



AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

MEPS DATA USERS' WORKSHOP TWO-DAY COMPUTER HANDS-ON CONDITIONS, EXPENDITURES, AND UTILIZATION AHRQ CONFERENCE CENTER

MAY 3–4, 2007

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**AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY
TWO-DAY COMPUTER HANDS-ON
CONDITIONS, EXPENDITURES, AND UTILIZATION**

**AHRQ CONFERENCE CENTER
MAY 3–4, 2007**

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

AHRQ will be conducting a two-day workshop to facilitate the use of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Household Component by the health services research community. The workshop, designed for those with an interest in using national health surveys, will be held at the Eisenberg Building, located on 540 Gaither Road in Rockville, Maryland. At this workshop, participants will have the opportunity to bring up specific research questions of interest to them. A certificate of completion will be provided to each participant at the end of the workshop.

Purpose

The purpose of this two-day workshop is to facilitate the use of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Household Component (MEPS-HC) public use medical expenditures and conditions data files by the health services research community by providing both practical information about MEPS files and an opportunity to construct analytic files with the assistance of AHRQ staff. The workshop can accommodate a maximum of 20 participants at a cost of \$50 per registrant.

Who should attend

This workshop is designed for health services researchers who have a background or interest in medical expenditures and conditions. The lectures will include topics such as utilization, estimation, medical conditions file, prescription medicines file, and state estimates. Individuals whose primary interest is in state or local area analyses or clinical research would not benefit from this workshop. Given the nature and pace of the workshop, attendees should have some exposure to MEPS and be able to use SAS.

Program requirements

All participants should read the MEPS workbook (available on the MEPS Web site) prior to attending the workshop. The workbook provides concise information about the HC survey design and file content. All work on the PCs will be conducted in SAS. Because the main purpose of this workshop is to provide participants with an opportunity to construct analytic files, participants should have a working knowledge of SAS. In order to maximize the time available for file construction, it will be helpful to participants if they review the MEPS data file documentation and codebooks (also available on the MEPS Web site) prior to the workshop. It is recommended that participants bring their specific research questions to be programmed and answered in order to fully benefit from the second hands-on day of the workshop.

Program description

This workshop will provide a one-day orientation to MEPS utilization, expenditures, and conditions data products and one day for hands-on construction of data files on the computers. The first day will consist of lectures on practical information about the survey design, file content, and the construction of analytic files by data users and the knowledge necessary to formulate research plans utilizing the various MEPS-HC files and linkage capabilities. Instructional and reference materials will be distributed and discussed as necessary. All 2004 full-year public use data files will be available on each participant's PC. (Please note that non-public use data will not be available at the workshop.) File documentation, codebooks, and the MEPS survey instrument will be available electronically. If participants prefer hard copies of these materials, they can be downloaded from the MEPS Web site and brought to the workshop by the participant. Participants will utilize the second day for hands-on constructions of data files and programming their own questions/research problems pertaining to MEPS data. AHRQ staff will be on-site at all times, including during lunch, to answer questions and provide programming assistance.

Contact information

E-mail program questions to workshopinfo@ahrq.hhs.gov.

**MEPS DATA USERS' WORKSHOP
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AHRQ CONFERENCE CENTER

MAY 3–4, 2007

Workshop schedule:

Thursday, May 3, 2007

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Registration & Breakfast
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Introduction and Lectures
12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Lecture and SAS Exercises

Friday, May 4, 2007

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m. – 10:00	SAS Exercises
10:00 a.m. –12:00 noon	Hands-on Computer Lab
12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Hands-on Computer Lab

Registration fee: \$50

Registration deadline: April 16, 2007

Last day for refund: April 18, 2007

Contact information:

E-mail program questions or to request any special accessibility requirements (e.g., sign interpretation, wheelchair ramp access, etc.)

Workshopinfo@ahrq.gov

or

Diana Brown
Social and Scientific Systems, Inc.
Support Contractor to the AHRQ
8757 Georgia Avenue 12th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: 301-628-3118
Fax: 301-628-3101
Email: dbrown@s-3.com

**AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY
MEPS DATA USERS' WORKSHOP
REGISTRATION FORM**

Please print. You can also type the information directly into this form.

_____ Workshop dates

Name: _____
last, first, middle initial (include degrees for printed list of participants)

Title: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ FAX: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please indicate any special requirements (e.g., accommodation for impaired mobility, sign interpreter):

Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis with a maximum of 20 participants. In order to attend the hands-on computer lab, participants must attend the lecture on day one of the workshop. Payment must be in the form of a credit card or check. If your payment is by check, the check should be made payable to Social & Scientific Systems and sent to the attention of Diana Brown. Company checks should reference the workshop title, workshop dates, and the registrant's name. Acceptance notification will be via e-mail. Please note that your check must be received before you are considered a participant and officially registered for the workshop.

Check one:

I have included a personal check or money order. _____

I have provided information for credit card payment. _____

Credit card company: _____ Amount charged: \$ _____
(Visa or MasterCard only)

Credit card number: _____ Expiration date: _____

Name printed (as it appears on credit card): _____

Billing address: _____

Signature: _____

(see next page)

AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

WORKSHOP LOGISTICS FACT SHEET

Location: AHRQ Conference Center
540 Gaither Road
Rockville, MD 20850-6649
Phone: 301-427-1406
Fax: 301-427-1276

For security purposes, please be prepared to show a photo ID to enter the AHRQ facility.

Participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements, hotel accommodations, meals and snack breaks. There is a break room at AHRQ with vending machines. You will receive directions to places for lunch either within walking distance or via the AHRQ shuttle.

Hotel Accommodations: There are many hotels within a one-mile radius of the AHRQ building that can be found by searching on the Internet. Some local hotels offer shuttle service to the nearby Shady Grove Metro station and may also offer shuttle service from your hotel to AHRQ. Confirm shuttle arrangements when making hotel reservations.

Ground Transportation: If you take **METRO** (the subway system for the D.C. metropolitan area), the free AHRQ shuttle leaves from the Shady Grove station during the morning at :15 and :45 minutes past the hour starting at 6:45 am and will bring you directly to the AHRQ building. To reach the AHRQ shuttle, turn **left** after exiting the Metro fare gates at the Shady Grove station, go up the escalator—the shuttle will park to your immediate right. If you decide to take MetroBus instead of the AHRQ shuttle, take the route 63 or 66 bus from the Shady Grove station. The AHRQ building is located across the parking lot from the Market Place corner store at the corner of Redland and Gaither Roads (see the last page for a map of the immediate area).

If you drive, **pay parking** is available at the AHRQ building. The lot is only accessible through the entrance on Gaither Road. Maximum daily cost is \$4.

Driving Directions:

From Baltimore: Take I-95 South to I-495 West. Then follow directions from Prince Georges County.

From Prince Georges County: Take I-495 West (toward Bethesda) to the I-270 North exit. Take I-270 North to Shady Grove Road East (Exit 8), and immediately bear right to Redland Boulevard. Continue on Redland Boulevard through traffic light and turn right into Redland Center parking lot.

From Virginia and South: Take I-495 North to the I-270 North exit. Take I-270 North to Shady Grove Road East (Exit 8), and immediately bear right to Redland Boulevard through traffic light and turn right into Redland Center parking lot.

From Route 355 North (Rockville Pike): Turn left on Redland Boulevard and turn left at the intersection of Redland Boulevard and Gaither Road. From Gaither Road, turn right into the Redland Center parking lot.

From Route 355 South (Rockville Pike): Turn right on Redland Boulevard and turn left at the intersection of Redland Boulevard and Gaither Road. From Gaither Road, turn right into the Redland Center parking lot.

From Frederick County: Take I-270 South to Shady Grove Road East (Exit 8). Travel east about .6 miles and turn right on Gaither Road. Travel south and cross Redland Boulevard. From Gaither Road, turn right into the Redland Center parking lot.

From Hubert H. Humphrey Building: Go West on Independence Avenue SW (toward Washington Avenue SW). Turn left onto ramp. Stay straight to 9th Street SW. Take I-395 South ramp (toward Virginia) and merge onto I-395 (toward Richmond). Take George Washington Memorial Parkway North (Exit 10C, toward Arlington Cemetery). Take I-495 North (toward Maryland). Follow directions from Virginia and South.

Shuttle/Taxi Services from Airports:

From **Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA)**, **Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD)**, and **Baltimore Washington (Thurgood Marshall) International Airport (BWI)**:

- **SuperShuttle** 1-800-BLUE VAN (1-800-258-3826): Reservations should be made **in advance**.
- **The Airport Shuttle** 1-800-776-0323 or 410-381-2772: Reservations should be made **in advance**.
- **Taxicab:** Taxis are readily available outside the baggage claim areas of all local airports.

A direct trip from any of the three airports takes approximately 1 hour depending on traffic. Allow slightly more time to/from BWI and slightly less to/from DCA.

Metro Subway Services:

Metro fare cards are magnetic cards purchased from machines located at the entrance to each station. The fares between stations are listed at the station entrance. Fare cards can be purchased for any amount of money up to \$20.

From **Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA)**: Board the Metro **Yellow Line** going toward *Mt Vernon Sq 7th St-Convention Center* station. Transfer at the *Gallery Place-Chinatown* station to the **Red Line** going toward *Shady Grove*. Exit at *Shady Grove* station. Travel time is approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes.

From **Union Station/Amtrak**: Board the Metro **Red Line** toward *Shady Grove* and exit at the *Shady Grove* station. Travel time is approximately 50 minutes.

Once at Shady Grove Station, follow the directions provided in the Ground Transportation section above for free AHRQ shuttle service directions to the AHRQ Eisenberg Office Building.

An interactive map of the Metro subway system that allows you to click on any station name for information about that station is available on the Web at <http://www.wmata.com/metro/metro/systemmap.cfm>.

