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# 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 (h229IF1.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 'h229IF1'.
# 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 h229IF1.dat file.)
#
      meps path <- "C:/MEPS/h229IF1.dat"</pre>
      source("https://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_stats/download_data/pufs/h229IF1/h229IF1ru.txt")
#
      head(h229IF1) # 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 h229IF1 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/h229IF1dat.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/h229IF1/h229IF1ru.txt")
#
#
           unlink(temp) # Unlink to delete temporary file
#
           head(h229IF1) # view data
# DEFINE 'meps path' ------
# 'meps_path' should point to the file path of the ASCII file (h229IF1.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/h229IF1.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)
# DATA FILE INFO -------
# Define start and end positions to read fixed-width file
pos_start <- c(</pre>
1, 11, 24, 40, 69, 70)
pos end <- c(
10, 23, 39, 68, 69, 71)
var names <- c(</pre>
"DUPERSID", "CONDIDX", "EVNTIDX", "CLNKIDX", "EVENTYPE", "PANEL")
var_types <- c(</pre>
"c", "c", "c", "c", "n", "n")
var_types <- setNames(var_types, var_names)</pre>
# IMPORT ASCII file -----
h229IF1 <- 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(h229IF1, file ="h229IF1.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 'h229IF1'.
      You must run the 'save' command to permanently save the data to a local
```

# R programming statements for h229IF1 data

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