

Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study

Religion and Spirituality Snapshot

Variable Notes

- 1** All responses in the Fragile Families (FF) measures snapshots are in lower case; however, this is not the case in the survey questionnaires. In the questionnaires, three types of response sets are used.

 - a Lower-case response categories: indicates the response choices were read to the respondent
 - b Interviewer instructions: indicates the response choices were presented to the respondent on a card
 - c CAPS: indicates answers were coded by the interviewer into categories to best correspond to the answer of the respondent (p. 6)
- 2** The Fragile Families codebook is not divided into sections per se; the variable name given in the codebook denotes the questionnaire location. Therefore, the "Codebook Location" given is actually the questionnaire location.
- 3** Each Fragile Families variable has two names; one name which identifies the question/variable in the questionnaire and a second which identifies the variable in the codebook and data files. The variable name provided in this spreadsheet is the one that identifies the variables in the codebook and data files. To discern the corresponding name in the questionnaire, simply remove the first letter [either "m" (for mother) or "f" (for father)] and number [1, 2, 3, or 4 (identifying the wave)] of the variable.
- 4** Limited "data cleaning" was performed on the file by the FF staff. Generally, data was left for the user to decide how to code. Inconsistencies across the variables remain and are up to the users to consider when doing their analyses. (Taken directly from p. 21, Introduction to the Fragile Families Public Use Data: Baseline, One-Year, and Five-Year Core Telephone Data, August 2008).
- 5** There was one mother and father who requested to be removed from the sample and are coded as "Not in wave" throughout all the waves. (Taken directly from p. 31, Introduction to the Fragile Families Public Use Data: Baseline, One-Year, and Five-Year Core Telephone Data, August 2008).
- 6** Survey fielding for FF divided the sample cities into 2 groups; the 2 cities group, which was fielded first and the 18 cities group. Some survey questions were added or dropped during fielding, thus were not asked of all respondents. This particular question was added after the "2 cities" group instrument was fielded, therefore only the "18 cities" group was asked this question. (Taken directly from p. 6, Introduction to the Fragile Families Public Use Data: Baseline, One-Year, and Five-Year Core Telephone Data, August 2008).
- 7** As indicated in note #6, some survey questions were added or dropped during fielding, thus were not asked of all respondents. This particular question was simply "Not asked" of some respondents. If the FF staff was able to construct the information from other parts of the survey, they did so. (Taken directly from p. 6, Introduction to the Fragile Families Public Use Data: Baseline, One-Year, and Five-Year Core Telephone Data, August 2008).
- 8** Survey fielding for FF divided the sample cities into 2 groups; the 2 cities group, which was fielded first and the 18 cities group. If response categories changed in a substantive manner during fielding, the two cities' values were recoded into 200 range codes (e.g., 201, 202, etc.), allowing the data user to decide if/how to use these data. (Taken directly from p. 7, Introduction to the Fragile Families Public Use Data: Baseline, One-Year, and Five-Year Core Telephone Data, August 2008).

- 9** When appropriate, open-ended responses were recoded into the main response categories of the questions. Open-ended responses that did not fit into the existing response categories are recoded into new categories in the 100 range (101, 102, etc.). Cases that indicate an "other" but were vague or unique remain coded simply as "Other (not specified)." (Taken directly from p. 21, Introduction to the Fragile Families Public Use Data: Baseline, One-Year, and Five-Year Core Telephone Data, August 2008).
- 10** For this question, the interviewer was instructed to accept an answer of "Don't Know" only after repeating the statement and the response categories.
- 11** If necessary, the interviewer was instructed to follow up this question with the following: "Is it Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, some other religion, no religion?"
- 12** For this question, the interviewer was instructed to record verbatim the respondent's answer to the following: "Please tell me why your (marriage/romantic relationship) ended." Then, the interviewer probed, "Any other reasons?" and circled all applicable responses.
- 13** For this question, the interviewer was instructed to record verbatim the respondent's answer to the following: "Who gave you financial help or money?" Then, the interviewer probed, "Anyone else?" and circled all applicable responses.
- 14** Frequencies are only given to items or response categories related to religion and spirituality.
- 15** A skip error in D00 may have impacted subsequent item administration in Section D. D00 was administered in 18 cities and was later constructed for the other 2 cities. If the respondent indicated in D00 that the mother was dead or refused a relationship with the father, the interviewer was instructed to skip to Section E. However, if the relationship was refused, the respondent should have answered the following questions in Section D.
- 16** This question was one in a series of questions asked after the following introduction: "The next questions are about the preschools, schools, or centers that (CHILD) (is currently attending/attended between the beginning of January through the end of May of this year). I only want to know about schools or centers. I will be asking a separate question about places or people who (take/took) care of (CHILD) when (he/she) (is/was) not attending a school or center." The respondent was asked this question if they responded "Yes" in question B8: "(Is [CHILD] currently attending/Between the beginning of January and the end of May, did [CHILD] attend), a day care center, nursery school, preschool, Head Start, or pre-kindergarten program on a regular basis? (DO NOT COUNT KINDERGARTEN.)"
-

This project was supported with a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, grant number 5 UOI AE000001-04. The opinions and conclusions expressed herein are solely those of the author(s) and should not be construed as representing the opinions or policy of any agency of the Federal government.

National Center for Family & Marriage Research

website: <http://ncfmr.bgsu.edu>

e-mail: ncfmr@bgsu.edu