

September 2014

## **RAND Fat File for HRS 2012 Early Release (Wave 11)**

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The HRS data used for this file is:

- HRS 2012, Early Release V1.0 (November 2013)
  - Tracker 2012 V1.0 (June 2014)
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The files are:

- Readme\_fat12.pdf (this file)
- H12e1a\_SAS.zip
  - H12e1a.sas7bdat: SAS data
  - Doc
    - H12e1a.cont: SAS contents listing
    - trk2012TR\_R.txt: tracker file codebook
  - Fmts
    - Hrs12.fmt: SAS formats for some variables.
- H12e1a\_STATA.zip
  - H12e1a.dta: STATA SE data
- H12e1a\_SPSS.zip
  - H12e1a.sav: SPSS data

### **What's New in 2012:**

Beginning in 2012, there was a major structure change as to how HRS records respondents' pensions. Previously the pensions section was at the respondent level. From 2012, the pensions section is collected at the pension level. So one respondent can have multiple observations depending on the number of past and current pensions they hold. We have aggregated these

pensions to create a respondent level Fat File. For example, the raw variables NJ2338 and NJ2W407, when transposed to the respondent level, become NJ2338\_1, NJ2338\_2 etc. They are reorganized to account for iterations where there are valid pensions. It is worthwhile to note that each pension is assigned an ID by HRS, making it easier to track pensions longitudinally. While there are still questions concerning pensions and types of pensions as in previous waves, this new structure assists in tracking a respondent's pensions across future waves.