```
# This file contains programming statements needed to import the ASCII data
# file (.dat) into R. The R programming language has the capability to produce
# appropriate standard errors for estimates from a survey with a complex sample
# design such as the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS).
# The input file is the ASCII data file (h206if2.dat) supplied in this PUF
# release, which can be extracted from the .zip file supplied at the MEPS
# website: https://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_stats/download_data_files.jsp
 This code imports the MEPS data into R as a data frame called 'h206if2'.
# Note that additional packages are needed to successfully run this code. To
# install these packages, run the 'install.packages' function (shown below).
# Once installed, the packages can be called using the 'library' function.
# Packages only need to be installed once, but they must be called using the
 'library' function every time a new R session is started.
 Two options are available to run this code:
  1. Copy and paste the code into an interactive R session.
     The user must first download the ASCII (.dat) file from the MEPS website
     and save it to a local directory, which must be defined in the
#
      'meps path' variable below. In this example, the local directory is
#
     called "C:/MEPS". Note that the path structure will differ on Mac and PC.
#
  2. Call this code directly from an interactive R session.
#
#
     (a) If the ASCII (.dat) file has already been downloaded from the MEPS
#
         website and saved to a local directory, the following code can be run
         (after re-defining the 'meps_path' variable to point to the location
#
         of the h206if2.dat file.)
#
#
           meps path <- "C:/MEPS/h206if2.dat"</pre>
#
           source("https://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data stats/download data/pufs/h206i/h206if2ru.txt")
#
           head(h206if2) # view data
#
#
#
      (b) Alternatively, the ASCII (.dat) file can be downloaded directly from
#
         the MEPS website. The following code can be used to download and
#
         import the h206if2 data into R without having to manually download,
#
         unzip, and store the file on your local computer.
#
#
           url <- "https://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data files/pufs/h206if2dat.zip"</pre>
#
           download.file(url, temp <- tempfile())</pre>
#
#
           meps path <- unzip(temp, exdir = tempdir())</pre>
#
           source("https://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_stats/download_data/pufs/h206i/h206if2ru.txt")
#
           unlink(temp) # Unlink to delete temporary file
           head(h206if2) # view data
# DEFINE 'meps path' ------
# 'meps_path' should point to the file path of the ASCII file (h206if2.dat)
# Here, the 'exists' function checks whether meps_path is already defined. This
# feature is useful if calling this file from an external source.
if(!exists("meps_path"))
 meps_path = "C:/MEPS/h206if2.dat"
# INSTALL PACKAGES ------
# Uncomment and run this portion if packages are not yet installed
# install.packages("readr")
# Run this for every new R session
library(readr)
# Define start and end positions to read fixed-width file
pos start <-
 c(1, 11, 43, 59, 75, 76)
pos end <-
 c(10, 42, 58, 74, 75, 77)
# Define variable names and types ('c' = character, 'n' = 'numeric')
var names <-
  c("DUPERSID", "RXLKIDX", "EVNTIDX", "LINKIDX", "EVENTYPE",
    "PANEL")
var_types <-</pre>
 c("c", "c", "c", "c", "n", "n")
var_types <- setNames(var_types, var_names)</pre>
# IMPORT ASCII (.dat) file -----
h206if2 <- read_fwf(
 meps_path,
  col positions =
   fwf_positions(
     start = pos start,
     end = pos_end,
     col names = var names),
  col_types = var_types)
# OPTIONAL: save as .Rdata file for easier loading ------
# Run this to save a permanent .Rdata file in the local working directory
# save(h206if2, file = "h206if2.Rdata")
# NOTES:
#
   1. This program has been tested on R version 3.6.0
   2. This program will create a temporary data frame in R called 'h206if2'.
#
     You must run the 'save' command to permanently save the data to a local
```

R programming statements for h206if2 data