

August 2019

**Panel Study of Income Dynamics  
2017 Public Release Family File  
Release 2**

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*Release 2 Note:* Users should be aware that the 2017 CORE/IMMIGRANT FAM WEIGHT NUMBER 1 (ER71570) has zero values for the new Immigrant 2017 sample (ER66009=4001-4462). For Release 2 we have added a new variable 2017 CROSS-SECTIONAL FAMILY WEIGHT (ER71571) which encompasses the Core 68/Immigrant 97/99 and Immigrant 17 Samples.

**I. DATA CHARACTERISTICS**

A. Files and Format

The 2017 Family Data File consists of one data file with 9,607 records and 5,571 variables. The Family File contains one record for each family interviewed in 2017 and includes all family-level variables collected in 2017, including extensive information about Reference Person and Spouse/Partner.

Using the web-based Data Center is the most efficient way to obtain the data. At this time, we also provide the data in a .zip package. If you download the data in ASCII form, from the PSID website, you will receive SAS, SPSS or STATA statements, as you request. In the .zip package, we include the entire data file in ASCII format and SAS, SPSS, and STATA data definition statements. These statements provide variable names, locations, and variable labels.

The definition statement files are not intended to represent complete and full programs for the respective statistical program packages to run extracts, analysis, etc. You must provide all other statements needed to complete a program. Missing data statements are not provided as part of the files.

## File Attributes and Variables for the Family Data File

File name	Records	Number of variables	Variables
FAM2017er.txt	9,607	5,571	ER66001-ER71571

### Other Files

FAM2017er.sas	SAS program file
FAM2017er.sps	SPSS program file
FAM2017er.do	STATA program file
FAM2017er_codebook.pdf	Codebook documentation

## B. Variable Names and Positions

The 2017 Family File variable names are in the range ER66001-ER71571.

The 2017 Family File provides many component variables that analysts may use to construct summary variables. We leave it to the individual analyst to make decisions about imputation methods to use, if any, and how to treat missing data. Analysts who wish to construct summary variables that are parallel to those provided in historical waves of the PSID may consult codebooks for those years to obtain information about rules for their creation. Some examples of variables that may be constructed using component variables provided in this data file include annualized mortgage, rent payments, and food costs.

## C. Documentation and Codes

### 1. PSID User Guide

For an overview of the 2017 questionnaire changes, a description of our generated and hand-coded variables, please see the PSID Main Interview User Manual: Release 2017.1, located on our website at <http://psidonline.isr.umich.edu/Guide/documents.aspx>.

### 2. 2017 Questionnaire

Box-and-arrow questionnaires are available for all waves in PDF format. Use the SAS, SPSS, and STATA data definition statements to match variables with questions in the CAI application.

### 3. Codebook and Code Categories

The Data Center allows users to create and download customized codebooks that provide variable-specific documentation. Variable descriptions are complete for all of the 2017 Family File data items. The downloadable .zip package of the family data on our website contains a .pdf version of the entire Family File codebook for 2017.

In general, codes follow our traditional schema, although "don't know" responses are now largely distinguished from other missing data responses. Generally, code 8 (or 98 or 998, etc.) represents "don't know" and code 9 (or 99 or 999, etc.) represents other missing data or a refusal. Inappropriate questions (e.g., those that do not apply) are padded with zeroes.

If a variable contains a code value that is neither included in the codebook nor one of the "zero", "eight" or "nine" codes just mentioned, assume missing data for that value.

### C. Missing Data

There are no missing data for Release 2.

## **II. Additional Help**

For general assistance, please contact:

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