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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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    EVNTIDX 24-39 (A)
    CLNKIDX 40-68 (A)
    EVENTYPE 69-69
    PANEL 70-71   .
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    CONDIDX "CONDITION ID"
    EVNTIDX "EVENT ID"
    CLNKIDX "CLNK ID: CONDIDX + EVNTIDX"
    EVENTYPE "TYPE OF EVENT CONDITION IS LINKED TO"
    PANEL "PANEL NUMBER" .
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        2 "2 OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT VISIT"
        3 "3 EMERGENCY ROOM VISIT"
        4 "4 INPATIENT HOSPITAL STAY"
        7 "7 HOME HEALTH VISIT"
        8 "8 PRESCRIBED MEDICINE" /
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EXECUTE.
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