

*National Longitudinal Study of
Adolescent Health*

*Wave III
Education Data
Transition Codebook*

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WAVE III EDUCATION DATA TRANSITION COMPONENT

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Component Description

As adolescents move through the educational system in the United States, they are confronted with transitions that impact their educational trajectory. Most students transition from middle school to high school by changing schools. In addition, some students transfer to a new school during high school. These transitions expose them to new academic and social worlds and can be crucial turning points in their path through school.

The AHAA website, <http://www.prc.utexas.edu/ahaa/>, provides up-to-date information about the types of AHAA Transition component data files currently available. This website also lists background materials, publications and other research related activities using the Transition component and other types of AHAA data.

B. Organization of Document

The following sections describe the Transition indicators included in the data file, **edutrans**. This description includes a discussion of their analytical importance, and issues analysts need to consider when using them in analyses. The conventions used to name Transition indicators are also presented.

II. CONSTRUCTED TRANSITION INDICATORS

A. Section Overview

The Transition variables capture information about students' pathways through the education system and were constructed primarily through detailed examination of course catalogs and student transcript records. During the transcript coding process, each course listed on student transcripts was linked to the school where that course was taken. This information was used to identify both middle school students' transitioning into high school as well as high school students who transferred schools. Full documentation of the transcript and catalog coding procedures is included in the AHAA Study Design document. The three Transition indicators are described in the next section.

B. Description of Indicators

EMAHDIST

If a student last attended a non-Add Health (AHAA) public high school, this binary variable indicates whether ($0 = \text{no}$, $1 = \text{yes}$) the non-Add Health high school was in the same district as an Add Health high school. (The variable **ERILSAID** provides every participating student with a school ID for the last school attended. Detailed documentation on this variable is located in the student disposition section of the Primary component of AHAA.)

Students who last attended an Add Health high school were assigned a missing value of 99992 for this measure. Those who last attended a private high school or whose high school was not linked to school district data for any other reason were assigned a 99993 for this measure.

EMYR1ID

This indicator provides information about the high school into which Add Health “middle school” students transitioned. (Add Health “middle school” students include all non-high school respondents at Wave I. For more information about the Add Health student sample, see the official Add Health website at: <http://www.cpc.unc.edu/addhealth>.) Specifically, **EMYR1ID** is the identification number of the high school into which these students transitioned.

Note that some middle school students attended 7th or 8th grade at an Add Health “high school” that included the 7th and/or 8th grade levels (and were thus assigned this Add Health high school ID for this variable). Analysts also need to be aware that the high school into which these middle school students transitioned is not necessarily the high school they last attended.

In most cases, the high school into which respondents transitioned was easily identifiable from their transcript records. In the small number of cases in which multiple school IDs were attached to courses in the same year of course-taking, more extensive examination was required. In these cases, AHAA researchers analyzed the proportion of courses taken in each year at each of the school IDs listed. Most often, this additional step clearly revealed the school attended, as the courses assigned to other school IDs were incidental either in number or in content. If this was not the case, analysts then examined source data from student transcripts and made determinations on individual cases.

Students who were in high school in 1994-95 were assigned the missing value 99992 for this measure. In addition, there are a number of cases where the intersection of survey and transcript data was such that it was impossible to identify the specific timing of school change and/or accurately identify both schools students attended when a school change occurred. These cases are coded as 99992 for both **EMYR1ID** and **EMTRWVS**.

EMTRWVS

This binary variable indicates whether ($0 = \text{no}$, $1 = \text{yes}$) high school students transferred to a non-Add Health high school between the Wave I survey in 1994-95 and the Wave II survey in 1995-1996.

Transcript records were examined to determine whether students transferred to a non-Add Health high school between these two time points. The process of determining a transfer was similar to that followed for **EMYR1ID**. However, instead of providing the identification number of a school, this measure indicates whether or not a transfer took place.

In addition to transcript data, Add Health survey data was used to verify that a student transferred at some point during or between the 1994-1995 and 1995-1996 academic years through examination of responses to a question from the 1995-1996 Wave II survey (H2GI7). This question asks only whether students still attend the same Add Health high school, and so does not reveal whether the transfer was during a school year or between school years.

Note that only students who were enrolled in high school in both 1994-1995 and 1995-1996 were assigned values of 0 or 1 for this variable. Students who were in middle school in 1994-95 were assigned a missing value of 99992 for this variable. In addition, there are a number of cases where the intersection of survey and transcript data was such that it was impossible to identify the specific timing of school change and/or accurately identify both schools students attended when a school change occurred. These cases are coded as 99992 for both **EMYR1ID** and **EMTRWVS**. Students who were no longer in high school by 1995-96 (i.e. seniors in Wave I who would not have been surveyed in Wave II) were assigned a missing value of 99993 for this measure.

III. NAMING CONVENTIONS

A. Variable Names and Labels

Transition variables were named and labeled according to a standard format:

1. Each variable consists of up to but not exceeding eight upper-case characters.
2. The initial character of all variables is **E**, serving as a reference to the educational component of Add Health (AHAA).
3. The second character of all variables, the letter **M**, represents ‘move’ and connects each of these variables to the Transitions component of the broader AHAA data set.

4. The third through eighth characters of Transition variable names describe the information each variable captures.
5. The labels assigned to each Transition variable can contain up to 40 characters including spaces.

B. Data Files

The Transition component data file, **edutrans**, was named in accordance with the following conventions:

1. Data file name begins with the prefix **edu**, referring to the education component of Add Health (AHAA).
2. The remaining characters describe the variables included in the data file.

IV. MISSING CODES

A. Description of Missing Codes

1. 99992: Students whose school attended did not have a valid ID for this variable. This includes high school students for the middle school indicator, **EMYR1ID**, middle school students for the high school indicator, **EMTRWVS**, and students who last attended an Add Health high school for **EMAHDIST**. It also includes students whose transcript and survey data had irreconcilable discrepancies.
2. 99993: Respondents whose school district data was missing (applies to **EMAHDIST**).

V. QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

EMAHDIST	If student last attended a non-Add Health public high school, this binary variable indicates whether the school was in the same district as an Add Health high school.
EMYR1ID	Identification number of the high school into which Add Health middle school students transitioned.
EMTRWVS	Binary variable that indicates whether or not students transferred to a non-Add Health high school between the survey in 1994-1995 and the survey in 1995-1996.

Education Data - Transition Component

Education - Transition Component

aid		Str 8	RESPONDENT IDENTIFIER NOTE: Smallest 5 and largest 5 values are displayed.
Frequency	Percent	Value	Label
1	0.0%	10316654	
1	0.0%	10316952	
1	0.0%	10506342	
1	0.0%	10606128	
1	0.0%	11316754	
12207	99.9%	11316958-99719976	NOTE: Range of values omitted from display
1	0.0%	99886991	
1	0.0%	99886994	
1	0.0%	99886995	
1	0.0%	99886996	
1	0.0%	99886999	

emahdist		Num 5	Last school attended was a non-Add Health school in Add Health school's district
Frequency	Percent	Value	Label
636	5.2%	0	No, different district
503	4.1%	1	Yes, same district
9854	80.7%	99992	Last attended an Add Health school
1224	10.0%	99993	Last attended private school or school not linked to district data

emyr1id		Num 5	Identifier of high school into which middle school students transitioned NOTE: Smallest 5 and largest 5 values are displayed.
Frequency	Percent	Value	Label
9	0.1%	2	2
17	0.1%	3	3
31	0.3%	6	6
21	0.2%	7	7
24	0.2%	8	8
3065	25.1%	9-18003	NOTE: Range of values omitted from display
1	0.0%	18018	18018
1	0.0%	18024	18024
1	0.0%	18033	18033
1	0.0%	18117	18117
9046	74.0%	99992	Student attended high school in 1994-1995

emtrwvs		Num 5	Wave I High school students transferred to a non-Add Health high school by 1995-1996
Frequency	Percent	Value	Label
5635	46.1%	0	No
201	1.6%	1	Yes
3349	27.4%	99992	Student attended middle school in 1994-1995
3032	24.8%	99993	Participant no longer in school by 1995-1996