### PROBLEMS WITH AHEAD 1 SPECIFICATIONS AND/OR CODEBOOK

#### EXPLANATION

There are several perceived problems with the Specifications (hereafter called Specs) for AHEAD WAVE 1 (1993). These Specs are the latest version we have, though it is possible there were later changes to the Specs for which we do not have a copy at this time. The problems detailed here mostly have to do with certain jumps or failures to jump which meant either that R's were asked questions that logically they should not have been asked (e.g., D43b & D61b), or where Rs were not asked questions that they possibly should have been asked (e.g., E55c).

In some cases the frequencies in the Codebook match the numbers of those who were **actually** asked the question, even if they (probably) should not have been (e.g., F5). In other cases the Codebook frequencies match the number of only those who **should** have been asked the question, suggesting that responses from those who should not have been asked already have been eliminated—i.e. data were "cleaned" (see Codebook Introduction, Data Cleaning, page 20) so that responses from inappropriate Rs were removed from analysis during dissemination processing (e.g., D20). A further ambiguity is where the Specs say that a question is jumped under certain conditions, but the Codebook presents data for that question from Rs in that condition (e.g., E18).

The Box-and-Arrow Questionnaire reflects the Specs except for the numbering of a few of the short labels (e.g. E55c, below) which have been altered to match the Codebook. Brief notes in brackets "[NOTE:...]" regarding a possible problem with a particular question or jump have been inserted at the appropriate location in the Box-and-Arrow Questionnaire. These notes match the more detailed explanations presented here; they are not part of the Specs or original Questionnaire. They are to alert those using the data to closely examine the Codebook at specific questions to see if it shows what s/he thinks it should.

# SECTION D

- D20: Family/Lead Rs were asked the entire Section D and Non-Family/Second Rs were asked D1(V404) & D2(V406), and from D58(V559) through D63e(V586) (the end of Section D). However, the Specs also say that Non-Family/Second Rs are to be asked D20(V435) after jumping there from just after D2; after answering D20 they are to jump to D58; this procedure was followed in the interviews. However, responses to D20 from Non-Family/Second Rs have been omitted from the Codebook, which presents data only for Family/Lead Rs; in most cases responses from both members of a couple probably would have been redundant. Thus, the Specs do not match the Codebook.
- D30: The Specs for D30(V456) say that RF jumps out of unfolding response brackets while YES and DK fall through to D31(V457). In all other unfolding response brackets except for E26a, DK and RF jump out together (e.g., D11b(V483)).
- D43b, D49b: The Specs for D43b(V501) and D49b(V522) say that YES jumps out of
   unfolding response brackets while NO, DK and RF fall through to
   D43c(V503) and D49c(V524). However, this means that some of those who
   said the amount of money they gave was more than \$2,000 were then asked
   if they gave more than \$1,000.

- D46b, D52b, D54b, D57b: The Specs for D46b(V513), D52b(V531), D54b(V543) and D57b(V556) say that YES, DK and RF jump out of unfolding response brackets while NO falls through to D46c(V515), D52c(V533), D54c(V544) and D57c(V558), respectively. However, this means that some of those who said the amount of money or value of gifts they gave was more than \$2,000 (or \$3,000 at D57b) were then asked if they gave more than \$1,000.
- D58a: The Specs for D58a(V561) say that only YES jumps D58b(V561) while NO, DK and RF fall through to D58b. However, D58a and D58b should not be asked of the same R since D58a applies to Rs having only one sister while D58b applies to Rs having more than one sister, as determined at D58(V559). D58b(V561) (from Specs) is called D58a(V561) in the Codebook and D58a(V560) (from Specs) is omitted from the Codebook. Possibly the data presented in the Codebook at D58b comprise an amalgamation of D58a & D58b. The same is likely true of D59a & D59b, the number of brothers married; only D59a occurs in the Codebook.
- D61b/c & D63b/c: At D60(V565) and D62(V576) Rs are asked if their mother or
   father, respectively, is still living. If they answer YES, they are
   asked the age of that parent (D61a(V566) or D63a(V577), respectively).
   Then they are asked if they have spent at least 100 hours helping that
   parent in the past year (D61b(V567) or D63b(V578)). Rs whose parent is
   not living (D60=5,8,9 or D62=5,8,9, which jumped them over D61a or D63a)
   are asked D61b or D63b as well. Those who say YES to helping the parent
   jump out to Section E.

However, the Specs say that those who say NO, DK or RF (D61b=5,8,9 or D63b=5,8,9) fall through to D61c(V572) or D63c(V583), respectively, and are asked when that parent died. This means that an R whose mother or father was still living (D60=1 or D62=1), but who had not said s/he helped that parent for more than 100 hours in the past year, was asked how old (his/her) mother or father was when s/he died. Frequencies in the Codebook suggest that responses (if any) for Rs whose mother or father was still living probably were  ${\bf not}$  included at D61c and D63c.

### SECTION E

E18: The Specs say that Rs who are the Only R in the Household should jump E18(V672) (go from E17(V669) to E19(V680)), the same as do Non-Financial Rs, while only married Financial Rs should go on to E18 if they said YES R ONLY or BOTH, or SPOUSE ONLY at E17(=1,2,3). However, the Specs do not match the Codebook. The frequencies in the Codebook indicate that the Only Rs probably were asked E18; the number of Rs who answered E18 exceeds the number of married Financial Rs in the study. Also, 2884 Financial Rs, which includes Only Rs, gave responses to E17 (E17=1, 2 or 3) that could have led to E18 and a nearly as many R's (2872) were asked E18.

It makes sense to include Only Rs at E18 since this is the only place in the Box-and-Arrow Questionnaire where Only Rs, who (in most cases) are unmarried Financial Rs, would have been separated from married Financial Rs, except on questions that pertain exclusively to spouses/partners.

E20: The Specs say that Financial Rs who DK or RF E20(V685) jump E20a(V686) while Non-Financial Rs do not jump. This means that some of those who DK or RF to say if they took prescription medicines were asked how many different kinds of medicines they took. The Codebook indicates that 8 more Rs were asked E20a (6946, excluding responses of NONE) than responded that they took prescription medicines at E20 (6938).

- **E26a:** The Specs say that if Rs responded DK to E26a(V741), they jump out of the unfolding response bracket sequence to E27(V746); this is how all other unfolding response brackets proceed. However, there is no jump for RF at E26a, so a RF falls through to E26b(V742); this is unlike all other unfolding response brackets, where DKs and RFs jump together, except for D30.
- E55a-E55c & E58-E58b: At E54(V913), E55a(V924) and E58(V950) Rs are asked who helps them with various activities. If the helper's name is not already on a Household or Child grid in CATI (D5(V416) and D20a(V436)), Rs are asked what their relationship is to that person (E54a(V914), E55b\*(V925) & E58a(V951), respectively), and then what is the name of that person (E54b(V915-V918), E55c\* (V926-V929) & E58b(V952-V955), respectively). Generally jumps go to the portion of the latter question that mentions the proper relationship (i.e., grandchild/other relative/other individual/organization) consistent with the response previously given to E54a, E55b or E58a, respectively.

At E54 a response of DK or RF to "who helps" jumps the Rs out of the sequence entirely, to E57(V948). However, if DK or RF is given at E55a or E58, Rs proceed to be asked the relationship at E55b or E58a, respectively. If they say the helper is a grandchild they fall through and are asked the questions appropriate for grandchild, e.g. name of grandchild (E55c(V926) or E58b(V952)) and parent of grandchild. However, if they say the helper is other relative or other individual (E55b=5 or 6; E58a=5 or 6, respectively), they jump out of the sequence entirely (to E57 or E58d(V972)) and are not asked the name of the helper.

On the other hand, if the Rs say the helper is an organization (E55b=7 or E58a=7) and they had previously said DK or RF at E55a or E58, respectively, then they proceed to E55c or E58b. However, there they are asked (inappropriately) for the name of the person in **each** relationship in order — grandchild (V926 or V952 for the E55 or E58 sequence, respectively), then other relative (V927 or V953), then other individual (V928 or V954) and finally the appropriate relationship, organization (V929 or V955).

In other words, for sequence E54-E54b, if Rs DK or RF to tell who the helper is, they jump out of the sequence, but for sequences E55a-E55c and E58-E58b they fall through to the next question. Where the relationship is then said to be an organization, they are asked the name of the grandchild, etc, eventually ending with organization. Where the relationship is other relative or other individual, they jump out and are not asked the name. Where the relationship is grandchild, they are asked questions appropriately, except insofar that perhaps they should not be asked any further questions in the sequence at all, given that they said DK or RF at the beginning.

\* Here and in the Box-and-Arrow Questionnaire short labels for questions (e.g., E55a) follow the Codebook rather than the Specs for two reasons. Sometimes different questions are given duplicate short labels in the Specs; questions that were named E55a and E55b here (and in the Codebook and the Questionnaire) were named E55a and E55a in the Specs. Also, some questions are presented in several alternative forms depending on a preceding response, and generally all alternatives together are given a single short label in the Specs (e.g., E54b). However, sometimes the alternative forms are given separate short labels in the Specs (e.g., E55b-E55e for name of grandchild or other relative or other individual or organization). When they are lumped together in the Codebook under one short label, the Box-and-Arrow Questionnaire does likewise (e.g., E55c is substituted for E55b/E55c/E55d/E55e).

E70b: E70(V1008) asks if Rs have anyone who might be willing to help in the future if it were needed. If that helper is a child, child-in-law or grandchild (E70a(V1009)=1), then the name of the child is asked at E70b(V1010). The list of codeable responses given in the Specs includes DECEASED CHILD, an unlikely choice since name(s) of future helpers are being requested.

#### SECTION F

F4 & BRANCHPOINT BEFORE F5: The Codebook indicates that 504 Rs said YES to being in an association at F3(V1041), but 633 were later asked about association fees at F5(V1045). That is because jump instructions before F5 allow those Rs who are not in an association, or DK or RF (F3=5,8,9) to fall through to questions about association fees at F5-F6b(V1048) if they are in a senior community (F2(V1040)=1) and if they are not required to have a limited income, or DK or RF (F4(V1043)=5,8,9). All those who are part of an association jump from F3(=1) to F5 and, therefore, are never asked if a limited income were required (F4). All those falling through from F3(=5,8,9) to F4 should have jumped to F7 instead of falling through to F5, in order for only those who are members of an association (F3=1) to be asked about fees at F5-F6b. However, only those saying YES at F4 jump to F7. Alternatively, the Specs could have been written such that all at F3 could have been asked F4 as well, instead of jumping over it; then those that had previously said NO, DK, or RF at F3 could have jumped to F7 per instructions at a Branchpoint before F5.

#### SECTION H

H9-H9c: Rs are asked at H9(V1291) whether, if they move, they are more likely
to buy or rent a different home, move in with another person, move to a
nursing home, or move to a retirement home/community. If they mention
one of these options (H9=1,2,3,4) (as opposed to DK or RF (H9=8,9)),
they are then asked whether they would try to live with or closer to one
of their children H9b(V1293). If they say YES, they are asked "Which
child is that?" H9c(V1294). If they say NO or DK or RF to H9b
(H9b=5,8,9), they jump the "Which child..." question (H9c)—-but only if
they are likely to buy or rent a different home or move in with another
person (H9=1,2). The Specs say that Rs that are likely to move to a
nursing home, or to a retirement home/community (H9=3,4) and do not plan
to live near a child (H9b=5,8,9), are then asked "Which child is that?"
at H9c.

### SECTION R

R12b/c, 15b/c, R19b/c, R22b/c: At R12b(V1887), R15b(V1895), R19b(V1903) and
R22b(V1912) Rs are asked how much they pay for various types of
insurance. The unit time "PER" payment is entered at R12c(V1888),
R15c(V1896), R19c(V1904) and R22c(V1913), respectively. At R12b and
R19b is an instruction to "ENTER O IF NOT PAID FOR BY R OR SPOUSE",
while R15c and R22b do not have the instruction for "O" but do give an
option for "9996 NOTHING" (presumably the equivalent of "O"). If the
response to the "b" portion of these questions is O (zero), NOTHING, DK
or RF (=0,9996,8,9), Rs jump over the "c" portion of the question to the
"d" question in the series.

However, the Specs give instructions at R12c, R19c and R22c (but not at R15b) to "CHOOSE 'OTHER' AND COMMENT IF NOT PAID FOR BY R OR SPOUSE". This instruction could not be carried out since such Rs would already have jumped over this portion. Frequencies in the Codebook indicate that the 'c' portions of the questions were not asked where the response

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was "0" or "NOTHING". The instruction to "CHOOSE OTHER AND COMMENT..." was eliminated for the "c" portions of these questions from this corrected copy of the Box-and-Arrow Questionnaire.

## MODULES SECTION

MODULE 1: The version of Module 1 that is in the Specs used to produce this Questionnaire apparently was not the one used in the actual interviews; the latter was a paper-and-pencil version. Therefore, the version that was actually used is the one presented with the other modules in a section/file called MODULES (the electronic file is named MODS). This is the version for which data are presented in the Codebook.