

*Health-related work limitations and
experiences with work-related disability
benefit programs*

**User Guide
for the Health and Retirement Study's
Section M and Changes Made in 2022**

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Abstract

This user's guide presents details about questions related to disability and work in Section M of the core Health and Retirement Study (HRS), with a focus on changes that were made to the question sequence in 2022. The guide provides some historical information about changes to key concepts in the section in earlier waves, contains a concordance between the 2020 and 2022 sequence, and identifies some additional enhancements that will be made in future waves to build off the 2022 revisions.

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1. Overview

This document explains the work disability measures in the HRS. Most of these measures are contained in Section M, though other sections contain measures related to work and disability that may also be of interest. Section M has undergone revisions over the years, most significantly with a revised question sequence in 2022 designed to simplify the skip logic and facilitate research. Before that wave, there were other changes in the section that affected cross-wave comparability that are important for users to consider; a few are mentioned here. This document also briefly describes the HRS linkage to the Social Security Administration's (SSA) data on federal disability benefit programs, which can augment information in the core survey and may be of interest to some users.

2. Key Section M concepts

The work disability sequence in Section M contains four key concepts of interest to researchers: (1) the nature of a respondent's disabling condition; (2) the changes that respondents and household members made when disability onset occurred; (3) the effect that work limitations had on the respondent's work, and the way employer(s) responded following new limitations; and (4) the respondent's experiences with disability benefit programs including Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veterans' Administration (VA) disability benefits, and Workers' Compensation (WC).

A. Health conditions that limit work, housework, and other activities

Health and functioning are inextricably linked to work in the United States. A person's health and functioning is connected with the type and amount of work they can do. The amount of work that one does, in turn, affects access to employer benefits such as health insurance and access to safety net and entitlement programs should workers experience new significant disabilities.

Questions in section M of the HRS explore the connection between health, functioning, and work in depth. The section begins with questions about limitations that affect the type or amount of work that the respondent could do, referred to as health-related work limitations in this document. For those who do not report limitations that affect paid work, questions in the section ask about limitations in housework, and starting in 2022, limitations in other activities. The assessment of whether health limits work ability is subjective ([Benitez-Silva et al., 2004](#)), but has been shown to be a strong predictor of receipt of disability benefits, especially in conjunction with other measures of disability ([Burkhauser et al. 2012](#)). In addition, respondents are asked what about their conditions and impairments are limiting, and whether the main limitation is likely to be temporary or permanent.

Health-related work limitations may not be due to specific diagnosed health conditions or limitations in activities of daily living (ADLs) that are reported in Sections C and G of the HHRS. For example, someone who has pain while standing may be limited in their ability to perform their job as a cashier, but that may not be captured in in the ADL sequence in Section G, nor in the health conditions in Section C. Similarly, a person with an ADL limitation may not be limited in their ability to work, particularly if properly accommodated on the job (e.g. a blind respondent with a screen reader and assistive technology may not report a health-related work limitation).

Thus, the measures in this section offer another dimension to understand respondents' health and functioning. They also might not result in a change in labor force status due to disability, captured in Section J. As such, respondents classified as being disabled based on health-related work limitations in Section M may not be classified as disabled based on other measures in the survey.

B. Individual and household responses to new work limitations

Section M collects information from respondents about how they and members of their household responded to new health-related work limitations. Those who were working at the time their health began to limit their ability to work are asked about the type of work they were doing when their condition became work-limiting; whether and how the limitation affected their work; whether the limitation resulted from a workplace injury; and whether and how the household adjusted to disability onset. For new respondents, questions ask about past work limitations, even for those who do not currently report a health-related work limitation.

C. Employer accommodations for disabling conditions

An important determinant of how workers adapt to new health-related work limitations is the extent to which employers accommodate workers' needs. Questions in Section M ask whether respondents received accommodations from their employer after the onset of a new health-related work limitation such as getting special equipment, getting someone to help them do their job, varying their work hours, allowing the worker to take more breaks and rest periods, or helping them learn new job skills.

D. Applications to and receipt of disability benefits

Section M also asks respondents about their experience with applications to and receipt of disability benefits, including SSDI, SSI, VA, and WC. Though the structure of questions has changed over time, across waves, questions consistently ask respondents about: (1) applications for benefits and the outcomes of those applications: whether allowed, denied, or still pending; (2) for applications that were denied, respondents are asked whether they appealed the denial and the outcome of any appeals; and (3) for applicants who were allowed benefits, as well as respondents who had previously reported benefit receipt in an earlier wave, questions ask whether benefits are still being received, and (4) the amount of monthly benefits, either currently or in the last month they were paid. The sequence of questions is adapted to the benefits history that respondents reported in their previous interview, if applicable.

The HRS survey data have been linked to SSA's administrative data on benefit applications and receipt for respondents who consented to do so. For those whose records have been linked, administrative files can offer more comprehensive information about applications to and receipt of SSDI and SSI. These data are available with permission through the HRS [Virtual Data Infrastructure](#) (VDI). More information about the available files is on the [HRS website](#), including a separate [user guide](#) that discusses key considerations for working with those files.

3. Historical changes to Section M

There have been notable changes to the questions in Section M over time (Section 3.A), with the most substantial revision occurring in the 2022 wave (Section 3.B).

A. Key changes to Section M before the 2022 wave

- **Questions on SSDI and SSI were asked separately beginning in 2000. During the 1992-1998 waves, SSDI and SSI were asked about together.** It is therefore difficult to determine without using data from the 2000 wave or later whether the benefits referred to were for SSDI, SSI, or both. Starting in 2000, respondents were asked the program from which they were receiving and/or had applied to for benefits, making it possible to separate by program.
- **Questions on health-related work limitations, employer accommodations, and the receipt of disability benefits moved to Section M beginning in 2002.** Through the 2000 wave, these questions were contained in Section G, which was related to employment. Section M was split into two question sequences. The first was for reinterviewed respondents (Section M1) and the second was for new respondents (Section M2). The sequences in each covered similar concepts, but with more historical information on health-related work limitations collected from new respondents.
- **Questions on the receipt disability-related income support programs were asked of all new respondents beginning in 2016.** Before 2016, questions about interactions with disability programs (SSDI, SSI, VA benefits, and workers' compensation) were limited to respondents who reported having a health-related work-limitation. Starting in 2016, new respondents were asked about their disability benefits history regardless of whether they currently reported a health-related work limitation when they came into the study. Reinterviewed respondents continued to be asked about disability benefit receipt only if they reported a health-related work limitation until the 2022 wave. Appendix Table 1 documents the skip logic that applied to the benefits sequences in the 2016-2020 wave based on reinterview and work limitation status.

B. 2022 Section M revisions

The HRS redesigned Section M in 2022 to facilitate research by preserving key preexisting content to the extent possible while adding questions of strong interest to disability researchers. Table 1 includes a concordance between the 2020 and 2022 questions related to health limitations. Table 2 contains a similar concordance for questions related to disability benefit receipt. Note that in both tables, the skip logic that determines which questions are asked of respondents is not included; users should consult the questionnaires in each survey wave to assess those differences. The primary changes to the sequence included:

- **A single question sequence applies to both reinterviewed respondents and new respondents.** The revised Section M contains questions for all respondents, regardless of their interview history, with skip logic within the section to determine relevant questions. Users will no longer need to combine multiple questions in each subsection to get information on all respondents.
- **A revised group of respondents were asked questions about health-related limitations in work and other activities.** In 2020 and recent waves, the question on health-related work limitations was asked of all respondents, including the oldest old and

those who left the labor force decades ago. For many, this question was difficult to answer because it was unrelated to their recent experiences. In 2022, questions on limitations (at work, in housework, or in other activities) were limited to respondents for whom work limitations were salient: those of working age and/or with recent work experience. Excluded from this question were reinterviewed respondents for whom all of the following were true: (1) reported being fully retired in 2022, (2) were not working in 2022, and (3) were not working in their previous interview. New respondents were asked about their limitations regardless of their work or retirement status. The survey collects information at M100 to identify respondents who have never worked more than a few months due to a disability; this information will be used as a preload condition in future waves to allow those respondents to be coded as having a health-related work limitation, but skip answering the same questions about a health-related work limitation again.

- **Additional questions on health-related limitations.** The sequence asking respondents about their health-related limitations was expanded to collect more detail from respondents who report limitations in housework or other activities, but who did not report health-related work limitations. These questions allow researchers to understand the way in which those conditions were limiting. Questions were also added to the work limitation sequence to understand how work limitations evolved over time.
- **Revised questions on workplace accommodations.** Questions about employer accommodations for respondents reporting a work limitation were streamlined in 2022 to understand accommodations from employers when a work limitation began, but not accommodations from subsequent employers. At the same time, the accommodations sequence was expanded in 2022 to find out whether the respondent requested accommodations that the employer did not provide, and whether the respondent changed jobs while working for the same employer.

In 2022, a new sequence on workplace accommodations was included in Section J for all workers before they are asked about accommodations related to their limitation. The intent is to identify accommodations that respondents might be receiving that mean that they do not report a health-related work limitation in Section M because they do not perceive being limited in work. Appendix Table 2 contains a mapping of the subgroups who were asked each of the accommodation sequences in the 2020 and 2022 waves.

- **Revised questions on disability benefits reflecting program features.** Some of the questions related to the receipt of SSDI, SSI, VA, and WC benefits were revised to reflect features of the programs. For example, respondents who are over age 68 are no longer asked questions about the SSDI program because benefits automatically convert to Social Security retirement benefits after full retirement age and therefore reports of SSDI receipt at older ages are inconsistent with Social Security rules. We also removed a question about vocational rehabilitation provided as part of an application for SSDI, which is inconsistent with how that program functions. Instead, we ask about the receipt of vocational rehabilitation in the section asking questions about the onset of new health-related work limitations.

- **Revised questions related to correcting misreporting of SSDI and SSI status.** Beginning in 2022, Section M includes a sequence asking respondents for additional information to correct the record about whether they received SSDI or SSI. Earlier waves allowed for respondents to dispute an earlier record, but did not follow up to collect full information about the correct program.

C. Expected revisions to Section M in the 2024 wave and beyond

After Section M was revised in 2022, there were some issues in skip logic and question wording that became apparent only after the survey was fielded. We intend to make the following changes in 2024 to correct issues we identified:

- **The skip logic determining who responds to the health-related work limitation sequence will be revised.** Our intention in 2022 was to allow older adults who had no connection to the labor force to skip questions about health-related work limitations. In reviewing the data, it was determined that the conditions imposed in 2022 excluded more adults than intended. To address this, starting in 2024 the work limitation question series (starting at M100 and continuing through M115) will include all respondents under age 75, even if they are no longer attached to the labor force. This older age threshold is intended to capture information from individuals who might otherwise work except for their disability, if disability policy changed, or if their disability was successfully accommodated. Respondents above age 75 who are not connected to the labor force will respond to questions about limitations in housework or other activities (which were inadvertently skipped in 2022).
- **A skip logic error at M103 will be corrected, so that people reporting a condition that is permanent or unlikely to improve in the next few years are asked in M105 about the reason their impairment limits them.** In 2022, we inadvertently skipped respondents over M105 if they responded M103=5,6 (they were skipped to the M106 branchpoint).
- **A small change will be made in the logic at M242 for respondents who volunteer that they are already receiving SSDI (when also reporting that they have not applied).** For cases when M242=7, respondents will skip to M254 and we will collect information on benefits currently being received, instead of skipping the rest of the SSDI series.
- **The age limitation on SSDI-related questions will be revised to collect information from respondents under age 71, instead of under age 69.** SSDI benefits can extend until the Social Security Administration’s full retirement age (FRA), which is increasing to age 67. With that limit and the periodicity of the HRS waves, this higher age limit in the question sequence will ensure that the survey collects information about any pending or new applications just before FRA. Users should be aware that any responses that indicate SSDI benefit receipt between FRA and age 70 cannot be correct based on program rules.

4. RAND HRS variables derived from Section M questions

Section M questions are used to derive measures across several sections of the RAND HRS Longitudinal File. In the Social Security section (F) of the RAND HRS Longitudinal File, the RAND HRS uses HRS Section M questions to derive three different groups of variables that cover Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Income benefits:

- *Respondent's change in Social Security Disability Income or Supplemental Security Income Status*—Wave-specific variables indicate if the Respondent has applied, been denied, appealed, started to receive, or stopped receiving SSDI or SSI benefits since the last wave.
- *SSDI and SSI Disability Episodes* provides cross-wave information about each respondent's sequential disability episode, or benefits application. Each application process is considered a new episode. Variables are organized based on episode number to help track a respondent's episode history.
- A collection of variables covers the status of each respondent during the specific wave as constructed from the episode dates and outcomes. This section of variables includes the SSDI and SSI benefit amounts the Respondent received in the last month before the interview was conducted.

Another variable on health limitations can be found in the Functional Limitations and Helper section (C), and a combined SSDI and SSI income measure that includes imputations can be found in the Income Section (E). SSDI and SSI questions are additionally used both as a subcomponent of other wealth and income measures as well as incorporated in the detailed imputation of income and wealth variables.

Appendix Table 3 contains a list of the variables available on the RAND HRS Longitudinal File that use questions from section M in their derivation. More information about these variables can be found in [the RAND HRS Longitudinal Documentation](#).

Table 1. Overview of 2022 Section M health limitation questions and concordance with 2020 questions

Note: This table is meant to be a high-level guide and should not replace the box-and-arrow or codebook for Section M, which has much more detailed information about skip logic, precise question wording, and response categories. This is especially true for the 2020 Section M2, where respondents answered different question sequences depending on their work limitation history. The question wording below aligns to 2022, mapped to the closest question in 2020, which may have had slightly different phrasing. Even in cases where question wording aligns across waves, there may have been differences in the instrument skip logic.

2022 Question Number	2022 Question Text	2020 M1 Question Number	2020 M2 Question Number
Section J accommodations questions asked of all respondents who are currently working for pay, with J967 as an introduction to anchor to health problems			
<i>Note: The subsets of respondents for accommodations questions were quite different in 2020 than in 2022; this mapping aligns to 2022, not 2020. See Appendix Table 2 for more details.</i>			
J967	Many people need special accommodations for health problems to make it easier for them to work. This could include things like getting special equipment, getting someone to help them, varying their work hours, working from home, or taking more breaks and rest periods. Do you/does your employer currently do anything special to make it easier for you to stay at work?	M029	M525, M610
J968	[To accommodate your health problems,] does your employer get you special equipment to help you do your job?	MW228B	MW228C, MW228I
J969	[To accommodate your health problems,] does your employer get someone to help you do the parts of your job that you have difficulty doing because of your health?	MW211B	MW211C, MW211I
J970	[To accommodate your health problems,] does your employer shorten your work days?	MW214B	MW214C, MW214I
J971	[To accommodate your health problems,] does your employer allow you to change the time you come to and leave work?	MW217B	--
J972	[To accommodate your health problems,] does your employer allow you more breaks and rest periods?	MW220B	MW220C, MW220I
J973	[To accommodate your health problems,] does your employer allow you to work from home?	--	--
J974	[To accommodate your health problems,] does your employer arrange for special transportation to help you do your job?	MW223B	MW223C, MW223I
--	[Has/Did] your employer [changed/change] the job to something you could do?	MW226B	
--	[(Has/Did] your employer) help(ed) you learn new job skills?	MW227B	
--	[Does/Did] your employer assist you in receiving rehabilitative services from an external provider?	MW229B	MW229C, MW229I
J975	[To accommodate your health problems,] does your employer do any other things to help you out?	MW230B	MW230C, MW230I
J976	What other things?	MW231B1, MW231B2	MW231C1, MW231C2, MW231I1, MW231I2
J977	You said your employer did not provide you with [fill from "no" responses in A-G]. Did you ask your employer about whether they could provide that to you?	--	--
J978	What about [fill from next no response, looping through A-G]?	--	--
J979	Did you ask your employer for anything else to accommodate your health problems that you did not receive?	--	--
J980	What was that?	--	--
J981	You said your employer did not provide you with any special accommodations to help you do your job. Did you ask your employer whether they could provide you with any?	--	--
J982	What did you ask your employer to provide?	--	--
J983	What was that?	--	--
Section M: Limited in work			
M100	According to our records, you said you have never worked for more than a few months. Was that because of a health condition or disability?	--	--
M101	Do you have any impairment or health problem that limits the kind or amount of paid work you can do?	M002	M502

M102	What health conditions or impairments most limit your ability to work now?	M003M1M, M003M2M	M503M1M, M503M2M
M103	Do you expect that this impairment or health problem will improve enough within the next few years so that it will no longer limit your work?	M018	M552
M104	Do you expect that this impairment or health problem will last for less than three months?	M004	M504
--	Have you had this condition before?	M105	M505
M105	What is it about your impairment or health problem that limits the kind or amount of work you can do?	--	--
Limited in housework (only those not limited in work at M101)			
M106	Do you have any impairment or health problem that limits the kind or amount of work you can do around the house?	M006	M506
M107	What health condition or impairment most limits your ability to work around the house now?	--	--
M108	Do you expect that this impairment or health problem will improve enough within the next few years so that it will no longer limit your work around the house?	--	--
M109	Do you expect that this impairment or health problem will last for less than three months?	--	--
M110	What is it about your impairment or health problem that limits the kind or amount of work you can do around the house?	--	--
Limited in other non-work activities (only those not limited in work at M101 and not limited in housework at M106)			
M111	Are you limited in any way in activities because of an impairment or health problem?	M007	M507
M112	What health condition or impairment most limits your ability to work around the house now?	--	M508M1M, M508M2M
M113	Do you expect that this impairment or health problem will improve enough within the next few years so that it will no longer limit your work around the house?	--	--
M114	Do you expect that this impairment or health problem will last for less than three months?	--	--
M115	What is it about your impairment or health problem that limits the kind or amount of work you can do around the house?	--	--
Not work limited now, but work limited in previous interview—why no longer limited			
M116	In [last IW month and year], you mentioned you had impairments or health problems that limited the kind or amount of paid work you could do. Why do those impairments or conditions no longer limit you?	--	--
Work limited now, and work limited in previous interview—how limitation has changed			
M117	In [last IW month and year], you also mentioned that your impairments or health problems limited the kind or amount of paid work you could do. Would you say that you are more limited in your work activity, less limited, or about the same as you were then?	--	--
Work limited now, all limitations—effect of limitation on work			
M118	Does your impairment or health problem keep you from working altogether? (Assigned no if J020=5)	M008	M527, M528
M119, M120, M121	When did it prevent you from working altogether?		M550, M551
M122	If your impairment or health problem improved, would you want to [go back to] work?		
M123	Are you able to work full-time or can you work only part-time?	M011	M516, M529, M540
M124	Are you now able to do the same kind of work you did before your impairment or health problem began?	M013	M539
Newly work limited (new respondent or since last interview if not) with a non-temporary limitation—details about onset			
M125, M126, M127	Thinking about the impairment or health problem that most limits the kind or amount of paid work you can do, when did it begin to affect your ability to work?	M014, M015	M512, M513, M514, M544, M545, M548, M549
M128	Was the impairment or health problem you just mentioned the result of an accident or injury?	M020	M522, M535, M554

M129	Did the accident or injury occur at work, at home, or somewhere else?	M021	M523, M536, M555
M130	Were you employed at the time your health began to limit your ability to work?	M024	--
M131	Was this impairment or health problem in any way caused by the nature of your work?	M023	M557
Newly work limited (new respondent or since last interview if not) with a non-temporary limitation—how responded to onset			
M132	Since your health began to limit your ability to work, have you sought assistance from a rehabilitation provider?	--	--
M133	Did your employer assist you in receiving vocational rehabilitation services?	MW229A	MW229D
M134	What types of services or supports did you receive?	--	--
Newly work limited WITHIN THE LAST THREE YEARS (new respondent or since last interview if not) with a non-temporary limitation—how responded to onset			
M135	After your health started to affect your ability to work, did anyone in your family living with you -- including your spouse or partner -- begin to work, stop working, or change their work hours due to your health?	--	M635
M136	Who did this? (check all that apply)	--	M636
M137, M138, M139, M140	Did your [M137=spouse, M138=parents(s), M139=child(ren), M140=other] or partner begin to work, work more, work less, or stop working?	--	M637, M638, M639, M640
M141	What happened to your family's income after your health started to affect your ability to work? Did it decrease, remain the same, or increase?	--	M641
M142	Did you or your family living with you make any financial changes in response to your health affecting your ability to work?	--	--
	Have you used up any of your savings since your health began to affect your ability to work?		M642
M143	What were those?	--	--
Employer information for those working when limitation began (based on M130)			
M144	Which company or organization did you work for when your health began to limit your ability to work?	M026, M027	M604, M605S
Employer information for those working when limitation began (based on M130), with employer not reported in M144 list			
M146	Were you working for someone else, were you self-employed, or what?	MW200A	
M147	What kind of business or industry did you work in? That is, what did they make or do at the place where you worked?	MW202AM	
M148	What sort of work did you do on that job?	MW201AM	
M149, M150	About how many employees work for that company or organization at all locations?	MW203A, MW204A	
M151, M152	What were you earning, before deductions, when you [left that employer/stopped working for that business]?	MW205A, MW206A	
M154	How many hours a week did you usually work for that [employer/business]?	MW208A	
M155	Counting paid vacations as weeks of work, how many weeks per year did you usually work for this [employer/business]?	MW209A	
M156	Were you covered by a union or employee-association contract?	MW210A	
Employer accommodations for those working when limitation began (based on M130)			
M157	Thinking back to when your health began to limit your ability to work, [did you/did your employer] make any special accommodations? This could include things like getting special equipment, getting someone to help you, varying your work hours, taking more breaks and rest periods, or learning new job skills.	M028	M586
Accommodations received among those who were working (M130) and said they received any at M157 (note the questions listed below are for those who were not self-employed, but self-employed got asked about the same elements, just phrased differently)			
<i>Note: The subsets of respondents for accommodations questions were quite different in 2020 than in 2022; this mapping aligns to 2022, not 2020. See Appendix Table 2 for more details.</i>			
M158	To accommodate your health, did your employer help you learn new job skills?	MW227A	
M159	(To accommodate your health), did your employer change your job to something you could do?	MW226A	
M160	(To accommodate your health), did your employer get you special equipment to help you do your job?	MW228A	MW228E
M161	(To accommodate your health), did your employer get someone to help you do the parts of your job that you have difficulty doing because of your health?	MW211A	MW211E
M162	(To accommodate your health), did your employer shorten your work days?	MW214A	MW214E
M163	(To accommodate your health), did your employer allow you to change the time you come to and leave work?	MW217A	--

M164	(To accommodate your health), did your employer allow you more breaks and rest periods?	MW220A	MW220E
M165	(To accommodate your health), did your employer allow you to work from home?	--	--
M166	(To accommodate your health), did your employer arrange for special transportation to help you do your job?	MW223A	MW223E
M167	(To accommodate your health), did your employer do any other things to help you out?	MW230A	MW230E
M168	What other things?	MW231A1, MW231A2	MW231E1, MW231E2
Accommodations not received among those who said they did not receive any at M157 AND accommodations not received in the last of M158-M166 (note the questions listed below are for those who were not self-employed, but self-employed got asked about the same elements, just phrased differently)			
M169	Of the things your employer did not provide [fill from "no" responses in M158-M166], did you ask your employer about whether they could provide any of those things to you? OTHERWISE: Did you ask your employer about whether they could provide any accommodations to you?	--	--
M170	Which accommodations were those?	--	--
Employment changes for those who were working at onset (M130) and now (J020~=1)			
M171	After your health began to limit your ability to work, did you change jobs while working for the same employer?	--	--
M172	Why did you make that change?	--	--
M174	Because of your health limitation, did you change employers after it began to limit your ability to work?	--	--
M175	Why did you make that change?	--	--
Employment changes for those who were working at onset (M130) and not now (J020~=1)			
M177	Did you stop working as a result of your health condition or impairment that limited your ability to work?	--	--
M178	Why did you stop working?	--	--
M180	After you left [the employer/that self-employment] where you worked when your health limitation began to limit your work, have you worked at all—for another employer or for yourself?	--	M590
M181	Have you looked for work since leaving [that employer/that self employment]?	--	M591
M182	Why do you think you couldn't find work?	--	M592/M593S
Employment among those not working at onset (M130~=1) and not now (J020~=1)			
M183	You said earlier that you were not working when your health began to limit the amount or kind of work you can do. Have you worked between then and now?	--	M590
M184	Have you looked for work since your health condition or impairment began to limit the amount or kind of work you can do?	--	--
M185	Why do you think you couldn't find work?	--	M592/M593S
New Rs who did not report a current work limitation			
M186	Did any impairment or health problem ever limit the kind or amount of paid work that you could do for three months or more?	--	M558
M187	What health condition or impairment most limited your ability to work?	--	M559M1, M559M2
M188, M189, M190	Thinking about that impairment or health problem, about when did it begin to limit the kind or amount of paid work you could do?	--	--
M191, M192	How long did this limitation last?	--	M564, M565
M193	What was it about that impairment or health problem that limited the type or amount of work you could do?	--	--
M194	Did it ever prevent you from working altogether?	--	M560
--	How long did this limitation last?	--	M561, M565
M195	Was the impairment or health problem you just mentioned the result of an accident or injury?	--	M566
M196	Did the accident or injury occur at work, at home, or somewhere else?	--	M567
M197	Was this impairment or health problem in any way caused by the nature of your work?	--	M569

M198	At the time your health began to limit your ability to work, did you receive assistance from a rehabilitation provider?	--	--
M199	Were you employed at the time your health began to limit your ability to work?	--	M577
--	When was the last time you worked before your health began to limit your ability to work?		M581, M582
New Rs who did not report a current work limitation, reported a past limitation, and were working when limitation started			
M200	Which company or organization did you work for at that time?	--	M579, M580, M584, M585, M200B, M597, M200C, M200D, M200E
--	Details of job reported at M200B	--	M201B-M210B, M202C-M210C, M202D-M210D, M202E, M202F
M202	Thinking back to when your health began to limit your ability to work, did [your employer/you] make any special accommodations so you could stay at work? This could include things like getting special equipment, getting someone to help you, varying your work hours, taking more breaks and rest periods, or learning new job skills.	--	M599
New Rs who did not report a current work limitation, reported a past limitation, and were working when limitation started—and reported receiving accommodations			
<i>Note: The subsets of respondents for accommodations questions were quite different in 2020 than in 2022; this mapping aligns to 2022, not 2020. See Appendix Table 2 for more details.</i>			
M203	To accommodate your health, did your employer help you learn new job skills?	--	--
M204	(To accommodate your health), did your employer change your job to something you could do?	--	--
M205	(To accommodate your health), did your employer get you special equipment to help you do your job?	--	--
M206	(To accommodate your health), did your employer get someone to help you do the parts of your job that you have difficulty doing because of your health?	--	--
M207	(To accommodate your health), did your employer shorten your work days?	--	--
M208	(To accommodate your health), did your employer allow you to change the time you come to and leave work?	--	--
M209	(To accommodate your health), did your employer allow you more breaks and rest periods?	--	--
M210	(To accommodate your health), did your employer allow you to work from home?	--	--
M211	(To accommodate your health), did your employer arrange for special transportation to help you do your job?	--	--
M212	(To accommodate your health), did your employer do any other things to help you out?	--	--
M213	What other things?	--	--
New Rs who did not report a current work limitation, reported a past limitation, and were working when limitation started—questions about accommodations not received			
M214	You said your employer did not provide you with [fill from first “no” response in M203-M211]. Did you ask your employer about whether they could provide that to you?	--	--
M215_1- M215_9	What about [fill from next “no” response, looping through M204-M211]?	--	--
M216	Did you ask your employer for anything else to accommodate your health problems that you did not receive?	--	--
M217	What was that?		
M218	Did you ask your employer whether they could provide you with any? (<i>among those with no accommodations reported at M202</i>)	--	--
M219u1- M219u2m9	What did you ask your employer to provide (<i>loop through the list in M204-M211</i>)	--	--
M220	What was that?	--	--
New Rs who did not report a current work limitation, reported a past limitation, and were working when limitation started and working now			
M221	After your health began to limit your ability to work, did you change jobs while working for the same employer?	--	
--	Not counting any time spent on sick leave, how long did you stay (with that employer/self-employed) after your health began to limit your ability to work?	--	M588, M589, M600, M601

--	When did you leave that employer?	--	M607, M608
--	After you left (that employer/Self-employment), did you get another job, did you stop working and retire, did you apply for disability, or what?	--	M594
M222	Why did you make that change?	--	
M224	Because of your health limitation, did you change employers after it began to limit your ability to work?	--	
M225	Why did you make that change?	--	
New Rs who did not report a current work limitation, reported a past limitation, and were working when limitation started and not working now			
M227	Did you stop working as a result of your health condition or impairment that limited your ability to work?	--	
M228	Why did you stop working?	--	
M230	After you left the employer where you worked when your health limitation began to limit your work, did you work at all—for another employer or for yourself?	--	M590
	Did your new employer do anything special to make it easier for you to work at the job?	--	M599
M231	Have you looked for work since leaving (that employer/that self employment)?	--	M591
M232	Why do you think you haven't been able to find work?	--	M592
New Rs who did not report a current work limitation, reported a past limitation, and were not working when limitation started and not working now			
M233	You said earlier that you were not working when your health began to limit the amount or kind of work you can do. Have you worked between then and now?	--	M602
M234	Have you looked for work since your health condition or impairment began to limit the amount or kind of work you can do?	--	
M235	Why do you think you haven't been able to find work?	--	
Working last wave or this wave			
M236	Since R's LAST IW MONTH, YEAR, have you had any injuries at work that required special medical attention or treatment or interfered with your work activities? ELSE: During the last 12 months, that is, since CURRENT MONTH of LAST CALENDAR YEAR, have you had any injuries at work that required special medical attention or treatment or interfered with your work activities?	M051	M679
M237	IF REINTERVIEW R (Z076=1): How many times have you been injured on the job since R's LAST IW MONTH, YEAR? ELSE: How many times have you been injured on the job during the past 12 months?	M052	M680
M238, M239, M240	On what date did your [most recent] injury happen?	M053, M054, M055,	M680/M681/M682

Table 2. Overview of 2022 Section M questions about disability benefits and concordance with 2020 questions

Note: This table is meant to be a high-level guide and should not replace the box-and-arrow or codebook for Section M, which has much more detailed information about skip logic, precise question wording, and response categories. The question wording below aligns to 2022, mapped to the closest question in 2020, which may have had slightly different phrasing. Even in cases where question wording aligns across waves, there may have been differences in the instrument skip logic.

2022 Question Number	2022 Question Text	2020 M1 Question Number ¹	2020 M2 Question Number ¹
SSDI			
M241	Since the last interview year/month, have you applied for disability benefits from the Social Security Disability Insurance program, also called SSDI? ELSE: Have you ever applied for disability benefits from the Social Security Disability Insurance program, also called SSDI?	If M036=1 & M037=1 & M058=1,3	M645
M242	What is the reason you did not apply for disability benefits from this Social Security?	--	M649
M244, M245	In what year did you first apply for SSDI benefits? What month was that?	W249_, W250_ W251_, W252_	M646, M647
M246	Was that application filed concurrently with an application for Supplemental Security Income?	--	--
--	According to our records, in R's LAST IW MONTH, YEAR you had applied for benefits from the Social Security Disability program or the Supplemental Security Income program. Which program was this: the Social Security Disability or the Supplemental Security Income program, or both?	M031	--
M247	According to our records, in the last interview year/month, you had a pending application for Social Security Disability Insurance. Was that application accepted, rejected, or is it still being considered? ELSE: Was that application accepted, rejected, or is it still being considered?	M032, M040	M648
M248	Did you appeal or apply again after that rejection?	W245_	W245_
M249, M250	In what year did you last appeal or apply for benefits? What month was that?	W246_, W247_	W246_, W247_
M251	Was that application eventually accepted, rejected, or is it still being considered?	W248_	W248_
M252, M253	In what year did you start receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits? What month was that?	W233_, W234_	W233_, W234_
--	Were you offered rehabilitative services? What month and year was that?	W235_, W237_, W236_	W235_, W237_, W236_
--	According to our records, in R's LAST IW MONTH (per Z092), YEAR (per Z093) you were receiving benefits from the Social Security Disability program or the Supplemental Security Income program. Which program was this: the Social Security Disability or the Supplemental Security Income program, or both?	M030	--
M254	According to our records, in the last interview year/month you were receiving benefits from the Social Security Disability Insurance program. All: Are you still receiving these benefits?	W238_	W238_
M255, M256	In what year did the benefits stop? What month was that?	W243_, W244_	W243_, W244_
M257	Why did you stop receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits?	W256_	W256_
M259, M260- M262	IF STILL RECEIVING SSDI (M254=1): How much did you receive from the Social Security Disability Insurance program last month? OTHERWISE: How much did you receive from the Social Security Disability Insurance program the last month you received this benefit?	W239_; W240_- W242_	W239_; W240_- W242_
SSI			
M263	Since the last interview year/month, have you applied for disability benefits from the Supplemental Security Income program, also called SSI? ELSE: Have you ever applied for disability benefits from the Supplemental Security Income program, also called SSI?	If M036=1 & M037=1 & M058=2,3	If M570=1 & M572=1; M645
M264	Was this application filed at the same time as the SSDI application you just told me about?	--	--
M265, M266	In what year did you first apply for SSI benefits? What month was that?	W249_, W250_ W251_, W252_	M652, M653

--	According to our records, in R's LAST IW MONTH, YEAR you had applied for benefits from the Social Security Disability program or the Supplemental Security Income program. Which program was this: the Social Security Disability or the Supplemental Security Income program, or both?	M031	--
M267	According to our records, in the last interview year/month you had a pending application for Supplemental Security Income. Was that application accepted, rejected, or is it still being considered? ELSE: Was that application accepted, rejected, or is it still being considered?	M033, M041	M654
M268	Did you appeal or apply again after that rejection?	W245_	W245_
M269, M270	In what year did you last appeal or apply for benefits? What month was that?	W246_ , W247_	W246_ , W247_
M271	Was that application eventually accepted, rejected, or is it still being considered?	W248_	W248_
M272, M273	In what year did you start receiving Supplemental Security Income benefits? What month was that?	W233_ , W234_	W233_ , W234_
--	According to our records, in R's LAST IW MONTH (per Z092), YEAR (per Z093) you were receiving benefits from the Social Security Disability program or the Supplemental Security Income program. Which program was this: the Social Security Disability or the Supplemental Security Income program, or both?	M030	--
M274	According to our records, in the last interview year/month, you were receiving benefits from the Supplemental Security Income program. All: Are you still receiving these benefits?	W238_	W238_
M275, M276	In what year did the benefits stop? What month was that?	W243_ , W244_	W243_ , W244_
M277	Why did you stop receiving Supplemental Security Income benefits?	W256_	W256_
M279, M280- M282	IF STILL RECEIVING SSI (M274=1): How much did you receive from the Supplemental Security Income program last month? OTHERWISE: How much did you receive from the Supplemental Security Income program the last month you received this benefit?	W239_ ; W240_ - W242_	W239_ ; W240_ - W242_
Correcting SSDI and SSI confusion			
M283	Based on the information you shared with us, it seems that we may have had incorrect information about whether you have applied for or received disability benefits from the Social Security Administration. We'd like to update our records. Have you ever applied for disability benefits from the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program, the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, both, or neither?	--	--
M284	Are you currently receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits?	--	--
M285, M286- M288	How much did you receive from that last month?	--	--
M289	Are you currently receiving Supplemental Security Income benefits?	--	--
M290, M291- M293	How much did you receive from that last month?	--	--
VA			
M294	Since the last interview year/month, have you applied for disability benefits from the Veterans' Administration? ELSE: Have you ever applied for disability benefits from the disability benefits from the Veterans' Administration?	If M036=1 & M037=2	If M570=1 & M572=2
M295, M296	In what year did you first apply for disability benefits from the VA? What month was that?	W249_ , W250_ W251_ , W252_	M658, M659
M297	According to our records, in the last interview year/month you had a pending application for disability benefits from the VA. Was that application accepted, rejected, or is it still being considered? ELSE: Was that application accepted, rejected, or is it still being considered?	M034, M042	M660
M298	Did you appeal or apply again after that rejection?	W245_	W245_
M299, M300	In what year did you last appeal or apply for benefits? What month was that?	W246_ , W247_	W246_ , W247_
M301	Was that application eventually accepted, rejected, or is it still being considered?	W248_	W248_
M302, M303	In what year did you start receiving disability benefits from the VA? What month was that?	W233_ , W234_	W233_ , W234_
M304	What disability rating did you receive?	W232_	W232_
M305	According to our records, in the last interview year/month, you were receiving disability benefits from the VA. All: Are you still receiving these benefits?	W238_	W238_
M306, M307	In what year did the benefits stop? What month was that?	W243_ , W244_	W243_ , W244_

M308	Are you required to fill out an annual income questionnaire in order to receive benefit payments from the Department of Veteran Affairs?	--	--
M309, M310- M312	IF STILL RECEIVING VA (M305=1): How much did you receive in disability benefits from the VA program last month? OTHERWISE: How much did you receive in disability benefits from the VA the last month you received this benefit?	W239_ ; W240_ - W242_	W239_ ; W240_ - W242_
WC			
M313	Since the last interview year/month, have you applied for Workers' Compensation benefits? ELSE: Have you ever applied for Workers' Compensation benefits?	If M036=1 & M037=3	If M570=1 & M572=3
M314, M315	In what year did you first apply for Workers' Compensation benefits? What month was that?	W249_ , W250_ W251_ , W252_	M664, M665
M316	According to our records, in the last interview year/month you had a pending application for Workers' Compensation benefits. Was that application accepted, rejected, or is it still being considered? ELSE: Was that application accepted, rejected, or is it still being considered?	M043, M035	M666
M317	Did you appeal or apply again after that rejection?	W245_	W245_
M318, M319	In what year did you last appeal or apply for benefits? What month was that?	W246_ , W247_	W246_ , W247_
M320	Was that application eventually accepted, rejected, or is it still being considered?	W248_	W248_
M321, M322	In what year did you start receiving Workers' Compensation benefits? What month was that?	W233_ , W234	W233_ , W234
M323	What disability rating did you receive?	M044	M667
M324	What percentage did you receive?	M046, M048	M669
M326	For how many years?	M047, M049	M670
M327	According to our records, in the last interview year/month, you were receiving Workers' Compensation benefits. All: Are you still receiving these benefits?	W238_	W238_
M328, M329	In what year did the benefits stop? What month was that?	W243_ , W244_	W243_ , W244_
M330, M331- M333	IF STILL RECEIVING WC (M327=1): How much did you receive in Workers' Compensation benefits last month? OTHERWISE: How much did you receive in Workers' Compensation benefits in the last month you received this benefit?	W239_ ; W240_ - W242_	W239_ ; W240_ - W242_
Other (note that the 2020 wave had additional questions about application and receipt history that mirror the other programs that were streamlined in 2022 and not included on this list)			
M334	Since the last interview year/month, have you applied for disability benefits from any other program, such as a public welfare disability program? ELSE: Have you ever applied for disability benefits from any other program, such as a public welfare disability program?	If M036=1 & M037=4,7	If M570=1 & M572=4,7
M335	Which program is that?	M038	M685
M336	According to our records, in the last interview year/month, you were receiving other disability benefits. All: Are you still receiving these benefits?	W238_	W238_
M337, M338- M340	IF STILL RECEIVING OTHER BENEFITS (M336=1): How much did you receive in other disability benefits last month? OTHERWISE: How much did you receive in Workers' Compensation benefits in the last month you received this benefit?	W239_ ; W240_ - W242_	W239_ ; W240_ - W242_

¹ Questions on benefit application and receipt have the same prefixes across programs, with program determined based on the suffix following the underscore (_). For example, W250_ is a question asking reinterview respondents when they applied for benefits for the first time since the last interview. W250_1 is for SSDI, W250_2 is for SSI, W250_3 is for VA benefits, etc. Thus, it is important to look at the suffix that applies to each question to determine the program. In the question sequences above, we include only the prefix for each question for simplicity. The table on the next page lists if the suffix that applies to each prefix/program combination:

Table 2a. Question suffixes that correspond to disability programs in the 2020 Section M1 and M2

	Question prefix	Suffixes that identify each program (italicized suffixes appear in Section M2)				
		SSDI	SSI	VA	WC	Other program
Still receiving	W238_	1, 3, 4, 11, 16, 17	2, 5, 6, 12, 18	7, 8, 13, 19	9, 10, 14, 20	15, 21
Why no longer receiving	W256_	1, 3, 4, 11, 16, 17	2, 5, 6, 12, 18	--	--	--
How much receiving	W239_, W240_- W242_	1, 3, 4, 11, 16, 17	2, 5, 12, 18	7, 8, 13, 19	9, 10, 14, 20	15, 21
When did benefits stop	W244_, W243_	1, 3, 4, 11, 16, 17	2, 5, 12, 18	7, 8, 13, 19	9, 10, 14, 20	15, 21
Start receiving	W234_, W233_	3, 4, 11, 16, 17	5, 6, 12, 18	8, 13, 19	10, 14, 20	15, 21
Appeal or apply again	W245_	1, 3, 8	2, 4, 9	5, 10	6, 11	7, 12
When appeal/apply again	W247_, W246	1, 3, 8	2, 4, 9	5, 10	6, 11	7, 12
Application accepted/rejected/pending	W248_	1, 3, 8	2, 4, 9	5, 10	6, 11	7, 12
First apply (among reinterviewed respondents; new respondents have different numbering—see table above)	W250_, W249_	1	2	3	4	5
Most recent apply (among reinterviewed respondents; new respondents have different numbering—see table above)	W252_, W251_	1	2	3	4	5

Appendix Table 1. Skip logic for disability benefits questions in the 2016-2020 waves of Section M

Section M1 skip logic in 2016-2020 related to benefits receipt—Reinterview respondents.				
M008 BP	No work impairment now (M002~=1), not disabled last wave (Z122~=1) →Go to M051 BP	No work impairment now (M002~=1), but disabled at the last wave, Z122=1)→Go to BP030	Work impairment now (M002=1) and disabled last wave (J005=1)→BP030	Work impairment now (M002=1), not disabled last wave (J005~=1)→Continue
M030 BP	--	No benefits received and no pending application last IW→Go to W238_9 BP SSDI/SSI pending last IW→ Go to M031 BP (skips over questions about receipt of SSDI/SSI) Not receiving or pending application for SSDI/SSI last IW→ Go to W238_7 BP		
M031 BP	--	Questions about pending applications for SSDI/SSI If no applications pending for SSDI/SSI→ Go to W238_7 BP		
W238_7 BP	--	If VA benefits pending last IW→Go to M034 BP Not receiving or pending VA last IW→ Go to W238_9 BP		
M034 BP		Questions about pending application for VA If no application pending for VA, Go to W238_9		
W238_9 BP	--	If WC benefits pending last IW→Go to M035 BP Not receiving or application pending WC last IW→ Go to M036 (other programs)		
M035 BP		Questions about pending applications for WC If no applications pending for WC, skip to M036 (other programs)		
M051 BP	Series about injuries at work (after all benefit programs)			
Section M2 skip logic in 2016-2020 related to benefits receipt—New respondents.				
M502, M506, M507	Work impairment now (M502=1) or housework (M506=1)→Go to M515 BP			
M508 BP		No limitations in work, housework, or activities now (M502, M506, and M507~=1) and R<70 years old (A019)→go to M558 BP	No limitations in work, housework, or activities now (M502, M506, and M507~=1) and R >=70 years old (A019)→ go to M685	
M515 BP	No work impairment now (M502~=1) and R>=70 (A019)→Go to M685 No work impairment now (M502~=1) and R<70 (A019)→ Go to M558 BP R never worked more than a few months (K003=5)→ Go to M645 R not currently working for pay (J020 ~=1)→Go to M526 BP			
M526 BP	R currently working (J020=1) and work impairment began before R stopped working or didn't say (M515 or M526)→Go to M645			
M558 BP	Work impairment now (M502=1) and it began after R stopped working (M515 or M526=3)→GO TO M645			

	Work impairment now (M502=1) that is not temporary (M504~=1) and it began before R stopped working (or R didn't say) (M515 or M526)→Go to M577	
	No limitations now are asked about past limitations at M558, then get asked M577 before getting to M645	
M577	Were you employed at the time your health began to limit your ability to work?	
M645	Have you ever applied for disability benefits from the Social Security Disability program?	
M649 BP	If R had applied for SSDI (M645=1) or R did not report a work-limiting impairment (M502~=1 and M558~=1)→Go to M570, otherwise continue	
M649	What is the reason you did not apply for disability benefits from this program?	
M570	Did you ever apply for disability benefits from any other program, such as Supplemental Security Income, Veterans Administration, or Workers' Compensation? (if not, go to M679 BP)	
M572	To which programs did you apply for disability benefits? (questions for other programs flow based on response to M572)	
M685	(To which programs did you apply for disability benefits?) Other (specify) _____	
M679 BP	(Sequence on injuries at work)	

Appendix Table 2. Comparison of employer accommodations sequences in the 2020 and 2022 HRS

Subgroup	Section	Question sequence ¹
2016-2020 HRS		
Reinterviewed respondents who were newly work-limited since last wave and working for an employer when onset occurred; accommodations from employer when limitation began	M1	Starting with M028; identified with _1 suffix in questionnaire, A suffix in codebook
Reinterviewed respondents with work limitations who are currently working; accommodations from current employer	M1	Starting with M029; identified with _2 suffix in questionnaire, B suffix in codebook
New respondents whose impairment started before they were working, accommodations from current employer	M2	Starting with M525; identified with _3 suffix in questionnaire, C suffix in codebook
New respondents whose impairment started before they were working, accommodations from last employer	M2	Starting with M538; identified with _4 suffix in questionnaire, D suffix in codebook
New respondents whose impairment started after they were working, accommodations from employer when impairment began	M2	Starting with M586; identified with _5 suffix in questionnaire, E suffix in codebook
New respondents whose impairment started after they were working, accommodations from the next employer after the employer when impairment began	M2	Starting with M587; identified with _6 suffix in questionnaire, F suffix in codebook
New respondents whose impairment started after they were working, accommodations from the first employer after the impairment began	M2	Starting with M599; identified with _7 suffix in questionnaire, G suffix in codebook
New respondents whose impairment started after they were working, but they were not working when the impairment began; accommodations from the last employer before the impairment began	M2	Starting with M609; identified with _8 suffix in questionnaire, H suffix in codebook
New respondents with work limitations whose impairment began after they started working; accommodations from current employer	M2	Starting with M610; identified with _9 suffix in questionnaire, I suffix in codebook
2022 and onward HRS		
All workers. Sequence references accommodations for health problems, but respondents do not have to affirmatively indicate an impairment for these questions. This sequence is designed to identify accommodations among workers who may not say they have a work limitation in Section M, potentially in part because they were effectively accommodated by an employer.	J	Starting with J967
Respondents who report a current work limitation and who were working when their health began to limit their ability to work; accommodations reported for the employer at that time, with questions that follow about subsequent job changes.	M	Starting with M157
New respondents who did not report a current work limitation, but reported a past limitation and were working with their health began to limit their ability to work; accommodations reported for the employer at that time, with questions that follow about subsequent job changes.	M	Starting with M202

¹ The question sequence in 2016-2020 was the same for all subgroups, with employer accommodation receipt asked about in questions M211, M214, M217, M220, M223, M226, M227, M228, M229, M230, and M231. See the question mapping in Table 1 for more details about the accommodation types in each question.

Appendix Table 3. RAND HRS variables derived from Section M questions

Section C: Functional Helper and Limitations Variables ¹		
Variable name	Waves available	Description
RwHLTHLM	1-15	RwHLTHLM: W# Health problems limit work
Section E: Income		
Variable name	Waves available	Description
RwSSIS	1-15	RwSSIS: W# Income: R SSI + SS disability
HwITOT	1-15	HwITOT: W# Income: Total household income / Respondent + spouse only
Section F: Change in Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Status		
Variable name	Waves available	Description
RwSSAPP	2-4	RwSSAPP: W# Applied for SSDI/SSI since last wave
RwSSDEN	2-4	RwSSDEN: W# Denied SSDI/SSI since last wave
RwSSAPL	2-4	RwSSAPL: W# Appealed SSDI/SSI decision since last wave
RwSSREC	2-4	RwSSREC: W# Started receiving SSDI/SSI since last wave
RwSSSTP	2-4	RwSSSTP: W# Stopped receiving SSDI/SSI since last wave
RwSSAPP[M Y]	2-4	RwSSAPP[M Y]: W# [Month Year] applied for SSDI/SSI since last wave
RwSSAPL[M Y]	2-4	RwSSAPL[M Y]: W# [Month Year] appealed SSDI/SSI since last wave
RwSSREC[M Y]	2-4	RwSSREC[M Y]: W# [Month Year] started receiving SSDI/SSI since last wave
RwSSSTP[M Y]	2-4	RwSSSTP[M Y]: W# Year stopped receiving SSDI/SSI since last wave
RwSDIAPP	5-15	RwSDIAPP: W# Applied for SSDI since last wave
RwSDIDEN	5-15	RwSDIDEN: W# Denied SSDI since last wave
RwSDIAPL	5-15	RwSDIAPL: W# Appealed SSDI decision since last wave
RwSDIREC	5-15	RwSDIREC: W# Started receiving SSDI since last wave
RwSDISTP	5-15	RwSDISTP: W# Stopped receiving SSDI since last wave
RwSDIAPP[M Y]	5-15	RwSDIAPP[M Y]: W# [Month Year] applied for SSDI since last wave
RwSDIAPL[M Y]	5-15	RwSDIAPL[M Y]: W# [Month Year] appealed SSDI since last wave
RwSDIREC[M Y]	5-15	RwSDIREC[M Y]: W# [Month Year] started receiving SSDI since last wave
RwSDISTP[M Y]	5-15	RwSDISTP[M Y]: W# [Month Year] stopped receiving SSDI since last wave
RwSSIAPP	5-15	RwSSIAPP: W# Applied for SSI since last wave
RwSSIDEN	5-15	RwSSIDEN: W# Denied SSI since last wave
RwSSIAPL	5-15	RwSSIAPL: W# Appealed SSI decision since last wave
RwSSIREC	5-15	RwSSIREC: W# Started receiving SSI since last wave
RwSSISTP	5-15	RwSSISTP: W# Stopped receiving SSI since last wave
RwSSIAPP[M Y]	5-15	RwSSIAPP[M Y]: W# [Month Year] applied for SSI since last wave
RwSSIAPL[M Y]	5-15	RwSSIAPL[M Y]: W# [Month Year] appealed SSI since last wave
RwSSIREC[M Y]	5-15	RwSSIREC[M Y]: W# [Month Year] started receiving SSI since last wave
RwSSISTP[M Y]	5-15	RwSSISTP[M Y]: W# [Month Year] stopped receiving SSI since last wave
SSDI, SSI Disability Episodes		
Variable name	Episode #	Description
RADNEPI	---	RADNEPI: Total number of disability episodes
RADTYPEe	1-11	RADTYPEe: E# Type of disability episode
RADSTATE	1-11	RADSTATE: E# Episode status
RADAPP[M Y]e	1-11	RADAPP[M Y]e: E# [Month Year] applied SSI/SSDI
RADAPPDe	1-11	RADAPPDe: E# Date applied SSI/SSDI

RADREA[M Y]e	1-11	RADREAMe: E# [Month Year] reapplied/appealed SSI/SSDI
RADREADe	1-11	RADREADe: E# Date reapplied/appealed SSI/SSDI
RADREC[M Y]e	1-11	RADRECMe: E# [Month Year] received SSI/SSDI
RADRECDe	1-11	RADRECDe: E# Date received SSI/SSDI
RADEND[M Y]e	1-11	RADENDMe: E# [Month Year] ended SSI/SSDI
SSDI, SSI (Each Wave) Variables		
Variable name	Waves available	Description
RwDSTAT	1-15	RwDSTAT indicates whether a Respondent is receiving or applying for disability benefits through Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) at Wave "w." It is a three-digit variable, where the ones-digit indicates the status of SSI, the tens-digit indicates the status of SSDI, and the hundreds-digit indicates the status of SSDI/SSI where we do not know which program.
RwSSDI	1-15	RwSSDI: W# R is receiving SSDI
RwDSSAMT	5-15	RwDSSAMT: W# Amt received last month SSDI
RwDSIAMT	5-15	RwDSIAMT: W# Amt received last month SSI

¹ The RAND HRS Longitudinal file provides spouse versions of its variables, for example SwSSAPP, as a convenience to users. Spouse Disability Episode variables are available upon request.