

Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study: Year 9 School Supplement File

November 2015

Introduction

“y9schoolfile_112015” is a file of school characteristic data for focal children participating in the Year 9 Fragile Families Study. This file is an update to previous versions, released in 2012¹ and 2013². It is currently available through a restricted-use contract. The school file contains information for 3595 children: 3284 with public school data and 17 missing public school data, 236 with private school data and 36 missing private school data, 14 that were exclusively homeschooled, 7 that were homeschooled and also attended private school with missing school data, and 1 with missing school type. This file can be merged to other Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study data files using the variable *idnum*.

Because children attended school from 2006-07 through 2009-2010 school years, we drew data from multiple NCES years to more accurately capture the school characteristics of the actual year the child likely attended school. While public school data are collected annually, private school data are collected biennially so researchers will need to decide whether to draw from the previous or following year if a child who attended a private school did so in-between waves of the PSS survey.

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Source File

The source files are the Common Core of Data’s Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey Data, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and the Private School Universe Survey (PSS), 2005-06, 2007-08, 2009-10. Public School Data (<http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/pubschuniv.asp#rev>) and Private School Data (<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/pssdata.asp>) were accessed through the National Center for Education Statistics web site.

Process for Appending NCES Data Using School Address Information

Our survey subcontractor, Westat, provided CRCW staff with a set of school addresses and NCESSCH and PPIN numbers derived from school names and addresses provided by families during the Year 9 Home Visit when interviewers obtained permission to contact teachers by a mailed survey. Name and address information for the school currently being attended by the focal children was also collected during the Primary Caregiver (PCG) survey interview.

Downloaded NCES school data files were merged to school id numbers using the NCESSCH number for public schools and PPIN for private schools. In cases where a merge did not work or both NCESSCH and PPIN were missing, we entered or corrected school codes by manual searches for schools through the school search tools available on the NCES survey websites. Some schools’ codes did not merge to the data, either because they were not operational during any NCES survey period or because they elected not to complete the survey, and this information on these schools is missing in the final file. Through a one-to-many merge the school identifiers were merged to a crosswalk including a family idnum and

¹ In 2013, we added 429 cases previously missing plus the “-9 not in wave” cases for year 9. All original pseudo school codes remain the same, and when a new case’s school matched an original school code s/he was assigned the original code. Newly added school codes only contain 5 digits, while the original contain 6. The original file only used public school data from 2008-09, and private school data from 2007-08.

² In 2015, we modified the percentage variables for the public schools to conform to the private schools’ percentages. Public school percentages ranged from 0 to 100 while private school percentages ranged from 0 to 1. For example, percent black may have been 0.32 for a private school and 32.00 for a public school, but each was intended to indicate 32% of students in the schools were black. In this update, we divided public school percentages by 100. Now, they also range from 0 to 1.

school NCES number. All school identifiers, such as name, address, district, and NCES code, were removed from the file.

Variable Coding

Homeschooled children were coded at -7 not applicable for all school variables, public school attendees were coded as -6 skip for private school specific variables (school is co-educational, school is religious, and type of school) and for all 2005-06 variables, and private school attendees were coded as -6 skip for public school specific variables (Title I eligibility, magnet and charter school binaries, and free or reduced price lunch eligibility) and for all 2006-07, and 2008-09 variables. Students whose schools did not complete the surveys or whose schools had missing data for any question were coded at -3 missing for those items. Missing items from the public school survey coded as N or -2 (not applicable) were recoded to -7 to follow the Fragile Families labeling conventions, and M or -1 were recoded to -3 (missing).

Data Cleaning

Lowest and highest grades available at the school were calculated for private schools based on a series of binaries about the grades available. This variable already existed in the public school data. A code of “UG” indicates an ungraded school; “PK” and “KG” refer to pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten, respectively.

Pupil-to-teacher ratio is calculated as the number of students divided by the number of teachers, multiplied by 100. This variable was already calculated, by this procedure, in the public school files and replicated in the private school files.

Some schools in the public school file used five racial categories: Black, white, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific islander, and American Indian/Alaska native. Others used five, splitting Asian and Pacific Islander and adding a multiracial category. The private school survey uses the 5 groups, but Hispanic students are allowed to be of any race while they are a mutually exclusive group in the public school data. This issue cannot be resolved in the two data sets. The simplification of racial groups into white, Black, Hispanic, and other is partially due to the multiplicity of reporting patterns.

Constructed Variables

Six additional variables were added. **s5_school** is a randomly generated identifier unique to each school, so identical values for s5_school indicate students at the same school. **t5tint** is a binary indicating whether we received a teacher survey for the child, and is also found in other Fragile Families data files. **s5_schyr** was computed to determine the school year the child most likely attended school using the date of the teacher survey. If there was no date or no teacher survey, then the date of the home interview was used, and if there was no home interview date then we used the date of the PCG interview. If the date was 10/2007 or earlier the school year was considered 2006-2007; between 11/2007 and 10/2008 was 2007-2008; between 11/2008 and 10/2009 was 2008-2009; between 11/2009 and 10/2010 was 2009-2010. **s5_schyrsource** indicates which type of interview date was utilized to compute **s5_schyr**. Finally, **s5_schooltype** indicates what sort of school the child attended – public, private, or homeschooled. It also notes if the child has a school indicated, public or private, that does not have corresponding information in the NCES surveys.

Relationship to Teacher Survey File

Although we gathered school address information and permission to contact the teacher, non-response from teachers or schools resulted in teacher surveys for 2254 of the 3595 cases with any data in this file.

Table 1. School Supplement Variables

Variable Name	Variable Label
s5_school	Encoded school identifier
t5tint	Constructed-Was teacher interviewed at 9-year follow-up?
s5_schyr	Year child attended school
s5_schyrsource	Source used to compute s5_schyr
s5_schooltype	Type of school attended
s5_****_lowgrade	Lowest grade available at school
s5_****_highgrade	Highest grade available at school
s5_****_pup2teach	Pupil to teacher ratio
s5_****_pctwhite	Percent of student body that is white
s5_****_pctblack	Percent of student body that is black
s5_****_pcthisp	Percent of student body that is Hispanic
s5_****_pctother	Percent of student body that is another racial group
s5_****_titlei	School is eligible for Title I funding
s5_****_schtitlei	School-wide Title I funding
s5_****_magnet	School is a magnet school
s5_****_charter	School is a charter school
s5_****_pctfreelch	Percent of student body that receives free lunch
s5_****_pctredlch	Percent of student body that receives reduced price lunch
s5_****_pctfreeredlch	Percent of student body that receives free or reduced price lunch
s5_****_coed	Is school coeducational?
s5_****_privtype	Type of private school
s5_****_religious	Is school religious?

Note. **** indicates school year