

1990 RESURVEY OF MATURE MEN

APPENDIX 29: SUMMARY OF MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE 1990 & EARLIER SURVEYS.

WARNING: THE 1990 SURVEY DIFFERS FROM EARLIER ONES IN THE FOLLOWING MAJOR WAYS:

A. WHEREAS IN THE PAST THE SAMPLE MEMBER (SM) AND THE RESPONDENT (R) WERE INVARIABLY THE SAME PERSON, IN THE PRESENT SURVEY THE RESPONDENT CAN BE (A) THE SURVIVING MEMBER OF THE ORIGINAL SAMPLE HIMSELF; (B) A PROXY FOR THE SM IN THE EVENT HE IS INCAPABLE OF SUBMITTING TO THE INTERVIEW; (C) THE WIDOW OF THE ORIGINAL SAMPLE MEMBER IN THE EVENT OF HIS DEATH; OR ANOTHER NEXT-OF-KIN (OR FRIEND) OF A DECEDENT IN THE ABSENCE OF A WIDOW OR IN THE EVENT OF THE WIDOW'S INCOMPETENCE.

B. IN PREVIOUS SURVEYS, INSTITUTIONALIZED MEN WERE DEFINED AS BEING 'OUT OF SCOPE' AND WERE NOT INTERVIEWED. IN THE 1990 SURVEY, INSTITUTIONALIZED MEN HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED. WIDOWS OF SM'S WHO ARE INSTITUTIONALIZED HAVE LIKEWISE BEEN INTERVIEWED.

C. TWO INTERVIEW SCHEDULES HAVE BEEN USED: ONE FOR CASES IN WHICH THE SM IS ALIVE; THE OTHER FOR DECEASED SMS. THERE, ARE, HOWEVER, SUBSTANTIAL VARIATIONS WITHIN EACH OF THESE. FOR EXAMPLE, WHERE THE SM IS INSTITUTIONALIZED, CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE SCHEDULE ARE OMITTED (E.G., CURRENT LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS) AND AN ADDITIONAL SECTION RELATING TO HIS INSTITUTIONALIZATION IS ADDED. MOREOVER, WHERE THE INTERVIEW IS BEING HELD WITH A PROXY BECAUSE OF THE INCOMPETENCE OF THE SM THE PATTERN OF QUESTIONS IS AGAIN DIFFERENT (E.G., ATTITUDINAL QUESTIONS ARE OMITTED, AS WELL AS THOSE DESIGNED TO OBTAIN CURRENT LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS.

D. WHEN THE SM IS DECEASED, THE INTERVIEW SCHEDULE IS DESIGNED TO PICK UP INFORMATION ABOUT THE SM FROM THE TIME OF THE LAST INTERVIEW WITH HIM TILL THE TIME OF HIS DEATH. IN THE MAJORITY OF THESE CASES, WHERE THERE IS A WIDOW, A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION IS ALSO OBTAINED ABOUT HER LABOR MARKET ACTIVITY AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES. HOWEVER, WHERE THERE IS NO WIDOW AND THE INTERVIEW IS WITH SOME OTHER RELATIVE OR FRIEND OF THE DECEASED SM, THE INTERVIEW COLLECTS INFORMATION ONLY ABOUT THE DECEDENT. THE INTERVIEW SCHEDULE THAT IS USED IN ALL CASES IN WHICH THE SM IS DEAD IS, FOR CONVENIENCE, REFERRED TO AS THE 'WIDOWS' QUESTIONNAIRE.'

E. IN THE 1990 SURVEY THERE ARE FOUR DIFFERENT WEIGHTS FOR EACH SAMPLE CASE, RATHER THAN ONLY ONE, AS IN ALL PREVIOUS SURVEYS. FOR A DESCRIPTION OF THE WEIGHING SYSTEM AND SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING THE SELECTION OF THE APPROPRIATE WEIGHT, SEE APPENDIX 29.

F. IN PREVIOUS SURVEYS, BECAUSE THE "EMPLOYMENT STATUS RECODE" (ESR) EXISTED FOR EVERY SAMPLE CASE FOR WHICH AN INTERVIEW WAS OBTAINED, IT COULD LEGITIMATELY BE USED AS A MEANS OF SELECTING THE SAMPLE FOR THE PARTICULAR SURVEY. IN THE 1990 SURVEY THIS IS NOT

TRUE; FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE APPROPRIATE VARIABLE IS REFERENCE 6015.90.

G. BECAUSE OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE INTERVIEW SCHEDULES, A MUCH LARGER NUMBER OF CHECK ITEMS WERE USED IN 1990 THAN IN PREVIOUS SURVEYS. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THERE WERE MANY INSTANCES IN WHICH INTERVIEWERS FAILED TO MARK CHECK ITEMS APPROPRIATELY EVEN THOUGH THEY ASKED THE APPROPRIATE QUESTIONS. TO EXPEDITE THE PREPARATION OF THE TAPE, A DECISION WAS MADE NOT TO INSIST IN ALL CASES ON CONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE FREQUENCIES SHOWN IN EACH CHECK ITEM AND IN THE QUESTION TO WHICH THE CHECK ITEM RELATES. TO ILLUSTRATE, CHECK ITEM CC (REFERENCE #6163) SHOWS A FREQUENCY OF 1,911 FOR MEN LIVING OUTSIDE INSTITUTIONS, ALL OF WHOM SHOULD BE RECORDED IN ONE OF THE THREE BOXES IN CHECK ITEM DD (REFERENCE # 6164); HOWEVER, THE SUM OF THE FREQUENCIES IN THOSE THREE BOXES IS ONLY 1,896. MOREOVER, BOX 3 IN CHECK ITEM DD SHOWS A FREQUENCY OF 1,460, AND THESE ARE THE ONLY PERSONS FOR WHOM THERE SHOULD BE A RESPONSE IN ITEM 19A; YET THERE ARE 1,465 RESPONSES TO THE LATTER QUESTION. IN CASES OF THIS KIND, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE MADE EVERY EFFORT TO MAKE THE SUBSTANTIVE DATA REFLECT THE RESPONSES ON THE INTERVIEW SCHEDULES, WE HAVE NOT EXPENDED THE TIME AND EFFORT TO MAKE THE "COSMETIC" CHANGES THAT COMPLETE CONSISTENCY BETWEEN CHECK ITEMS AND SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS WOULD HAVE REQUIRED.