

MEDICARE CURRENT BENEFICIARY SURVEY (MCBS): DATA NOTE



Version Control Log

Date	Version	Revisions
06/14/2023	1.0	Initial version published.

DATA NOTE: 2021 UPDATES TO INCASSET SEGMENT

Introduction

To facilitate research using Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS) data on the income and assets of Medicare beneficiaries, CMS released an updated version of the Income and Assets (INCASSET) segment of the MCBS Survey File Limited Data Set (LDS) beginning with the 2021 data year. The purpose of this Data Note is to describe the changes to this MCBS data segment.

For more information on the MCBS Survey File LDS, please see the *MCBS Data User's Guide: Survey File* along with other data documentation available at <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Research/MCBS/Codebooks>.

Overview

The INCASSET segment of the MCBS Survey File LDS contains detailed information on the income and assets of beneficiaries and their spouses/partners (if applicable). This information is collected from MCBS Community respondents through the Income and Assets Questionnaire (IAQ) during each summer data collection period. For more information, see the *MCBS Data User's Guide: Survey File*.

The updated version of the INCASSET segment was first released for the 2021 data year. Compared to prior Survey File LDS releases, CMS recoded select variables and removed variables containing duplicative information from the 2021 version of this segment to improve its analytic usability for researchers.

Scope

CMS updated 15 variables and removed 35 redundant variables from the 2021 INCASSET segment. Exhibit 1 lists the affected variables and briefly describes the changes. See the Codebook for more information on the variables on this segment.

Exhibit 1: Variable Changes to 2021 INCASSET Segment

Variable Name and Description	Type of Change	Notes
MMORT_I: Monthly mortgage, imputation status	Updated	Added new variable category for "Imputed from range"
MORTAMT1: Amount of SP's monthly mortgage payment	Removed	Redundant to MMORT (Amount of SP's monthly mortgage payment)
MORTAMT2: Range of SP's monthly mortgage payment	Removed	Redundant to MMORT
HOMEOW_I: Amount remaining on SP's mortgage, imputation status	Updated	Added new variable category for "Imputed from range"
MORTOWE1: Amount still owed on SP's mortgage	Removed	Redundant to HOMEOWE (Amount remaining on SP's mortgage)

Variable Name and Description	Type of Change	Notes
MORTOWE2: Range of amount owed on SP's mortgage	Removed	Redundant to HOMEOWE
HOMEEV_I: Home value, imputation status	Updated	Added new variable category for "Imputed from range"
PRESVAL1: Present value of SP's home	Removed	Redundant to HOMEEVAL (Present value of SP's home)
PRESVAL2: Range of present value of SP's home	Removed	Redundant to HOMEEVAL
HOMERE_I: Home rent, imputation status	Updated	Added new variable category for "Imputed from range"
RENTAMT1: Amount of SP's rent per month	Removed	Redundant to HOMERENT (Amount of SP's rent per month)
RENTAMT2: Range of amount of SP's rent per month	Removed	Redundant to HOMERENT
SSRRSP_I: SP received SSRR, imputation status	Updated	Added new label: Imputation flag for SSRRSP (SP received SSRR) and SSRRSPSE (Spouse received SSRR)
SSRRSPS_I: Spouse received SSRR, imputation status	Removed	Redundant to SSRRSP_I
SSRRNONE: No SSRR received last month	Removed	
SPSSIR_I: SP received SSI last month, imputation status	Updated	Added new label: Imputation flag for SPSSIREC (SP received SSI last month) and SPSESIRC (Spouse received SSI last month)
SPSESI_I: Spouse received SSI last month, imputation status	Removed	Redundant to SPSSIR_I
NOSSIREC: No SSI payments received last month	Removed	
SPVAPA_I: SP received VA payment, imputation status	Updated	Added new label: Imputation flag for SPVAPAY (SP received VA payments last month) and SPSEVAPY (Spouse received VA payments last month)
SPSEVA_I: Spouse received VA payment, imputation status	Removed	Redundant to SPVAPA_I
NOVAPAY: No VA payments received last month	Removed	
SPPENS_I: SP pension, imputation status	Updated	Added new label: Imputation flag for SPPENS (SP pension plans) and SPSEPENS (Spouse pension plans)
SPSEPE_I: Spouse pension, imputation status	Removed	Redundant to SPPENS_I

Variable Name and Description	Type of Change	Notes
NOPENS: No pension plans	Removed	
SP401K_I: SP retirement plans, imputation status	Updated	Added new label: Imputation flag for SP401K (SP retirement plans) and SPSE401K (Spouse retirement plans)
SPSE40_I: Spouse retirement plans, imputation status	Removed	Redundant to SP401K_I
NO401K: No retirement plans	Removed	
SPFUND_I: SP mutual funds/stocks, imputation status	Updated	Added new label: Imputation flag for SPFUND (SP mutual funds/stocks), SPSEFUND (Spouse mutual funds/stocks), and JNTFUND (Joint mutual funds/stocks)
SPSEFU_I: Spouse mutual funds/stocks, imputation status	Removed	Redundant to SPFUND_I
JNTFUN_I: Joint mutual funds/stocks, imputation status	Removed	Redundant to SPFUND_I
NOFUND: No mutual funds/stocks	Removed	
SPBOND_I: SP bond, imputation status	Updated	Added new label: Imputation flag for SPBOND (SP bonds), SPSEBOND (Spouse bonds) and JNTBOND (Joint bonds)
SPSEBO_I: Spouse bonds, imputation status	Removed	Redundant to SPBOND_I
JNTBON_I: Joint bonds, imputation status	Removed	Redundant to SPBOND_I
NOBOND: No bonds	Removed	
SPCHEC_I: SP checking account, imputation status	Updated	Added new label: Imputation flag for SPCHECK (SP checking account), SPSECHK (Spouse checking account), and JNTCHECK (Joint checking account)
SPSECH_I: Spouse checking account, imputation status	Removed	Redundant to SPCHEC_I
JNTCHE_I: Joint checking account, imputation status	Removed	Redundant to SPCHEC_I
NOCHECK: No checking account	Removed	
SPSAVE_I: SP savings account, imputation status	Updated	Added new label: Imputation flag for SPSAVE (SP savings account), SPSESAVE (Spouse savings account), and JNTSAVE (Joint savings account)
SPSESA_I: Spouse savings account, imputation status	Removed	Redundant to SPSAVE_I

Variable Name and Description	Type of Change	Notes
JNTSAV_I: Joint savings account, imputation status	Removed	Redundant to SPSAVE_I
NOSAVE: No savings account	Removed	
SPDEPT_I: SP certificates of deposit, imputation status	Updated	Added new label: Imputation flag for SPDEPT (SP certificates of deposit), SPSEDEPT (Spouse certificates of deposit), and JNTDEPT (Joint certificates of deposit)
SPSEDE_I: Spouse certificates of deposit, imputation status	Removed	Redundant to SPDEPT_I
JNTDEP_I: Joint certificates of deposit, imputation status	Removed	Redundant to SPDEPT_I
NODEPT: No certificates of deposit	Removed	
SPLAND_I: SP other assets, imputation status	Updated	Added new label: Imputation flags for SPLAND (Other assets SP owns), SPSELAND (Other assets spouse owns), and JNTLAND (Jointly owned other assets)
SPSELA_I: Spouse other assets, imputation status	Removed	Redundant to SPLAND_I
JNTLAN_I: Joint other assets, imputation status	Removed	Redundant to SPLAND_I
NOLAND: No other assets (farm, business, real estate)	Removed	

Notes: SSRR stands for Social Security retirement and/or Railroad Retirement. SSI stands for Supplemental Security Income. VA stands for Veteran's Administration.

Impact

Starting with 2021, the updated version of the INCASSET segment will be included in the MCBS Survey File LDS, which is available with a Data Use Agreement (DUA). Researchers can submit a request for the MCBS Survey File LDS via CMS' DUA tracking system, the Enterprise Privacy Policy Engine (EPPE). For more information, including instructions for accessing and using EPPE to make a request, visit the CMS LDS website at <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Files-for-Order/Data-Disclosures-Data-Agreements/DUA - NewLDS>.

For questions about analyzing INCASSET data, please email MCBS@cms.hhs.gov.