



Medical Expenditure Panel Survey

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MEPS HC-229F: 2021 Outpatient Visits File

Release date: June 2023

This public use file is one in a series of event-level public use files drawn from the 2021 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) Household Component (HC). Released as an ASCII file with SAS, SPSS, and STATA, and R programming statements, a SAS transport file, a SAS V9 file, a XLSX file, and a Stata file, the Outpatient Visits File provides detailed information on outpatient visits. Data are gathered from a nationally representative sample of the civilian, noninstitutionalized population of the United States and can be used to make estimates of outpatient utilization and expenditures for calendar year 2021. Each record comprises data for one household-reported outpatient visit collected during 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 the 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. The Outpatient Visits File contains data on several characteristics associated with each outpatient visit, including the date of the visit, whether or not a doctor was seen, types of care and services received, medicines prescribed during the visit, expenditures, and sources of payment. 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	PDF (512 KB) / HTML
Codebook	PDF (192 KB) / HTML *
SAS Programming Statements	TXT (43 KB)
SPSS Programming Statements	TXT (12 KB)
STATA Programming Statements	TXT (16 KB)
R Programming Statements	TXT (8.5 KB)

Data	File type**
Data File, ASCII format	ZIP (835 KB)
Data File, SAS transport format	ZIP (971 KB)
Data File, SAS V9 format	ZIP (1.1 MB)
Data File, Stata format	ZIP (964 KB)
Data File, XLSX format	ZIP (3.9 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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