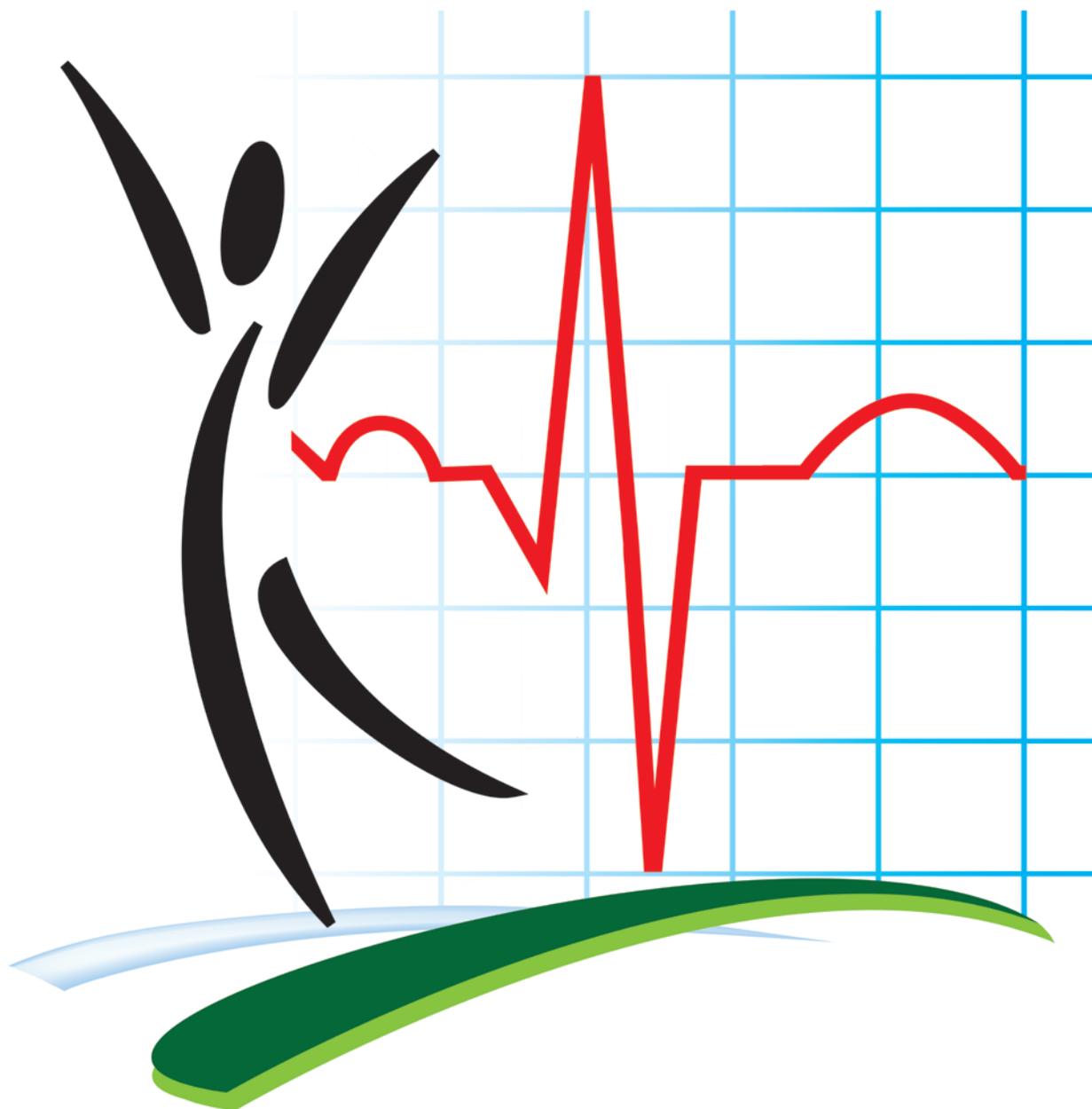


Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) Mental Health

Complement to the user guide
Public Use Microdata File

April 2014



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The following document is a complement to the Canadian Community Health Survey – Mental Health (CCHS – Mental Health) Microdata User Guide. It presents the approach used to transform the Master file into a Public Use Microdata File (PUMF).

Conversion of the CCHS–MH Master File to the Public Use Microdata File (PUMF)

The approach for creating a PUMF is intended to balance the requirements for maintaining respondent confidentiality by minimising disclosure risks, while providing the most useful data to users at the provincial level. The following paragraphs outline some of the procedures applied to convert the CCHS – Mental Health master file into a PUMF.

1. Disclosure control: The CCHS – Mental Health PUMF is designed to preserve the analytical value of data as much as possible while ensuring the potential for identifying individual respondents is minimal.

Several controls were implemented in creating the PUMF file. Restriction methods such as removing direct identifiers (e.g., sample ID, name, telephone number), reducing, recoding, and/or suppressing detail based on small frequencies given specific socio-demographic characteristics were used. Some variables from the master files were not included in the PUMF due to a high risk of disclosure (either because the variable is a risk on its own or is so in combination with other variables).

In addition, some response categories were deemed to be at possible risk of disclosure and were regrouped so as to be included on the PUMF. With these regroupings in place, the CCHS – Mental Health PUMF contains both fewer variables and are less detailed compared with the corresponding master file, while still preserving the analytical value of the data.

2. Age of respondent: Respondents’ age is provided as age grouping in the CCHS – Mental Health PUMF. These groupings are found in 5-year age bands, from age 15-19 to age 75-79, with all respondents aged 80 and over comprising a single group.

Although information on some variables were collected for people of a specific age bracket, some data for certain ages still had to be suppressed to ensure confidentiality. For example, labour force data were collected for respondents aged 15 to 75. Because there is an age group 75-79 on the PUMF, publishing labour force data for 75-year olds would reveal their exact age by default. Therefore, labour force data (LBS) and work stress (WST) are only available on the PUMF for respondents aged 15-74. Similar suppression was done for Childhood experiences (CEX) data for 18 and 19 year olds. In addition, since BMI classification for respondents less than 18 is different than adults, Height and Weight (HWT) data of 15-19 year olds have been suppressed.

3. Derived variables: Some derived variables listed in the Derived Variables documentation are not included on the data file to minimize risk of disclosure. The variable descriptions are kept in the documentation to give context to the new regrouped variables that are based on these original variables.

Derived variables that are excluded are indicated with “Not on file” in the title in the Derived Variables document.