Longitudinal Data Documentation

Longitudinal data documentation (LDD) is provided for all variables for MrOS in the file LDD_DATEOFRELEASE (for example LDD_FEB07). This includes information on whether the variable is released, and at which visits it is available. The variables are grouped into topic areas. Variables that belong to the same topic area generally have the same two-letter prefix. For example, all of the tobacco use variables being with TU. The first page of the LDD contains a master list of the two-letter prefixes currently used in MrOS.

Please note that the genetics dataset GN is not included in the LDD documentation due to special formatting of this dataset. Please see the contents and Gene tracking log included in the GN documentation for further information.

A number of variables that appear on the annotated forms will not be found in the released datasets.

There are several reasons why variables were not released:

1. Participant Confidentiality: Identifying information such as Social Security Number and Medicare number. All participants are identified by their MrOS ID number. No extreme values were truncated.
2. Bookkeeping variables: A number of variables were put on the forms merely for bookkeeping purposes and are unlikely to be used in analyses. If an investigator notices that a variable has been dropped when it should not have been, the investigator should contact Robin Fullman (RFullman@psg.ucsf.edu) or Kathy Peters (Kpeters@psg.ucsf.edu) at the Coordinating Center, so that the variable may be included in future data releases. Bookkeeping variables include those on the DXA form (screen questions for the DXA) and the like.
3. Redundant variables: In many cases the same information was collected numerous times, or a calculated variable is more accurate than the reported variable.
4. Data not yet available: Some data are not yet available for release. For example, this includes x-ray vertebral morphometry data.