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SLID HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY VARIABLES

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SLID data are collected entirely at the person level. However, the construction of derived variables at the household and family levels is important to analysts. The longitudinal nature of SLID data poses certain difficulties. The purpose of this document is to document the work done to date in this area. It provides a general strategy and direction for the first SLID data products. User consultation and feedback will be necessary to identify modifications and enhancements to this strategy.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background information on SLID	1
1.2 Family and Household Variables	1
1.3 Identifying Family Relationships	2
2. THE LONGITUDINAL APPROACH TO FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD CONSTRUCTION	5
2.1 Problems with constructing longitudinal households/families	5
2.2 SLID's proposed approach to household construction	7
3. APPROACHES USED BY OTHER SURVEYS	8
4. SLID'S PROPOSED FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD VARIABLES	10
REFERENCES	14
APPENDIX 1. LISTING OF FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD VARIABLES IN STC SURVEYS	15
APPENDIX 2. LISTING OF FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD VARIABLES FROM PANEL SURVEYS IN THE UNITED STATES	39

1. INTRODUCTION

This report will examine a number of issues relating to the construction of SLID's derived family and household variables. An important part of this report is an examination of how other surveys at Statistics Canada, as well as the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), and the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) construct household and family variables.

1.1 Background information on SLID

SLID is a major panel survey of households, which will follow individuals and families for six years, collecting information on their labour market experiences, income and family circumstances. SLID will support research aimed at advancing our understanding of labour market behaviour and economic well-being. As a longitudinal survey, SLID will record important events in a person's life, such as **family formation and dissolution**, migration, and job loss. The data will improve our understanding of the **links** between demographic events, labour market events and changes in income. SLID is intended to meet a broad range of research needs, but the survey's fundamental focus is on the determinants of changes in economic well-being.

1.2 Family and Household Variables

SLID is in the process of determining family and household composition variables. Traditionally, Statistics Canada (STC) has constructed family variables for cross-sectional studies. The construction of family/household composition variables is more straightforward in a cross-sectional survey than in a longitudinal survey. Rules about shared living arrangements and blood relationships can be applied to individuals in the survey population. In the longitudinal situation this becomes more difficult due to household and family composition changes over the period of

study (the result of births, deaths, divorces, marriages, and children leaving the parental home to start their own households/families). For example, a household constructed during the first year of the survey may have split into three different households by the third year. This issue will be discussed in more detail in the section on longitudinal households.

1.3 Identifying Family Relationships

Most surveys which contain household and family variables construct family relationships in relation to a household reference person or "head". For example, a family composed of a husband, wife and two children might use either the husband or the wife as the reference person. We would end up with relationships of head, spouse, and children. By collecting family relationships based on a reference person we lose detailed information about family relationships.

SLID is planning to collect an expanded set of demographic data by asking, each year, the relationship of every household member to every other household member, rather than by the traditional method of relating everyone to one reference person. The detailed relationship data will be available to data users. However, we will also be providing the data user with frequently used family groupings.

SLID will be collecting data on all persons in the selected households and following them for six years. The objective of this relationship approach is to collect data that will reflect the changes that have taken place in family relationships in recent years, for example, to identify blended families. As well, in a longitudinal survey, this approach avoids the need to re-ask relationships if the reference person leaves the household.

This new method of establishing household/family relationships will be facilitated by the use of computer-assisted interviewing (CAI).

After age, sex and marital status have been completed for all household members, relationships are collected. The screen displays the question “*What is the relationship of . . . (member's name) to . . . (member's name)?*” and the response categories. The interviewer selects the appropriate category, but does not read them unless a probe is required. Figure 1 portrays an example of the screen that would be displayed for a household consisting of George and Mary Roe, Kelly (his daughter by his first wife) and Martha Winter, the mother of Mary.

Figure 1

The screenshot displays a question: "WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP. . . ? OF TO". Below the question are three boxes. The first box, labeled "OF", contains a list of names: George Roe, Mary Roe, Kelly Roe, and Martha Winter. The second box, labeled "TO", contains a list of names: Mary Roe, Kelly Roe, and Martha Winter. The third box, labeled "TO", contains a list of relationship categories: Husband/Wife, Common-law, Father/Mother, Child, Sister/Brother, Grandparent, Grandchild, In-law, Other related, Unrelated, and Same-sex partner.

OF	TO	TO
► George Roe Mary Roe Kelly Roe Martha Winter	Mary Roe Kelly Roe Martha Winter	Husband/Wife Common-law Father/Mother Child Sister/Brother Grandparent Grandchild In-law Other related Unrelated Same-sex partner

Each time a relationship of father/mother is selected, an additional window displays a secondary question asking whether the person is the birth or step-parent. Following our example, the question would ask: *“Is George Roe the birth or step parent of Kelly Roe?”* The response options the interviewer can select are birth, step, adoptive or foster child. The question was deliberately kept short to encourage a probe for stepchildren but the four responses are provided to record “adopted” or “foster” if volunteered by the respondent.

When relationships have been completed for all household members an optional review screen is available, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Example of review screen

First name	Last Name	Is the of	First Name	Last name
George	Roe	Husband Birth Father In-law	Mary Kelly Martha	Roe Roe Winter
Mary	Roe	Wife Step mother Birth child	George Kelly Martha	Roe Roe Winter
Kelly	Roe	Birth child Stepchild Grandchild	George Mary Martha	Roe Roe Winter
Martha	Winter	In-law Birth mother Grandparent	George Mary Kelly	Roe Roe Roe

2. THE LONGITUDINAL APPROACH TO FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD CONSTRUCTION

2.1 Problems with constructing longitudinal households/families

In cross-sectional surveys, a series of rules can be applied to identify family members within households. For example, within a household, we can distinguish a married couple and their children from relatives of the married couple (e.g., parents, brother/sister), and from household members who do not share any blood relationship to the married couple and their children. Different household types can be constructed for the survey population, and then correlated with a characteristic of interest, such as family income for a specific year. Since these are **static** households (identified at one point in time), it is assumed implicitly that household composition was intact for the year in which the income was referenced. In many cases, this may not be true, as the household may have been formed at different intervals within the reference period. With the cross-sectional design we can repeat the same procedure on a different sample of the same population the following year and assess changes in household income for particular household types. For example, we may be interested in tracking the household income of female lone-parent households. However, we cannot determine changes for particular households. This situation does not apply to SLID since we are re-surveying the same individuals every year for six years.

Let us take the case of a household composed of a married couple with two children, as identified in the initial panel sample. This situation is analogous to the cross-sectional situation, until we re-survey this family at the next wave. The next year we find that the husband and wife have separated. There are now two households: 1) the mother and two children, and 2) the husband. How do we relate each of these to the original household when analyzing the survey data? The

following year one child moves out of the mother's household to form a household of her own — there are now three households.

We cannot deal with these composition changes by employing rules for the construction of static households. Longitudinal or dynamic definitions of household composition attempt to deal with this situation. The husband and wife living in two separate dwellings could be treated as a case of household dissolution, and hence forming two new households. On the other hand, it could be maintained that one of the households is still the original household. As McMillian and Herriot (1985: 352) note, there is no accepted method for determining whether composition changes result in the formation of a new household and the dissolution of an old household. They point out that a "dynamic" definition of households must first develop a set of continuity rules which identify cases of household dissolution, household formation, and cases where two households at two points in time are identified as the same household. Duncan and Hill (1985: 362) note that all definitions of longitudinal households are centred around efforts to divide households into two types: (1) households that are the same across time (longitudinal households) and (2) households that are different across time (non-longitudinal households). It is in deciding what is "the same" where longitudinal household definitions differ. McMillian and Herriot (1985: 354) list a number of rules for ascribing "sameness" to households over time: (1) the household that contains the majority of the members of the original household; (2) households that contain the head or reference person from the original household; (3) households that contain the principal person (the mother in a married couple household).

Duncan and Hill (1985: 362) conclude that "efforts to define a longitudinal household are bound to be futile." They argue that there is no satisfactory way to define this concept, and that attempting to do so can obscure the nature of

household composition changes. Longitudinal households and non-longitudinal households contain a wide range of disparate households. Most longitudinal definitions of households would classify the separated wife and her children, in the above example, as the "same" as the original husband-wife household. Separation can have a significant effect on the economic well-being of the mother and children. Hence, longitudinal definitions that combine intact and separated/divorcing families may be combining individuals in vastly different socio-economic situations.

Duncan and Hill suggest an alternative "attributional" or individual approach. In this case the individual rather than the household is used as the unit of analysis, even if it is the characteristics of the household (e.g., household income) that are of primary interest. In other words, one can use the household as the unit of measurement, but use the individual as the unit of analysis, **attributing to each individual the characteristic of the household in which he or she lives.**

Duncan and Hill contend that this approach involves fewer conceptual problems and better facilitates the analysis of the role of household composition change on people's behaviour and outcomes. Changes in the composition of households in which individuals reside are treated as an attribute of individuals and become a straightforward explanatory variable that can be used along with other demographic characteristics of individuals for analysis.

2.2 SLID's proposed approach to household construction

SLID will **not** construct longitudinal households. By collecting information on all changes in family composition and the date when each change occurs, it will be possible to attach individuals to households at any time during the reference period. Variables at the household or family level will be calculated using the attributional approach. This approach is consistent with SLID's sampling

methodology. All persons in the originally selected households, regardless of age, are deemed to be in the sample, and are followed if they move out of the original household. Each year the sample will change: persons who "move in" with a person who is part of the SLID longitudinal sample will be included, since all cohabitants are also included in the survey. Cohabitants are not considered part of the SLID longitudinal sample, and are interviewed only as long as they reside with a member of the SLID longitudinal sample.

3. APPROACHES USED BY OTHER SURVEYS

SLID has obtained information from the following STC surveys: Labour Force Survey (LFS), Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF), Survey of Work Arrangements (SWA), Labour Market Activity Survey (LMAS), Census of Population, and General Social Survey (GSS). We also obtained information about two major American panel surveys: the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), and the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP).

- All surveys, including SIPP and PSID, use family and household groupings, and make distinctions between family members and unrelated household members. All of the surveys, including the Census, restrict family membership to family members occupying a common dwelling, and do not attempt to measure relationships between family members not living together.
- Economic family status (ties based on marriage, blood, or adoption) is the most commonly used method for establishing family composition within households. Census family status¹, a more restrictive subset of economic

¹ See Appendix 1 for a definition of census families.

family status, is used less frequently. The LFS, does not use census family status, but plans to add it to its family status variables by 1997.

- All the surveys use the notion of "head" or reference person in order to construct family relationships, which are then used to construct family types. The GSS does not use the reference person concept since they only interview one person per household. Therefore their question seeks to identify the respondent's "place" in the household.
- For families with children, all the surveys have variables for the number and ages of children. There is an emphasis on identifying families with pre-school age children, since this is an important predictor of labour market variables.
- With the exception of the GSS, all the surveys use family and household groupings as an independent variable for examining labour force and income variables. Again this is due to the fact that the GSS data are only collected for one person per household.
- The LMAS is the only STC longitudinal survey included in this study. The household categories are very similar to the other STC cross-sectional surveys, with one exception: the family and household categories are simpler and contain less detail than the cross-sectional measures. This trend applies to the SIPP and PSID family and household measures. None of these three surveys calculate longitudinal family information. All adopt a cross-sectional approach, based on the household composition at the time of each data collection.

4. SLID'S PROPOSED FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD VARIABLES

SLID will be restricting the definition of family to persons related by blood, marriage and adoption living in the same dwelling. In this sense SLID's approach is in keeping with other STC surveys, including the Census. Related family members living in different dwellings may contribute social support or financial assistance to each other. For instance a married couple with children living in a separate dwelling may provide financial assistance or help with household tasks to an elderly parent living in a different dwelling. A divorced father may provide child support payments to his children who are living with their mother. Currently SLID is unable to measure these events, but consideration will be given in the future to collecting some information on the role of family members not living in the same dwelling.

In addition to the collected information identifying each person's relationship to every other household member, including their age and sex, the following variables are proposed: ²

- **SLID Economic Family Composition**

Unattached individual

Married or common-law couple, no children

Married or common-law couple with all children/youth under 25

Female lone-parent with all children/youth under 25

Male lone-parent with all children/youth under 25

Other economic families

² The term, child, refers to birth child, adopted child, or step-child of either the husband or wife, actually living in the household. A divorced father living alone, would be recorded as having no children. Foster children are excluded.

- **Number of persons living in the household, by age group**

Pre-school children (0-5)

Older children (6-14)

Younger youth (15-19)

Older youth (20-24)

Younger adults (25-34)

Older adults (35-64)

Young seniors (55-74)

Older seniors (75 and older)

- **Age of the youngest person living in the household**

- **Number of generations in the family**

One generation

Two generations

Three or more generations

- **SLID blended family variable³**

Husband-wife, with birth/adoptive children from current marriage/union-

NOT BLENDED

Husband-wife, children from wife's previous marriage/union

Husband-wife, children from husband's previous marriage/union

Husband-wife, children from wife's previous marriage/union, and birth or adopted children from current marriage/union

³ Husband-wife refers to both married couples and common-law couples.

Husband-wife, children from husband's previous marriage/union, and birth or adopted children from current marriage

Husband-wife, children from both husband's and wife's previous marriage/union

Husband-wife, children from both husband's and wife's previous marriage/union, and birth or adopted children for current marriage

Female lone-parent with birth/adoptive children from previous marriage/union—NOT BLENDED

Male lone-parent with birth/adoptive children from previous marriage/union—NOT BLENDED

Other family types

- **SLID Household composition**

One person household

Two or more person household, one economic family

Two or more person household, two or more economic families

- **SLID Household size**

One person

Two persons

Three persons

Four persons

Five or more persons

- **Life event change variables affecting family composition during the past year**

SLID has defined a series of "life-events" for use by analysts. These life event changes are important because they can lead to the formation of new families, the dissolution of families, and to changes in family composition. A marriage or common-law union results in the formation of a new family. A death of a spouse or separation may lead to the dissolution of a husband-wife family. A separation involving a husband-wife family with children may lead to the formation of a lone-parent family. A birth or adoption of a first child will change the composition of a husband-wife family⁴.

These life events are also important because they can affect economic well being and labour market participation of family members. For example, a separation involving a husband-wife family with children which leads to the formation of a female-lone parent family can drastically affect the economic well-being of the mother and her children.

For every person within each household we will record whether or not each of the following life events occurred during a given year:

Separation in family ⁵ , not involving person	yes/no
Person separated	yes/no
Death in family, spouse	yes/no
Death in family, other	yes/no

⁴ We have not included measures of family formation or family dissolution because this involves issues relating to longitudinal households. Data users interested in these measures may be able to construct these variables in a manner that directly relates to their analytical purposes.

⁵ "In family" means that the person was living in the household.

Birth/adoption in family, person not parent	yes/no
Birth/adoption in family, person is parent	yes/no
Marriage in the family, not person	yes/no
Person married	yes/no
Common-law union formed, not person	yes/no
Common-law union formed, person is a partner	yes/no
Addition to the household, other reasons	yes/no
Someone leaves the household, other reasons	yes/no
Entire family moves to a different dwelling	yes/no

Occurrence of one or more of the above life events

during the year **yes/no**

REFERENCES

Duncan, Greg J. and Martha S. Hill

1985 "Conceptions of Longitudinal Households: Fertile or Futile?" *Journal of Economic and Social Measurement* 13: 361-375.

McMillian, David and Roger Herriot

1985 "Toward a Longitudinal Definition of Households." *Journal of Economic and Social Measurement* 13: 349-360.

**APPENDIX 1. LISTING OF FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD
VARIABLES IN STC SURVEYS**

1. CENSUS OF POPULATION⁶

● **Census family** (definition)

Now-married couple (with or without never-married sons and/or daughters of either or both spouses) living in the same dwelling.

A couple living common-law (again with or without never-married sons and/or daughters of either or both partners) living in the same dwelling.

Lone-parent of any marital status, with at least one never-married son or daughter living in the same dwelling.

● **Census family composition**

Refers to the classification of census families according to the number and/or age groups of never-married sons or daughters at home.

Number of never-married sons and/or daughters at home

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or more

Age groups of never-married sons and/or daughters at home

⁶ From the 1991 Census Dictionary

all under 6 years

all 6-14 years

all 15-17 years

some under 6 and some 6-14

some under 6 and some 15-17

some 6-14 and some 15-17

some under 6, some 6-14 and some 15-17

- **Census family household composition**

Refers to the classification of census families according to the presence and number of additional persons (not a member of the census family) in the household

- **Census family living arrangements**

Refers to the classification of persons in terms of whether they are members of a family household or a non-family household, and whether they are family or non-family persons.

Total persons in private households

Total persons in family households

Husbands, wives, common-law partners or lone parents

Never-married sons and/or daughters in families of now-married couples

Never-married sons and/or daughters in families of common-law couples

Never-married sons and/or daughters in lone-parent families

Non-family persons

Living with relatives only

Living with non-relatives only

Living with relatives and other persons

Living alone

- **Census family status**

Refers to the classification of the population according to whether or not they are members of a census family.

Family persons: household members who belong to a census family.

Husband and wife: persons of the opposite sex who are legally married to each other and living in the same dwelling.

Common-law partners: two persons of the opposite sex who are not legally married to each other but live together as husband and wife in the same dwelling.

Lone parent: a mother or father, with no spouse or common-law partner, living in a dwelling with one or more never-married sons and/or daughters.

Never-married sons and/or daughters: blood, step or adopted sons and daughters who have never been married (regardless of age) and are living in the same dwelling as their parent(s). Sons and daughters who are currently or were previously married, or who are living common-law, are not considered to be members of their parent(s)' census

family even if they are living in the same dwelling. In addition, those never-married sons and daughters who do not live in the same dwelling as their parent(s) are not considered members of their parent(s)' census family.

Non family persons: household members who do not belong to a census family. They may be related to person 1 (the household reference person) (e.g., Person 1's divorced brother, brother-in-law, cousin, grandparent) or unrelated (e.g., lodger, room-mate, employee). **A person living alone is always a non-family person.**

- **Census family structure**

Refers to the classification of census families into families of now-married couples(with or without never-married sons or daughters of either or both spouses), families of common-law couples (with or without never-married sons or daughters of either or both partners), and lone-parent families by sex of the parent.

- **Census family type**

Refers to the classification of census families according to whether or not any family member is responsible for household payments, rent, or mortgage, or taxes, or electricity, etc.

Primary maintaining family: any census family of which the person responsible for household payments is a member.

Other maintaining family: any census family which contains a household member other than the person responsible for household payments.

Non-maintaining family: a census family which does not contain any person who is responsible for household payments.

- **Economic family**

Refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, common-law or adoption.

- **Economic family status**

Refers to the classification of population according to whether or not they are members of an economic family.

Economic family persons: two or more household members who are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption and thereby constitute an economic family.

Unattached individuals: household members who are not members of an economic family. A person living alone is always an unattached individual.

- **Economic family structure**

Refers to the classification of economic families into those of now-married couples, common-law and other economic families.

Economic families of now-married couples are those in which one or two spouses, whether the husband or the wife, is the economic reference person.

Economic families of common-law couples are those in which one of two common-law partners is the economic family reference person.

Other economic families are of two kinds: those in which either a male or female lone parent is the economic family reference person, or those in which a non-census family person is the economic family reference person.

- **Economic family type**

Refers to the classification of economic families according to whether or not any family member is responsible for household payments.

Primary economic family : the economic family of which the person responsible for household payments is a member.

Secondary economic family: any economic family which does not contain the person responsible for household payments.

GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY

- **Grouped living arrangement of the respondent** (Derived variable)⁷

Alone

Spouse only

Spouse and single child LT 25

Spouse and single child GE 25

Spouse and non single child

Spouse and other

No spouse, single child LT 25

No spouse, single child GE 25

No spouse, non single child

Living with two parents

Living with one parent

Other

- **Respondent lives with. . .** (This is a derived variable. Living arrangement is from the point of view of the respondent)⁸

No one else

Spouse only

Spouse and children

Spouse and other relative

⁷ The 1992 General Social Survey--Cycle 7 Time Use: Public Use Microdata File: Documentation and User's Guide.

⁸ The 1992 General Social Survey User's Guide: Cycle 5.

Spouse and non-relative
Spouse/children/other relative
Spouse/children/non-relative
Spouse/children/other relatives and non-relatives
Spouse/relative/non-relative
Children only
Children/other relative
Children/non-relative
Children/relative/non-relative
One parent/siblings/others
Two parents/siblings
Two parents/siblings/others
Other relatives (not spouse, children, or parents)
Non-relatives only

- **Age of respondent's youngest single child**

Minimum
Maximum
Range
Not applicable
Single child older than 25

- **Number of respondent's single children aged 0-4**

None
One
Two or more

- **Number of respondent's single children aged 5-12**

None

One

Two or more

- **Number of respondent's single children aged 13-18**

None

One

Two or more

- **Number of respondent's single children aged 19-24**

None

One

Two or more

- **Number of respondent's single children aged 25+**

None

One

Two or more

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

- Family composition⁹

All families

Total

With children less than 16 years

With pre-school age children

With children less than 3 years

With youngest child 3-5 years

Without pre-school age children but at least one 6-15 years

Without children less than 16 years

Head or spouse less than 55 years

Head or spouse 55 years or older

No husband present

Total

With children less than 16 years

With pre-school age children

With children less than 3 years

With youngest child 3-5 years

Without pre-school age children but at least one 6-15 years

Without children less than 16 years

Head less than 55 years

Head 55 years or older

With male head, no spouse present

⁹ These family composition and family status variables are taken from The Labour Force, Sept. 1993, Catalogue 71-001.

Total

With children less than 16 years

With pre-school age children

With children less than 3 years

With youngest child 3-5 years

Without pre-school age children but at least one 6-15 years

Without children less than 16 years

Head less than 55 years

Head 55 years or older

● **Family status**

Family members

Heads of family

Spouses

Single children

Other relatives

Unattached individuals

15-54 years

55 years and over

● **Family status**

Males

Family members

Heads of family

Spouses

Single children

Other relatives

Unattached individuals
15-54 years
55 years and over

- **Family status**

Females

Family members
Hheads of family
Spouses
Single children
Other relatives
Unattached individuals
15-54 years
55 years and over

- **Families¹⁰**

Total number of families

No children
Families containing one or more children
Families with at least one child age 0-5
Families with no children age 0-5 but at least one child 6-15
years
Families with no children under the age of 16 and at least
one children age 16-24.

¹⁰ The following two family variables were taken from LFS tables provided by Debra Sunter.

- **Families**

Total families

No children in family

1 child

2 children

3-4 children

5 or more children

- **Relationship to head of family**

Head

Spouse

Son/daughter

Parent

Son/daughter (in-law)

Parent (in-law)

Other relative

- **Size of family**

1-3

4+

- **Number of own children ages 0-2 years**

0 children

1 child

2 children

3 or more children

- **Number of own children ages 3-5 years**

0 children

1 child

2 children

3 or more children

- **Number of own children ages 6-15 years**

0 children

1 child

2 children

3 children

4 children

5 or more children

- **Number of own children ages 16-24 years**

0 children

1 child

2 children

3 children
4 children
5 or more children

● **Number of own children ages 0-15 years**

0 children
1 child
2 children
3 or more children

● **Number of own children ages 16-24 years**

0 children
1 child
2 children
3 or more children

SURVEY OF WORK ARRANGEMENTS

Both sexes¹¹

Men

Women

Total

Unattached Individuals

¹¹ From a table taken from the SWA.

Total, Family Members

Dual earner families

No children or no children<18

With child(ren)<18

Youngest child 0-5

Youngest child 6-17

Single earner families

No children or no children<18

With child(ren)<18

Youngest child 0-5

Youngest child 6-17

Lone parents

No children or no children<18

With child(ren)<18

Youngest child 0-5

Youngest child 6-17

Other family members

● **Family Status**¹²

Males

Unattached individuals

Total family members

Spouses

¹² From "Work Arrangements", by Jason Siroonian. Catalogue 71-535, No. 6.

with no children or no children less than 18

with child(ren) less than 18

with child(ren) 0-5

Lone parents

with child(ren) less than 18

Sons 15-17

Other family members

Females

Unattached individuals

Total family members

Spouses

with no children or no children less than 18

with child(ren) less than 18

with child(ren) 0-5

Lone parents

with child(ren) less than 18

Daughters 15-17

Other family members

- Children present 0-5 years old
- Children present 6-15 years old
- Number of children age 0-1
- Number of children age 2-5
- All children in total

- **Total children in family**

Own children aged 0-2

Own children aged 3-5

Own children aged 6-11

Own children aged 12-15

Own children aged 16-17

Own children aged 18-21

Own children aged 22-24

Total own children

Other children aged 0-2

Other children aged 3-5

Other children aged 6-11

Other children aged 12-15

Other children aged 16-17

Other children aged 18-21

Other children aged 22-24

Total other children

- **Relationship to head**

Head of family

Spouse

Son or daughter (natural, adopted or step)

Grandchild

Son-in-law, daughter-in-law

Foster child (less than 18)

Parent

Parent-in-law

Brother or sister

SURVEY OF CONSUMER FINANCES

- **Economic Family relationship to head**

Head

Spouse

Son or daughter (natural or adopted)

Grandchild (including foster child)

Son/daughter-in-law

Foster child (under 18 years of age)

Parent

Parent-in-law

Brother or sister

Other relative

- **Census family relationship to head**

Head

Spouse

Son or daughter (Natural or adopted)

Other relatives (includes foster child)

- **Census family composition**

Unattached individual

Married couple

Married couple with single children (including guardianship children)

Male parent with single child(ren) (including guardianship children)

Female parent with single children (including guardianship children)

- **Economic family composition**

Unattached individual

Married couple

Married couple with single children

Married couple, married children (including divorced, separated, etc.) with their immediate families if any

Married couple/single and married children (including divorced and separated, etc.) with their immediate families if any

Married couple/single and married children (including divorced and separated, etc.) with their immediate families if any and other relatives

Married couple, relatives other than own children

Male head, single children of any age (no other relative)

Female head, single children of any age (no other relative)

All other families

- **Family variable** used for income and labour force status measures (e.g., income earning combination, employment/unemployment status of family members)

Nobody

Head only

Wife only

Head and wife only

Child/children only

Head and child/children only

Wife and child/children only
Head, wife and child/children only
Other relatives only
Head and other relatives
Wife and other relatives
Head, wife and other relatives
Children and other relatives
Head, children and other relatives
Wife, children and other relatives
Head, wife, children and other relatives.

- **Household variable** used for income and labour force status measures (e.g., income earning combination, employment/unemployment status of household members)

Nobody
Head only
Wife and head only
Head and wife only
Other members of the primary economic family only
Head and other members of the primary economic family
Wife and other members of the primary economic family
Head, wife and other members of the primary economic family only
Members of the secondary economic family only
Head and other members of secondary economic family unit
Head, wife and members of the secondary economic family unit

- **Household Type**

Single-unit household

One unattached individual

One 2+ family

Two unit household

Two unattached individuals

One 2+ family and 1 unattached

Two 2+ families

Three or more-unit households

Three or more unattached only

One 2+ family and 2 or more unattached

Two or more 2+ families and one or more unattached individuals

Three or more 2+ families only

- **Life cycle**

Unattached individual, age under 45

Unattached individual, age 45 and over

Married couple, head<45, no children of any relationship to the head<16 years

Married couple, Head<45, no own children<16, but with other children <16 of this age group in the family

Married couple, head<45, all own children are of school age 6-15 years of age

Married couple, head<45 or older, with own children of pre-school age and school age(at least 1 children<6 and 1 children 6-15 years inclusive)

Married couple, head 45 or older, no children (of any relationship to the head) under 16 years of age

Married couple, head 45 or older with no own children age under 16 but with other children of this age group in the family

Married couple, head 45 or older with own children under 16 years of age

"Irregular" family with no children (of any relationship to the head)<16
years of age

"Irregular" family with children<16 years of age (of any relationship to the
head)

- **Number of single children**

age<7

age7-11

age 12-15

age 16-17 (of any marital status and in school full-time)

age 18-24 (of any marital status and in school full-time)

age 18-24 (of any marital status not in school full-time)

age 22-24 (of any marital status and in school full-time)

age 22-24 (of any marital status not in school full-time)

LABOUR MARKET ACTIVITY SURVEY¹³

- **Household characteristics**

No spouse, no children

Spouse is present, no children

Spouse is present, there are children

Married couples with children

No spouse, there are children

¹³ From the LMAS 1986-1987 Longitudinal File: Microdata User's Guide.

- **Number of children aged (the same categories used in SCF)**

- **Relationship to Head of Family**

Head

Spouse

Son-daughter

Parent (in-law)

Son-daughter (in-law)

Other relative

- **Type of multiple job family**

Neither head nor spouse had jobs

Neither head nor spouse has a full-year full-time job

One of head or spouse had a full-year full-time job

Both head and spouse had full-year full-time jobs

**APPENDIX 2. LISTING OF FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD
VARIABLES FROM PANEL SURVEYS IN THE
UNITED STATES**

PANEL STUDY OF INCOME DYNAMICS (PSID)¹⁴

- **Current Family Composition**

Head (and immediate family: wife, husband and/or children, if any) only
Family unit contains other relatives of Head, such as siblings, in-laws,
parents, etc.

Family unit contains people unrelated to head, such as foster children and
friends

- **Family Composition Change during reference year (1988 is used here)**

No change; no movers-in or movers-out of the family

Change in members other than Head or Wife only.

Head is the same person as in 1988 but Wife left or died; Head has new
Wife; used also when cohabiting non-relative female becomes wife

Wife/ from 1988 is now Head

1988 female Head got married—husband (usually a nonsample member is
now Head. Used also when cohabiting non-relative male becomes Head.)

Some sample member other than 1988 Head of Wife has become Head of
this family unit

¹⁴ From A Panel Study of Income Dynamics: Procedures and Tape Codes 1989 Interviewing
Year: Wave XXII.

Some female other than 1988 Head got married and her husband (nonsample member) is now Head.

Female Head with husband in institution—husband in family unit in 1989 and is now Head.

Other

- **Relationship to 1989 head of Persons (s) who moved into or out of the family unit between the 1988 and 1989 waves** (if more than one person moved in the person with the highest priority were coded—the codes listed below are in order of priority)

Head of family

Wife

Child, stepchild

Sibling

Parent

Grandchild, great-grandchild

In-laws and other relatives

Nonrelative

Husband of 1989 Head

SURVEY OF INCOME AND PROGRAM PARTICIPATION (SIPP)¹⁵

- **Family type to which this person belongs**

Primary family

Secondary individual (not a family member)

Unrelated sub (secondary family)

Related subfamily

Primary individual

- **Household type**

Not in household

Married couple family household

Male householder family household

Female householder family household

Male householder non family household

Female householder non family household

Group quarters

- **Number of own children in family**

- **Number of own children in family under age 18**

¹⁵ From Frequencies and Summary Statistics, Survey of Income and Program Participation: 1988 Panel. U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census.