

Add Health Longitudinal Family Structure Array Variables

When using these data, cite:

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I. Data Description

This users' guide describes constructed longitudinal family structure array variables for Add Health respondents from birth to age at latest adolescent follow-up (Wave I or II). All 20,745 Wave I respondents have had annual family structure measures created for them. From these longitudinal measures, users can construct measures such as the number of family structure changes experienced from birth to a given age (family instability), or the amount of time spent in different family structures.

II. Family Structure Construction

In creating the longitudinal family structure array, we focused on the biological mother, biological father, step/social mother, and step/social father. For each age from birth to Wave I/II, we constructed an indicator for whether the child was living with each of the four individuals. From these four indicators (biomom, biodad, stepmom, stepdad) of coresidence at each age, we then constructed a measure of family structure at each age. The four indicators of coresidence at each age were generated using six sources of information:

1. Child report of coresidence with biological parents
 - H1NM1-9; H1NF1-9; H2NM1-H2NM5; H2NF1-H2NF5; H3OD35-H3OD37Y; H3WP49, H3WP56
2. Child report of current household roster, relatedness to household members, and duration of coresidence
 - H1HR3A – H1HR10T; H2HR1 – H2HR7Q
3. Child report of parental death or incarceration
 - H2NM5; H2NF5; H3WP7-H3WP14Y; H4WP1-H4WP12
4. Child report of adoption
 - H3OD23-H3OD28
5. Parent report of relationship with child and periods of non-residence
 - PC1-PC8; PC35-PC36_19
6. Parent report of romantic relationship history
 - PA38-PA54

We assume that if a parent left the household at a given age of the child, that the parent was absent for that entire age, and vice versa for entries. Note that in some instances the child reported living with two biological parents and two step-parents on the household roster. This occurred when the biological parents were divorced and re-partnered, and likely reflect shared custody arrangements. We considered the parent who completed the parent questionnaire (if available) as the primary co-residential parent.

We present an example array here. A child born into a two biological parent household, with parents who divorced when the child was age 6, and continued to live with the biological mother, who then remarried when the child was age 10 and remained remarried until the Wave I interview at child's age 14, would have the following family structure array (codes in Section IV):

famst_0 = 1
famst_1 = 1
famst_2 = 1
famst_3 = 1
famst_4 = 1
famst_5 = 1
famst_6 = 2
famst_7 = 2
famst_8 = 2
famst_9 = 2
famst_10 = 4
famst_11 = 4
famst_12 = 4
famst_13 = 4
famst_14 = 4
famst_15 = 10
famst_16 = 10
famst_17 = 10
famst_18 = 10

III. Missing Codes

For 116 individuals, it was not possible to determine family structure, either because there was insufficient information, they were already living alone at Wave I and did not report any knowledge of biological parents, or reports between individuals and parents were so discrepant as to prohibit classification.

Note that Add Health respondents were between ages 11-21 at Wave I. Of the 20,745 Wave I respondents, 14,738 were re-interviewed at Wave II. Therefore, the maximum age at which family structure can be reconstructed varies. All respondents were at least age 11. After that, we code family structure as unobserved if the respondent had not reached that age by the time of survey.

IV. Quick Reference Guides

famst_[YEAR]

- 1 – two biological parents
- 2 – single biological mom
- 3 – single biological dad
- 4 – biological mom and first step-parent
- 5 – biological dad and first step-parent

6 – other: no co-resident biological parents or step-parents

7 – biological mom and second step-parent

8 – biological mom and third step-parent

9 – biological dad and second step-parent

10 – not observed at this age

. – missing

Family Structure Array Codebook

Number of observations: 20,745

Respondent Identifier		AID	char 8
20,745		range 10316654 to 99886999	

Family Structure at Birth		FAMST_0	num 1
15,310	1	two biological parents	
4,283	2	single biological mom	
210	3	single biological dad	
154	4	biological mom and first step-parent	
13	5	biological dad and first step-parent	
659	6	other: no co-resident biological parents or step-parents	
116	.	missing	

Family Structure at Age 1		FAMST_1	num 1
15,284	1	two biological parents	
4,096	2	single biological mom	
229	3	single biological dad	
276	4	biological mom and first step-parent	
19	5	biological dad and first step-parent	
725	6	other: no co-resident biological parents or step-parents	
116	.	missing	

Family Structure at Age 2		FAMST_2	num 1
15,129	1	two biological parents	
4,037	2	single biological mom	
249	3	single biological dad	
427	4	biological mom and first step-parent	
22	5	biological dad and first step-parent	

765	6	other: no co-resident biological parents or step-parents
116	.	missing

Family Structure at Age 3			FAMST_3	num 1
14,811	1	two biological parents		
4,100	2	single biological mom		
259	3	single biological dad		
613	4	biological mom and first step-parent		
40	5	biological dad and first step-parent		
806	6	other: no co-resident biological parents or step-parents		
116	.	missing		

Family Structure at Age 4			FAMST_4	num 1
14,500	1	two biological parents		
4,106	2	single biological mom		
286	3	single biological dad		
820	4	biological mom and first step-parent		
57	5	biological dad and first step-parent		
860	6	other: no co-resident biological parents or step-parents		
116	.	missing		

Family Structure at Age 5			FAMST_5	num 1
14,156	1	two biological parents		
4,157	2	single biological mom		
316	3	single biological dad		
1,035	4	biological mom and first step-parent		
69	5	biological dad and first step-parent		
895	6	other: no co-resident biological parents or step-parents		
1	7	biological mom and second step-parent		
116	.	missing		

Family Structure at Age 6			FAMST_6	num 1
13,772	1	two biological parents		
4,186	2	single biological mom		
341	3	single biological dad		
1,298	4	biological mom and first step-parent		
94	5	biological dad and first step-parent		
937	6	other: no co-resident biological parents or step-parents		
1	7	biological mom and second step-parent		
116	.	missing		

Family Structure at Age 7			FAMST_7	num 1
13,478	1	two biological parents		
4,175	2	single biological mom		
372	3	single biological dad		
1,507	4	biological mom and first step-parent		
113	5	biological dad and first step-parent		
983	6	other: no co-resident biological parents or step-parents		
1	7	biological mom and second step-parent		
116	.	missing		

Family Structure at Age 8			FAMST_8	num 1
13,176	1	two biological parents		
4,140	2	single biological mom		
394	3	single biological dad		
1,739	4	biological mom and first step-parent		
141	5	biological dad and first step-parent		
1,038	6	other: no co-resident biological parents or step-parents		
1	7	biological mom and second step-parent		
116	.	missing		

Family Structure at Age 9			FAMST_9	num 1
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12,906	1	two biological parents
4,148	2	single biological mom
406	3	single biological dad
1,924	4	biological mom and first step-parent
175	5	biological dad and first step-parent
1,068	6	other: no co-resident biological parents or step-parents
2	7	biological mom and second step-parent
116	.	missing

Family Structure at Age 10			FAMST_10	num 1
12,601	1	two biological parents		
4,132	2	single biological mom		
419	3	single biological dad		
2,153	4	biological mom and first step-parent		
207	5	biological dad and first step-parent		
1,114	6	other: no co-resident biological parents or step-parents		
3	7	biological mom and second step-parent		
116	.	missing		

Family Structure at Age 11			FAMST_11	num 1
12,302	1	two biological parents		
4,089	2	single biological mom		
451	3	single biological dad		
2,398	4	biological mom and first step-parent		
250	5	biological dad and first step-parent		
1,136	6	other: no co-resident biological parents or step-parents		
3	7	biological mom and second step-parent		
116	.	missing		

Family Structure at Age 12			FAMST_12	num 2
11,957	1	two biological parents		

4,090	2	single biological mom
489	3	single biological dad
2,576	4	biological mom and first step-parent
287	5	biological dad and first step-parent
1,219	6	other: no co-resident biological parents or step-parents
6	7	biological mom and second step-parent
5	10	not observed at this age
116	.	missing

Family Structure at Age 13		FAMST_13	num 2
11,630	1	two biological parents	
4,052	2	single biological mom	
526	3	single biological dad	
2,765	4	biological mom and first step-parent	
340	5	biological dad and first step-parent	
1,276	6	other: no co-resident biological parents or step-parents	
8	7	biological mom and second step-parent	
1	8	biological mom and third step-parent	
31	10	not observed at this age	
116	.	missing	

Family Structure at Age 14		FAMST_14	num 2
10,795	1	two biological parents	
3,908	2	single biological mom	
523	3	single biological dad	
2,764	4	biological mom and first step-parent	
398	5	biological dad and first step-parent	
1,258	6	other: no co-resident biological parents or step-parents	
10	7	biological mom and second step-parent	
1	8	biological mom and third step-parent	

972	10	not observed at this age
116	.	missing

Family Structure at Age 15		FAMST_15	num 2
9,251	1	two biological parents	
3,402	2	single biological mom	
528	3	single biological dad	
2,489	4	biological mom and first step-parent	
412	5	biological dad and first step-parent	
1,256	6	other: no co-resident biological parents or step-parents	
7	7	biological mom and second step-parent	
3,284	10	not observed at this age	
116	.	missing	

Family Structure at Age 16		FAMST_16	num 2
7,509	1	two biological parents	
2,855	2	single biological mom	
465	3	single biological dad	
2,087	4	biological mom and first step-parent	
355	5	biological dad and first step-parent	
1,122	6	other: no co-resident biological parents or step-parents	
7	7	biological mom and second step-parent	
6,229	10	not observed at this age	
116	.	missing	

Family Structure at Age 17		FAMST_17	num 2
5,412	1	two biological parents	
2,092	2	single biological mom	
348	3	single biological dad	
1,527	4	biological mom and first step-parent	
282	5	biological dad and first step-parent	

967	6	other: no co-resident biological parents or step-parents
4	7	biological mom and second step-parent
9,997	10	not observed at this age
116	.	missing

Family Structure at Age 18		FAMST_18	num 2
3,230	1	two biological parents	
1,254	2	single biological mom	
209	3	single biological dad	
878	4	biological mom and first step-parent	
178	5	biological dad and first step-parent	
790	6	other: no co-resident biological parents or step-parents	
4	7	biological mom and second step-parent	
1	9	biological dad and second step-parent	
14,085	10	not observed at this age	
116	.	missing	