

WAVE I: FAMILY STRUCTURE VARIABLES

The following citation should be used for papers/presentations using this data:

Harris, K. M. 1999. The Health Status and Risk Behavior of Adolescents in Immigrant Families. In Hernandez, D.J. (Ed.), Children of Immigrants: Health, Adjustment, and Public Assistance (pp. 286-347). Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.

I. DATA DESCRIPTION

This users' guide describes constructed family structure variables provided by Add Health. All 20,745 Wave I respondents have had family structure indicators created for them. Each family variable consists of a different number of response categories, with fourteen, providing the greatest precision, and five, the least. The fourteen categories were collapsed to create the more general ones.

II. FAMILY STRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION

The Add Health project utilized four arrays of variables measured at Wave I and released in allwave1 to construct family structure indicators. The Wave I questions used in this construction inquired about respondents' relationships to all members of their households (h1hr3a-h1hr3t). Additional questions of relevance requested that respondents specify the relationship reported if the household member identified was described as a daughter or son (h1hr4a-h1hr4t), brother or sister (h1hr5a-h1hr5t), or father or mother (h1hr6a-h1hr6t).

Most categories of family structure measured in this file seem rather intuitive, while others may warrant additional explanation. For instance, the "adoptive mother and adoptive father" category refers to families that specifically include both an "adoptive father" and "adoptive mother." This means that the category excludes parents listed as "step/adoptive father" or "step/adoptive mother." The stepparent classification encompasses any mother or father identified as neither (1) a biological parent nor (2) an "adoptive" parent, when in the presence of both an adoptive father and adoptive mother. Stepparent does include the "step/adoptive" category and the "adoptive" category when only one adoptive parent exists. If a parental partner exists in the absence of a specified parent, then the partner is defined as "any non-biological" parent, not partner. The "other" family structure type designates any households without members classified as "father" or "mother." Frequently, the "other" category refers to a family consisting of an "other non-relative." Nearly as frequently are those including only a "grandmother" or only a "grandmother and grandfather."

Also, note that some relationships take precedence over others. For instance, should a respondent report a biological father, biological mother, and a stepfather in their household roster, the respondent's family structure variables will only indicate the presence of both biological parents, while neglecting mention of the stepparent.

As stated, the family structure variable with the greatest precision consists of fourteen categories. The next most precise measure has eight categories. In order to reduce the number of outcomes to eight, the fourteen categories were collapsed in the following manner:

Eight Category Classification	Fourteen Category Classification
2. biological mother and any other non-biological father	2. biological mother and any other non-biological father 6. biological mother and partner
3. biological father and any other non-biological mother	3. biological father and any other non-biological mother 7. biological father and partner

5. any two stepparents	11. any two non-biological parents 12. any non-biological mother and partner 13. any non-biological father and partner
6. any mother and no father	4. biological mother and no father 9. any non-biological mother and no father
7. any father and no mother	5. biological father and no mother 10. any non-biological father and no mother

Reduction of the eight outcomes to seven involved combining the following:

Seven Category Classification	Eight Category Classification
4. any two stepparents	4. adoptive mother and adoptive father 5. any two stepparents

To further reduce the number of outcomes to five, the seven categories were collapsed as follows:

Five Category Classification	Seven Category Classification
2. two parents	2. biological mother and any other non-biological father 3. biological father and any other non-biological mother 4. any two stepparents

Please note, variables measuring the sex of household members specified in the Wave I household roster confirm that none of those parents listed as living with partners are in same-sex relationships.

III. MISSING CODES

The family structure variables themselves lack special or missing codes; however, if a respondent fails to report on their household composition, then that respondent's family structure becomes classified as "other." Furthermore, the measures employed in the construction of the family structure indicators do possess special codes. Refusals (coded 96) to answer the questions measuring these variables contributed to designations of "other." For instance, if a respondent reported the presence of a "mother" in the household and then refused to specify the type of mother, then the algorithm declared the mother's more specific type as "other." "Don't know," "Legitimate Skip," and "Not Applicable" responses did not inform family structure variable construction.

IV. QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

AID	Respondent Identifier
FAMST14	Fourteen Category Family Structure Measure
FAMST8	Eight Category Family Structure Measure
FAMST7	Seven Category Family Structure Measure
FAMST5	Five Category Family Structure Measure

Wave I Family Structure Variables

Family Structure Variables

Number of observations: 20,745

AID		Char	Respondent Identifier NOTE: Smallest 5 and largest 5 values are displayed.
Frequency	Percent	Value	Label
1	0%	10316654	
1	0%	10316952	
1	0%	10506342	
1	0%	10570810	
1	0%	10606128	
20735	100%	Values omitted	NOTE: Range of values omitted from display
1	0%	99886995	
1	0%	99886996	
1	0%	99886997	
1	0%	99886998	
1	0%	99886999	

FAMST14		Num	Family Structure 14 - 14 Categories
Frequency	Percent	Value	Label
10339	50%	1	two biological parents
2298	11%	2	biological mother and non-biological father
533	3%	3	biological father and non-biological mother
4349	21%	4	biological mother and no father
590	3%	5	biological father and no mother

458	2%	6	biological mother and partner
58	0%	7	biological father and partner
403	2%	8	adoptive mother and adoptive father
171	1%	9	any non-biological mother and no father
47	0%	10	any non-biological father and no mother
84	0%	11	any two non-biological parents
6	0%	12	any non-biological mother and partner
9	0%	13	any non-biological father and partner
1400	7%	14	other

FAMST8		Num	Family Structure 8 - 8 Categories
Frequency	Percent	Value	Label
10339	50%	1	two biological parents
2756	13%	2	biological mother and any other non-biological father
591	3%	3	biological father and any other non-biological mother
403	2%	4	adoptive mother and adoptive father
99	0%	5	any two stepparents
4520	22%	6	any mother and no father
637	3%	7	any father and no mother
1400	7%	8	other

FAMST7		Num	Family Structure 7 - 7 Categories
Frequency	Percent	Value	Label
10339	50%	1	two biological parents
2756	13%	2	biological mother and any other non-biological father
591	3%	3	biological father and any other non-biological mother
502	2%	4	any two stepparents
4520	22%	5	single mother

637	3%	6	single father
1400	7%	7	other

FAMST5		Num	Family Structure 5 - 5 Categories
Frequency	Percent	Value	Label
10339	50%	1	two biological parents
3849	19%	2	two parents
4520	22%	3	single mother
637	3%	4	single father
1400	7%	5	other