Coding of Parental Education in the UW-BHS Senior Surveys

The UW-BHS senior surveys included questions about the educational attainment of the student respondent's mother (s130 and s130_) and father (s122 and s122_). However, the parental reference and the educational categories were slightly different between the 2000 and 2002-2005 surveys. For most users, these changes will have only minor effects on comparability.   This memo explains the differences in measurement and how to combine the variables across survey years.

    I.   Differences in Original Survey Questions Between 2000 and 2002-2005

The original survey questions measuring father's and mother's education changed between 2000 and 2002. The first change is the definition of the parent. In 2000, the question asked about "your father or male guardian (or mother or female guardian)." In the 2002 to 2005 surveys, the questions referred to your father or father figure (or mother or mother figure). In the 2002 to 2005 surveys, a preceding question asked about the exact relationship of the person most like a father (or mother) with categories including biological father, adoptive father, step father, etc.

The response categories between 2000 and 2002-05 also changed. In 2000, there were 18 response categories, including one for each graded year of schooling (from 1st grade to 11th grade). The 2002-05 surveys included 17 response categories: the categories for elementary schooling were grouped and there was more detail on post secondary schooling.

Because of these change, the variables for father's education are in two separate variables: s122 in 2000 and s122_ in 2002-2005. Similarly, mother's education is found in two separate variables: s130 in 2000 and s130_ in 2002-2005. Users must make adjustments to these variables to insure comparability of measurement.

The original questions for Father's education in 2000 (s122):

122) What is the highest degree or level of school that your FATHER or male guardian has completed?

(MARK ONLY ONE – THE HIGHEST LEVEL COMPLETED)

No Schooling .... O	11th Grade .... O
1st Grade .... O	High School Graduate or GED .... O
2nd Grade .... O	Some College, No Degree..................... O
3rd Grade .... O	2-Year or Community College Degree . O
4th Grade .... O	4-Year College Degree .... O
5th Grade .... O	Master's Degree or Equivalent.............. O
6th Grade .... O	Ph.D., M.D., or
7th Grade .... O	Other Professional Degree............. O
8th Grade .... O	
9th Grade .... O	Not Applicable
10th Grade .... O	(no male parent/guardian) .... O

Father's education in 2002-2005 (s122_):

122_)What is the highest degree or level of school that he (your father or father figure) has completed?

(CIRCLE ONLY ONE – THE HIGHEST LEVEL COMPLETED)

Less than 1st Grade 1

1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Grade 2

5th or 6th Grade 3

7th or 8th Grade 4

9th Grade 5

10th Grade 6

11th Grade 7

12th Grade no diploma 8

High School Grad-Diploma or Equivalent 9

Some College But No Degree 10

Associate Degree-Occupational/Vocational 11

Associate Degree/ Academic Program............................12

Bachelor's Degree...13

Master's Degree (i.e. MA, MS)..14

Professional School (i.e. MD, DDS, DVM)...........................15

Doctorate Degree (i.e. PhD, EdD)....................................16

Not Applicable (No Father or Father Figure)....................17

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*** parental education .

RECODE s122_
(1 THRU 8=1) (9=2) (10 THRU 12=3) (13 THRU 16=4) (17=0) into paedcata .
RECODE s122
(1 THRU 12=1) (13=2) (14 THRU 15=3) (16 THRU 18=4) (19=0) into paedcata .
VARIABLE LABELS paedcata 'Fathers Education recoded categorically (s122)'.
RECODE s130_
(1 THRU 8=1) (9=2) (10 THRU 12=3) (13 THRU 16=4) (17=0) into maedcata .
RECODE s130
(1 THRU 12=1) (13=2) (14 THRU 15=3) (16 THRU 18=4) (19=0) into maedcata .
VARIABLE LABELS maedcata 'Mothers Education recoded categorically (s130)''.
VALUE LABELS paedcata maedcata
0 'No mother/father figure'
1 'Less then 12th Gr'
2 'HS Graduate'
3 'Some College'
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    4 'College Grad +'.

if missing(paedcata ) and s122  = -99797   paedcata = -99797 .
if missing(paedcata ) and s122_ = -99797   paedcata = -99797 .
if missing(maedcata ) and s130  = -99797   maedcata = -99797 .
if missing(maedcata ) and s130_ = -99797   maedcata = -99797 .

if missing(paedcata ) paedcata = -999 .
if missing(maedcata ) maedcata = -999 .

** for 2000 .
do repeat
a = s122 s130 /
b = paed maed /
c = paedh maedh .
compute a = rnd(a) .
if a = 1 b = 0 .
if a = 2 b = 1 .
if a = 3 b = 2 .
if a = 4 b = 3 .
if a = 5 b = 4 .
if a = 6 b = 5 .
if a = 7 b = 6 .
if a = 8 b = 7 .
if a = 9 b = 8 .
if a = 10 b = 9 .
if a = 11 b = 10 .
if a = 12 b = 11 .
if a = 13 b = 12 .
if a = 14 b = 13 .
if a = 15 b = 14 .
if a = 16 b = 16 .
if a = 17 b = 18 .
if a = 18 b = 20 .
compute c = b .
end repeat .
** for 2002, 2003 .
do repeat
a = s122_ s130_ /
b = paed maed /
c = paedh maedh .
compute a = rnd(a) .
if a = 1 b = 0 .
if a = 2 b = 2.5 .
if a = 3 b = 5.5 .
if a = 4 b = 7.5 .
if a = 5 b = 9 .
if a = 6 b = 10 .
if a = 7 b = 11 .
if a = 8 b = 11 .
if a = 9 b = 12 .
if a = 10 b = 13 .
if a = 11 b = 14 .
if a = 12 b = 14 .
if a = 13 b = 16 .
if a = 14 b = 18 .
if a = 15 b = 20 .
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if a = 16 b = 20 .
if a = 1 c = 0 .
if a = 2 c = 4 .
if a = 3 c = 6 .
if a = 4 c = 8 .
if a = 5 c = 9 .
if a = 6 c = 10 .
if a = 7 c = 11 .
if a = 8 c = 12 .
if a = 9 c = 12 .
if a = 10 c = 13 .
if a = 11 c = 14 .
if a = 12 c = 14 .
if a = 13 c = 16 .
if a = 14 c = 18 .
if a = 15 c = 20 .
if a = 16 c = 20 .
end repeat .

** First set missing to "survey incomplete" if it is .
if missing(paed ) and s122  = -99797  paed = -99797 .
if missing(paed ) and s122_ = -99797  paed = -99797 .
if missing(paed ) and s130  = -99797  maed = -99797 .
if missing(maed ) and s130_ = -99797  maed = -99797 .

if missing(paedh ) and s122  = -99797  paedh = -99797 .
if missing(paedh ) and s122_ = -99797  paedh = -99797 .
if missing(maedh ) and s130  = -99797  maedh = -99797 .
if missing(maedh ) and s130_ = -99797  maedh = -99797 .

** Then set it to missing for some other reason - skipped, refused/na.

if missing(paedh ) paedh = -999 .
if missing(paed  ) paed  = -999 .

if missing(maedh ) maedh = -999 .
if missing(maed  ) maed  = -999 .

add value labels paed paedh maed  maedh paedcata maedcata
 -99797 'No more valid answers (possibly incomplete student survey)'
 -999   'Missing for some other reason (DK/Refused/Skipped Question)'  .

variable labels
paed 'Fath educ, grade equiv based on midpoint of category (s122)'
maed 'Moth educ, grade equiv based on midpoint of category (s130)'
paedh 'Fath educ, grade equiv based on highpoint of category (s122)'
maedh 'Moth educ, grade equiv based on highpoint of category (s130)' .

* paed paedh maed  maedh paedcata maedcata .
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