

## College Attendance—One Year Follow-Up

This memo discusses the college attendance measure based upon data from the one year follow up survey. The UWBHS conducted a one year follow up survey, contacting the baseline survey respondents one year after they were scheduled to complete high school. The one year follow up survey was rather short (11 questions). The main intent of the follow up was to assess whether the student was enrolled in college and/or whether they were working. The response rate across all years was 92%.

Enrollment in college is the first, and possibly most difficult, step towards completing college. College completion is of interest given that it is associated with increased earnings, increased occupational mobility and likelihood of entry into the middle class (Crissey, 2009; Day and Newburger, 2002).

### Original Survey Items

In the one year follow-up survey, students were asked to report the name (and city and state) of the college they were had attended since graduating from high school (if any) in question 3a. The responses are included in variable f03a. (If students had attended multiple schools, at different points in time, the most recent school that they attended was recorded.) The follow-up survey item is reproduced below:

### 3) Where have you been attending school or college?

(a) Name \_\_\_\_\_ (b) City \_\_\_\_\_ (c) State \_\_\_\_\_

### Apply Carnegie Codes to the College Plans Questions

In responding to questions F03 students provided the name and location of the college(s) that they were attending/had attended since graduating from high school. In an effort to protect the respondents' confidentiality the name, city, and state of college listed have been removed from the data file. However, the UWBHS team recoded the colleges listed in these items using the Carnegie Classifications. The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education™ is the most widely recognized reference work of all colleges and universities in the United States. (The Carnegie Classification codes included in the UWBHS file come from the Carnegie Classifications Data File, as prepared May 30, 2006). For more information on the Carnegie variables included in the UWBHS data file, click [http://depts.washington.edu/uwbhs/webdocs/Carnegie\\_memo.pdf](http://depts.washington.edu/uwbhs/webdocs/Carnegie_memo.pdf).

Comment [n1]: Same as above

The major advantage of the Carnegie Classification codes is that they provide a systematic and detailed classification of nearly all of the post-secondary institutions in the United States along 15 important dimensions that help to classify post-secondary institutions. The college that the student reported in the follow up survey has a value as calculated by Carnegie Classification for Institutions of Higher Education for each of 15 attributes that describe the school (accreditation type, level of institution, degree of urbanization, control, etc). In order to recode the respondents text response (name of the school) into these specific numerical values, the name of the school that the student reported on question F03a is matched to those found in the Carnegie

There were some cases when the Carnegie Codes could not be assigned, either because we had incomplete information, or because the school was not included in the Carnegie Classification. In these cases, colleges were assigned a value of 2 or 4 by the UWBHS staff by looking up information about the college.

A small percentage of students were attending multiple schools at once. For example they would take one course at one school and the rest of their courses at another school. As we only coded one school, in these instances, we would preference four year schools over two year schools. If both schools were of the same type (e.g. both two year or four year) we coded the school that was listed first.

## Operationalization of College Attendance

The creation of a college attendance variable that uses data from the one year follow up survey and notes whether the student is: not enrolled in school, enrolled in a two year school, or enrolled in a four year school is rather straightforward. The level of institutional control variable (iclef03) is used to distinguish between students that are enrolled in two year and four year schools. The small fraction of students that did not complete the follow up survey (response rate was 92%) are coded as missing for this measure.

Note, however, that one can also use the Carnegie data to make additional indicators of college attendance. For example it is possible to code whether the school that the student attended was public or private (variable: contf03).

## Citations

Day, Jennifer C. and Eric C. Newburger. 2002. "The Big Payoff: Educational Attainment and Synthetic Estimates of Work-Life Earnings." *Current Population Reports* P23-210. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Census Bureau.

Sewell, William H., Archibald O. Haller, and Alejandro Portes. 1969. "The Education and Early Occupational Attainment Process". *American Sociological Review* 34:82-92.

Sewell, William H., Archibald O. Haller, and George W. Ohlendorf. 1970. "The Education and Early Occupational Attainment Process: Replication and Revision". *American Sociological Review* 35:1014-1027.

Sewell, William and Robert Hauser. 1975. *Education, Occupation, and Earnings*. New York: Academic Press.

## \* SPSS Syntax .

```
*****in 2 or 4 year school*****.
```

```
if UWLVF03 = 0 coll24yr = 0.
if UWLVF03 = 4 coll24yr = 1.
if UWLVF03 = 2 coll24yr = 1.
```

```
variable label coll24yr 'student in a 2 or 4 yr school post hs'.
Value labels coll24yr 1 'in any college' 0 'not in college'.
```

```
if UWLVF03 = 0 coll4yr = 0.
if UWLVF03 = 4 coll4yr = 1.
if UWLVF03 = 2 coll4yr = 0.
```

```
variable label coll4yr 'student in a 4 yr school post hs'.
Value labels coll4yr 1 'in 4yr schl' 0 '2yr schl or no schl'.
```

```
if infoll = 0 coll4yr = -9494 .
if infoll = 0 coll24yr = -9494 .
```

```
add value labels coll24yr
-9494 'Did not take follow up survey'
  0 'No entry that could be coded as 2 or 4 year college'
  1 'Entry that could be coded as 2 or 4 year college' .
```

```
add value labels coll4yr
-9494 'Did not take follow up survey'
  0 'No entry that could be coded as 4 year college'
  1 'Entry that could be coded as 4 year college' .
```

```
*****.
```