

NCHS-SSA Feasibility Study File (Public Release 4/2009)

NCHS has completed a data linkage project designed to link administrative data collected from the Social Security Administration (SSA) with health related data collected in its population surveys. SSA data on the receipt of Old age, Survivors and Disability Insurance (OASDI) benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits have been linked to the following NCHS surveys:

- 1994-2005 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)
- NHANES I Epidemiologic Follow-up Study (NHEFS)
- Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III)
- 1999-2004 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)
- The Second Longitudinal Study of Aging (LSOA II)
- 1985, 1995, 1997 & 2004 National Nursing Home Survey (NNHS)

Survey data collected from eligible survey respondents for each of these NCHS surveys were linked to five SSA administrative data files: the Master Beneficiary Record ([MBR](#)) file (which contains OASDI benefit history and payment data; 1962-2007), the Supplemental Security Record ([SSR](#)) file (which contains SSI benefit history and payment data; 1974-2007), the Payment History Update System ([PHUS](#)) file (which contains the actual OASDI benefit payment amount; 1984-2007), the 831 Disability Master ([831 DMF](#)) File (which contains initial disability decision rendered by the Disability Determination Services; 1989-2007) and a special extract of summarized quarters of coverage variables from the Master Earnings file known as the Quarters of Coverage file ([QOC](#); 1953-2007) made specifically for this NCHS linkage.

Due to confidentiality requirements, the linked NCHS-SSA data are made available for research use through the NCHS Research Data Center (RDC), a secure data access portal.

To maximize the use of the linked administrative datasets, NCHS has created public use NCHS-SSA Feasibility Study data files that can be downloaded directly from this website. These files are especially useful to researchers considering whether to initiate a RDC proposal to analyze the restricted-use linked NCHS-SSA files. The feasibility files provide a limited set of variables that can be used to determine the maximum available sample size to assess the feasibility of conducting analyses utilizing the linked NCHS-SSA data.

Each feasibility file is NCHS survey specific and a NCHS-SSA Feasibility Study file has been created for all surveys listed above. Each file contains a match status variable: 1) `SSA_MATCH` -- to indicate whether the NCHS survey respondent was eligible for SSA linkage and if eligible, whether successfully matched to the SSA master enrollment file. The files also contain `LINK_AGE` – survey respondent age at the time of the SSA match (July 01, 2008), coded in continuous years from age 17-85 with age top-coded at age 85 and bottom coded at age 17; and five additional variables to indicate if a survey respondent has a linked data record on each of the five SSA administrative records file. It is important to note that the variables proposed for this data file do not contain any information about benefits or payments; they are simply record status variables designed to give researchers a way to gauge whether their analytic samples will have sufficient numbers of sample persons with linked SSA data to warrant an application to the RDC.

NCHS-SSA Feasibility Study File DATA CODEBOOK

PUBLICID**NCHS SURVEY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER****Type:** Character **Width:** 14 **File Position:** 1-14**Usage Notes:**

Public use identifier assigned by NCHS used to link NCHS survey data and administrative records.

LINK_AGE**PRESUMED AGE AS OF JULY 1, 2008****Type:** Numeric **Width:** 2 **File Position:** 18-19**Usage Notes:**

LINK_AGE is the presumed age of the respondent on July 1, 2008 (the date the administrative records extraction). LINK_AGE was top-coded at 85 years and bottom coded at 17 years of age.

SSA_MATCH**SSA MATCH STATUS****Type:** Numeric **Width:** 1 **File Position:** 20**Possible values:**

- 1 ELIGIBLE & LINKED TO NUMIDENT
- 2 ELIGIBLE & NOT LINKED TO NUMIDENT
- 3 INELIGIBLE FOR LINKAGE

Usage Notes:

Survey respondents are ineligible for linking to SSA administrative records if they refused to provide their Social Security number at the time of the survey interview or if they are missing key identification data. The Numident file is the SSA master enrollment file of all assigned Social Security Numbers. Not all persons linked to the Numident file will have Social Security benefit information.

ON_SSA_FLAG**ON SSA FILE INDICATOR****Type:** Numeric **Width:** 1 **File Position:** 21**Possible values:**

- 0 RESPONDENT HAS NO DATA ON ANY OF THE SSA FILES
- 1 RESPONDENT HAS DATA ON AT LEAST ONE SSA ADMINISTRATIVE FILE
- MISSING- NOT MATCHED TO NUMIDENT OR INELIGIBLE FOR LINKAGE

Usage Notes:

ON_MBR_FLAG**ON MBR FILE INDICATOR****Type:** Numeric **Width:** 1 **File Position:** 22**Possible values:**

- 0 RESPONDENT HAS NO DATA ON THE MBR FILE
- 1 RESPONDENT HAS DATA ON THE MBR FILE
- MISSING- BLANK-NOT MATCHED TO NUMIDENT OR INELIGIBLE FOR LINKAGE

Usage Notes:

ON_SSR_FLAG **ON SSR FILE INDICATOR**
Type: Numeric **Width:**1 **File Position:** 23

Possible values:

0 RESPONDENT HAS NO DATA ON THE SSR FILE
1 RESPONDENT HAS DATA ON THE SSR FILE
MISSING- BLANK- NOT MATCHED TO NUMIDENT OR INELIGIBLE FOR LINKAGE

Usage Notes:

ON_PHUS_FLAG **ON PHUS FILE INDICATOR**
Type: Numeric **Width:** 1 **File Position:** 24

Possible values:

0 RESPONDENT HAS NO DATA ON THE PHUS FILE
1 RESPONDENT HAS DATA ON THE PHUS FILE
MISSING- BLANK- NOT MATCHED TO NUMIDENT OR INELIGIBLE FOR LINKAGE

Usage Notes:

ON_831_FLAG **ON 831 FILE INDICATOR**
Type: Numeric **Width:** 1 **File Position:** 25

Possible values:

0 RESPONDENT HAS NO DATA ON THE 831 FILE
1 RESPONDENT HAS DATA ON THE 831 FILE
MISSING- BLANK- NOT MATCHED TO NUMIDENT OR INELIGIBLE FOR LINKAGE

Usage Notes:

ON_QOC_FLAG **ON QOC FILE INDICATOR**
Type: Numeric **Width:** 1 **File Position:** 26

Possible values:

0 RESPONDENT HAS NO DATA ON THE QOC FILE
1 RESPONDENT HAS DATA ON THE QOC FILE
MISSING- BLANK- NOT MATCHED TO NUMIDENT OR INELIGIBLE FOR LINKAGE

Usage Notes:
