



# Medical Expenditure Panel Survey

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## MEPS HC-229B: 2021 Dental Visits File

**Release date:** May 2023

This public use data file is one in a series of event-level public use data files drawn from the 2021 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) Household Component (HC). Released as an ASCII file with SAS, SPSS, STATA, and R programming statements, a SAS transport file, a SAS V9 file, a XLSX file, and a Stata file, the Dental Visits File provides detailed information on dental events for a nationally representative sample of the civilian, noninstitutionalized population of the United States during the 2021 calendar year. This file consists of MEPS survey data obtained in the 2021 portion of Round 7, and all of Rounds 8 and 9 for Panel 23; the 2021 portion of Rounds 5 and 7, and all of Round 6 for Panel 24; the 2021 portion of Round 3, and all of Rounds 4 and 5 for Panel 25; and Rounds 1, 2, and the 2021 portion of Round 3 for Panel 26 (i.e., the rounds for the MEPS panels covering calendar year 2021). This year, 2021, is the first data year to include four panels of data. Because of concerns about lower response rates due to COVID-19, Panels 23 and 24 were extended to include 9 rounds of data collection; data for Rounds 7, 8, and 9 for Panel 23 and Rounds 5, 6, and 7 for Panel 24 are included in the 2021 data files. Each dental event record includes the following: date of the dental event; type of provider seen; procedure(s) associated with the dental event; flat fee information; imputed sources of payment; total payment and total charge of the dental event expenditure; and a full-year person-level weight. To append person-level information such as demographic or health insurance coverage to each event record, data from this file can be merged with the 2021 MEPS HC Full-Year Consolidated file using the person identifier, DUPERSID. For more details on loading MEPS PUFs into R, SAS, and Stata, please visit the [MEPS GitHub page](#).

- [Notes on viewing and downloading files](#)
- [Printing tips](#)

Documentation	File type
Documentation	<a href="#">PDF</a> (477 KB) / <a href="#">HTML</a>
Codebook	<a href="#">PDF</a> (225 KB) / <a href="#">HTML</a> *
SAS Programming Statements	<a href="#">TXT</a> (52 KB)
SPSS Programming Statements	<a href="#">TXT</a> (12 KB)
STATA Programming Statements	<a href="#">TXT</a> (16 KB)
R Programming Statements	<a href="#">TXT</a> (8.6 KB)

Data	File type**
Data File, ASCII format	<a href="#">ZIP</a> (558 KB)
Data File, SAS transport format	<a href="#">ZIP</a> (758 KB)
Data File, SAS V9 format	<a href="#">ZIP</a> (868 KB)
Data File, Stata format	<a href="#">ZIP</a> (648 KB)
Data File, XLSX format	<a href="#">ZIP</a> (2.8 MB)

## Questionnaires — see [Survey Questionnaires](#)

\*The PDF version of the codebook is recommended for printing; the HTML version is database driven and lets you navigate quickly to details on each variable.  
\*\*Right-click on the data file link, then select Save Target As or Save Link As to download the file.

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