<u>**Respondent Pension Data Tracker Files**</u>
Alan Gustman And Nahid Tabatabai
Version 1.0
January 2007

Introduction

The Respondent Pension Data Tracker files are constructed to enhance the user's ability to utilize pension information from various jobs reported by respondents in up to seven waves of the Health and Retirement Study. These data files are especially useful to users who are interested in analyzing detailed information on respondents' pension history, current coverage, and pension wealth at each of the survey years.

There is one data file for each of the seven waves. Each file includes variables indicating pension coverage from each job, identified by the job on which the pension is or was held, and the number of pension plans from current and previous employments. Each data file also includes an index identifying each of the previous pension plans that are dormant (i.e. not in pay status, not cashed out, rolled over, converted to an annuity, or lost), number of pension plans from current job, total number of previous pension plans through a current interview date, and the number of dormant pension plans that a respondent is entitled to (has active claim on) as of that interview date.

In each wave, pension indices from previous pensions are brought forward to the current wave. In addition, the information collected about changes in older pension plans are used to adjust reports in earlier waves about which pension plans were dormant at the time of a previous survey.

The following section includes background information on various pension sequences that respondents are asked about in the employment section of the survey. Then there is a description of the way a respondent's pensions are accounted for from wave to wave. At the end, each data file, sets of constructed variables and their naming conventions are described.

Background Information

The employment section of the HRS respondent survey has a series of questions about the individual's pension plans. When first interviewed, respondents who report they are working are asked about the details of their pension plans on their current job. Respondents at that interview date are also asked about up to three previous pension jobs if they worked at least five years at those jobs. We refer to those jobs as "previous pension jobs". They are also asked about the pension from their last job held if they report not working at their first interview. That job is referred to as "last job". The detailed pension information includes pension coverage, number of plans, types of plans, number of years included in the plan, normal and early retirement age, the amount of own and employer contributions, account balances, the age and the amount of expected future benefits, possible forms of those benefits that respondents may receive when

retired and others. This complete set of questions is also asked when in subsequent interviews a respondent reports securing a new job with a pension, or indicates that his/her pension rules have changed.

When a respondent reports leaving a pension job held in the last interview, the respondent is asked about the status of pension plans from that job. We call the pension from this job "previous pension". There are several questions about the dispositions of pension plans from the last or previous jobs. These include detailed questions about what the respondent did with the plan; if withdrew the money, rolled it over into an IRA, left it to accumulate in the old plan, converted it to an annuity, is expecting future benefits, receiving benefits, transferred to the new employer, received a cash settlement, or lost the benefit. There are follow-up questions asking about the amount of the benefits and the dates of the reported action the respondent has taken. During Wave 1 to Wave 4 interviews respondents were asked about the details of only one pension plan from any previous or last job. In Wave 5, this number was increased to up to three plans and in Waves 6 and 7 to up to four plans.

In the Wave 3 survey, respondents were asked about the status of all "dormant" pension plans from jobs terminated before the current wave, that is, plans from last/previous jobs[1] reported prior to the Wave 3 survey year, where it was previously reported they were expecting some future benefits and not receiving benefits now, or that the account was left to accumulate[2]. In the Wave 3 round up, they were asked if they are still expecting future benefits, if the account is still accumulating, or if they are receiving benefits now, received a cash settlement, rolled over into an IRA, converted to an annuity, withdrew the money, or lost the benefit. Respondents were also asked about the amount of the benefits and the dates of the reported action the respondent has taken. Those who reported in Wave 3 they are still expecting future benefits (and not receiving benefits now) or their account is still accumulating, were asked again about the status of those plans in Wave 4, Wave 6, and again in Wave 7. The round up in later waves also covered pension jobs left since the last round up. As long as the reports show that a respondent's claim on a plan continues to be active, or in other words, s/he is expecting some benefits in the future and not receiving benefits, the respondent will be asked about the status of that plan, and we refer to that pension as a "dormant pension".

Procedure

Within each wave, respondents may be covered by one or more current pension plans and have one or more previous pension plans. In addition, there are pensions reported in previous waves from former employers that remained dormant. In some waves, there are explicit follow-up questions about these pensions. In waves where there are no questions asked about old pensions from a previous employer that were last reported as dormant, the pension information from the last wave is brought forward. That information is further modified in later waves where there

---

[1] Previous jobs include jobs classified as 'previous pension jobs" in the first interview wave as well as jobs that were held in the first or subsequent waves, but were left after that.
[2] The set of questions about old pension plans was asked in the Assets and Income section of the survey in Wave 3 and Wave 4. It was moved to the Employment section in Wave 5.

may be a retrospective report as to when the old pension was in pay status, rolled over into an IRA, converted to an annuity, or cashed out. An example of how pensions are accounted for from wave to wave for a respondent with current and various previous pension jobs follows.

Consider a respondent who was first interviewed in Wave 1 and reported one pension plan from his/her current job in section F. The respondent may also have reported in section H three previous pension plans from the three pension jobs previously held. The total number of previous pension plans accounted for this specific respondent will be three from his/her previous jobs. However, the number of dormant pension plans that this respondent has active claims on depends on the status of those three previous pensions reported in section H. If s/he expected some future benefits from only one of them and not receiving any benefits from that plan at the time of the interview, the number of dormant pension plans in Wave 1 would be only one.

If this respondent was interviewed in Wave 2 and reported no change in current job, his/her total number of pension plans will be the same as in Wave 1. However, if in the Wave 3 interview when the respondent was asked about the status of her/his old pension, if s/he reported the plan was cashed out after Wave 1 but before the Wave 2 interview, then that previous pension plan would not be identified as dormant in Wave 2 and later waves. Here the information from Wave 1 is brought forward to Wave 2 and the information from Wave 3 is taken backward. That is, any plans that were cashed out, converted to an annuity, rolled over into an IRA, fell into pay status category, or lost before Wave 2 and after Wave 1 are excluded from the Wave 2 and later data files.

Now suppose this respondent in the Wave 3 survey reported that s/he has left his/her Wave 1 job and is expecting some future benefits and not receiving benefits from the pension plan from that job. In addition, s/he is working at a new employment with pension coverage by two plans. In this case, the number of current pension plans would be two and the total number of previous pension plans reported by this respondent since his/her first interview would be four. That is, three previous pensions from the H section of Wave 1 and one from the Wave 1 job that was terminated before the Wave 3 interview. The total number of dormant pension plans for this respondent is only one plan; from his/her previous job (the job held in Waves 1 and 2). Here the information from Wave 1 and Wave 2 is brought forward to Wave 3. The cashed or lost pension plans from previous jobs are excluded from Wave 3 and later data files. The same procedure is used in Waves 4, 5, 6, and 7.

In summary, the pension coverage information from all previous interview waves is brought forward to a current interview wave. At the same time, the information from the old pension sequence asked in Wave 3, Wave 4, Wave 6, and Wave 7 is taken backward to earlier waves to identify those plans that were cashed out, converted to an annuity, rolled over into an IRA, fell into pay status category, or lost before a current wave. Those plans are excluded from the list of dormant pension plans in that wave and later waves.

Data Files

There is one data file for each of the waves from Wave 1 (1992) to Wave 7 (2004). The files are respondent level files. They contain one record for every respondent who participated in the core survey in Wave 1 to Wave 7. Following is a brief description of each file.

Resp_datw1: It includes indices for pension coverage from current job (from the F section), last job (from the G section), and up to three previous pension jobs (from the H section). The data file also includes a set of variables indicating which of the previous pension plans are dormant, number of plans from current pension, total number of previous pension plans, and the number of dormant pension plans in Wave 1.

The list of variables includes:

From Wave 1: APP92_H1, APP92_H2, APP92_H3, APP92_G, ACP92_F, ANCP92_F, ATNPP92, ADP92_H1, ADP92_H2, ADP92_H3, ADP92_G, ANDP92

Resp_datw2: It includes indices for pensions from respondents' current job in Wave 2, previous jobs, and/or last jobs, in addition to previous pension plans from Wave 1. The data file includes a set of variables indicating which of the previous pension plans are dormant, number of current pension plans in Wave 2, total number of pension plans through Wave 2, and the number of dormant pension plans that respondents are entitled to in Wave 2.

The list of variables includes:

From Wave 1: CPP92_H1, CPP92_H2, CPP92_H3, CPP92_G, CDP92_H1, CDP92_H2, CDP92_H3, CDP92_G

From Wave 2: CPP94_FA, CPP94_FB, CPP94_FC, CPP94_G, CPP94_H1, CPP94_H2, CCP94_FA, CNCP94_FA, CCP94_FB, CNCP94_FB, CTNPP94, CDP94_G, CDP94_H1, CDP94_H2, CDP94_FA, CDP94_FB, CDP94_FC, CNDP94

Resp_datw3: The pension variables in Wave 3 are current pension index, pension index from the job held in Wave 2 if that job was terminated before Wave 3 interview (for re-interviewee respondents), any previous pensions from Wave 2 and Wave 1, and pension indices for previous and/or last jobs held prior to Wave 3 for the new interviewees. It also includes the Wave 2 pension information which includes previous pension for those who left a Wave 1 job prior to the Wave 2 interview, as well as previous and last pension for new interviewees. From Wave 1, the pension indices from first, second, third pension jobs, and last job are included. The data file also includes a set of variables indicating which of the previous pension plans are dormant, number of current pension plans, total number of pension plans through Wave 3, and the number of dormant pension plans that respondents are entitled to in Wave 3.

The list of variables includes:

From Wave 1: EPP92_H1, EPP92_H2, EPP92_H3, EPP92_G, EDP92_H1, EDP92_H2, EDP92_H3, EDP92_G

From Wave 2: EPP94_FA, EPP94_FB, EPP94_FC, EPP94_G, EPP94_H1, EPP94_H2, EDP94_G, EDP94_H1, EDP94_H2, EDP94_FA, EDP94_FB, EDP94_FC

From Wave 3: EPP96_G, EPP96_GH1, EPP96_GG, ECP96_G, ENCP96_G, ETNPP96, EDP96_G, EDP96_GG, EDP96_GH1, ENDP96
.

Resp_datw4: The file includes pension coverage indices from respondents' current job in Wave 4, previous pension index from the job held in Wave 3 if that job was terminated before Wave 4 (for re-interviewee respondents), indices for any previous pensions from prior waves, and pension information from previous and/or last jobs held prior to Wave 4 for the new interviewees. The data file also includes a set of variables indicating which of the previous pension plans are still dormant, number of current pension plans, total number of previous pension plans through Wave 4, and the number of dormant pension plans that respondents are entitled to in Wave 4.

The list of variables includes:

From Wave 1: FPP92_H1, FPP92_H2, FPP92_H3, FPP92_G, FDP92_H1, FDP92_H2, FDP92_H3, FDP92_G

From Wave 2: FPP94_FA, FPP94_FB, FPP94_FC, FPP94_G, FPP94_H1, FPP94_H2, FDP94_G, FDP94_H1, FDP94_H2, FDP94_FA, FDP94_FB, FDP94_FC

From Wave 3: FPP96_G, FPP96_GH1, FPP96_GG, FDP96_G, FDP96_GG, FDP96_GH1

From Wave 4: FPP98_G, FPP98_GH1, FPP98_GH2, FPP98_GH3, FPP98_GG, FCP98_G, FNCP98_G, FTNPP98, FDP98_G, FDP98_GG, FDP98_GH1, FDP98_GH2, FDP98_GH3, FNDP98

Resp_dataw5: This file includes pension indices from Wave 5's current job, previous pension from the job held in Wave 4 if that job was terminated before Wave 5 interview (for re-interviewee respondents), pension indices identifying any previous pension prior to Wave 5 interview, and pension information from previous and/or last jobs held prior to Wave 5 for the new interviewees. The file also includes a set of variables indicating which of the previous pension plans are still dormant, number of current pension plans, total number of pension plans through Wave 5, and the number of dormant pension plans that respondents are entitled to in Wave 5.

The list of variables includes:

From Wave 1: GPP92_H1, GPP92_H2, GPP92_H3, GPP92_G, GDP92_H1, GDP92_H2, GDP92_H3, GDP92_G

From Wave 2: GPP94_FA, GPP94_FB, GPP94_FC, GPP94_G, GPP94_H1, GPP94_H2, GDP94_G, GDP94_H1, GDP94_H2, GDP94_FA, GDP94_FB, GDP94_FC

From Wave 3: GPP96_G, GPP96_GH1, GPP96_GG, GDP96_G, GDP96_GG, GDP96_GH1

From Wave 4: GPP98_G, GPP98_GH1, GPP98_GH2, GPP98_GH3, GPP98_GG, GDP98_G, GDP98_GG, GDP98_GH1, GDP98_GH2, GDP98_GH3,

From Wave 5: GNPP00_G, GPP00_G1, GPP00_G2, GPP00_G3, GPP00_G4, GPP00_GH1, GNPP00_GH1, GPP00_GH2, GPP00_GH5, GPP00_GH6, GNPP00_GG, GPP00_GG1, GPP00_GG2, GPP00_GG3, GCP00_G, GNCP00_G, GTNPP00, GDP00_GG1, GDP00_GG2, GDP00_GG3, GDP00_G1, GDP00_G2, GDP00_G3, GDP00_G4, GDP00_GH1, GDP00_GH2, GDP00_GH5, GDP00_GH6, GNDP00

Resp_datw6: This file includes pension indices from Wave 6's current job, previous pension from the job held in Wave 5 if that job was terminated before Wave 6 (for re-interviewee respondents) and pension indices for any previous pension prior to the Wave 6 interview. For the new interviewee respondents, there are indices indicating the pension coverage from previous or last job held prior to Wave 6. The file also includes a set of variables indicating which of the previous pension plans are still dormant, number of current pension plans, total number of previous pension plans through Wave 6, and the number of dormant pension plans that respondents are entitled to in Wave 6.

The list of variables includes:

From Wave 1: HPP92_H1, HPP92_H2, HPP92_H3, HPP92_G, HDP92_H1, HDP92_H2, HDP92_H3, HDP92_G

From Wave 2: HPP94_FA, HPP94_FB, HPP94_FC, HPP94_G, HPP94_H1, HPP94_H2, HDP94_G, HDP94_H1, HDP94_H2, HDP94_FA, HDP94_FB, HDP94_FC

From Wave 3: HPP96_G, HPP96_GH1, HPP96_GG, HDP96_G, HDP96_GG, HDP96_GH1

From Wave 4: HPP98_G, HPP98_GH1, HPP98_GH2, HPP98_GH3, HPP98_GG, HDP98_G, HDP98_GG, HDP98_GH1, HDP98_GH2, HDP98_GH3

From Wave 5: HPP00_G1, HPP00_G2, HPP00_G3, HPP00_G4, HPP00_GH1, HPP00_GH2, HPP00_GH5, HPP00_GH6, HPP00_GG, HPP00_GG1, HPP00_GG2, HPP00_GG3, HDP00_GG1, HDP00_GG2, HDP00_GG3, HDP00_G1, HDP00_G2, HDP00_G3, HDP00_G4, HDP00_GH1, HDP00_GH2, HDP00_GH5, HDP00_GH6

From Wave 6: HPP02_J1, HPP02_J2, HPP02_J3, HPP02_J4, HPP02_K1, HPP02_K2, HPP02_L1, HPP02_L2, HPP02_L5, HPP02_L6, HCP02_J, HNCP02_J, HTNPP02, HDP02_J1, HDP02_J2, HDP02_J3, HDP02_J4, HDP02_L1, HDP02_L2, HDP02_L5, HDP02_L6, HDP02_K1, HDP02_K2, HNDP02

Resp_datw7: This file includes pension indices from Wave 7's current job, previous pension from the job held in Wave 6 if that job was terminated before Wave 7 (for re-interviewee respondents) and pension indices for any previous pension prior to the Wave 7 interview. For the new interviewee respondents, there are indices indicating the pension coverage from previous or last job held prior to Wave 7. The file also includes a set of variables indicating which of the previous pension plans are still dormant, number of current pension plans, total number of

previous pension plans through Wave 7, and the number of dormant pension plans that respondents are entitled to in Wave 7.

The list of variables includes:

From Wave 1: JPP92_H1, JPP92_H2, JPP92_H3, JPP92_G, JDP92_H1, JDP92_H2, JDP92_H3, JDP92_G

From Wave 2: JPP94_FA, JPP94_FB, JPP94_FC, JPP94_G, JPP94_H1, JPP94_H2, JDP94_G, JDP94_H1, JDP94_H2, JDP94_FA, JDP94_FB, JDP94_FC

From Wave 3: JPP96_G, JPP96_GH1, JPP96_GG, JDP96_G, JDP96_GG, JDP96_GH1

From Wave 4: JPP98_G, JPP98_GH1, JPP98_GH2, JPP98_GH3, JPP98_GG, JDP98_G, JDP98_GG, JDP98_GH1, JDP98_GH2, JDP98_GH3

From Wave 5: JPP00_G1, JPP00_G2, JPP00_G3, JPP00_G4, JPP00_GH1, JPP00_GH2, JPP00_GH5, JPP00_GH6, JPP00_GG, JPP00_GG1, JPP00_GG2, JPP00_GG3, JDP00_GG1, JDP00_GG2, JDP00_GG3, JDP00_G1, JDP00_G2, JDP00_G3, JDP00_G4, JDP00_GH1, JDP00_GH2, JDP00_GH5, JDP00_GH6

From Wave 6: JPP02_J1, JPP02_J2, JPP02_J3, JPP02_J4, JPP02_K1, JPP02_K2, JPP02_L1, JPP02_L2, JPP02_L5, JPP02_L6, JDP02_J1, JDP02_J2, JDP02_J3, JDP02_J4, JDP02_L1, JDP02_L2, JDP02_L5, JDP02_L6, JDP02_K1, JDP02_K2

From Wave 7: JNPP04_J, JPP04_J1, JPP04_J2, JPP04_J3, JPP04_J4, JNPP04_K, JPP04_K1, JPP04_K2, JPP04_L1, JNPP04_L1, JPP04_L2, JPP04_L3, JPP04_L5, JPP04_L6, JCP04_J, JNCP04_J, JTNPP04, JDP04_J1, JDP04_J2, JDP04_J3, JDP04_J4, JDP04_L1, JDP04_L2, JDP04_L3, JDP04_L5, JDP04_L6, JDP04_K1, JDP04_K2, JNDP04,

Overview of Variables and Their Naming Convention

There are eight sets of variables in each data file. The sets include ID numbers, variables identifying current, previous, and dormant pensions, and three sets of variables indicating the number of any current, previous, and dormant pensions in each wave. Lastly, there is a set of variables indicating the total number of all previous pension plans. Their names are structured to identify the wave, section, job, and plan number of the relevant pension. In the case of previous and dormant pensions where they may appear as a previous or dormant pension in more than one data file, their names will not change from wave to wave. The names would reflect the waves and sections where they had been initially reported.

1- Identification variables including HHID, PN, and xSUBHH

2- Current pension coverage variables: their name starts with a wave designator (A=1992, C=1994, etc.), CP (for Current Pension), the year the data comes from and end with the

section's label. For example, HCP02_J identifies the Current Pension from 2002 (Wave 6) reported in section J.

3- Previous pension index variables: their name starts with a wave designator, PP (Previous Pension) followed by the year the data comes from, section's label, and ends with a number from 1 to 4 representing the pension plan/job number.

For example, GPP00_G2 indicates a Previous Pension plan from 2000 (Wave 5), which is reported in the G section, and it is the second plan from that pension sequence.

Another example, APP92_G indicates an index for Previous Pension from 1992 (Wave 1) from the G section. Since respondents are asked about only one pension plan in the G section of Wave 1, no plan number is added here.

The exceptions are for the second and third pension jobs in the GH section of Wave 5 and the L section of Waves 6 and 7. In these two sections, the first pension job included up to 4 pension plans. The extension of the GH section in Wave 5 and L sections are as follows:
GH1 to GH4 in Wave 5 refers to pension plans number 1 to 4 from the first pension job in the GH section. GH5 refers to the pension plan from the second pension job and GH6 to the third pension job in that section of Wave 5. Similarly, L1 to L4 in Waves 6 and 7 refer to pension plan numbers 1 to 4 from the first pension job in the L section. L5 and L6 refer to the second and third pension jobs in that section.

4- Dormant previous pension index variables: their name starts with a wave designator, DP (Dormant Pension), followed by the year designation, section label, and plan or pension job number.

For example, GDP00_GG3 identifies a dormant previous pension which is reported in section GG of 2000 (Wave 5). It is from the third pension plan in that section.

Another example, HDP_L5 identifies a dormant pension reported in 2002 (Wave 6) and section L that is from the second pension job.

5- Number of current pension plans: they start with a wave designator, N (Number), followed by CP (Current Pension), year designator, and the section. For example, GNCP_G identifies the Number of Current pension plans in 2000 (Wave 5) reported in the G section.

6- Number of previous pension plans: they start with a wave designator, then N followed by PP (Previous pension Plans), the year designator, and the section. For example, JNPP04_L1 identifies the Number of Previous pension plans in 2004 (Wave 7) reported in the L section for the first pension job in that section.

7- Total number of previous pension plans: a wave designator followed by TNPP (Total Number of Previous Plans) and then year designator. For example, ETNPP96 identifies Total Number of Previous pension plans through 1996 (Wave 3).

8- The number of dormant pension plans: their name starts with a wave designator followed by NDP (Number of Dormant Plans) then the year designation. For example, ENDP96 identifies the Number of Dormant pension plans in 1996 (Wave 3).

9- Pension_Wi: This variable indicates whether a respondent has had any pension coverage, either from his/her current job in Wave i or from any previous job(s) up to Wave i. For example, Pension_W3 identifies respondents with at least one pension from their current job in Wave 3 or from any previous job(s) up to Wave 3.