PUERTO RICAN ELDERLY: HEALTH CONDITIONS
CONDICIONES DE SALUD DE LOS ADULTOS DE EDAD MAYOR EN
PUERTO RICO

Errors and Limitations Identified in Data

PREHCO 1

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Errors and Limitations Identified in Data

There are some errors or known limitations in the database that the users should consider:

1. The variables G55 (has fallen after 60 years of age) and G56 (number of falls in the last year) present some cases without information (22 and 53, respectively) due to a programming error, corrected during the uploading of the data. Even though in some cases the information was obtained via telephone, for other cases the data is unknown. In the database, these are properly identified with the value -3.

2. See the last paragraph of the section "Utilization of the information contained in the rosters" on the limitation of the identification of characteristics of some people who lend or receive assistance (value -77).

3. Section S on abuse was answered by a reduced number of participants. This is due to the instructions given to the interviewers. Due to the delicate nature of the questions, interviewers were told not to go forward with this section if someone else was present at the time of the interview. Those users of the database interested in studying the abuse of elderly adults should take into account this limitation.

4. In section G on Health, there is an experimental sub-section of symptoms taken from the clinical environment with the double purpose of validating some of the illnesses identified by the interviewee and being able to analyzing the predictive power of those symptoms. Due to an initial programming error later corrected, some of the interviewees did not answer the questions related to the respiratory symptoms (G92-G92I3).

5. In section O on Migration, questions O10a to O10d were introduced once fieldwork had begun, which means that some of the cases do not have valid information. This problem only affects some of the interviewees who might have resided in the United States and are duly identified with the value -3.

6. Due to a programming error, the marital status of some of the siblings in section L does not have value.

7. The question regarding the diagnosis of bilharziasis (G107) contains a large amount of missing data because of an error in the programming of the questionnaire.

8. The variables M16 (son or daughter who most helps him/her), M17 (brother or sister who most helps him/her), and M18 (person who most helps him/her), have no information for some cases.

9. Some asset and income variables were collected as categorical variables, instead of continuous. For obvious reasons, the variables in this form allow limited analysis of effects of assets and income. We conducted a follow-up telephone survey of randomly selected PREHCO respondents from the original PREHCO survey to obtain information on assets and household income variables. In the near future we will provide a new version of the full data set with continuous measures for those data.