

NOTICE to Data Users (NIS 2010-2011)

NIS-Child and NIS-Teen Public Use File (PUF) codebooks (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nis/datasets.htm>) contain a **Section Index of Variables** and an **Alphabetical Index of Variables** that list each variable included in the PUF along with the variable's "begin position" and "end position" within the ASCII dataset. Programs to read the ASCII data into SAS and R are provided, but data users may wish to use the begin position and end position to read the ASCII data into other software packages, such as STATA.

This notice is to inform data users that the end position column in the 2010 NIS-Teen Codebook Section Index of Variables and Alphabetical Index of Variables is not correct. However, users can derive the correct end position by subtracting 1 from the begin position of the following variable. For example, the begin and end positions for the first three variables of the 2010 NIS-Teen PUF currently appear in the Section Index of Variables as:

Variable	Begin Position	End Position	Correct End Position
PDAT	1	8	1
PROVWT	2	9	20
PROVWTVI	21	28	40

The correct end position for PDAT would therefore be $2 - 1 = 1$, and the correct end position for PROVWT would be $21 - 1 = 20$.

In addition to this error in the end position column in the 2010 NIS-Teen PUF Codebook, the numbers in the begin position column erroneously start over at 0 after reaching begin position 1000 in the 2010 NIS-Teen PUF Codebook, the 2011 NIS-Child PUF Codebook, and the 2011 NIS-Teen PUF Codebook. In these codebooks, users can derive the correct begin positions for these variables by adding 1000 to the begin positions that currently appear in these codebooks.

Corrected revised versions of these codebooks will be posted soon. Note that the programs provided to read the ASCII data into SAS and R do not contain any errors.

Posted June 4, 2013