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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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  RXLKIDX 9-32 (A)
  EVNTIDX 33-44 (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'
  EVENTYPE 'TYPE OF EVENT RX IS LINKED TO'
  PANEL 'PANEL NUMBER' .
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    2 '2 OPAT'
    3 '3 EROM'
    4 '4 STAZ'
    5 '5 DVIS'
    6 '6 OMED'
    7 '7 HVIS'
    8 '8 PMED' /
  PANEL
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EXECUTE.

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