National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health: Parent Questionnaire, Wave 1
Family Structure
Variable Notes

1. The preferred respondent for the Parent Questionnaire is the adolescent's mother (or other female head of the household). Upon arrival to the adolescent's household, the interviewers asked to speak with the adolescent's mother. If she did not live in the household with the adolescent, appropriate respondent for the Parent Questionnaire is the first person on the following list who lives with the adolescent: 1) stepmother 2) other female guardian (i.e. legal guardian, grandmother, etc...) 3) father 4) stepfather 5) other male guardian (i.e. legal guardian, grandfather, etc...).¹

2. Questionnaires where the respondent did not answer all questions or refused to answer all questions were deleted from the dataset.²

3. Questions with response categories of "no, unmarked, does not apply" were recoded from a value of 2 to a value of 0.²

4. If the respondent said that he or she had at least one marriage or marriage-like relationship in the last 18 years (Q.A40>0) but did not mark any years during which he or she was married to or living with another person (Q.A41, AA46, Q.A51), then Q.A41, Q.A.46, and Q.A51 were recoded as "(missing)"²

5. Recoding Q.C35 (Adolescent has lived away from the respondent for at least 6 months) and Q.C36 (Which years respondent and adolescent have lived apart) to be consistent with each other. If Q.C35 was blank, then Q.36 variables were recoded as missing. If Q.C36, "don't know" was marked as well as an age category (e.g., 11), then the "don't know" variable was recoded as "0" (unmarked).²

6. Q.A11 was asked if the respondent did not mark "married" in answer to Q.A10 (What is your current marital status?). If Q.A10 was marked "married," Q.A11 was recoded as "7" (legitimate skip) regardless of the response.²

7. If the respondent answered "no" to Q.A38 (Have you ever been married?), Q.A39 was recoded as "7" (legitimate skip).²

8. The respondents were asked about their relationship, specifically marriages or marriage-like relationships. This section asked about three relationships. If the respondents said that they had no such relationships in Q.A40, then they were skipped out of the section, and Q.A41 through A54 were recoded as "7" (legitimate skip). If they said they had only one such relationship, then Q.A46 through A54 were recoded as "7" (legitimate skip). If they said they had only two relationships, then Q.A51 through A54 were recoded as "7" (legitimate skip).²

9. If the respondent said that a relationship was still going on (Q.A43, Q.A48, Q.A53), then the subquestion asking how the relationship ended was recoded as "7" (legitimate skip).²

10. If the respondent indicated that she was the biological mother to the study adolescent (Q.C1), then subsequent questions regarding the biological mother (Q.C2 through Q.C5) were skipped and recoded as “7,” “97,” or “997” (legitimate skip).²

11. If the respondent indicated that the biological mother lived in the household (Q.C2), then subsequent questions regarding the biological mother (Q.C3 through Q.C5) were skipped and recoded as “7,” “97,” or “997” (legitimate skip).²
If the respondent indicated that he was the biological father to the study adolescent (Q.C1), then questions regarding the biological father (Q.C6B through Q.C9) were skipped and recoded as “7,” “97,” or “997” (legitimate skip).²

If the respondent indicated that the biological father lived in the household (Q.6CB), then subsequent questions about the biological father (Q.C7 through Q.C9) were skipped and recoded as “7,” “97,” or “997” (legitimate skip).²

If the respondent replied “no” to Q.C35 (Was there ever a period of at least six months when [name] did not live with you?), then Q.C36 variables were recoded as “7” (legitimate skip).²

Data representing the answer to this question are given as a series of 19 dichotomous variables [PA41_1 (for 1995) - PA41_19 (for 1977)] representing the calendar years from 1977-1995. Responses indicate whether the parent was married to or living with the person from their most recent relationship in each given year.

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When the response values were out of range, the variable was recoded as ! (missing). For example, if the respondent gave an age of 12 in answer to Q.A2, this value lies outside the usual range of adult content, then Q.A2 was recoded as ! (missing).²
