

## Custom Programming SAS Code for Merging SPD

### Files

/\*

PROGRAM: SPDMERGE.SAS

DESCRIPTION: The first SPD longitudinal file contains edited information on employment, earnings, income sources, income amounts, health insurance, and poverty. It also contains some information regarding means-tested government transfer programs, such as TANF and Food Stamps. Due to time constraints and in the interest of providing users with a consistent and current file in the most timely manner, a number of variables from the SPD core and topical modules were not included on the first version of the longitudinal file.

In addition to the core data on the SPD longitudinal file, the SPD 1998 instrument collected a wealth of information that allows for an in-depth analysis of household and family characteristics pertaining directly to welfare reform. These data include questions on new welfare programs such as transportation assistance, childcare vouchers, and newly instituted work training and child well-being modules. Although these data are not currently included on the SPD longitudinal file, they are available on the SPD 1998 Experimental file.

Users wishing to use the full complement of these data may do so by merging SPD Longitudinal file with the 1998 file. Users should be warned, however, that these data underwent less rigorous editing procedures than did data on other SPD files. In addition, the data available are for 1997 only, so comparisons using the same variable over time, in most cases cannot be made.

The merging procedure is actually quite simple and the program below can be directly downloaded and executed with a minimum amount of work. The program merges the SPD longitudinal file with the SPD 1998 Experimental file at the person level. The variables required for this type of merge are:

SIPP\_PNL SIPP Panel Number  
PP\_ID Sample Unit Identification Number  
PP\_PNUM Person Identification Number  
PP\_ENTRY Entry ID.

For merges at other units of analysis, please see <https://www.census.gov/spd/long/fileinfo-1stl.htm> for more information.

To execute the file merge, simply select a directory path for the library statement, enter the appropriate name for each file where specified in the program, and select a name for the merged file. It is also recommended that users give some thought to the size of the files they are working with. There are 2047 variables on the longitudinal file and 3122 on the experimental file. Keeping only the variables from the experimental file that one wishes to work with will help reduce file size and increase the processing speed of programs.

TYPE: SAS PROC/DATA STEP

CREATED: 1/23/01

BY: AFJ

\*/

```
libname spd " ;
```

```
data temp_lng ;  
set spd. ;
```

```
MERGEKEY = (sipp_pnl||pp_id||pp_pnum||pp_entry) ;
```

```
run ;
```

```
data temp_exp ;  
set spd.
```

```
(keep = sipp_pnl pp_id pp_pnum pp_entry plus specify which variables to  
keep from the experimental file) ;
```

```
MERGEKEY = (sipp_pnl||pp_id||pp_pnum||pp_entry) ;
```

```
run ;
```

```
proc sort data = temp_lng ;  
by MERGEKEY ;  
run ;
```

```
proc sort data = temp_est ;  
by MERGEKEY ;  
run ;
```

```
data spd. ;  
merge temp_lng (in=a) temp_est (in=b) ;  
by mergekey ;  
if a ;  
run ;
```