

The Missing Data Imputation Process¹

Health and Retirement Study researchers have developed special methods to collect information on variables that can be subject to high rates of non-response, e.g. income, financial assets, housing equity, and medical expenditures. A key feature of the process is the use of special questionnaire designs to elicit "bracket" information from respondents who are unable or unwilling to answer amount questions. Missing value imputation procedures have been developed to deal with various problems arising from use of this "bracket" information. For detailed information on the techniques involved in the imputation process, please consult [IMPUTE: A SAS Application System for Missing Value Imputations with Special Reference to HRS Income/Assets Imputations](#).

Users who wish to perform their own imputations may download a file containing a set of [SAS macros](#) that will assist in performing custom missing value imputations on HRS data. The file is designed for users to include in any SAS control program that prepares input data, creates control and amount variables, invokes the imputation macros, and collects imputation results. A brief description of the sample control program as well as instructions on how to set up SAS files, libraries, and directories, can be found in the comment section. Note: A Unix or Linux working environment is assumed for this file.

The [sample SAS control program](#) may serve as an example for setting up your own control file, but before you begin your work, you should be aware that:

- *You are using this file at your own risk:* The HRS will not take any responsibility for any problems or mistakes generated from using the sample program or the core imputation file.
- *No technical support will be provided:* For the foreseeable future the HRS will not provide any technical support, trouble-shooting or any other user support activity connected with the sample program. Users encountering problems related to imputations should consult the documentation.

Please visit the HRS Web site for information on imputation products² currently available to the public.

¹The 1996 Imputations served as a prototype for other imputation data sets. See [HRS 1996 Imputations: Documentation](#) for detailed information on the methodology that was used.

²<http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/index.php?p=imputes>