```
/* SPSS User Files are being provided for the convenience of analysts who
   may wish to use SPSS to analyze the MEPS data. However, users are
/* cautioned that SPSS does not currently have the capability to produce
   appropriate standard errors for estimates from a survey with a complex
/* sample design like the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS). The
   annual national probability sample of households selected for the MEPS
/* is a subsample of those participating in the National Health Interview
/* Survey (NHIS) for the previous calendar year. The NHIS, an ongoing
   general health survey of the civilian noninstitutionalized population,
/* is conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for
/* Disease Control and Prevention. The NHIS sample design, and thus that
/* of the MEPS, uses complex sampling techniques including
/* stratification, clustering, and differential sampling rates for the
   oversampling of selected subgroups of the population. Because of this
   sampling structure, software that accounts for this complex sample
   design must be used. Without the use of appropriate software that
   accounts for the complex sample design of the MEPS in conjunction with
/* the survey's sampling weights (reflecting the survey's sample
   selection probabilities and nonresponse and other adjustments), the
   estimated standard errors of survey point estimates will generally be
   underestimated, and, thus, the inferential conclusions in an analysis
   (descriptive or analytical) may be misleading. It is recommended that
   sample survey software be used to analyze the MEPS data. Software for
/* analysis of complex survey data include, for example, SUDAAN (Research
/* Triangle Institute), STATA (Stata Corporation), VPLX (U.S. Bureau of
   the Census), and WESVAR (Westat, Inc.). A more comprehensive summary
/* of software for the analysis of data from surveys with complex sample
   designs can be accessed through the website for the American
/* Statistical Association's Survey Research Methods Section. Users may
/* also reference the Agency for Healthcare Research and Ouality (AHRO)
/* web document "Computing Standard Errors for Medical Expenditure Panel
/* Survey (MEPS) Estimates."
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EXECUTE.
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