

Missing Values

Data may be missing for a variety of reasons, and we are leaving the decision and responsibility of how to deal with them to individual researchers.

Reasons data may be missing:

1. Skip patterns
2. Respondent failed to answer a question (refused or missed the question)
3. Respondent did not finish survey
4. Some questions were not asked in all years
5. Some surveys were not offered in all years
6. Legitimate skips

Several codes have been created to denote different kinds of missing values in the file. These include:

-99797	No more valid answers in student survey (student survey only)
-9494	Did not take follow up survey
-8888	Possible Legitimate Skip
-3949	Did not take parental survey (not offered 2004, 2005)
-3948	Did not take parental survey (2000, 2002 or 2003)
-2002	Questions asked in only 2002 to 2005
-2000	Questions asked in 2000 only
-999	Missing for some other reason
BLANK	For character variables

Please be cautious when using values from variable in which respondents filled in a number. For example, there are a number of unlikely height and weight values in variables S110 and S111. We believe that some students were uncomfortable answering this question, so they filled in unlikely values. Similarly, the number of hours a week in activities and hours worked per week are unlikely or impossible in some cases. Rather than recode these, we are leaving it to researchers to decide how to deal with them.