

APPENDIX

MCBS variable descriptions. “SP” means sampled person

Variable	MCBS Name	Description/Survey Question
Doctor’s office visit	MDVISIT MDDRTEL	MDVISIT: Has SP seen a medical doctor since {survey specific reference date—beginning of survey year}? MDDRTEL: Did someone tell SP to come back for MD visit? The dependent variable combines these dummy variables to define an indicator of physician visit on SP’s initiative.
Age	H_AGE	Age (coded from date of birth)
Sex	H_SEX	Sex (Male = 0; Female = 1)
Hispanic ancestry	D_ETHNIC	Is SP of Hispanic ancestry? Dichotomous variable: Hispanic = 1.
American Indian, Asian-pacific Is., Black, and Other	D_RACE	Race of SP (coded as a set of dummy variables, White is the excluded category)
Education	SPHIGRAD	Highest school grade completed up to 18 years.
General health	GENHEALTH	General health of SP. “In general, compared to other people your age, would you say that your health is ... {excellent, ..., poor}?”, measured on a 5 point scale.
Number of illnesses	OCARTERY through OCEMPHYS	SP ever told had {name of illness}. This is a set of dummy variables for 18 illnesses (physical and mental) in the MCBS. Recoded here as the sum across variables (i.e., number of illnesses).
Difficulty stooping, lifting, reaching, writing, walking	DIFSTOOP, DIFLIFT, DIFREACH, DIFWRIT, DIFWALK.	These are individual variables. “How much difficulty, if any, do you have {stooping, lifting, reaching, writing, and walking}?”; each measured on a 5-point scale from “No difficulty at all” to “Not able to do it”.
ADL Scale	PRBTELE through D_ADLHRL	Summary scale of the standard ADL and IADL scale questions. See, Finch et al. (28) for scale development
Memory loss	MEMLOSS	Question: “Do you experience memory loss such that it interferes with daily activities?” Dichotomous variable: yes = 1.
Problems decisions	PROBDECS	Question: “Do you have problems making decisions to the point that it interferes with daily activities?” Dichotomous variable: yes = 1.
Trouble concentrating	TROBCONC	Question: “Do you have trouble concentrating or keeping your mind on what you are doing?” Dichotomous variable: yes = 1.

Income	INCOME	Income of SP. Ordered variable indicating income of \$0 to greater than \$50,000, by \$5000 increments.
Medicaid status	H_MSCW	Medicaid status. On Medicaid = 1; not on Medicaid = 0.
Single, Widowed, Divorced, Separated	SPMARSTA	Marital status of SP. Coded as a set of indicator variables: Married and not separated is the excluded category.
Number of children	SPCHNLNM	Number of children living. "Including natural, adopted, and stepchildren, how many living children do you have?"

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