

2025 | DATA YEAR RELEASE NOTES



Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

Office of Enterprise Data and Analytics (OEDA)

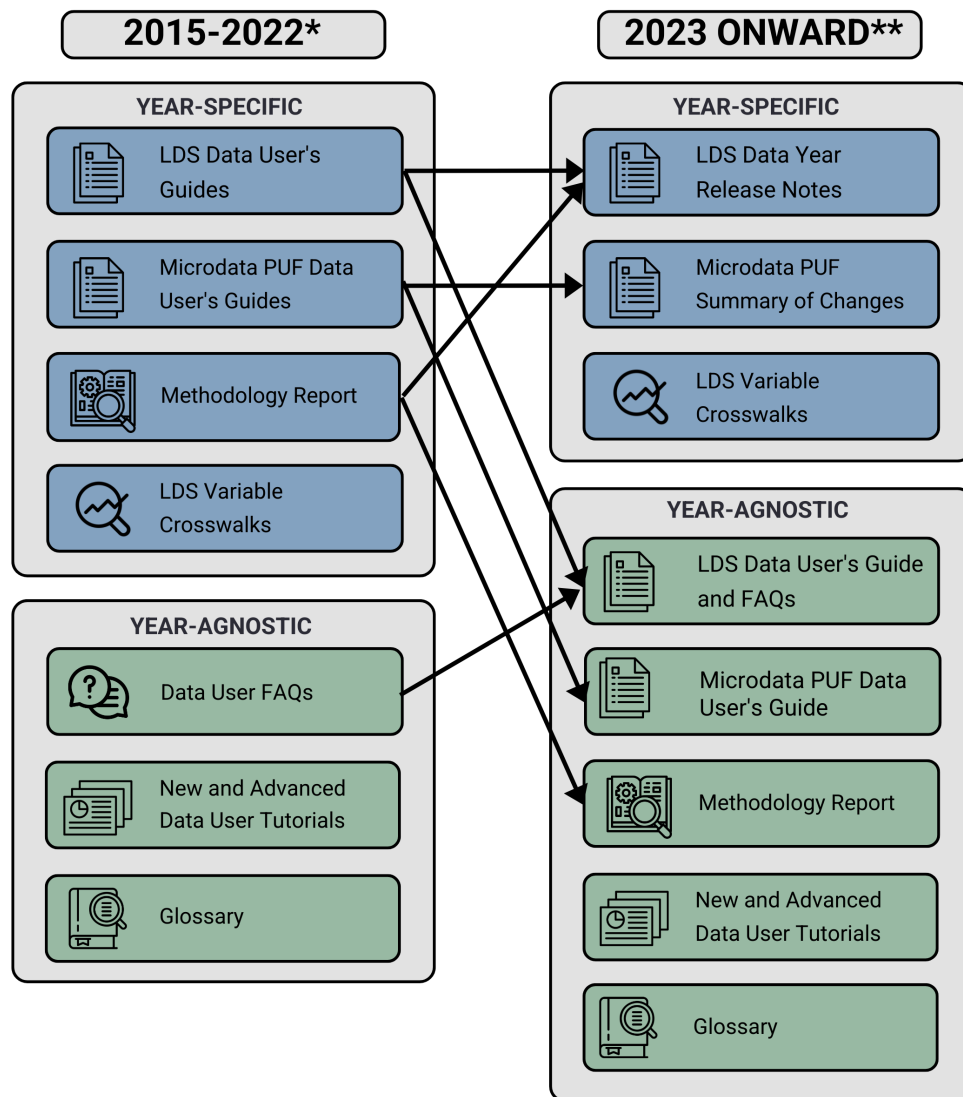
Version Control Log

Date	Version	Revisions
09/11/2026	1.0	Initial version published for 2025 Survey File - Early Release LDS.

MCBS DOCUMENTATION CROSSWALK AND OVERVIEW

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) releases a comprehensive suite of documentation products to support researchers in using the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS). These products were consolidated beginning with the 2023 data year to separate the detailed background information on the MCBS from focused year-specific content that is most relevant to researchers. This section provides a concise overview of MCBS documentation products beginning with the 2015 data year, all available for download on the CMS MCBS website: <https://www.cms.gov/data-research/research/medicare-current-beneficiary-survey/data-documentation-codebooks>.

MCBS DOCUMENTATION OVERVIEW



NOTES: The year-specific products are updated annually for each data year. The year-agnostic products are reviewed annually, but only updated as needed.

* For new researchers using the 2015-2022 MCBS LDS, the *Survey File LDS Data User's Guide* and *New User Tutorial* are the recommended starting points. See the CMS MCBS website for information on the pre-2015 MCBS documentation.

** Beginning with the 2023 MCBS LDS, the *LDS Data Year Release Notes* and *New User Tutorial* are the recommended starting points for new researchers.

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ACRONYM LIST

ACQ	Access to Care Questionnaire
ADLs	Activities of Daily Living
AR	Administrative Records
BQ	Background Questionnaire
CCW	CMS Chronic Conditions Warehouse
CMQ	Cognitive Measures Questionnaire
CMS	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
CPQ	Chronic Pain Questionnaire
CPS	Charge Payment Summary Questionnaire
CQ	Community Questionnaire
CS	Cost Supplement File
CV	COVID-19 Beneficiary Questionnaire
CVQ	COVID-19 Questionnaire
DBQ	Debt Questionnaire
DIQ	Demographics and Income Questionnaire
DUA	Data Use Agreement
DVH	Dental, Vision, and Hearing Utilization Questionnaire
ENS	Enumeration Summary Questionnaire
EPPE	Enterprise Privacy Policy Engine
ER	Survey File - Early Release
ERQ	Emergency Room Utilization Questionnaire
ER_ACCESSCR	Survey File - Early Release Access to Care segment
ER_CHRNCOND	Survey File - Early Release Chronic Conditions segment
ER_COGNFUNC	Survey File - Early Release Cognitive Measures segment
ER_DEMO	Survey File - Early Release Demographics segment
ER_DIABETES	Survey File - Early Release Diabetes segment
ER_EVRWGTS	Survey File - Early Release ever enrolled population weights
ER_FALLS	Survey File - Early Release Falls segment
ER_FNSEWGTS	Survey File - Early Release non-proxy adjustment weights
ER_GENHLTH	Survey File - Early Release General Health segment
ER_HHCHAR	Survey File - Early Release Household Characteristics segment
ER_HISUMRY	Survey File - Early Release Health Insurance Summary segment
ER_MENTHLTH	Survey File - Early Release Mental Health segment
ER_MOBILITY	Survey File - Early Release Mobility segment
ER_NAGIDIS	Survey File - Early Release Nagi Disability segment
ER_NICOALCO	Survey File - Early Release Nicotine and Alcohol segment
ER_ORALHLTH	Survey File - Early Release Oral Health segment
ER_PASEWGTS	Survey File - Early Release PNTACT non-proxy adjustment weights
ER_PNTACT	Survey File - Early Release Patient Activation segment
ER_PREVCARE	Survey File - Early Release Preventive Care segment
ER_SATWCARE	Survey File - Early Release Satisfaction with Care segment
ER_VISHEAR	Survey File - Early Release Vision and Hearing segment
EX	Expenditures Questionnaire
FACCHAR	Facility Characteristics segment

FQ	Facility Questionnaire
HAQ	Housing Characteristics Questionnaire
HFQ	Health Status and Functioning Questionnaire
HHQ	Home Health Utilization Questionnaire
HIQ	Health Insurance Questionnaire
HS	Health Status Questionnaire
IADLs	Instrumental Activities of Daily Living
IAQ	Income and Assets Questionnaire
IMQ	Immunization Questionnaire
IN	Health Insurance Questionnaire
INQ	Introduction Questionnaire
IPQ	Inpatient Hospital Utilization Questionnaire
IRB	Institutional Review Board
IRQ	Interviewer Remarks Questionnaire
IUQ	Institutional Utilization Questionnaire
KNQ	Beneficiary Knowledge and Information Needs Questionnaire
LDS	Limited Data Set(s)
MA	Medicare Advantage
MBQ	Mobility of Beneficiaries Questionnaire
MCBS	Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey
MPQ	Medical Provider Utilization Questionnaire
NAQ	Nicotine and Alcohol Use Questionnaire
NHIS	National Health Interview Survey
NORC	NORC at the University of Chicago
NSQ	No Statement Charge Questionnaire
OEDA	Office of Enterprise Data and Analytics
OM	Original Medicare, previously referred to as Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS)
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
OMQ	Other Medical Expenses Utilization Questionnaire
OPQ	Outpatient Utilization Questionnaire
PMQ	Prescribed Medicine Questionnaire
PSQ	Post-Statement Charge Questionnaire
PUF	Public Use File
PVQ	Preventive Care Questionnaire
RH	Residence History Questionnaire
RIC	Record Identification Code
RXQ	Drug Coverage Questionnaire
SCQ	Satisfaction with Care Questionnaire
SF	Survey File
STQ	Statement Cost Series Questionnaire
TLQ	Telemedicine Questionnaire
US	Use of Health Services Questionnaire
USQ	Usual Source of Care Questionnaire

1. INTRODUCTION

Medicare is the nation's health insurance program for persons 65 years and over and for persons younger than 65 years who have a qualifying disability. The Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS) consists of a representative national sample of the Medicare population sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).¹ The MCBS is designed to aid CMS in administering, monitoring, and evaluating the Medicare program. A leading source of information on Medicare and its impact on beneficiaries, the MCBS provides important information on beneficiaries that is not otherwise collected through operational or administrative data on the Medicare program and plays an essential role in monitoring and evaluating beneficiary health status and health care policy. For more information, see the *Data User's Guide* and *Methodology Report*.

Beginning with the 2023 data year, CMS releases five sets of MCBS files annually, three Limited Data Sets (LDS)² and two Microdata Public Use Files (PUFs). Exhibit 1.1 provides an overview of the 2025 LDS releases: Survey File - Early Release, Survey File, and Cost Supplement File. The data within the LDS releases are organized into data segments.

Exhibit 1.1: Overview of 2025 MCBS Limited Data Sets

Category	Survey File - Early Release	Survey File	Cost Supplement File
File Contents	Timely fall data on key topics such as beneficiaries' socio-demographic information; self-reported health status, conditions, and functioning; disability; and access to and satisfaction with care	- Fall data released on the Survey File - Early Release as well as annualized data on topics such as health insurance coverage - Data on additional topics (e.g., income, debt, knowledge of the Medicare program, etc.) collected in the winter and summer rounds of the next calendar year - Facility information, administrative records and assessment data, and Original Medicare (OM), previously referred to as Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS), claims data	- Comprehensive accounting of beneficiaries' health care use, expenditures, and sources of payment - Linked survey-reported and Original Medicare and Part D claims data

¹ The MCBS is authorized by section 1875 (42 USC 1395ll) of the Social Security Act and is conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The OMB Number for this survey is 0938-0568.

² For the 2015 through 2022 data years, CMS released two MCBS LDS files annually, the Survey File and the Cost Supplement File. Beginning with the 2023 data year, CMS releases a subset of the Survey File LDS segments early via the Survey File - Early Release LDS to improve the timeliness of MCBS data. The Survey File LDS and Cost Supplement File LDS continue to be released annually.

Category	Survey File - Early Release	Survey File	Cost Supplement File
Data Collection Timeframe	Fall only	Annualized	Annualized
Population Represented	Community only	Community and facility	Community and facility
Weights Available	Cross-sectional ever enrolled and select Topical weights	Cross-sectional ever enrolled, cross-sectional continuously enrolled, longitudinal, and Topical weights	Cross-sectional ever enrolled and longitudinal weights
Inclusion of Enrollment and Claims Data	Limited enrollment information; no Original Medicare claims	Detailed enrollment information; five years of enrollment data; five years of Original Medicare claims	No enrollment information; linked Original Medicare and Medicare Part D claims
Supports Standalone Analysis?	Yes	Yes	No
Intended for Analysis with Other MCBS LDS Files?	No	Yes (with Cost Supplement File)	Yes (with Survey File)
Approximate Release Timeframe	Within nine months after the close of the calendar year	18 months after the close of the calendar year	Three months after the Survey File

Information on content and access to the MCBS Microdata PUFs, including codebooks and additional documentation on the data release, can be found at <https://data.cms.gov/medicare-current-beneficiary-survey-mcbs>.

For questions or suggestions on this document or other MCBS data-related questions, please email MCBS@cms.hhs.gov.

1.1 Contents of the Data Year Release Notes

The *2025 Data Year Release Notes* contains detailed information about the annual MCBS LDS releases. Data users can access this resource along with other data documentation at <https://www.cms.gov/data-research/research/medicare-current-beneficiary-survey/data-documentation-codebooks>. The *2025 Data Year Release Notes* is initially released to accompany the Survey File - Early Release LDS. This documentation is then updated and re-released for the Survey File LDS and again for the Cost Supplement File LDS (see the Version Control Log for information on the current version).

Here is an overview of the contents of the *2025 Data Year Release Notes*:

- Section 2: This section provides information on sampling, questionnaires, interviewing, data collection, and data releases for the 2025 data year.

- Section ER: This section provides specific information on the Survey File - Early Release LDS release, including a description of any changes and an overview of each segment included in the release.
- Section SF: Once available, this section provides specific information on the Survey File LDS release, including a description of any changes and an overview of each segment included in the release.
- Section CS: Once available, this section provides specific information on the Cost Supplement File LDS release, including a description of any changes and an overview of each segment included in the release.

Please note the following terminology preferences for the MCBS used throughout this document:

- *Beneficiary* refers to a person receiving Medicare services who may or may not be participating in the MCBS.³ Beneficiary may also refer to an individual selected from the MCBS sample about whom the MCBS collects information.
- *Respondent* is the person who answers questions for the MCBS; this person can be the beneficiary, a proxy, or a staff member located at a facility where the beneficiary resides (i.e., the Facility respondent).
- The *data collection year* refers to the three rounds of data collection (winter, summer, and fall) that occur within the calendar year (e.g., Winter 2025, Summer 2025, and Fall 2025 for 2025).
- The *data year* refers to the data collected over the three years that are included in the LDS release (e.g., 2024, 2025, and 2026 for the 2025 LDS).

1.2 Data Access

All requested LDS files require a signed LDS Data Use Agreement (DUA) between CMS and the data requestor to ensure that the data remain protected against unauthorized disclosure. Data users can submit an LDS request via a CMS DUA tracking system, the Enterprise Privacy Policy Engine or EPPE. EPPE can be used to initiate a new LDS DUA request or to amend/update an existing LDS DUA. Questions about LDS files or the process for requesting LDS files can be sent to datauseagreement@cms.hhs.gov. For additional information on data access and the DUA process, including instructions for accessing and using EPPE to order LDS files and pricing information, data users can visit the CMS LDS website at <https://www.cms.gov/data-research/files-for-order/data-disclosures-and-data-use-agreements-duas/limited-data-set-lds>. Each MCBS LDS data release contains multiple files (or segments) that are linkable through a key identification variable (BASEID).

1.3 Guidelines for Citation of Data Source

This communication was printed, published, or produced and disseminated at U.S. taxpayer expense. All material appearing in this document is in the public domain and may be reproduced or copied without permission; citation as to source, however, is appreciated. Accordingly, CMS requests that data users cite CMS and the MCBS as the data source in any publications or research based upon these data. Suggested citation formats are below.

Tables and Graphs: The suggested citation below all tables and graphs should read:

SOURCE: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey, [Data File, (e.g., Cost Supplement File Limited Data Set)], [Year].

³ <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/MedicareGenInfo/index.html>

Bibliography: The suggested citation for this document should read:

SOURCE: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. [Year] *Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey Data Year Release Notes*. Retrieved from [ADD URL], [YEAR ACCESSED].

Survey Data: The suggested citation for the MCBS survey data files and other documentation should read:

SOURCE: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey, [Data File, (e.g., Cost Supplement File Limited Data Set)] data. Baltimore, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [Year].

1.4 Data User Resources

CMS provides technical assistance to researchers interested in using MCBS data and provides free consultation to users interested in obtaining these data products and using these data in research. Users can email MCBS@cms.hhs.gov with questions regarding obtaining or using the data. Exhibit 1.4.1 provides the links to MCBS documentation and other data user resources.

Exhibit 1.4.1: Table of Links to MCBS Documentation and Resources

MCBS Resources	Links
CMS MCBS website	https://www.cms.gov/data-research/research/medicare-current-beneficiary-survey
MCBS LDS file ordering information	https://www.cms.gov/data-research/files-for-order/data-disclosures-and-data-use-agreements-duas/limited-data-set-lds
MCBS Microdata PUFs	https://data.cms.gov/medicare-current-beneficiary-survey-mcbs
CMS Chronic Conditions Warehouse (CCW)	https://www.ccwdata.org/web/guest/home/
MCBS Documentation: Data Year Release Notes, Summary of Changes, Data User's Guides, Methodology Reports, Codebooks, and LDS Variable Crosswalks	https://www.cms.gov/data-research/research/medicare-current-beneficiary-survey/data-documentation-codebooks
PUF Table Packages and Chartbook PDFs	https://www.cms.gov/data-research/research/medicare-current-beneficiary-survey/data-tables
Early Look, Data Briefs, Infographics, and Tutorials	https://www.cms.gov/data-research/research/medicare-current-beneficiary-survey/data-briefs-tutorials
Bibliography	https://www.cms.gov/data-research/research/medicare-current-beneficiary-survey/bibliography
Questionnaires and Questionnaire Documentation	https://www.cms.gov/data-research/research/medicare-current-beneficiary-survey/questionnaires

2. 2025 DATA YEAR CONTENT

2.1 Questionnaires

The MCBS Community Questionnaire is administered to beneficiaries living in the community (i.e., not in a long-term care facility such as a nursing home) during the reference period covered by the MCBS interview and may be conducted with the beneficiary or a proxy. In addition to including data collected in the three rounds (winter, summer, and fall) administered during the calendar year, the 2025 MCBS LDS include some data collected in 2024 that are carried forward to fill in data for 2025 when questionnaire items are administered only once or when data are missing for the data year but valid values exist for the previous year. Some data collected in Winter and Summer 2026 are “pulled back” for inclusion in the 2025 LDS because the questionnaire section’s reference period extends back to 2025. The Facility Instrument is administered for beneficiaries living in facilities during the reference period covered by the MCBS interview and is conducted with staff members located at the facility. For more information on the MCBS Questionnaires, see the *Data User’s Guide* and *Methodology Report*. Additionally, descriptions of each of these questionnaire sections can be found in the *MCBS Questionnaire User Guide*: <https://www.cms.gov/data-research/research/medicare-current-beneficiary-survey/questionnaires>.

2.1.1 Core Community Questionnaire Sections

Exhibit 2.1.1 lists each Core section of the Community Questionnaire that contributes to the 2025 LDS.

Exhibit 2.1.1: 2025 Data Year MCBS Community Core Sections by Data File and Data Collection Schedule

Section Group	Abbr.	Section Name	LDS ⁵	Data Collection Schedule
Socio-Demographics	IAQ	Income and Assets	SF	Summer 2026
	DIQ	Demographics/Income	ER, SF	Fall 2025, Baseline Interview
Health Insurance	HIQ	Health Insurance	ER, SF	All Seasons
Utilization*	DVH	Dental, Vision, and Hearing Care Utilization	CS	All Seasons
	ERQ	Emergency Room Utilization	CS	All Seasons
	IPQ	Inpatient Hospital Utilization	CS	All Seasons
	OPQ	Outpatient Hospital Utilization	CS	All Seasons
	IUQ	Institutional Utilization	CS	All Seasons
	HHQ	Home Health Utilization	CS	All Seasons
	MPQ	Medical Provider Utilization	CS	All Seasons
	OMQ	Other Medical Expenses Utilization	CS	All Seasons
	PMQ	Prescribed Medicine Utilization	CS	All Seasons
Cost*	STQ	Statement Cost Series	CS	All Seasons
	PSQ	Post-Statement Charge	CS	All Seasons
	NSQ	No Statement Charge	CS	All Seasons
	CPS	Charge Payment Summary	CS	All Seasons

Section Group	Abbr.	Section Name	LDS [§]	Data Collection Schedule
Experiences with Care	ACQ	Access to Care	SF	Winter 2026
	SCQ	Satisfaction with Care	ER, SF	Fall 2025
	TLQ	Telemedicine	SF	Winter 2026
	USQ	Usual Source of Care	SF	Winter 2026
Health Status	HFQ	Health Status and Functioning	ER, SF	Fall 2025
	CMQ	Cognitive Measures	ER, SF	Fall 2025

SOURCE: MCBS Community Questionnaire

*New respondents receiving the Baseline interview do not receive Core sections about health care utilization and costs; these sections are reserved for Continuing respondents. As such, in Fall 2025, only persons in the 2022, 2023, and 2024 Panels received the Core sections about health care utilization and health care costs.

[§]Limited Data Set (LDS) indicates the file where the questionnaire data appear (i.e., ER = Survey File - Early Release, SF = Survey File, CS = Cost Supplement File).

2.1.2 Topical Community Questionnaire Sections

Exhibit 2.1.2 lists each Topical section of the Community Questionnaire that contributes to the 2025 LDS.

Exhibit 2.1.2: 2025 Data Year MCBS Community Topical Sections by Data File and Data Collection Schedule

Section Group	Abbr.	Section Name	LDS [§]	Data Collection Schedule
Housing Characteristics	HAQ	Housing Characteristics	ER, SF	Fall 2025
Social Determinants of Health or Health Behaviors	CPQ	Chronic Pain	SF	Summer 2026
	MBQ	Mobility of Beneficiaries	ER, SF	Fall 2025
	NAQ	Nicotine and Alcohol Use	ER, SF	Fall 2025
	PVQ	Preventive Care	ER, SF	Fall 2025, Winter 2026, and Summer 2026
	IMQ	Immunization	SF	Winter 2026
	DBQ	Debt	SF	Summer 2026
	IAQ	Food Insecurity items	SF	Summer 2026
COVID-19	CVQ	COVID-19	SF	Winter 2026
Knowledge and Decision Making	KNQ	Beneficiary Knowledge and Information Needs	SF	Winter 2026
	RXQ	Drug Coverage	SF	Summer 2026

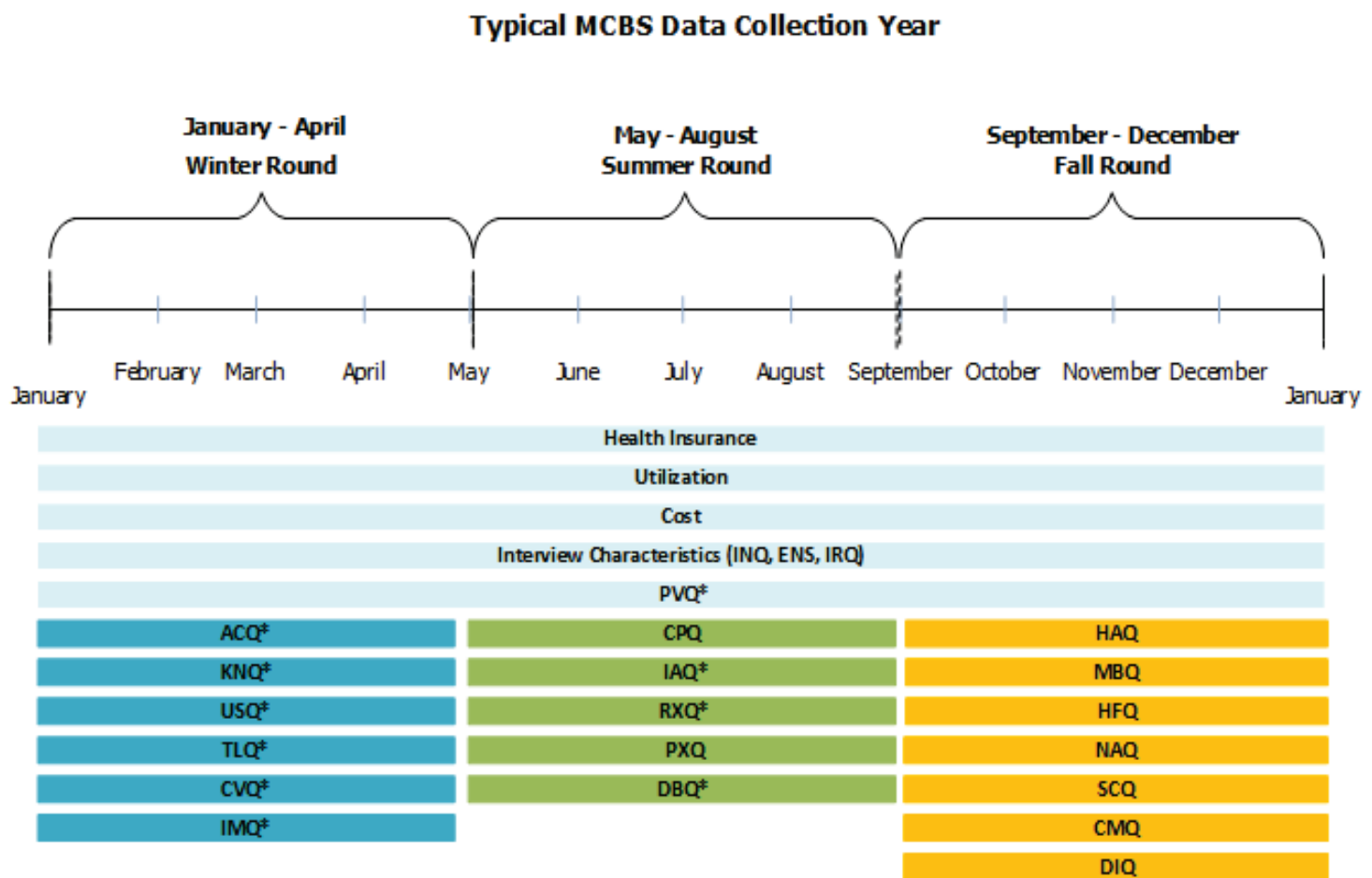
SOURCE: MCBS Community Questionnaire

[§]LDS indicates the file where the questionnaire data appear (i.e., ER = Survey File - Early Release, SF = Survey File, CS = Cost Supplement File).

2.1.3 Community Questionnaire Section Rotation within a Data Year

Exhibit 2.1.3 presents the MCBS Questionnaire section rotation schedule for 2025. The 2025 MCBS data releases reflect data collected from January 2025 through December 2025 and include data collected in Winter and Summer 2026 rounds from questionnaire sections with a 2025 reference period. While PVQ is administered in all rounds, the data are released on different LDS segments. For the 2025 MCBS LDS, Fall 2025 PVQ data appear on the Preventive Care (PREVCARE) segment (released on both the Survey File - Early Release and Survey File), while Winter and Summer 2026 PVQ data appear on the IMQ segment (released on just the Survey File).

Exhibit 2.1.3: 2025 Data Collection Year MCBS Community Questionnaire Section Rotation



*Fielded in 2026, but given the reference period is 2025, data are included in the 2025 LDS.

2.1.4 Facility Core Questionnaire Sections

Exhibit 2.1.4 lists each Core section of the Facility Instrument that contributes to the 2025 LDS.

Exhibit 2.1.4: 2025 Data Year MCBS Facility Core Sections by Data File and Data Collection Schedule

Section Group	Abbr.	Section Name	LDS [§]	Data Collection Schedule
Facility Characteristics	FQ	Facility Questionnaire	SF	All Seasons
Socio-Demographics	RH	Residence History	SF	All Seasons
	BQ	Background	SF	Fall 2025, Baseline Interview*
Health Insurance	IN	Health Insurance	SF	Fall 2025 [±]
Utilization	US	Use of Health Services	CS	All Seasons
Cost	EX	Expenditures	CS	All Seasons
Health Status	HS	Health Status	SF	Fall 2025 [±]

SOURCE: MCBS Facility Instrument

*The BQ section is also administered to Community-to-Facility Crossover cases each season.

[±]The IN and HS sections are also administered to Community-to-Facility and Facility-to-Facility cases each season.

[§]Limited Data Set (LDS) indicates the file where the questionnaire data appears (i.e., SF = Survey File, CS = Cost Supplement File). Note, no Facility data are released on the 2025 Survey File - Early Release LDS.

2.1.5 Facility Topical Questionnaire Sections

Exhibit 2.1.5 lists the Topical section of the Facility Instrument that contributes to the 2025 LDS.

Exhibit 2.1.5: 2025 Data Year MCBS Facility Topical Sections by Data File and Data Collection Schedule

Section Group	Abbr.	Section Name	LDS [§]	Data Collection Schedule
COVID-19	CV	COVID-19 Beneficiary	SF	Winter 2025, Baseline Interview*

SOURCE: MCBS Facility Instrument

*The CV section is also administered to Community-to-Facility and Facility-to-Facility Crossover cases each season.

[§]Limited Data Set (LDS) indicates the file where the questionnaire data appear (i.e., SF = Survey File, CS = Cost Supplement File). Note, no Facility data are released on the 2025 Survey File - Early Release LDS.

2.2 Sampling

Drawn from a subset of Medicare enrollment data, the beneficiaries included in the 2025 MCBS LDS releases represent a random cross-section of all beneficiaries residing in the continental U.S. who were ever enrolled in either Part A or Part B of the Medicare program for any portion of 2025. A subset of these beneficiaries represents a random cross-section of all beneficiaries who were continuously enrolled from January 1, 2025 up to and including interviews conducted during Fall 2025. The MCBS uses a rotating panel sample design, so the 2025 MCBS LDS's represent four separate MCBS panels identified by the year in which the panel was selected and first interviewed (i.e., the 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 Panels). The beneficiaries selected in Fall 2021 exited the study at the conclusion of the Winter 2025 round. See the *Data User's Guide* and *Methodology Report* for additional information on sampling.

There were no changes to sampling for the 2025 data year.

2.2.1 Targeted Population and Sampling Strata

The targeted population for the MCBS consists of persons enrolled in Medicare Part A or Part B as of December 31 of the applicable sampling year (e.g., 2025 for the 2025 Panel) whose address in the Medicare files is in one of the 48 contiguous states (excludes Alaska and Hawaii) or the District of Columbia. Additionally, in the 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 Panels, beneficiaries residing within the U.S. who were Hispanic were oversampled to improve precision of estimates for this group. See the *MCBS Methodology Report* for more information about this oversample. Exhibit 2.2.1 displays the beneficiaries selected as part of the 2025 Panel, by age and ethnicity.

Exhibit 2.2.1: 2025 Panel of Selected Beneficiaries by Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Ethnicity Classification and Age Category*

Age Category as of 12/31/2025	TOTAL Sample Size	TOTAL Weighted	Hispanic Sample Size	Hispanic Weighted	Non-Hispanic Sample Size	Non-Hispanic Weighted
Under 45 years	1,102	1,509,582	131	207,362	971	1,302,220
45-64 years	1,298	5,454,262	131	551,414	1,167	4,902,847
65-69 years	2,951	17,057,696	318	1,547,822	2,633	15,509,873
70-74 years	2,215	16,631,181	241	1,473,408	1,974	15,157,773
75-79 years	2,449	13,353,565	268	977,764	2,181	12,375,801
80-84 years	2,697	8,231,987	295	610,352	2,402	7,621,635
85+ years	2,714	7,394,785	297	551,309	2,417	6,843,476
Total	15,426	69,633,057	1,681	5,919,431	13,745	63,713,626

SOURCE: Beneficiary age, race/ethnicity, and base weights were sourced from administrative data in the 2025 MCBS Internal Sample Control File.

2.2.2 Sample Selection

Exhibit 2.2.2 provides a summary of the number of selected beneficiaries and the inclusion criteria for the 2022 through 2025 Panels included in the 2025 MCBS LDS's.

Exhibit 2.2.2: 2025 MCBS Sample Selection for the LDS Releases

Panel	# of Selected Beneficiaries	Previously Enrolled Beneficiaries Still Alive as of January 1 of Panel Year	Current-Year Enrollees
2022	17,139	Enrolled before 1/1/2022	Enrolled 1/1/2022 – 12/31/2022
2023	15,077	Enrolled before 1/1/2023	Enrolled 1/1/2023 – 12/31/2023
2024	15,399	Enrolled before 1/1/2024	Enrolled 1/1/2024 – 12/31/2024
2025	15,426	Enrolled before 1/1/2025	Enrolled 1/1/2025 – 12/31/2025

SOURCE: 2025 MCBS Internal Sample Control File

2.2.3 Completed Interviews

Exhibit 2.2.3 lists the number of completed interviews for the Fall 2025 Continuing (2022, 2023, and 2024) and Incoming (2025) Panels by age strata.

Exhibit 2.2.3: 2025 MCBS Fall Round Completed Interviews: Continuing and Incoming Panels

Age Category as of 12/31/2025	2022 Panel	2023 Panel	2024 Panel	2025 Panel	Total
Under 45 years	121	177	236	398	932
45-64 years	177	227	305	529	1,238
65-69 years	221	333	552	1,097	2,203
70-74 years	398	505	546	861	2,310
75-79 years	386	418	561	924	2,289
80-84 years	341	388	545	954	2,228
85+ years	416	510	607	946	2,479
Total	2,060	2,558	3,352	5,709	13,679

SOURCE: 2025 MCBS Internal Sample Control File

2.3 Interviewer Recruitment, Staffing, and Training

In 2025, most MCBS field interviewers were experienced, having conducted interviews for at least a year or more. New interviewers were recruited to the project in Fall 2025 based on staffing needs and attrition.

The 2025 MCBS Training Program consisted of the following:

- Experienced interviewers received remote trainings focused on new content and round-specific reminders ahead of the winter, summer, and fall rounds of data collection.
- New staff were onboarded and trained remotely on the Baseline interview in Fall 2025. This training included self-study modules in the learning management system, roundtable discussions with experienced interviewers and field managers, gaining cooperation role playing, and protocol demonstrations. *Historically, new interviewers were trained on the Continuing interview later in the fall round; however, this training now occurs in the winter. Therefore, interviewers onboarded in Fall 2025 were trained on the Continuing interview in January 2026.*
- The selected interviewers trained to administer the Facility interview received a short training focused on new content and round-specific reminders ahead of each round of data collection. In the winter, they received a more robust refresher training focused on general Facility interviewing skills.
- Formal trainings were supplemented with ad hoc additional training interventions, including weekly field memos, group calls, and interviewer observations, referred to as “ride-alongs” or “call-alongs.”

2.4 Data Collection Schedule and Results

Exhibit 2.4.1 shows the data collection schedule for the 2025 calendar year.

Exhibit 2.4.1: 2025 MCBS Data Collection Schedule

Round	Start Date	End Date
Winter 2025 (Round 101)	January 8, 2025	April 27, 2025
Summer 2025 (Round 102)	May 5, 2025	July 20, 2025
Fall 2025 (Round 103)	July 21, 2025	December 31, 2025

There were no changes to data collection schedule for the 2025 data year.

Beneficiaries often require assistance in providing the detailed information needed to accurately respond to survey items, so during data collection, the beneficiary may designate a proxy to participate in the interview on their behalf or an assistant to provide help when responding to specific survey questions. Approximately 12-13 percent of interviews had proxy usage and approximately 9-10 percent of interviews had assistant usage. Additionally, the Community Questionnaire is programmed for administration in English or Spanish, while the Facility Instrument is available for administration in English. Approximately 5 percent of Community components were conducted in Spanish in 2025. For more information on proxy and assistant usage and interviewing languages, see the *MCBS Methodology Report*.

An interview is complete once the administration of all questionnaire sections to the respondent has concluded, the Interviewer Remarks Questionnaire (IRQ) is completed, and data are fully transmitted. Exhibit 2.4.2 provides the count of completed interviews by round and component for 2025. Exhibit 2.4.3 provides the ratio of completed interviews by interview mode.

Exhibit 2.4.2: 2025 Completed Interviews by Component

Round	Component	Completed Interviews	Median Interview Duration (minutes)
Winter 2025	Community	11,545	57.6
	Facility	941	24.1
Summer 2025	Community	8,484	56.4
	Facility	732	24.6
Fall 2025	Community	13,082	69.1
	Facility	602	39.5

Exhibit 2.4.3: 2025 Completed Interviews by Interview Mode

Round	Component	Phone Interviews	In-Person Interviews
Winter 2025	Community	94%	6%
	Facility	100%	0%
Summer 2025	Community	100%	0%
	Facility	100%	0%
Fall 2025	Community	92%	8%
	Facility	98%	2%

2.5 Clearance

CMS maintains a current Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clearance for the MCBS. For the 2025 MCBS, CMS received OMB approval on August 26, 2024 (OMB control number 0938-0568, expiration date 8/31/2027). The NORC Institutional Review Board (IRB) reviews and approves all MCBS data collection protocols, questionnaires, and respondent materials to ensure human subject protections are properly addressed before field data collection begins. The research protocol and consent procedures for MCBS data collection were first approved by NORC's IRB in July 2014, with subsequent changes to the protocol approved through amendments and annual renewal.

2.6 Initial Interview Variables

Some questions are asked in only two scenarios: 1) it is the case's Baseline (initial) interview or 2) it is the first time the case has crossed to a new component (e.g., the case crosses from the Community component to the Facility component for the first time). These "initial interview variables" are not asked again during subsequent interviews because the responses are not likely to change. The 2025 LDS variables that have been processed this way are listed in Exhibit 2.6.1.

Exhibit 2.6.1: Initial Interview Variables in the 2025 LDS

Segment ¹	Topic	LDS Variable Name
ER_DEMO/DEMO	Date of Birth	D_DOB
ER_DEMO/DEMO	Sexual Orientation	SEXORINT
ER_DEMO/DEMO	Hispanic Origin	HISPORIG; HISPORMA; HISPORPR; HISPORCU; HISPOROT
ER_DEMO/DEMO	Race	D_RACE2; RACEAA; RACEAS; RACENH; RACEWH; RACEAI

Segment ¹	Topic	LDS Variable Name
ER_DEMO/DEMO	Asian Race Subcategories	RACEASAI; RACEASCH; RACEASFI; RACEASJA; RACEASKO; RACEASVI; RACEASOT
ER_DEMO/DEMO	Pacific Islander Race Subcategories	RACEPIHA; RACEPIGU; RACEPISA; RACEPIOT
ER_DEMO/DEMO	Military Service	SPAFEVER; SPAFVIET; SPAFKORE; SPAFWWII; SPAFGULF; SPAFIRAF; SPAFPEAC; SPNGEVER; SPNGALL; SPNGDSBL; SPVARATE
ER_DEMO/DEMO	Number of Children	SPCHNLNM
ER_DEMO/DEMO	Limited English Proficiency	ENGWELL; ENGREAD; OTHLANG; WHATLANG
ER_DEMO/DEMO	Religious Preference	RELGPREF
ER_DEMO/DEMO	Education	SPDEGRCV
ER_CHRNCOND/ CHRNCOND	Reason for Medicare Eligibility	EMHBP; EMMYOCAR; EMCHD; EMCFAIL; EMHRTCND; EMSTROKE; EMCSKIN; EMCANCER; EMARTERY; EMARTHHRH; EMARTOST; EMARTHOT; EMMENTAL; EMALZMER; EMDEMENT; EMDEPRSS; EMPSYCHO; EMOSTEOP; EMBRKHIP; EMPARKIN; EMEMPHYS; EMPPARAL; EMAMPUTE; EMDIABTS; EMOTHOS
ER_CHRNCOND/ CHRNCOND	Number of Medications Taken for Blood Pressure	HYPEMANY
FACCHAR	Place of Residence before Facility Admission	BEFORADM
FACCHAR	Household Makeup before Facility Admission	D_LIVWTH

¹ Variables listed with more than one segment are released on both the Survey File - Early Release and Survey File.

2.7 MCBS Rounds by Data Year and Season

Exhibit 2.7.1 lists the MCBS data collection rounds by year and by season that pertain to data included in the 2025 MCBS LDS files.

Exhibit 2.7.1: MCBS Rounds by Data Year and Season through Fall 2026

Year	Winter	Summer	Fall
2022	92	93	94
2023	95	96	97
2024	98	99	100
2025	101	102	103
2026	104	105	106

2025 Survey File - Early Release LDS

ER1. SURVEY FILE - EARLY RELEASE LDS

The content of the MCBS LDS releases is governed by their central focus of serving as unique sources of information on beneficiaries' health and well-being that cannot be obtained through CMS administrative sources alone. For the 2025 data year, the Survey File - Early Release LDS contains data collected directly from Community respondents during the fall data collection round supplemented by some administrative data. The Survey File - Early Release is released approximately nine months after the end of data collection to allow for timely analysis.

The 2025 Survey File - Early Release LDS includes beneficiaries who were alive, enrolled in Medicare, and completed a Community interview in Fall 2025. The release comprises 18 segments containing the following information: beneficiary demographics; disability; health behaviors; health status, conditions, and functioning; household characteristics; mobility; patient activation; and access to and satisfaction with care. The LDS also contains select information on health insurance coverage and preventive care as of the fall round. Section ER2 contains more information about these data and describes changes since 2024.

The Survey File - Early Release LDS comprises a subset of the segments released on the annual Survey File LDS (i.e., all segments released on the Survey File - Early Release will also be released on the Survey File). To distinguish the Survey File - Early Release segments from the Survey File segments, the Early Release versions begin with the abbreviation "ER_." Notably, the 2025 Survey File - Early Release LDS provides abbreviated versions of two segments compared to the Survey File LDS: Demographics (DEMO) and Health Insurance Summary (HISUMRY). The complete, annualized versions of the DEMO and HISUMRY segments will be reprocessed and released on the 2025 Survey File LDS. Data users can merge segments within the 2025 Survey File - Early Release. The LDS provides three segments containing cross-sectional weights for the ever enrolled population and Topical weights with non-proxy adjustments based on preliminary enrollment data. Longitudinal weights are not available for these data, nor are cross-sectional weights for the continuously enrolled population.

ER2. WHAT'S NEW FOR DATA YEAR 2025?

This section describes questionnaire updates and variable changes that pertain to the 2025 Survey File - Early Release LDS.

ER2.1 Questionnaires

Questionnaire content changes: There were a number of questionnaire sections revised in Fall 2025. Note that variable names referenced below are the questionnaire variable names. Data users can view the questionnaires, including the questionnaire variable names referenced below and question text at: <https://www.cms.gov/data-research/research/medicare-current-beneficiary-survey/questionnaires>.

Community Questionnaire

The MCBS introduced several Community Questionnaire updates in Fall 2025 to enhance survey content and data quality and improve interviewer and respondent experience. Changes include the addition of new items, the deletion of items, and updates to question text, response options, and respondent universes.

Global Changes

In Fall 2025, there were three global changes to the Community Questionnaire that spanned multiple questionnaire sections:

- Starting in Fall 2025, respondents were asked about the beneficiary's sex at the beginning as opposed to the end of the questionnaire to streamline programming logic and response options for sex-specific health items. Due to this change, the response option "Question Does Not Apply to SP" was removed for sex-specific health items in the Health Status and Functioning Questionnaire (HFQ) (HAVEPROS, YRPROST, DIAPRGNT) and the Preventive Care Questionnaire (PVQ) (MAMMOGRM, HYSTER, PAPTEST, PROSSURG, DIGTEXAM, BLOODTST).
- Text was updated throughout the questionnaire to replace "S/HE" or "HIM/HER" with "Respondent" or "them" to maintain consistency in respondent references:
 - ▶ In the Cognitive Measures Questionnaire (CMQ), "S/HE" was replaced with "R" in the on-screen field interviewer help text at CNTTM20 and CNTOTCM1.
 - ▶ In the Cost Payment Summary (CPS), "HE/SHE" was replaced with "RESPONDENT" in the on-screen field interviewer help text at RRDETAIL.
 - ▶ In the Enumeration Summary (ENS), "HE OR SHE" was replaced with "RESPONDENT" in the on-screen field interviewer help text at SPNGDSBL.
 - ▶ In the Housing Characteristics Questionnaire (HAQ), "HIM/HER" was replaced with "THEM" in the on-screen field interviewer help text at HPERCARE.
 - ▶ In the Satisfaction with Care Questionnaire (SCQ), "him or her" was replaced with "them" in the question text at SCDISAGR.
- Question text was revised throughout the questionnaire to remove direct references to showcards to better accommodate telephone interviews. This update was made for the following variables:
 - ▶ HOUSTYPE in HAQ
 - ▶ IUPROBE in the Institutional Utilization Questionnaire (IUQ)
 - ▶ OMPRORTH, OMPRDIAB, OMPRPROS, and OMPRALTR in the Other Medical Expenses Questionnaire (OMQ)

- ▶ SCCHGDRS in SCQ

Cognitive Measures Questionnaire (CMQ)

In Fall 2025, due to the change in presidential administration in January 2025, the last names for President and Vice President were updated in the interviewer help text for variables POTUS and VPOTUS, which ask the beneficiary to name the President and Vice President of the United States.

Demographics and Income Questionnaire (DIQ)

In 2025, two updates were made to the Demographics and Income Questionnaire (DIQ):

- The items collecting gender identity (GENIDENT) and sex assigned at birth (SEXASGN) were removed, and the introductory text at SOGIINT and routing logic at BOX DI2CA were updated to account for these removals.
- The “something else” response option at the items collecting sexual orientation (SEXORINT and SEXORIOS) was removed.

Health Status and Functioning Questionnaire (HFQ)

Several updates were made to HFQ in Fall 2025:

- COLHEAR, COLHKIT, and HEARSIG were removed due to limited analytic value. These variables collected whether the beneficiary had ever heard of colorectal cancer and different types of colorectal cancer screening tests.
- Due to these changes, two items (COLHTEST and CCOLHTES) were revised to include new introductory text. In addition, the removal of the item HEARSIG changed the universe of respondents for COLDRREC; as a result, COLDRREC was renamed COLSGREC.
- One new item on financial assistance programs for medical bills (also referred to as charity care) was added to HFQ in Fall 2025. The item was sourced from the 2022 Health Reform Monitoring Survey.⁴
- Due to the addition of the new Debt Questionnaire (DBQ) in Summer 2025, the debt information previously collected at PAYOVRTM was no longer necessary, and the item was removed.
- In Fall 2025, a new “Not Applicable” response option was added to the bowel incontinence series (PROBFECE, SMLSTOOL, MODSTOOL, and LRGSTOOL) to account for situations in which the beneficiary has had a total colectomy (full removal of bowels).
- The instrumental activities of daily living (IADL) and activities of daily living (ADL) series were streamlined in Fall 2025:
 - ▶ The questionnaire was updated to only collect the helper’s relationship to the beneficiary, rather than the first name, last name, and relationship, if the beneficiary reported that they required help completing IADLs (such as using the telephone or doing housework) or ADLs (such as bathing, dressing, or using the toilet). Specifically, the new response options ask respondents to select whether the helper(s) for that activity were a: 1) Family member, 2) Friend, 3) Home health aide or home care worker, or 4) Homemaker or house cleaner. A probe was also added to the question text to assist field interviewers in correctly coding the responses at these items, and the variables were renamed to reflect the change from a roster item to a select all that apply item. The new IADL variables are

⁴ Urban Institute, *Health Reform Monitoring Survey: June 2022 Survey* (Washington, DC: Urban Institute, 2022), <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/HRMS-June-2022-survey.pdf>.

HLPTYPTE, HLPTYPLH, HLPTYPHH, HLPTYPML, HLPTYPSH, and HLPTYPBL. The new ADL variables are HLPTYPBA, HLPTYPDR, HLPTYPET, HLPTYPCH, HLPTYPWK, and HLPTYPTL.

- ▶ Thirteen follow-up questions were also removed from the ADL series. For each of the six ADLs, the questionnaire no longer asks 1) if someone stands close by while the beneficiary is performing the activity or 2) for how long they have needed help with the activity. One item at the end of the series asking which person provides the most help (if more than one helper was reported) was also removed. Deleted variables include PCHKBATH, PCHKDRES, PCHKEAT, PCHKCHAR, PCHKWALK, PCHKTOIL, LONGBATH, LONGDRES, LONGEAT, LONGCHAR, LONGWALK, LONGTOIL, and MOSTADLS.
- ▶ Questions pertaining to the beneficiary's use of special equipment to assist with ADLs are now asked earlier in the series, creating a less restrictive universe for these items. Due to the change in universe, the items were renamed EQIPMTBA, EQIPMTDR, EQIPMTET, EQIPMTCH, EQIPMTWK, and EQIPMTOL.

Introduction Questionnaire (INQ)

In Fall 2025, a new question, RESPDSEX, was added to the Introduction Questionnaire (INQ) to capture the beneficiary's sex.

Nicotine and Alcohol Use Questionnaire (NAQ)

To mirror similar items in the 2024 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS),⁵ the three items in the e-cigarette series (ECIGINT, ECIGONE, ECIGNOW) in the Nicotine and Alcohol Use Questionnaire (NAQ) were updated to include other electronic vaping products in Fall 2025.

Satisfaction with Care Questionnaire (SCQ)

Several updates were made to SCQ in Fall 2025:

- Thirteen items were updated from annual administration during the fall round to Baseline-only administration. To reflect this change, the following variables have been renamed:
 - ▶ MCWORRY to SCWORRY
 - ▶ MCDRSOON to SCDRSOON
 - ▶ PAINSTRC to SCINSTRC
 - ▶ PAMEDREC to SCMEDREC
 - ▶ PACHGDRS to SCCHGDRS
 - ▶ PADISAGR to SCDISAGR
 - ▶ PARXINFO to SCRINFO
 - ▶ PADRQUEX to SCDRQUEX
 - ▶ PAANSWR to SCANSWR
 - ▶ PALISTRX to SCLISTRX
 - ▶ PATRSLT to SCTRSLT
 - ▶ PAOPTION to SCOPTION
 - ▶ PADVICE to SCADVICE
- The eight-item series on perceived discrimination (RCEQTY, LANGEQTY, GENDEQTY, SEXEQTY, AGEEQTY, CULTEQTY, DISEQTY, and HISTEQTY) was removed from the questionnaire due to low response variation.

⁵ National Center for Health Statistics, *National Health Interview Survey: 2024 Questionnaire (English Version)* (Hyattsville, MD: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2024), https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Survey_Questionnaires/NHIS/2024/EnglishQuest.pdf.

- MCINFO, MCAVOID, and MCSICK were removed due to high cross-round consistency. MCINFO assessed the beneficiary's satisfaction with the information provided about their condition, MCAVOID asked whether the beneficiary avoided going to the doctor, and MCSICK asked whether the beneficiary tries to keep being sick to themselves.
- The question text for MCTELANS, which collects the beneficiary's satisfaction with the ease of obtaining answers from providers about treatment or prescriptions, was revised to remove the "over the telephone" reference to better reflect modern communication methods. The variable was renamed MCANSWER to reflect this change.

Facility Instrument

The MCBS introduced several Facility Instrument updates in Fall 2025 that included streamlining the instrument and updates to question text and programming logic. However, given no Facility data are released on the Survey File - Early Release LDS, these changes will be documented in the *2025 Data Year Release Notes* for the Survey File LDS.

ER2.2 Data Processing and LDS Content

The 2025 Survey File - Early Release is built from analytic data files from Fall 2025 Community data collection, as well as some administrative data.

New and Revised Content

For the 2025 Survey File - Early Release LDS, the Assistance (ER_ASSIST) segment was retired due to the streamlined ADL and IADL series in HFQ beginning in Fall 2025. All variables related to assistance with ADLs and IADLs are now released on the ER_NAGIDIS segment.

The following exhibits document the Survey File - Early Release LDS variable changes that resulted from the 2025 questionnaire changes. Exhibit ER2.2.1 lists variables that were added to the 2025 LDS.

Exhibit ER2.2.1: 2025 MCBS Survey File - Early Release LDS Content Additions

Segment	Quex. Section	Variable	Variable Label
ER_ACCESSCR	HFQ	CHRTYCAR	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HELPED PAY MEDICAL BILLS
ER_DEMO	INQ	RESPDSEX	SP'S SEX
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	EQIPMTBA	SP USES SPECIAL EQUIPMENT TO HELP WITH BATHING
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	EQIPMTDR	SP USES SPECIAL EQUIPMENT TO HELP WITH DRESSING
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	EQIPMTET	SP USES SPECIAL EQUIPMENT TO HELP WITH EATING
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	EQIPMTCH	SP USES SPECIAL EQUIPMENT TO HELP WITH GETTING IN/OUT OF BED OR CHAIRS
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	EQIPMTWK	SP USES SPECIAL EQUIPMENT TO HELP WITH WALKING
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	EQIPMTOL	SP USES SPECIAL EQUIPMENT TO HELP WITH USING THE TOILET
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPTEFAM	HELP WITH PHONE - FAMILY
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPTEFRN	HELP WITH PHONE - FRIEND

Segment	Quex. Section	Variable	Variable Label
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPTEHHA	HELP WITH PHONE - HOME HEALTH AIDE
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPTEHMK	HELP WITH PHONE - HOMEMAKER
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPLHFAM	HELP WITH LIGHT HOUSEWORK - FAMILY
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPLHFRN	HELP WITH LIGHT HOUSEWORK - FRIEND
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPLHHHA	HELP WITH LIGHT HOUSEWORK - HOME HEALTH AIDE
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPLHHMK	HELP WITH LIGHT HOUSEWORK - HOMEMAKER
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPHHFAM	HELP WITH HEAVY HOUSEWORK - FAMILY
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPHHFRN	HELP WITH HEAVY HOUSEWORK - FRIEND
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPHHHHA	HELP WITH HEAVY HOUSEWORK - HOME HEALTH AIDE
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPHHHMK	HELP WITH HEAVY HOUSEWORK - HOMEMAKER
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPMLFAM	HELP PREPARING MEALS - FAMILY
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPMLFRN	HELP PREPARING MEALS - FRIEND
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPMLHHA	HELP PREPARING MEALS - HOME HEALTH AIDE
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPMLHMK	HELP PREPARING MEALS - HOMEMAKER
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPSHFAM	HELP SHOPPING FOR PERSONAL ITEMS - FAMILY
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPSHFRN	HELP SHOPPING FOR PERSONAL ITEMS - FRIEND
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPSHHHA	HELP SHOPPING FOR PERSONAL ITEMS - HOME HEALTH AIDE
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPSHHMK	HELP SHOPPING FOR PERSONAL ITEMS - HOMEMAKER
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPBLFAM	HELP MANAGING MONEY - FAMILY
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPBLFRN	HELP MANAGING MONEY - FRIEND
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPBLHHA	HELP MANAGING MONEY - HOME HEALTH AIDE
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPBLHMK	HELP MANAGING MONEY - HOMEMAKER
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPBAFAM	HELP BATHING - FAMILY
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPBAFRN	HELP BATHING - FRIEND
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPBAHHA	HELP BATHING - HOME HEALTH AIDE
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPBAHMK	HELP BATHING - HOMEMAKER
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPDRFAM	HELP DRESSING - FAMILY
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPDRFRN	HELP DRESSING - FRIEND
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPDRHHA	HELP DRESSING - HOME HEALTH AIDE
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPDRHMK	HELP DRESSING - HOMEMAKER
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPETFAM	HELP EATING - FAMILY
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPETFRN	HELP EATING - FRIEND
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPETHHA	HELP EATING - HOME HEALTH AIDE
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPETHMK	HELP EATING - HOMEMAKER
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPCHFAM	HELP GETTING IN/OUT OF BED OR CHAIRS - FAMILY
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPCHFRN	HELP GETTING IN/OUT OF BED OR CHAIRS - FRIEND

Segment	Quex. Section	Variable	Variable Label
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPCHHHA	HELP GETTING IN/OUT OF BED OR CHAIRS - HOME HEALTH AIDE
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPCHHMK	HELP GETTING IN/OUT OF BED OR CHAIRS - HOMEMAKER
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPWKFAM	HELP WALKING - FAMILY
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPWKFRN	HELP WALKING - FRIEND
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPWKHHA	HELP WALKING - HOME HEALTH AIDE
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPWKHMK	HELP WALKING - HOMEMAKER
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPTLFAM	HELP USING TOILET - FAMILY
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPTLFRN	HELP USING TOILET - FRIEND
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPTLHHA	HELP USING TOILET - HOME HEALTH AIDE
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	HLPTLHMK	HELP USING TOILET - HOMEMAKER
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	SCINSTRC	HOW CONFIDENT IN FOLLOWING DOCTOR'S INSTRUCTIONS TO CARE FOR SELF
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	SCMEDREC	HOW CONFIDENT IN FOLLOWING DOCTOR'S INSTRUCTIONS TO CHANGE HABITS
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	SCCHGDRS	HOW LIKELY TO CHANGE DOCTORS BECAUSE UNSATISFACTORY COMMUNICATION
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	SCDISAGR	HOW LIKELY TO TELL DOCTOR YOU DISAGREE
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	SCRXINFO	HOW OFTEN READ ABOUT A NEW PRESCRIPTION
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	SCDRQUEX	HOW OFTEN BRING DOCTOR LIST OF QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	SCANSWR	HOW OFTEN DOCTOR ANSWERS ALL QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	SCLISTRX	HOW OFTEN BRING DOCTOR LIST OF ALL PRESCRIBED MEDICINES
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	SCTRSLT	HOW OFTEN MAKE SURE UNDERSTAND RESULTS OF MEDICAL TEST OR PROCEDURE
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	SCOPTION	HOW OFTEN TALK WITH DOCTOR ABOUT FOLLOW-UP OR SPECIALIST REFERRAL
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	SCADVICE	HOW OFTEN CONTACT DOCTOR FOR MEDICAL ADVICE WHEN NEEDED
ER_PREVCARE	HFQ	COLSGREC	DOCTOR EVER RECOMMENDED COLONOSCOPY OR SIGMOIDOSCOPY
ER_SATWCARE	SCQ	MCANSWER	SATISFIED WITH GETTING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
ER_SATWCARE	SCQ	SCWORRY	WORRIES ABOUT HEALTH MORE THAN OTHERS YOUR AGE
ER_SATWCARE	SCQ	SCDRSOON	USUALLY VISITS DOCTOR AS SOON AS FEEL BAD

Exhibit ER2.2.2 lists variables that changed between the 2024 LDS and 2025 LDS (without a corresponding change to the variable name), including variables that moved between segments. See the codebooks for more information on these variables.

Exhibit ER2.2.2: 2025 MCBS Survey File - Early Release LDS Content Changes

Segment	Quex. Section	Variable	Variable Label	Description of Change
ER_CHRNCOND	HFQ	HAVEPROS	SP TOLD THEY HAVE BPH/ENLARGED PROSTATE	Removed response option "(03) QUESTION DOES NOT APPLY TO SP"
ER_CHRNCOND	PVQ	HYSTEREC	SP HAD HYSTERECTOMY	Removed response option "(03) QUESTION DOES NOT APPLY TO SP"
ER_CHRNCOND	PVQ	PROSSURG	SP HAD PROSTATE SURG SINCE REF DATE	Removed response option "(03) QUESTION DOES NOT APPLY TO SP"
ER_CHRNCOND	HFQ	PROBFECE	BOWEL PROBLEMS - LEAKING GAS	Added response option "(03) N/A, SP HAS HAD A TOTAL COLECTOMY"
ER_CHRNCOND	HFQ	SMLSTOOL	BOWEL PROBLEMS - LEAKING SMALL AMOUNT OF STOOL	Added response option "(03) N/A, SP HAS HAD A TOTAL COLECTOMY"
ER_CHRNCOND	HFQ	MODSTOOL	BOWEL PROBLEMS - LEAKING MODERATE AMOUNT OF STOOL	Added response option "(03) N/A, SP HAS HAD A TOTAL COLECTOMY"
ER_CHRNCOND	HFQ	LRGSTOOL	BOWEL PROBLEMS - LEAKING LARGE AMOUNT OF STOOL	Added response option "(03) N/A, SP HAS HAD A TOTAL COLECTOMY"
ER_DEMO	DIQ	SEXORINT	SP SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Removed response option "(91) SOMETHING ELSE"
ER_PRECVARE	PVQ	MAMMOGRM	SP HAD MAMMOGRAM IN LAST YEAR	Removed response option "(03) QUESTION DOES NOT APPLY TO SP"
ER_PRECVARE	PVQ	PAPTEST	SP HAD PAP SMEAR IN LAST YEAR	Removed response option "(03) QUESTION DOES NOT APPLY TO SP"
ER_PRECVARE	PVQ	DIGTEXAM	SP HAD A DIGITAL RECTAL EXAM OF PROSTATE	Removed response option "(03) QUESTION DOES NOT APPLY TO SP"
ER_PRECVARE	PVQS	BLOODTST	SP HAD BLOOD TEST FOR PROSTATE CANCER	Removed response option "(03) QUESTION DOES NOT APPLY TO SP"

Exhibit ER2.2.3 lists variables that were removed from the 2025 LDS. Note, this table does not capture the removal of variables from fully retired segments (i.e., ER_ASSIST).

Exhibit ER2.2.3: 2025 MCBS Survey File - Early Release LDS Content Removals

Segment	Quex. Section	Variable	Variable Label	Reason for Removal
ER_ACCESSCR	HFQ	PAYOVRTM	MEDICAL BILLS BEING PAID OFF OVER TIME	Removed from questionnaire
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	PCHKBATH	PERSON NEARBY WHILE BATHING/SHOWERING?	Removed from questionnaire
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	PCHKDRES	PERSON NEARBY WHILE DRESSING?	Removed from questionnaire
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	PCHKEAT	PERSON NEARBY WHILE EATING?	Removed from questionnaire
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	PCHKCHAR	PERSON NEARBY WHILE GETS IN/OUT CHAIRS?	Removed from questionnaire
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	PCHKWALK	PERSON NEARBY WHILE WALKING?	Removed from questionnaire
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	PCHKTOIL	PERSON NEARBY WHILE USING TOILET?	Removed from questionnaire
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	LONGBATH	HOW LONG NEEDED HELP WITH - BATH	Removed from questionnaire
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	LONGDRES	HOW LONG NEEDED HELP WITH - DRESS	Removed from questionnaire
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	LONGEAT	HOW LONG NEEDED HELP WITH - EATING	Removed from questionnaire
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	LONGCHAR	HOW LONG NEEDED HELP WITH - CHAIR	Removed from questionnaire
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	LONGWALK	HOW LONG NEEDED HELP WITH - WALKING	Removed from questionnaire
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	LONGTOIL	HOW LONG NEEDED HELP WITH - TOILET	Removed from questionnaire
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	D_ADLHNM	NUMBER OF ADL HELPERS	Retired from ER_ASSIST
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	EQUIPBATH	USE EQUIPMENT TO HELP BATH/SHOWER?	Replaced by EQUIPMTBA
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	EQUIPDRES	USE EQUIPMENT TO HELP DRESS?	Replaced by EQUIPMTDR
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	EQUIPEAT	USE EQUIPMENT TO HELP EAT?	Replaced by EQUIPMTET
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	EQUIPCHAR	USE EQUIPMENT TO HELP GET IN/OUT CHAIRS?	Replaced by EQUIPMTCH
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	EQUIPWALK	USE EQUIPMENT TO HELP WALK?	Replaced by EQUIPMTWK
ER_NAGIDIS	HFQ	EQUIPTOIL	USE EQUIPMENT TO HELP USE TOILET?	Replaced by EQUIPMTOL
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	PAINSTRC	CONFIDENCE IN FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS TO CARE FOR SELF	Replaced by SCINSTRC
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	PAMEDREC	CONFIDENCE IN FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS TO CHANGE HABITS	Replaced by SCMEDREC
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	PACHGDRS	LIKELY TO CHANGE DOCTORS FOR COMMUNICATION	Replaced by SCCHGDRS
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	PADISAGR	LIKELY TO TELL DOCTOR YOU DISAGREE	Replaced by SCDISAGR
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	PARXINFO	HOW OFTEN READ ABOUT A NEW RX	Replaced by SCRXINFO

Segment	Quex. Section	Variable	Variable Label	Reason for Removal
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	PADRQUEX	HOW OFTEN BRING DOCTOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS	Replaced by SCDRQUEX
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	PAANSWR	HOW OFTEN DOCTOR ANSWERS ALL QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS	Replaced by SCANSWR
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	PALISTRX	HOW OFTEN BRING RX LIST TO DOCTOR	Replaced by SCLISTRX
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	PATRSLT	HOW OFTEN UNDERSTAND MEDICAL RESULTS	Replaced by SCTRSLT
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	PAOPTION	HOW OFTEN TALK ABOUT FOLLOW-UP OR REFERRAL	Replaced by SCOPTION
ER_PNTACT	SCQ	PADVICE	HOW OFTEN CALL DOCTOR FOR MEDICAL ADVICE	Replaced by SCADVICE
ER_PREVCARE	HFQ	COLHKIT	HEARD OF HOME TEST KIT FOR FECAL BLOOD	Removed from questionnaire
ER_PREVCARE	HFQ	HEARSIG	HEARD OF COLONOSCOPY BEFORE TODAY	Removed from questionnaire
ER_PREVCARE	HFQ	COLHEAR	SP HEARD OF COLON CANCER BEFORE TODAY	Removed from questionnaire
ER_PREVCARE	HFQ	COLDRREC	DR. EVER RECOMMEND COLONOSCOPY	Replaced by COLSGREC
ER_SATWCARE	SCQ	MCINFO	SATISFIED WITH INFO GIVEN SP WHAT WAS WRONG	Removed from questionnaire
ER_SATWCARE	SCQ	MCAVOID	AVOID GOING TO THE DOCTOR	Removed from questionnaire
ER_SATWCARE	SCQ	MCSICK	WHEN SICK, KEEP TO SELF	Removed from questionnaire
ER_SATWCARE	SCQ	MCTELANS	SATISFIED WITH GETTING ANSWERS OVER TELEPHONE	Replaced by MCANSWER
ER_SATWCARE	SCQ	MCWORRY	WORRY ABOUT HEALTH MORE THAN OTHERS YOUR AGE	Replaced by SCWORRY
ER_SATWCARE	SCQ	MCDRSOON	USUALLY VISIT DOCTOR AS SOON AS FEEL BAD	Replaced by SCDRSOON
ER_SATWCARE	SCQ	RCEQTY	SP TREATED UNFAIRLY DUE TO RACE	Removed from questionnaire
ER_SATWCARE	SCQ	LANGEQTY	SP TREATED UNFAIRLY DUE TO LANGUAGE OR ACCENT	Removed from questionnaire
ER_SATWCARE	SCQ	SEXEQTY	SP TREATED UNFAIRLY DUE TO SEX	Removed from questionnaire
ER_SATWCARE	SCQ	AGEEQTY	SP TREATED UNFAIRLY DUE TO AGE	Removed from questionnaire
ER_SATWCARE	SCQ	CULTEQTY	SP TREATED UNFAIRLY DUE TO CULTURE OR RELIGION	Removed from questionnaire
ER_SATWCARE	SCQ	DISEQTY	SP TREATED UNFAIRLY DUE TO DISABILITY	Removed from questionnaire
ER_SATWCARE	SCQ	HISTEQTY	SP TREATED UNFAIRLY DUE TO MEDICAL HISTORY	Removed from questionnaire

ER3. DATA FILE CONTENTS

ER3.1 2025 MCBS Survey File - Early Release Segments

The 2025 Survey File - Early Release LDS contains over 1,100 variables across 21 segments. Exhibit ER3.1.1 displays each segment in the Survey File - Early Release LDS, including the **segment abbreviation, brief description, and information on weights or other special notes**.

The **Data Source** column describes the source of the data on the segment. The two possible sources for the Survey File - Early Release LDS are the Community Questionnaire (CQ) and Administrative Records (AR). Each LDS segment can have any combination of these sources. Data source reflects where the data came from, not where the beneficiary was living. For example, a beneficiary could have lived in both settings during the year, but the data for that beneficiary on the ER_GENHLTH segment came from their Community interview only.

The **Quex Section** column lists the specific questionnaire sources for the LDS segment. Please note that not all variables from the questionnaire are released on the segments. Some questionnaire items are combined or recoded to create the LDS variable. Data users will see these derived variables noted in the codebooks preceded with the character "D", such as D_OCDTYP.

Season indicates the round (winter, summer, fall, or all) and year when the questionnaire was administered.

Panel describes whether the questionnaire sections that provide the data for each segment are fielded for Baseline respondents (base), Continuing respondents (cont), or all panels (all). If the segment consists of administrative CMS data, then the cell indicates all panels are included.

Unit of Observation indicates what each row in the segment represents. For example, the ER_GENHLTH segment provides one row per BASEID (i.e., one row for each beneficiary who responded in the data year).

Historic RIC Segment indicates the equivalent historic segment(s) from the 1991-2013 data release structure, as applicable.

Exhibit ER3.1.1: 2025 MCBS Survey File - Early Release Segments and Contents

Survey File - Early Release Segment (Abbrev)	Description	Data Collection and Special Weights Notes	Data Source	Quex Section	Season	Panel	Unit of Observation	Historic RIC Segment
Access to Care (ER_ACCESSCR)	Information on ability to obtain health care, delay of care related to costs, and reasons for not obtaining needed care.		CQ	HFQ	Fall	All	Beneficiary	3

Survey File - Early Release Segment (Abbrev)	Description	Data Collection and Special Weights Notes	Data Source	Quex Section	Season	Panel	Unit of Observation	Historic RIC Segment
Chronic Conditions (ER_CHRNCOND)	Information on chronic and other diagnosed medical conditions.		CQ	HFQ, PVQ	Fall (HFQ, PVQ) ¹	All	Beneficiary	2, 2P
Cognitive Measures (ER_COGNFUNC)	Measures of cognitive functioning.	Use the special non-response adjustment weights on ER_FNSEWGTS.	CQ	CMQ	Fall	All	Beneficiary	N/A
Demographics (ER_DEMO)	Select demographic information.		CQ, AR	ENS, DIQ, INQ	All (ENS, INQ) Fall (DIQ)	All (ENS, INQ) Base (DIQ)	Beneficiary	1, 9, A, K
Diabetes (ER_DIABETES)	Information on diabetes management such as insulin usage.		CQ	HFQ	Fall	All	Beneficiary	N/A
Falls (ER_FALLS)	Information on injuries and attitudes about falls.		CQ	HFQ	Fall	All	Beneficiary	2, 2P
General Health (ER_GENHLTH)	Information on general health status and functioning such as height and weight.		CQ	HFQ	Fall	All	Beneficiary	2
Health Insurance Summary (ER_HISUMRY)	Select administrative information on insurance coverage characteristics.		AR	n/a	All	All	Beneficiary	4, A
Household Characteristics (ER_HHCHAR)	Information on household composition and home.		CQ	ENS, HAQ	Fall (ENS) Fall (HAQ)	All	Beneficiary	5
Mental Health (ER_MENTHLTH)	Information on mental health such as feelings of anxiety or depression.		CQ	HFQ	Fall	All	Beneficiary	N/A

Survey File - Early Release Segment (Abbrev)	Description	Data Collection and Special Weights Notes	Data Source	Quex Section	Season	Panel	Unit of Observation	Historic RIC Segment
Mobility (ER_MOBILITY)	Information on the use of available transportation options and whether health status affects their daily travel.		CQ	MBQ	Fall	All	Beneficiary	N/A
Nagi Disability (ER_NAGIDIS)	Information on difficulties with performing ADLs and IADLs.		CQ	HFQ	Fall	All	Beneficiary	2, 2H, 2P
Nicotine and Alcohol (ER_NICOALCO)	Information on the prevalence and frequency of alcohol and nicotine use.		CQ	NAQ	Fall	All	Beneficiary	2, 2P
Oral Health (ER_ORALHLTH)	Information on oral health.		CQ	HFQ	Fall	All	Beneficiary	N/A
Patient Activation (ER_PNTACT)	Information on beneficiaries' participation in their health care and decisions concerning care.	Use the special non-response adjustment weights on ER_PASEWGTS.	CQ	SCQ	Fall	All	Beneficiary	PA
Preventive Care (ER_PREVCARE)	Information on preventive services such routine screening procedures.		CQ	HFQ, PVQ	Fall (HFQ, PVQ) ¹	All	Beneficiary	2, 2P
Satisfaction with Care (ER_SATWCARE)	Information on satisfaction with different aspects of health care.		CQ	SCQ	Fall	Cont. (MPQ, PMQ) All (SCQ)	Beneficiary	3
Vision and Hearing (ER_VISHEAR)	Information on eye health and hearing status.		CQ	HFQ	Fall	All	Beneficiary	2

Survey File - Early Release Segment (Abbrev)	Description	Data Collection and Special Weights Notes	Data Source	Quex Section	Season	Panel	Unit of Observation	Historic RIC Segment
Survey File - Early Release Weight (ER_EVRWGTS)	Includes general-purpose cross-sectional weights and a series of replicate weights.		CQ	n/a	n/a	All	Beneficiary	N/A
Survey File - Early Release PNTACT Non- Proxy Adjustment Topical Weight (ER_PASEWGTS)	Includes non-proxy adjusted cross-sectional weights for the Incoming Panel, weights adjusted to account for the presence of previous data for older panels, and a series of replicate weights.		CQ	n/a	n/a	All	Beneficiary	N/A
Survey File - Early Release Non-Proxy Adjustment Topical Weight (ER_FNSEWGTS)	Includes non-proxy adjusted cross-sectional weights and a series of replicate weights.		CQ	n/a	n/a	All	Beneficiary	N/A

1. PVQ is administered in rounds following the current data year given that the reference period is the prior year and data are included in the prior year data files. Fall round PVQ data are released on the Survey File - Early Release LDS, while winter and summer round PVQ data are released on the Survey File LDS.

ER3.2 Imputation

There are no imputation notes for the Survey File - Early Release LDS as the LDS does not include any imputed data.

ER3.3 Weights

The Survey File - Early Release cross-sectional weights are greater than zero for all beneficiaries in the Survey File - Early Release. This weight segment is ER_EVRWGTS, and the name of the weight is ER_EEYRSWGT. The sum of this weight represents the population of beneficiaries who were alive, enrolled, and living in the community in fall 2025.

ER3.3.1 Special Topical Segment Weights

The 2025 Survey File - Early Release LDS includes two segments that should be used with special non-response adjusted weights: ER_PNTACT and ER_COGNFUNC. ER_PNTACT and ER_COGNFUNC include items that were fielded in Fall 2025 to beneficiary respondents only (i.e., excluded proxy respondents).

Beginning in 2025, the items on ER_PNTACT were fielded only to beneficiary respondents from the Incoming Panel, with the expectation that items from Fall 2024 data collection will be carried forward for members of the 2022, 2023, and 2024 Panels. The items on ER_COGNFUNC were administered in Fall 2025 to all beneficiary respondents, regardless of panel.

ER_PNTACT requires the use of the set of full-sample and replicate weights adjusted for Incoming Panel members completing the interview with a proxy respondent and for the set of beneficiaries from previous panels that have data to carry forward (ER_PASEWGTS; ER_PASEWT/ER_PASE1-ER_PASE100).

ER_COGNFUNC requires the use of the set of full-sample and replicate weights adjusted for those completing the Fall 2025 interview with a proxy respondent for all panels (ER_FNSEWGTS; ER_FNSEWT/ER_FNSE1-ER_FNSE100).

Both sets of weights correspond to the Survey File - Early Release population who were alive, enrolled, and living in the community in Fall 2025, exclude those with proxy respondent interviews, and may be used to analyze Topical data alone and in combination with other Survey File - Early Release data.

Exhibit ER3.3.1 summarizes all weights released on the 2025 Survey File - Early Release.

Exhibit ER3.3.1: 2025 MCBS Survey File - Early Release Summary of Weights

Limited Data Set	Description	Segment	Full-Sample Weight	Replicate Weights	Population
Survey File - Early Release	Ever Enrolled Cross-Sectional Weights	ER_EVRWGTS	ER_EEYRSWGT	ER_EEYRS1-ER_EEYRS100	Alive, enrolled, and living in the community during Fall 2025
Survey File - Early Release Topical Segment	Survey File - Early Release PNTACT Non-Proxy Adjustment Weights	ER_PASEWGTS	ER_PASEWT	ER_PASE1-ER_PASE100	Alive, enrolled, and living in the community during Fall 2025; includes Fall non-proxy adjustment for Incoming Panel plus adjustment for the presence of data to carry forward for older panels

Limited Data Set	Description	Segment	Full-Sample Weight	Replicate Weights	Population
Survey File - Early Release Topical Segment	Survey File - Early Release Non-Proxy Adjustment Weights	ER_FNSEWGTS	ER_FNSEWT	ER_FNSE1-ER_FNSE100	Alive, enrolled, and living in the community during Fall 2025; includes Fall non-proxy adjustment

ER3.4 Special Notes

- To enhance compatibility with open-source programming languages and align with questionnaire specifications, the MCBS segments now use numeric reserve codes in place of SAS extended missing values. The historic and updated codes represent responses of “Don’t know” and “Refused,” as well as suppressed values, are reflected in Exhibit ER3.4.1.

Exhibit ER3.4.1: 2025 MCBS Survey File - Early Release Missing Value Crosswalk

Code Description	Historic SAS Value	Historic .CSV Value	Updated Reserve Code (SAS & .CSV)
Don’t know	.D	D	-9
Refused	.R	R	-7
Suppressed	.S	S	-3

- As described in Section ER2.1 and reflected in Exhibits ER2.2.1 and ER2.2.3, 13 SCQ variables were renamed due to the change in administration of these items to Baseline respondents only. In data processing, responses to these questions from the prior fall rounds (administered under the old variable name) were pulled forward for Continuing respondents. The updated variables names are listed below:
 - On ER_SATWCARE:
 - SCWORRY: Worries about health more than others
 - SCDRSOON: Visits doctor as soon as feel bad
 - MCANSWER: Satisfied with getting answers to questions
 - On ER_PNTACT:
 - SCINSTRC: How confident in following doctor's instructions to care for self
 - SCMEDREC: How confident in following doctor's instructions to change habits
 - SCCHGDRS: How likely to change doctors because unsatisfactory communication
 - SCDISAGR: How likely to tell doctor disagree
 - SCRXINFO: How often read about a new prescription
 - SCDRQUEX: How often bring doctor list of questions or concerns
 - SCANSWR: How often doctor answers all questions or concerns
 - SCLISTRX: How often bring doctor list of all prescribed medicines
 - SCTRSLT: How often make sure understand results of medical test or procedure
 - SCOPTION: How often talk with doctor about follow-up or specialist referral
 - SCADVICE: How often contact doctor for medical advice when needed