited, Pre-Imputed 'File 2' Files for the MEPS Master Files – AHRQ

Abbreviations used in table: ACCS, Access to Care Analytical Group; ADMN, Administrative Analytical Group; CCCODEX, Clinical Classification Code–Edited; CCS, Clinical Classification Software; CODE, analytic group containing codes such as ICD, CCS, and CPT; COND, Conditions Analytical Group; COVERM, Oracle table that holds health insurance building block variables; CPS, Current Population Survey; DAPID, person ID of the person’s dad; DCS, Diabetes Care Supplement; DN, dental; EMPL, Employment Analytical Group; ER, emergency room; FAMID, family ID; GNRL, General Analytical Group; GEO, geographic coding; HC, Household Component; HH, home health; HHA, home health agency; HHP, home health paid independent; HINS, Household Insurance Analytical Group; HIPS, Health Insurance Plans Survey; HS, inpatient stay; IC, Insurance Component; ICD9CODX, ICD-9-CM Codes for Conditions–Edited; INCO, Income Analytical Group; IP, inpatient; JOBS, Jobs File; MDDB, Aspen Systems’ Master Drug Data Base; MOPID, person ID of the person’s mother; MPC, Medical Provider Component; MV, medical visit; MVE, medical visit–MPC eligible; MVN, medical visit–non-MPC eligible; NH, nursing home; NHIS, National Health Interview Survey; OM, other medical events; OP, outpatient; PAQ, parent-administered questionnaire; PRPL, Person Round Plan File; PSU, primary sampling unit; SAQ, self-administered questionnaire; SBD, separately billing doctors; UCF, Unit Control File; UEGN, Use and Expenditure/General Analytical Group; UEPD, Use and Expenditure//Prescribed Medicines Analytical Group; WGTS, Weight Analytical Group.

Figure 7-1. August-October 2007 activities for data deliveries

	FY 2005 PRPL November 2007	FY 2005 Expenditure (COND & Appendix PUFs incl.) December 2007	FY 2006 Use (JOBS & PRPL PUFs incl.) May 2008	FY 2006 Expenditure (COND PUF incl.) November 2008	2007 Point in Time PUF July 2008
Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver results from POSTIMPFIN • Receive instructions for additional editing required for approval of OOPPREM variables • Receive final approval of OOPPREM variables • Complete, deliver, & receive comments for the draft delivery document for the PRPL PUF • Begin & complete delivery QC of the PRPL PUF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete construction & QC of the Expenditure PUFs for MPC event types (IP, OP, OB, & ER) • Complete, deliver, & receive comments for the draft delivery documents for MPC event types (IP, OP, OB, & ER) • Complete and deliver NCHS confidentiality forms for non-MPC event types (DN, OM, & HH) • Create, deliver, & receive approval for the Expenditure PUF codebooks for MPC event types except IP (OP, OB, & ER) • Deliver preliminary Expenditure files for MPC event types except (IP, OP, OB, & ER) • Complete and deliver NCHS confidentiality forms for MPC event types (IP, OP, OB, & ER) • Complete & deliver Expenditure PUF delivery documents & codebooks for NCHS review for MPC event types except IP (OP, OM, and ER) • Construct & QC the CLNK & RXLK PUFs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete database preparation for both panels • Begin database editing for ADMN & DEMO • Begin editing for EMPL • Deliver basic edit specifications for UEGN • Begin inter round & basic editing for HINS • Complete CADEing of DCS data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand off Industry & Occupation text strings for coding • Complete coding of HC Conditions • Hand off HC PMEDs for coding • Hand off HC SOP for coding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete database preparation for Panel 10 • Begin ADMN/DEMO and EMPL database editing • Begin inter round & basic editing of HINS

7-7

Figure 7-1. August-October 2007 activities for data deliveries (continued)

	FY 2005 PRPL November 2007	FY 2005 Expenditure (COND & Appendix PUFs incl.) December 2007	FY 2006 Use (JOBS & PRPL PUFs incl.) May 2008	FY 2006 Expenditure (COND PUF incl.) November 2008	2007 Point in Time PUF July 2008
Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete, deliver, & receive comments for the draft codebook for the PRPL PUF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create, deliver, & receive approval for the Expenditure PUF codebooks for IP MPC event type Construct & QC the final Condition PUF Receive PMED file (version 3) for use in creating the sample SAS for the Appendix to the Expenditure Event PUFs Create, deliver, & receive approval for the Expenditure PUF codebooks for IP MPC event type Complete & deliver Expenditure Event PUFs for the WEB for MPC event types except IP (OP, OM, and ER) Complete & deliver Expenditure PUF delivery documents & codebooks for NCHS review for IP MPC event type Complete, deliver, & receive comments for the draft delivery document of the Appendix to the Expenditure Event PUFs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete construction & QC of HIPS sample frame data & deliver Deliver memo describing the process for recoding "other specify" text strings from AC supplement and receive approval Complete editing for EMPL Complete editing & begin construction of ADMN & DEMO variables for weights Being editing of the JOBS Segment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive approval of UEGN basic edit specifications & begin programming Delivery basic edit specifications for COND, receive approval, and program Deliver the raw collected data Hand off first wave of MPC Conditions and Procedures data for coding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete editing & begin construction of ADMN/DEMO variables for weights Complete editing for EMPL Complete inter round & basic editing of HINS Deliver & receive approval of variable list of names, labels & order

Figure 7-1. August-October 2007 activities for data deliveries (continued)

	FY 2005 PRPL November 2007	FY 2005 Expenditure (COND & Appendix PUFs incl.) December 2007	FY 2006 Use (JOBS & PRPL PUFs incl.) May 2008	FY 2006 Expenditure (COND PUF incl.) November 2008	2007 Point in Time PUF July 2008
Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete, deliver, & receive comments for the final codebook and delivery document for the PRPL PUF Complete & deliver PRPL PUF delivery document & codebook for NCHS review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive 'Table 2' data from AHRQ for the CLNK & RXLK PUF delivery Complete, deliver, & receive comments for the final delivery document of the Appendix to the Expenditure Event PUFs Complete & deliver IP Expenditure Event PUF for the WEB Complete, deliver, & receive comments for the draft codebooks of the Appendix to the Expenditure Event PUFs Receive specifications for restricting the release of orphan and rare drug names on the PM Event Expenditure file Complete, deliver, & receive comments for the final codebooks of the Appendix to the Expenditure Event PUFs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete construction of ADMN / DEMO variables for weights Deliver and receive approval of variable names and labels for the ACCS "other specify" variables Complete editing JOBS segment Complete inter round & basic editing of HINS Begin construction of person-level base weight Begin construction of remaining ADMN/DEMO variables Deliver and receive approval of HINS EPCP QC crosstabs Hand off geographic information file plus RELRESP variable Run programs and deliver unweighted NUMEMP medians Begin basic edits for UEGN, SPLN, ACCS, HLTH, & DSDY data Begin construction of EMPL & HINS variables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete coding Industry and Occupation text strings Complete coding of HC PMEDS Hand off first wave of Pharmacy Survey Prescribed Medicines for coding Deliver specifications for HC pre-imputation PM event file Begin CPS editing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete, deliver, & receive approval for the EPCP level QC crosstabs Complete construction of ADMN/DEMO variables for weights Begin construction of HINS variables Deliver & receive approval of specifications for HINS, HLTH & EMPL Begin HLTH database editing

Abbreviations used in figure: ADMN, Administrative Analytical Group; CADE, computer-assisted data entry; CAPI, computer-assisted personal interviewing; CCCODEX, Clinical Classification Code–Edited; COND, Conditions Analytical Group; CPS, Current Population Survey; DAPID, person ID of the person's dad; DEMO, Demographic Analytical Group; EPCP, health insurance data at the establishment-person pair level; EMPL, Employment Analytical Group; ER, emergency room; HC, Household Component; HINS, Household Insurance Analytical Group; HIPS, Health Insurance Plans Survey; HLTH, Health Status Analytical Group; JOBS, Jobs File; MOPID, person ID of the person's mother; MPC, Medical Provider Component; NUMEMP, number of employees at the location of current main job; PRPL, Person Round Plan File; RELRESP, variable used for nonresponse adjustment, constructed using record of calls; SBD, separately billing doctors; SOP, source of payment; UEGN, Use and Expenditure Files—General.

Figure 7-2. Processing and methods flow of point-in-time files

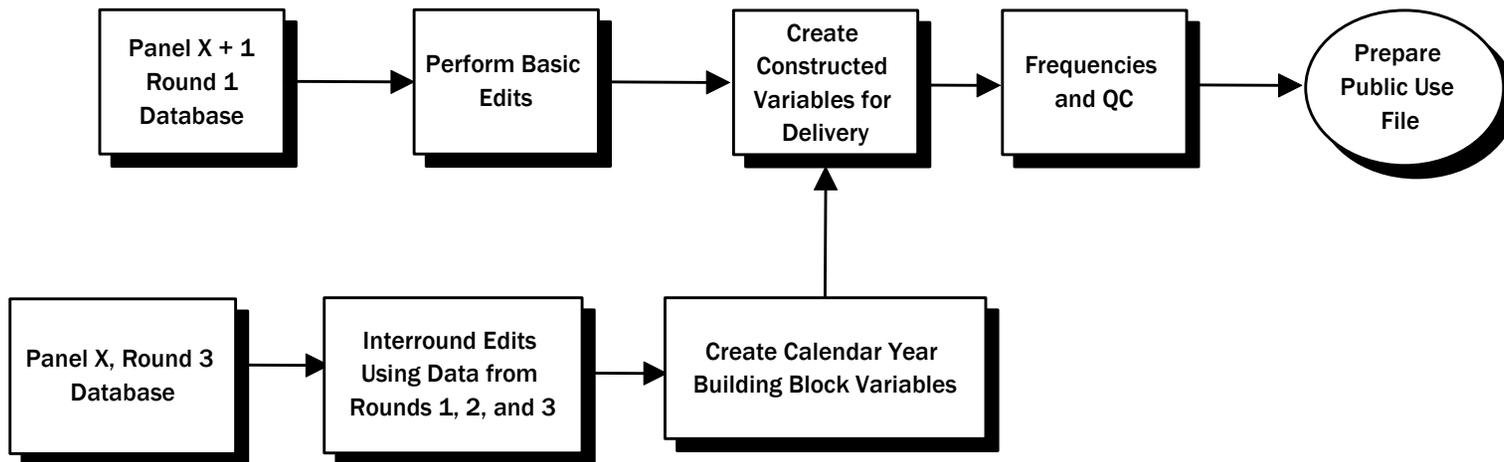
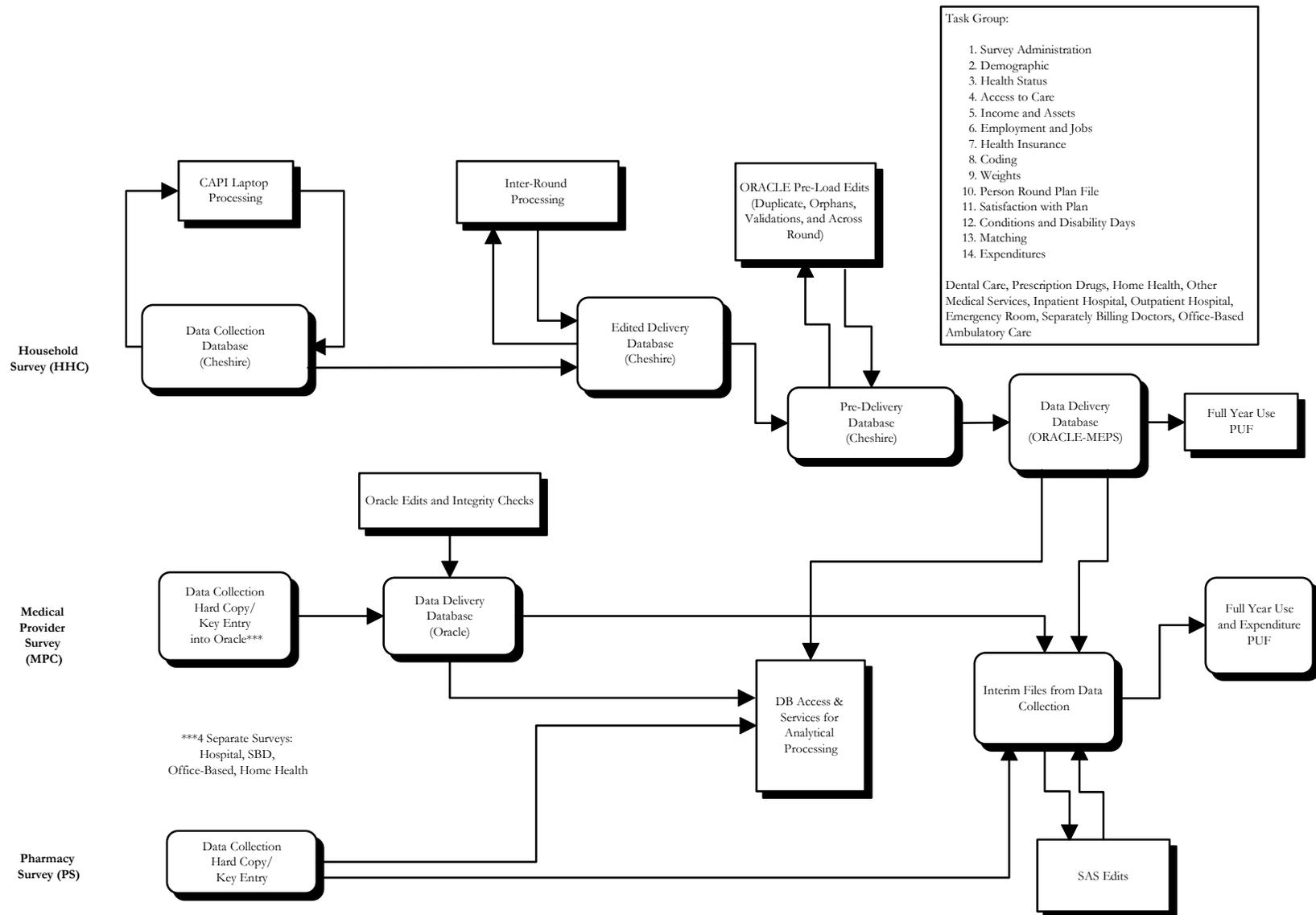


Figure 7-3. Methods flow for MEPS full-year use and expenditure data delivery



Appendix A

Comprehensive Tables – Household Survey

Table A-1. Data collection periods and starting RU-level sample sizes, all panels

January-June 1996	10,799	July-December 1996	9,485
Panel 1 Round 1	10,799	Panel 1 Round 2	9,485
January-June 1997	15,689	July-December 1997	14,657
Panel 1 Round 3	9,228	Panel 1 Round 4	9,019
Panel 2 Round 1	6,461	Panel 2 Round 2	5,638
January-June 1998	19,269	July-December 1998	9,871
Panel 1 Round 5	8,477	Panel 2 Round 4	5,290
Panel 2 Round 3	5,382	Panel 3 Round 2	4,581
Panel 3 Round 1	5,410		
January-June 1999	17,612	July-December 1999	10,161
Panel 2 Round 5	5,127	Panel 3 Round 4	4,243
Panel 3 Round 3	5,382	Panel 4 Round 2	5,918
Panel 4 Round 1	7,103		
January-June 2000	15,447	July-December 2000	10,222
Panel 3 Round 5	4,183	Panel 4 Round 4	5,567
Panel 4 Round 3	5,731	Panel 5 Round 2	4,655
Panel 5 Round 1	5,533		
January-June 2001	21,069	July-December 2001	13,777
Panel 4 Round 5	5,547	Panel 5 Round 4	4,426
Panel 5 Round 3	4,496	Panel 6 Round 2	9,351
Panel 6 Round 1	11,026		
January-June 2002	21,915	July-December 2002	15,968
Panel 5 Round 5	4,393	Panel 6 Round 4	8,977
Panel 6 Round 3	9,183	Panel 7 Round 2	6,991
Panel 7 Round 1	8,339		
January-June 2003	24,315	July-December 2003	13,814
Panel 6 Round 5	8,830	Panel 7, Round 4	6,655
Panel 7 Round 3	6,779	Panel 8, Round 2	7,159
Panel 8 Round 1	8,706		
January-June 2004	22,552	July-December 2004	14,068
Panel 7 Round 5	6,578	Panel 8, Round 4	6,878
Panel 8 Round 3	7,035	Panel 9, Round 2	7,190
Panel 9 Round 1	8,939		
January-June 2005	22,548	July-December 2005	13,991
Panel 8 Round 5	6,795	Panel 9, Round 4	6,843
Panel 9 Round 3	7,005	Panel 10, Round 2	7,148
Panel 10 Round 1	8,748		
January-June 2006	23,278	July-December 2006	14,280
Panel 9 Round 5	6,703	Panel 10 Round 4	6,708
Panel 10 Round 3	6,921	Panel 11 Round 2	7,572
Panel 11 Round 1	9,654		
January-June 2007	21,326	July-December 2007	12,906
Panel 10 Round 5	6,596	Panel 11 Round 4	7,005
Panel 11 Round 3	7,263	Panel 12 Round 2	5,901
Panel 12 Round 1	7,467		

Table A-2. MEPS household survey data collection results, all panels

Panel/round		Original sample	Split cases (movers)	Student cases	Out-of-scope cases	Net sample	Completes	Average interviewer hours/complete	Response rate (%)
Panel 1	Round 1	10,799	675	125	165	11,434	9,496	10.4	83.1
	Round 2	9,485	310	74	101	9,768	9,239	8.7	94.6
	Round 3	9,228	250	28	78	9,428	9,031	8.6	95.8
	Round 4	9,019	261	33	89	9,224	8,487	8.5	92.0
	Round 5	8,477	80	5	66	8,496	8,369	6.5	98.5
Panel 2	Round 1	6,461	431	71	151	6,812	5,660	12.9	83.1
	Round 2	5,638	204	27	54	5,815	5,395	9.1	92.8
	Round 3	5,382	166	15	52	5,511	5,296	8.5	96.1
	Round 4	5,290	105	27	65	5,357	5,129	8.3	95.7
	Round 5	5,127	38	2	56	5,111	5,049	6.7	98.8
Panel 3	Round 1	5,410	349	44	200	5,603	4,599	12.7	82.1
	Round 2	4,581	106	25	39	4,673	4,388	8.3	93.9
	Round 3	4,382	102	4	42	4,446	4,249	7.3	95.5
	Round 4	4,243	86	17	33	4,313	4,184	6.7	97.0
	Round 5	4,183	23	1	26	4,181	4,114	5.6	98.4

Table A-2. MEPS household survey data collection results, all panels (continued)

Panel/round		Original sample	Split cases (movers)	Student cases	Out-of-scope cases	Net sample	Completes	Average interviewer hours/complete	Response rate (%)
Panel 4	Round 1	7,103	371	64	134	7,404	5,948	10.9	80.3
	Round 2	5,918	197	47	40	6,122	5,737	7.2	93.7
	Round 3	5,731	145	10	39	5,847	5,574	6.9	95.3
	Round 4	5,567	133	35	39	5,696	5,540	6.8	97.3
	Round 5	5,547	52	4	47	5,556	5500	6.0	99.0
Panel 5	Round 1	5,533	258	62	103	5,750	4,670	11.1	81.2
	Round 2	4,655	119	27	27	4,774	4,510	7.7	94.5
	Round 3	4,496	108	17	24	4,597	4,437	7.2	96.5
	Round 4	4,426	117	20	41	4,522	4,396	7.0	97.2
	Round 5	4,393	47	12	32	4,420	4,357	5.5	98.6
Panel 6	Round 1	11,026	595	135	200	11,556	9,382	10.8	81.2
	Round 2	9,351	316	49	50	9,666	9,222	7.2	95.4
	Round 3	9,183	215	23	41	9,380	9,001	6.5	96.0
	Round 4	8,977	174	32	66	9,117	8,843	6.6	97.0
	Round 5	8,830	94	14	46	8,892	8,781	5.6	98.8

Table A-2. MEPS household survey data collection results, all panels (continued)

Panel/round		Original sample	Split cases (movers)	Student cases	Out-of-scope cases	Net sample	Completes	Average interviewer hours/complete	Response rate (%)
Panel 7	Round 1	8,339	417	76	122	8,710	7,008	10.0	80.5
	Round 2	6,991	190	40	24	7,197	6,802	7.2	94.5
	Round 3	6,779	169	21	32	6,937	6,673	6.5	96.2
	Round 4	6,655	133	17	34	6,771	6,593	7.0	97.4
	Round 5	6,578	79	11	39	6,629	6,529	5.7	98.5
Panel 8	Round 1	8,706	441	73	175	9,045	7,177	10.0	79.3
	Round 2	7,159	218	52	36	7,393	7,049	7.2	95.4
	Round 3	7,035	150	13	33	7,165	6,892	6.5	96.2
	Round 4	6,878	149	27	53	7,001	6,799	7.3	97.1
	Round 5	6,795	71	8	41	6,833	6,726	6.0	98.4
Panel 9	Round 1	8,939	417	73	179	9,250	7,205	10.5	77.9
	Round 2	7,190	237	40	40	7,427	7,027	7.7	94.6
	Round 3	7,005	189	24	31	7,187	6,861	7.1	95.5
	Round 4	6,843	142	23	44	6,964	6,716	7.4	96.5
	Round 5	6,703	60	8	43	6,728	6,627	6.1	98.5

Table A-2. MEPS household survey data collection results, all panels (continued)

Panel/round		Original sample	Split cases (movers)	Student cases	Out-of-scope cases	Net sample	Completes	Average interviewer hours/complete	Response rate (%)
Panel 10	Round 1	8,748	430	77	169	9,086	7,175	11.0	79.0
	Round 2	7,148	219	36	22	7,381	6,940	7.8	94.0
	Round 3	6,921	156	10	31	7,056	6,727	6.8	95.3
	Round 4	6,708	155	13	34	6,842	6,590	7.3	96.3
	Round 5	6,596	55	9	38	6,622	6,461	6.2	97.6
Panel 11	Round 1	9,654	399	81	162	9,972	7,585	11.5	76.1
	Round 2	7,572	244	42	24	7,834	7,276	7.8	92.9
	Round 3	7,263	170	15	25	7,423	7,007	6.9	94.4
	Round 4	7,005	139	14	36	7,122	6,898	7.2	96.9
Panel 12	Round 1	7,467	331	86	172	7,712	5,901	14.2	76.5
	Round 2	5,901	157	27	27	6,058	5,584	9.1	92.2

Table A-3. Signing rates for medical provider authorization forms

Panel/round		Authorization forms requested	Authorization forms signed	Signing rate (%)
Panel 1	Round 1	3,562	2,624	73.7
	Round 2	19,874	14,145	71.2
	Round 3	17,722	12,062	68.1
	Round 4	17,133	10,542	61.5
	Round 5	12,544	6,763	53.9
Panel 2	Round 1	2,735	1,788	65.4
	Round 2	13,461	9,433	70.1
	Round 3	11,901	7,537	63.3
	Round 4	11,164	6,485	58.1
	Round 5	8,104	4,244	52.4
Panel 3	Round 1	2,078	1,349	64.9
	Round 2	10,335	6,463	62.5
	Round 3	8,716	4,797	55.0
	Round 4	8,761	4,246	48.5
	Round 5	6,913	2,911	42.1
Panel 4	Round 1	2,400	1,607	67.0
	Round 2	12,711	8,434	66.4
	Round 3	11,078	6,642	60.0
	Round 4	11,047	6,888	62.4
	Round 5	8,684	5,096	58.7
Panel 5	Round 1	1,243	834	67.1
	Round 2	14,008	9,618	68.7
	Round 3	12,869	8,301	64.5
	Round 4	13,464	9,170	68.1
	Round 5	10,888	7,025	64.5
Panel 6	Round 1	2,783	2,012	72.3
	Round 2	29,861	22,872	76.6
	Round 3	26,068	18,219	69.9
	Round 4	27,146	20,082	74.0
	Round 5	21,022	14,581	69.4

Table A-3. Signing rates for medical provider authorization forms (continued)

Panel/round		Authorization forms requested	Authorization forms signed	Signing rate (%)
Panel 7	Round 1	2,298	1,723	75.0
	Round 2	22,302	17,557	78.7
	Round 3	19,312	13,896	72.0
	Round 4	16,934	13,725	81.1
	Round 5	14,577	11,099	76.1
Panel 8	Round 1	2,287	1,773	77.5
	Round 2	22,302	17,802	79.0
	Round 3	19,530	14,064	72.0
	Round 4	19,718	14,599	74.0
	Round 5	15,856	11,106	70.0
Panel 9	Round 1	2,253	1,681	74.6
	Round 2	22,668	17,522	77.3
	Round 3	19,601	13,672	69.8
	Round 4	20,147	14,527	72.1
	Round 5	15,963	10,720	67.2
Panel 10	Round 1	2,068	1,443	69.8
	Round 2	22,582	17,090	75.7
	Round 3	18,967	13,396	70.6
	Round 4	19,087	13,296	69.7
	Round 5	15,787	10,476	66.4
Panel 11	Round 1	2,154	1,498	69.5
	Round 2	23,957	17,742	74.1
	Round 3	20,756	13,400	64.6
	Round 4	21,260	14,808	69.7
Panel 12	Round 1	1,695	1,066	62.9
	Round 2	17,787	12,524	70.4

Table A-4. Signing rates for pharmacy authorization forms

Panel/round		Permission forms requested	Permission forms signed	Signing rate (%)
Panel 1	Round 3	19,913	14,468	72.7
	Round 5	8,685	6,002	69.1
Panel 2	Round 3	12,241	8,694	71.0
	Round 5	8,640	6,297	72.9
Panel 3	Round 3	9,016	5,929	65.8
	Round 5	7,569	5,200	68.7
Panel 4	Round 3	11,856	8,280	69.8
	Round 5	10,688	8,318	77.8
Panel 5	Round 3	9,248	6,852	74.1
	Round 5	8,955	7,174	80.1
Panel 6	Round 3	19,305	15,313	79.3
	Round 5	17,981	14,864	82.7
Panel 7	Round 3	14,456	11,611	80.3
	Round 5	13,428	11,210	83.5
Panel 8	Round 3	14,391	11,533	80.1
	Round 5	13,422	11,049	82.3
Panel 9	Round 3	14,334	11,189	78.1
	Round 5	13,416	10,893	81.2
Panel 10	Round 3	13,928	10,706	76.9
	Round 5	12,869	10,260	79.7
Panel 11	Round 3	14,937	11,328	75.8

Table A-5. Results of self-administered questionnaire (SAQ) collection

Panel/round		SAQs requested	SAQs completed	SAQs refused	Other nonresponse	Response rate (%)
Panel 1	Round 2	16,577	9,910	-	-	59.8
	Round 3	6,032	1,469	840	3,723	24.3
	Combined, 1996	16,577	11,379	-	-	68.6
Panel 4*	Round 4	13,936	12,265	288	1,367	87.9
	Round 5	1,683	947	314	422	56.3
	Combined, 2000	13,936	13,212	-	-	94.8
Panel 5*	Round 2	11,239	9,833	191	1,213	86.9
	Round 3	1,314	717	180	417	54.6
	Combined, 2000	11,239	10,550	-	-	93.9
	Round 4	7,812	6,790	198	824	86.9
	Round 5	1,022	483	182	357	47.3
	Combined, 2001	7,812	7,273	380	1,181	93.1
Panel 6	Round 2	16,577	14,233	412	1,932	85.9
	Round 3	2,143	1,213	230	700	56.6
	Combined, 2001	16,577	15,446	642	2,632	93.2
	Round 4	15,687	13,898	362	1,427	88.6
	Round 5	1,852	967	377	508	52.2
	Combined, 2002	15,687	14,865	739	1,935	94.8
Panel 7	Round 2	12,093	10,478	196	1,419	86.6
	Round 3	1,559	894	206	459	57.3
	Combined, 2002	12,093	11,372	402	1,878	94.0
	Round 4	11,703	10,125	285	1,292	86.5
	Round 5	1,493	786	273	434	52.7
	Combined, 2003	11,703	10,911	558	1,726	93.2
Panel 8	Round 2	12,533	10,765	203	1,565	85.9
	Round 3	1,568	846	234	488	54.0
	Combined, 2003	12,533	11,611	437	2,053	92.6
	Round 4	11,996	10,534	357	1,105	87.8
	Round 5	1,400	675	344	381	48.2
	Combined, 2004	11,996	11,209	701	1,486	93.4

*Totals represent combined collection of the SAQ and the parent-administered questionnaire (PAQ).

Table A-5. Results of self-administered questionnaire (SAQ) collection (continued)

Panel/round		SAQs requested	SAQs completed	SAQs refused	Other nonresponse	Response rate (%)
Panel 9	Round 2	12,541	10,631	381	1,529	84.8
	Round 3	1,670	886	287	496	53.1
	Combined, 2004	12,541	11,517	668	2,025	91.9
	Round 4	11,913	10,357	379	1,177	86.9
	Round 5	1,478	751	324	403	50.8
	Combined, 2005	11,913	11,108	703	1,580	93.2
Panel 10	Round 2	12,360	10,503	391	1,466	85.0
	Round 3	1,626	787	280	559	48.4
	Combined, 2005	12,360	11,290	671	2025	91.3
	Round 4	11,726	10,081	415	1,230	86.0
	Round 5	1,516	696	417	403	45.9
	Combined, 2006	11,726	10,777	832	1,633	91.9
Panel 11	Round 2	13,146	10,924	452	1,770	83.1
	Round 3	1,908	948	349	611	49.7
	Combined, 2006	13,146	11,872	801	2,381	90.3
	Round 4	12,479	10,771	622	1086	86.3
Panel 12	Round 2	10,061	8,419	502	1,140	83.7

Table A-6. Results of Diabetes Care Supplement (DCS) collection*

Panel/round		DCSs requested	DCSs completed	Response rate (%)
Panel 4	Round 5	696	631	90.7
	Round 3	550	508	92.4
Panel 5	Round 5	570	500	87.7
	Round 3	1,166	1,000	85.8
Panel 6	Round 5	1,202	1,166	97.0
	Round 3	870	848	97.5
Panel 7	Round 5	869	820	94.4
	Round 3	971	885	91.1
Panel 8	Round 5	977	894	91.5
	Round 3	1,003	909	90.6
Panel 9	Round 5	904	806	89.2
	Round 3	1,060	939	88.6
Panel 10	Round 5	1,078	965	89.5
	Round 3	1,188	1,030	86.7
Panel 11	Round 3			

* Tables represent combined DCS/proxy DCS collection.

Table A-7. Calls to respondent information line

Reason for call	Spring 2000 (Panel 5 Round 1, Panel 4 Round 3, Panel 3 Round 5)				Fall 2000 (Panel 5 Round 2, Panel 4 Round 4)	
	Round 1		Rounds 3 and 5		Rounds 2 and 4	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Address change	23	4.0	13	8.3	8	5.7
Appointment	37	6.5	26	16.7	28	19.9
Request callback	146	25.7	58	37.2	69	48.9
Refusal	183	32.2	20	12.8	12	8.5
Willing to participate	10	1.8	2	1.3	0	0.0
Other	157	27.6	35	22.4	8	5.7
Report a respondent deceased	5	0.9	1	0.6	0	0.0
Request a Spanish-speaking interview	8	1.4	1	0.6	0	0.0
Request SAQ help	0	0.0	0	0.0	16	11.3
Total	569		156		141	

Reason for call	Spring 2001 (Panel 6 Round 1, Panel 5 Round 3, Panel 4 Round 5)				Fall 2001 (Panel 6 Round 2, Panel 5 Round 4)	
	Round 1		Rounds 3 and 5		Rounds 2 and 4	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Address/telephone change	27	3.7	17	12.7	56	15.7
Appointment	119	16.2	56	41.8	134	37.5
Request callback	259	35.3	36	26.9	92	25.8
No message	8	1.1	3	2.2	0	0.0
Other	29	4.0	7	5.2	31	8.7
Request SAQ help	0	0.0	2	1.5	10	2.8
Special needs	5	0.7	3	2.2	0	0.0
Refusal	278	37.9	10	7.5	25	7.0
Willing to participate	8	1.1	0	0.0	9	2.5
Total	733		134		357	

Table A-7. Calls to respondent information line (continued)

Reason for call	Spring 2002 (Panel 7 Round 1, Panel 6 Round 3, Panel 5 Round 5)				Fall 2002 (Panel 7 Round 2, Panel 6 Round 4)	
	Round 1		Rounds 3 and 5		Rounds 2 and 4	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Address/telephone change	28	4.5	29	13.9	66	16.7
Appointment	77	12.5	71	34.1	147	37.1
Request callback	210	34.0	69	33.2	99	25.0
No message	6	1.0	3	1.4	5	1.3
Other	41	6.6	17	8.2	10	2.5
Request SAQ help	0	0.0	0	0.0	30	7.6
Special needs	1	0.2	0	0.0	3	0.8
Refusal	232	37.6	14	6.7	29	7.3
Willing to participate	22	3.6	5	2.4	7	1.8
Total	617		208		396	

Reason for call	Spring 2003 (Panel 8 Round 1, Panel 7 Round 3, Panel 6 Round 5)				Fall 2003 (Panel 8 Round 2, Panel 7 Round 4)	
	Round 1		Rounds 3 and 5		Rounds 2 and 4	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Address/Telephone change	20	4.2	33	13.7	42	17.9
Appointment	83	17.5	87	36.1	79	33.8
Request callback	165	34.9	100	41.5	97	41.5
No message	16	3.4	7	2.9	6	2.6
Other	9	1.9	8	3.3	3	1.3
Request SAQ help	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4
Special needs	5	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Refusal	158	33.4	6	2.5	6	2.6
Willing to participate	17	3.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	473		241		234	

Table A-7. Calls to respondent information line (continued)

Reason for call	Spring 2004 (Panel 9 Round 1, Panel 8 Round 3, Panel 7 Round 5)				Fall 2004 (Panel 9 Round 2, Panel 8 Round 4)	
	Round 1		Rounds 3 and 5		Rounds 2 and 4	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Address/telephone change	8	1.6	26	13.2	42	10.9
Appointment	67	13.3	76	38.6	153	39.7
Request callback	158	31.5	77	39.1	139	36.1
No message	9	1.8	5	2.5	16	4.2
Other	8	1.6	5	2.5	5	1.3
Proxy needed	5	1.0	2	1.0	0	0.0
Request SAQ help	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.5
Special needs	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Refusal	228	45.4	6	3.0	27	7.0
Willing to participate	19	3.8	0	0.0	1	0.3
Total	502		197		385	

Reason for call	Spring 2005 (Panel 10 Round 1, Panel 9 Round 3, Panel 8 Round 5)				Fall 2005 (Panel 10 Round 2, Panel 9 Round 4)	
	Round 1		Rounds 3 and 5		Rounds 2 and 4	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Address/telephone change	16	3.3	23	8.7	27	6.8
Appointment	77	15.7	117	44.3	177	44.4
Request callback	154	31.4	88	33.3	126	31.6
No message	14	2.9	11	4.2	28	7.0
Other	13	2.7	1	0.4	8	2.0
Proxy needed	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Request SAQ help	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3
Special needs	1	0.2	1	0.4	0	0.0
Refusal	195	39.8	20	7.6	30	7.5
Willing to participate	20	4.1	3	1.1	2	0.5
Total	490		264		399	

Table A-7. Calls to respondent information line (continued)

Reason for call	Spring 2006 (Panel 11 Round 1, Panel 10 Round 3, Panel 9 Round 5)				Fall 2006 (Panel 11 Round 2, Panel 10 Round 4)	
	Round 1		Rounds 3 and 5		Rounds 2 and 4	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Address/telephone change	7	1.3	24	7.5	11	4.1
Appointment	61	11.3	124	39.0	103	38.1
Request callback	146	27.1	96	30.2	101	37.4
No message	72	13.4	46	14.5	21	7.8
Other	16	3.0	12	3.8	8	3.0
Proxy needed	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Request SAQ help	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Special needs	4	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
Refusal	216	40.1	15	4.7	26	9.6
Willing to participate	17	3.2	1	0.3	0	0.0
Total	539		318		270	

Reason for call	Spring 2007 (Panel 12 Round 1, Panel 11 Round 3, Panel 10 Round 5)				Fall 2007 (Panel 12 Round 2, Panel 11 Round 4)	
	Round 1		Rounds 3 and 5		Rounds 2 and 4	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Address/telephone change	8	2.1	21	7.3	23	7.6
Appointment	56	14.6	129	44.8	129	42.6
Request callback	72	18.8	75	26.0	88	29.0
No message	56	14.6	37	12.8	33	10.9
Other	20	5.2	15	5.2	6	2.0
Proxy needed	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Request SAQ help	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Special needs	5	1.3	0	0.0	1	0.3
Refusal	160	41.8	10	3.5	21	6.9
Willing to participate	6	1.6	1	0.3	2	0.7
Total	383		288		303	