

# RAND HRS 2012 Fat File

February 2021

## 1). Important Things to Note:

- a). The RAND HRS 2012 Fat File is based on HRS 2012 Core (Final V3.0, March 2020) data, and the Tracker 2016 (without updated 2016 weights, January 2020) file.
- b). The RAND HRS 2012 Fat File does not include the raw variables from the pension (PR\_P) or jobs (PR\_JB) preloads sections. The raw variables from the pension (J\_P) section, however, are included in the Fat Files, and have been transposed to the Respondent level.
- c). Beginning in 2012, there is a major structural change in the recording of a Respondent's pension plans. Previously, pension questions were asked at the Respondent-level as part of Section J – Employment. From 2012 forward, pension questions have been spun off into a separate section (J2 – Pension), and are now asked the pension level; that is, each observation corresponds to one pension plan for one Respondent, and therefore one Respondent can have multiple observations, depending on the number of past and current pensions s/he holds. We have transposed data from Section J2 – Pensions to the Respondent-level to include information collected in that section in the RAND HRS 2012 Fat File. The variables in Section J2 – Pensions have been reorganized to account for each valid pension. For example, the raw, pension-level variables NJ2338 and NJ2W407, when transposed to the Respondent level, become NJ2338\_1, NJ2338\_1 for the first reported plan; and become NJ2338\_2 and NJ2W407\_2 for the second reported plan, etc. It is worthwhile to note that each pension is assigned an ID by HRS, making it easier to track pensions longitudinally.
- d). In 2018, HHIPDN=544849010 married HHIPDN=540162010. In this file we changed HHIDPN=906126010 to be HHIPDN=906543020 and updated HHID and PN to reflect this change. We set the sub-household ID (NSUBHH) to 1 until the marriage in 2018, at which point we set it to 0, to match their spouse. This ensures the Respondent is recorded as a separate household until they marry in 2018.
- e). RAND HRS Fat File documentation can be found on the [RAND Center for the Study of Aging](#) website. Please note, however, that these documents are unlike traditional codebooks in the sense that they do not contain information about specific variables from the survey (e.g., frequencies, question text, etc.). For this, we recommend that users examine the [HRS Codebooks](#) and [HRS Questionnaires](#) for the key variables under study.

2). RAND HRS Data Distribution Files:

Distribution File Name	Included Files	Description
h12f3a_SAS.zip	h12f3a.sas7bdat	Dataset (SAS)
	h12f3a.cont	Contents listing (SAS)
	hrs12.fmt	Formats (SAS)
h12f3a_SPSS.zip	h12f3a.sav	Dataset (SPSS)
h12f3a_STATA.zip	h12f3a.dta	Dataset (STATA SE)

NOTE: All of the ZIP packages in the above table include this file as well (README\_fat12.pdf).