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/*  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 Quality (AHRQ)   */
/*  web document "Computing Standard Errors for Medical Expenditure Panel  */
/*  Survey (MEPS) Estimates."                                              */
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    LINKIDX 45-56 (A)
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    PANEL 58-59 .
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    RXLKIDX 'RECORD ID: EVNTIDX + LINKIDX'
    EVNTIDX 'EVENT ID'
    LINKIDX 'ID FOR LINKAGE TO COND/OTH EVENT FILES'
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    PANEL 'PANEL NUMBER' .
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        2 '2 OPAT'
        3 '3 EROM'
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        6 '6 OMED'
        7 '7 HVIS'
        8 '8 PMED' /
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EXECUTE.

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