

Description of variables in marcps08.dta:

labforcestat: labor force status

hrswk: the typical hours/week worked

age: age (only women 18 through 65 are included)

race: 1 = white, 2 = black, and 3 = other

marstat: marital status

educ: educational attainment

child6: number of own children under 6

child18: number of unmarried own children under 18

unearninc: family's unearned income

Some tips on working with this data:

- Many of the variables have labels. The variables are all stored as numbers, but when you tabulate them (e.g. "tab labforcestat") it will appear as if your variables are stored as phrases. If you want to manipulate these variables, you will have to use the numeric values attached to these phrases (e.g. you can say `replace nilf = 1 if labforcestat==7`, but you can't say `replace nilf = 1 if labforcestat=="Nilf"`). To figure out what the values associated with the phrases are, use the command `"tab labforcestat, nolabel."`
- Some of the variables are not in the format that you'd want them. For example, you have to figure out what is considered in the labor force and what is considered out of the labor force. For the variable `educ`, you are going to have to decide how to associate a number of years of education with each of the educational attainments listed. There are several ways one could do this (e.g. "Some College" could be set equal to 13 or 14 years of education). There's no one right answer, so just do something reasonable that seems right to you.

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

14.64 Labor Economics and Public Policy
Fall 2009

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.