

USERS GUIDE

MEXICAN FAMILY LIFE SURVEY

THIRD ROUND

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Preface

This document describes the basic elements for accessing and analyzing the information of the MxFLS-3.

A primary goal of the Mexican Family Life Survey (MxFLS) is to create a longitudinal and multi-thematic database. On the one hand, the longitudinal design allows a long term tracking of individuals regardless of changes in residence and new household formations (split-offs). On the other hand, the multi-thematic design allows collecting—with a single tool—a wide range of socioeconomic and demographic indicators of the Mexican population. The first round of the survey (MxFLS-1) took place during 2002 reaching a sample of 8,400 households (35,000 individuals) in 150 urban and rural communities throughout the country. The second (MxFLS-2) and third round (MxFLS-3) were conducted during 2005-2006 and 2009-2012, respectively. Given the longitudinal design of the survey, the MxFLS-2 and MxFLS-3 aimed to relocate and reinterview the sample of the MxFLS-1—including those individuals who migrated within Mexico or emigrated to the United States—and to interview the individuals or households that grew out from previous samples. The MxFLS-2 and MxFLS-3 relocated and reinterviewed almost 90 percent of the original sampled households.

In this sense, the MxFLS provides data to analyze the well-being of the Mexican population, and its transitions over time, as well as the factors that determine those transitions. Additionally, given that the MxFLS provides information for individuals who emigrated to the United States of America, it allows studying migration dynamics between Mexico and the USA.

The MxFLS is public and can be downloaded at: www.ennvih-mxfls.org

The MxFLS-3 is a result of a joint collaboration between researchers from the Iberoamerican University (UIA, per its name in Spanish), the Center for Economic Research and Teaching (CIDE, per its name in Spanish), the National Institute of Public Health (INSP, per its name in Spanish), and the Universities of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and Duke in the USA.

The MxFLS is of great interest to the scientific community concerned with the socioeconomic and demographic transitions of the Mexican population, and comparative research at the country level.

MxFLS-3 Documents:

1. Rubalcava, Luis and Teruel, Graciela (2013). "Mexican Family Life Survey, Third Round", Working Paper, www.ennvih-mxfls.org. When using data from MxFLS-3, we kindly ask to use this reference.
2. Berumen (2007). "Sample Design". Description of MxFLS-2 samples. Working Paper, University Iberoamericana. Mexico City.
3. Mexican Family Life Survey Household Questionnaires, third round. Spanish and English versions available.
4. Code manuals for the Mexican Family Life Survey, third round. Spanish and English versions available.
 - 4.1. Variable descriptions of the MxFLS-3 questionnaires and their location within the data files.
5. Mexican Family Life Survey Users Guide.

6. Description of the structure of the Mexican Family Life Survey and format data. Spanish and English versions available.

- 6.1. Guideline for the use of databases.

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- To the administrators at the Iberoamerican University (UIA, Mexico City), the Center of Economic Research and Teaching (CIDE), Duke University and the Center for the Analysis and Measurement of Social Welfare (CAMBS, per its name in Spanish).
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To conclude, we would like to thank each and every one of those who took part in the MxFLS-3 for their concern, patience and participation. Without their input, the MxFLS-3 would not be possible.

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1. Introduction

The main purpose of the MxFLS is to create a longitudinal, multi-thematic database—representative of the Mexican population at the national, urban-rural and regional level¹—with a minimum time span of 10 years. This database will allow a better understanding of the socioeconomic and demographic transitions of the Mexican population over time.

In 2002, researchers from UIA and CIDE, in collaboration with the INEGI, carried out the first round or baseline survey (MxFLS-1). The second (MxFLS-2) round was conducted during 2005-2006. The MxFLS-1 collected socioeconomic and demographic information on a sample of approximately 8,400 households (35,000 individuals) in 150 urban and rural communities throughout the country. Given the longitudinal design of the survey, the MxFLS-2 aimed to relocate and reinterview the sample of the MxFLS-1—including those individuals who migrated within Mexico or emigrated to the United States of America—and to interview the individuals or households that grew out from that sample. The MxFLS-2 relocated and reinterviewed almost 90 percent of the original sampled households.

Continuing with the longitudinal design of the MxFLS considerably enriches the information available and allows analyzing the well-being of the Mexican population throughout time. For this reason, researchers from the Iberoamerican University (UIA) and the Center for the Analysis and Measurement of Social Welfare (CAMBS), in collaboration with researchers from Duke University in the USA, joint efforts to carry out the third round of the MxFLS (MxFLS-3), which began in mid-2009 and ended in 2012.

As part of the longitudinal design, the main purpose of MxFLS-3 was to re-interview all individuals and households who were originally interviewed at baseline (2002) and all additional individuals and households that grew out from previous samples (MxFLS-1 and MxFLS-2). Given the importance of migration within Mexico and to the USA, following individuals over time was one of the most challenging and important tasks of the project. In spite of this, the MxFLS-3 achieved a re-contact rate of approximately 90 percent at the household level. It is important to highlight that the perseverance of the MxFLS's team along with the support from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and Duke University were key elements in reaching immigrants in the USA.

Prior to the MxFLS, there was no source of information in Mexico that provided detailed information of migrant populations before and after their journey. The MxFLS provides information before and after migration, in addition to information from both sides of the border. This information allows analyzing the migration dynamics between Mexico and the USA, and the relationship between emigrants and their families in Mexico. The results derived from these analyses could have important implications in terms of public policies aimed at improving the life of these populations.

Like in previous rounds, the MxFLS-3 collected, at the individual level, detailed information on each household member including: level of education, retrospective information on migration, marriage, fertility and victimization (robbery, theft, kidnaps); participation in the labor market; labor income; money and in-kind transfers; time allocation; credit and loans; investments in human capital; decision making processes; health status perceptions and health measures (weight, height,

¹ Based on the regional definition of the *Plan Nacional de Desarrollo*, Mexico. 2000-2006.

waist and hip, blood pressure, hemoglobin, cholesterol, and dry blood samples to analyze C-reactive protein). Additionally, all individuals within a specific age range were subject to Raven's Progressive Matrices, with the purpose of including a measure of cognitive ability.

The MxFLS-3 follows the content, design and structure of the MxFLS-1 and MxFLS-2 and incorporates new questions regarding paternity, child care, access to credit and food security.

1.1 Institutional Collaboration

Researchers from the Iberoamerican University (UIA) joined efforts to carry out the third round of the MxFLS. Researchers from different institutions, particularly from the department of Economics and Sociology at Duke University, participated in the design of new questions that were incorporated into the MxFLS-3.

During the MxFLS-3 fieldwork, collective agreements were reached with two prestigious institutions. *Berumen and Associates*, a company specialized in conducting household surveys, was responsible for the operational component of collecting household information. Mexico's *National Institute of Public Health (INSP)* was responsible for collecting anthropometric measures.

1.2 Project Planning

The planning and management of the project is under the direction of Luis Rubalcava, Graciela Teruel, Duncan Thomas and Elizabeth Frankenberg.

1.3 MxFLS-3 Sponsors

The activities prior to conducting the survey, collecting and publishing data, were financed by different institutions. Their contribution was essential to complete the third round of MxFLS. The MxFLS-3 team would like to thank:

- DHL
- CONACYT-SEDESOL Funds
- The United States National Institute of Child, Health and Development (NICHD)
- National Institute of Aging
- Iberoamerican University, (UIA, FICSAC)

2. MxFLS-3 Design

2.1 MxFLS-3 Questionnaire Design

The MxFLS-3 follows the content, design and structure of the MxFLS-1. It is important to highlight that the new questions in the MxFLS-3 were tested in different urban, rural and indigenous populations. Once these questions were accepted, they were incorporated into the MxFLS questionnaires and pilot tests were conducted. Interviewers, along with specialized health personnel, carried out in the state of Mexico a pilot test to confirm the MxFLS process for collecting information, tracking migrants, coordinating interviewers and health personnel, and cleaning data.

2.2 Household information

The MxFLS-3 collects, in a single database, detailed information on households and the communities where they live. The household information includes:

- Household and consumption
- Decisions taken regarding savings, assets, debts, labor and non-labor income, public/private transfers, and household/individual social program participation
- Retrospective information on education, school interruptions and grade repetition
- Retrospective information on work related decisions for all household members, including children
- Time allocation
- Demographic information of non-resident household family members
- Temporary and permanent migration
- Individual health status and chronic illnesses
- Individual mental health status
- Information on anthropometric measures for all household members (weight, size, waist, hip, blood pressure, hemoglobin, blood sugar, cholesterol, and dry blood samples to analyze C-reactive protein).
- Detailed retrospective information on the use of health services
- Pregnancy history, contraceptive use, post-natal health services
- Marital history and decisions made within the household
- Crime and victimization at the household and individual levels
- Detailed information on the family business and use of land
- Information on risk-taking and decision making processes
- Information regarding a trustworthy environment
- Preferred time allocation information
- Child upbringing information

2.3 Confidentiality

In order to ensure confidentiality of participants in the MxFLS-3, all the information that would allow identifying them has been eliminated from public files. This information includes: names, addresses, school names, health care centers and private health care providers, amongst others. Similarly, to guarantee confidentiality of the services provided in each community, the MxFLS team replaced the INEGI location codes with an internal coding system.

3. MxFLS-3: Elements derived from MxFLS-1 and MxFLS-2

This section presents the elements derived from MxFLS-1 and MxFLS-2.

3.1 Re-interviews: MxFLS-2 Households and Individuals

The MxFLS-3 aimed to relocate and reinterview the sample of the MxFLS-1—including those individuals who migrated within Mexico or emigrated to the United States of America—and to interview the individuals or households that grew out from previous samples. For each of the original households (panel households), a pre-printed list was created with the most relevant socio-demographic information of 2002, including: name, age, date of birth, sex and relationship to the head of household. The pre-printed list was of great use during the reinterview process because it specifically indicated who had to be interviewed or whom should the interviewer ask for.

One of the most important challenges of the MxFLS-3 was tracking individuals who changed their place of residence between the MxFLS-2 and the MxFLS-3. 15 percent of the original sample interviewed in the MxFLS-2 no longer had the same address in the MxFLS-3. This implied the development of new and complex search strategies. In those cases in which the panel household was no longer at the original address, the interviewers conducted investigations to find out the final destination of that particular household. For this purpose, the interviewers had additional information that helped increase the possibilities of finding these households. For example, during MxFLS-1 and MxFLS-2, a section in book C was designed (a re-contact section) with the address and telephone number of close relatives that could assist in providing current information in case the household had moved. A re-contact directory was created with this information and used to identify the location of these households.

3.2. Re-contact and tracking of households and individuals in MxFLS-3

A series of re-contact processes with previously established protocols took place in order to find households and individuals. An example of these processes is verifying with neighbors and community members if those households used to live in the address listed on the directory. During the visit to the original household address, there was an attempt to collect information on the new address from neighbors and key informants within the community.

Tracking immigrant was carried out with three strategies: i) Re-contact households and individuals who moved within the 16 states that comprise the MxFLS sample, ii) re-contact households and individuals who moved to states that do not comprise the MxFLS sample and iii) re-contact households and individuals who migrated to the USA. Special teams were created to perform these strategies. These teams were able to find approximately 90 percent of those who migrated to the USA.

3.3 Household Panels and New Household Classifications

Longitudinal surveys face attrition problems that could stem from no-response or socio-demographic changes that affect the original sample: deaths, births, marriages, separations, etc. The most common ways to confront longitudinal survey

attrition are to 1) artificially update the sample ("refresh" the sample). That is, add households and/or individuals to the original sample who were not necessarily involved in the original household surveys and 2) "naturally" update the sample by adding those individuals who by birth or by unions are now considered household members.

In the case of the MxFLS, the sample size is updated "naturally". This way, a household or individual is defined as panel if they belong to the original sample and were interviewed in 2002. The structure of the panel household could be modified due to: a member or members leaving the household, to deaths or to the addition of new members. It is important to highlight that in case a member or members (interviewed in 2002) leave the household, the MxFLS will attempt to re-contact and reinterview them in their new household. If new individuals are integrated into the household and are considered family members but were not interviewed in 2002, they would be classified as new members and interviewed for the first time.

A new household is formed when one or more individuals who were interviewed in 2002 leave the original household to form a new household. For example, if a person who belonged to a MxFLS household in 2002 leaves the household to join another person (whether this person is a MxFLS member or not) this union is considered a new household and therefore, all the individuals within that household will be interviewed. This way, new households and individuals update the original sample and solve attrition problems. All new households must always be comprised of at least one panel member. In a panel household there may or may not be new members.

3.4 Pre-printed lists

With the purpose of verifying the information obtained during the first round of the survey (MxFLS-1), correct possible mistakes and update household information efficiently, a pre-printed list of household members was provided to the interviewer.

Pre-printed lists are created for the following questionnaire sections:

a) Household members Pre-printed list (Book C)

Registers the names and personal information (sex, age, date of birth, relationship to head of household, books answered in the MxFLS-1) of each household member in 2002 and 2005.

b) Pre-printed list of children, siblings, and other people who are not household members (Book IIIB)

Registers information on those children, siblings and other individuals who are not household members, but whose information was provided by household members in 2002 and 2005. Pre-printed lists are only used for panel households.

4. MxFLS-3 Structure

The MxFLS-3 follows the same structure as the MxFLS-1 and MxFLS-2. Generally, the same books and questions were applied, however, in the MxFLS-3 some questions were included and some were eliminated. The following table shows the book's structure in MxFLS-2 and MxFLS-3 as well as the appropriate informant for

each book. It is important to mention that in the MxFLS-3, the Diet book—which was incorporated into the survey in the MxFLS-2—was eliminated from the survey.

Table 1. Structure for books at the household/individual level and appropriate informants in MxFLS-2 and MxFLS-3

MxFLS-2 Book	MxFLS-2 Informant	MxFLS-3 Book	MxFLS-3 Informant
Household			
C	HM* 18 years old or older (preferably the head of household)	C	Same as in MxFLS-2
I	HM 18 years old or older (preferably the person responsible for meals/household expenses)	I	Same as in MxFLS-2
II	HM 18 years old or older (preferably the head of household)	II	Same as in MxFLS-2
Individual			
IIIA	All HM's 15 years old or older	IIIA	Same as in MxFLS-2
IIIB	All HM's 15 years old or older	IIIB	Same as in MxFLS-2
IV	All female HM's between the ages of 14 and 49	IV	Same as in MxFLS-2
V	All HM children under the age of 15	V	Same as in MxFLS-2
EA	All HM's between the ages of 13 and 65	EA	Same as in MxFLS-2
EN	All HM's between the ages of 5 and 12	EN	Same as in MxFLS-2
PROXY	A HM 18 years old or older who knows the characteristics of absent household members (1 book for every absent member)	PROXY	Same as in MxFLS-2
HEALTH	All HM's	HEALTH	Same as in MxFLS-2

* HM: Household Member

Table 2 shows the difference between MxFLS-2 and MxFLS-3, in terms of questions and questionnaire sections. The main difference between the two survey rounds are the following: questions in book IIIB regarding credit and food security (aimed at providing information to measure poverty using the official methodology) and questions in book C aimed at helping track new/panel households and individuals.

Tabla 2. Difference between questions and sections in MxFLS-2 and MxFLS-3

Book	MxFLS-2 Sections	MxFLS-3 Sections	Differences between MxFLS-2 and MxFLS-3
C	DF (Definition)	DF (Definition)	1) In question DF02 (option 1), the instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was modified.
	LS (List of Household Members)	LS (List of Household Members)	<p>1) Question LS005 was included. This question asks if there is a son/daughter born after 2002 who has not been listed.</p> <p>2) In question LS05, options 16, 17 and 18 were included. These codes help to identify, more specifically, the relationship with the head of household.</p> <p>3) In question LS15, option 00 was included. This code helps to identify, more specifically, the last school grade finished or passed.</p> <p>4) In question LS19b, option 10 was included. This code helps to identify, more specifically, the reason why he/she moved.</p> <p>5) Question LS00i was included. The question asks the interviewer to register the pid_link (individual identifier that helps identify each individual in the sample without disclosing confidential information such as name).</p>
	CV (Household Characteristics)	CV (Household Characteristics)	<p>1) Question CV02a was included. This question asks to whom the household is paying the dwelling (it applies only to households who are currently paying the dwelling).</p> <p>2) Question CV02b was included. This question asks the percentage that the household owes of the property's value.</p> <p>3) Question CV15a was included. This question asks for the number of days the dwelling had no water.</p> <p>4) Question CV21 was included. This question asks if in the last 3 months, due to lack of money or resources, the household stayed without eating.</p>
	SP (Health and Family Planning)	SP (Health and Family Planning)	None
	RC (Re-contact Information)	RC (Re-contact Information)	1) The option to register the telephone number of the office or work place was included.
	EH (Schooling of Household Members)	EH (Schooling of Household Members)	None
	CVO (Direct Observations of household)	CVO (Direct Observations of household)	None

	characteristics)	characteristics)	
	NE (Interview Section Notes)	NE (Interview Section Notes)	None
I	CS (Consumption)	CS (Consumption)	In section CS01, the option for "mandarins" was eliminated.
	NE (Interview Section Notes)	NE (Interview Section Notes)	None
II	SU (Land)	SU (Land)	1) In question SU16, the instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was modified.
	INR (Rural Income)	INR (Rural Income)	1) In question INR05, an instruction to the interviewer was included. The instruction indicates that he/she should register all the household members that decided what to do with the money earned from selling each item.
	NNA (Non-Agricultural Business)	NNA (Non-Agricultural Business)	1) In question NNA13, option 10 was included. This option helps to identify, more specifically, the kind of fringe benefits the business offered to its workers when it began operating. 2) In question NNA20, option 10 was included. This option helps to identify, more specifically, the kind of fringe benefits the business offered to its workers.
	AH (Household Assets)	AH (Household Assets)	1) In question AH05 (part A and B, option 3), the instruction to the interviewer was eliminated. 2) The option "automobiles" was eliminated from part D (motorized vehicles), and a new part, D1, was created for "car". 3) The option DVD was included in part E (electronic devices).
	CRH (Household Credit)	CRH (Household Credit)	None
	IN (Household Non-Labor Income)	IN (Household Non-Labor Income)	1) In Income Sources, Subsidies or Government Aid, the name of program "VIVAH" changed to "Tu Casa y Vivienda Rural (formerly VIVAH)". 2) In Income Sources, Subsidies or Government Aid, the following options were eliminated: a) A4 for program "Crédito a la Palabra". b) A8 for program "Fondo para la Micro, Pequeña y Mediana Empresa". 3) In Income Sources, the following questions were included:

			<p>a) A11 for program "70 y más (70 and Older)".</p> <p>b) A12 for program "Apoyo Alimentario (Food Support)".</p> <p>c) A13 for program "Opciones Productivas (Productive Options)".</p> <p>4) In Income Sources (part K), an instruction to the interviewer was included. This instruction indicates that he/she should register the amount received from each program.</p> <p>5) In question IN03, option D (Daycare) was included.</p>
	SE (Household Economic Shocks)	SE (Household Economic Shocks)	None
	VLH (Household Violence and Victimization)	VLH (Household Violence and Victimization)	<p>1) In question VLH08 (part C option 3), the instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was modified (from VLH10 to VLH11).</p> <p>2) In question VLH10 (part A and B, option 3) the instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was modified.</p> <p>3) In questions VLH12a, VLH13a, VLH14a, VLH15a, VLH16a, VLH17a, dates were modified from 2001 to 2005.</p>
	NE (Interview Section Notes)	NE (Interview Section Notes)	None
IIIA	ED (Education)	ED (Education)	<p>1) In question ED18b, dates were modified to know if he/she finished school/graduated before or after 2005.</p> <p>2) In question ED18c, dates were modified to know the last level of education attended since the school year 2005/2006.</p> <p>3) In question ED18d, the instruction to the interviewer was modified. This instruction indicates that he/she should register the information since August 2005 to the highest level of education attended.</p> <p>4) In question ED28, dates were modified to know if he/she attended school the last school period (August 2008 to July 2009).</p> <p>5) In question ED29, dates were modified to know the time it took to go to school during the last school period (2008-2009).</p>
	IE (School Interruptions)	IE (School Interruptions)	1) In section IE, the instruction to the interviewer was modified. The instruction indicates the interviewer to register the information regarding the time spent in school in the past five years (2005-2009).
	AH (Household Assets)	AH (Household Assets)	<p>1) In question AH03, the instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was modified.</p> <p>2) The option "automobiles" was eliminated from part D (motorized vehicles), and a new part, D1, was created for "car".</p>

	IIN (Individual Non-Labor Income)	IIN (Individual Non-Labor Income)	<p>1) The name of program "VIVAH" changed to "Tu Casa y Vivienda Rural (formerly VIVAH)" in Income Sources, Subsidies or Government Aid.</p> <p>2) The following questions were included in Income Sources:</p> <p>a) A5 for program "Conversión Social (Social Co-investment)".</p> <p>b) A9 for program "FONAES (National Supporting Fund for Solidarity Enterprises)".</p> <p>c) A11 for program "70 y más (70 and Older)".</p> <p>d) A12 for program "Apoyo Alimentario (Food Support)".</p> <p>e) A13 for program "Opciones Productivas (Productive Options)".</p>
	HM (Marital History)	HM (Marital History)	<p>1) In question HM00, the option of "getting married again" was included for those who were married and are currently separated/divorced.</p> <p>2) In question HM00b and HM00d, dates were modified to know if the marital status has changed since 2005.</p> <p>3) In question HM03, dates were modified to know the names of the persons to whom he/she has been married since 2005.</p>
	DH (Household Decision Making)	DH (Household Decision Making)	None
	MG (Permanent Migration)	MG (Permanent Migration)	<p>1) In question MG02, options 4, 5 and 6 were included. These options help to identify, more specifically, the type of place where he/she was born.</p> <p>2) In question MG02, options 4, 5 and 6 were included. These options help to identify, more specifically, the type of place where he/she lived at 12 years old.</p> <p>3) The dates in the following questions were modified:</p> <p>a) In MG08a, to know the locality/neighborhood where he/she lived in 2005, and to know if he/she moved for a year or more outside that community since 2005.</p> <p>b) In MG08b, to know the name of the places where he/she has been for a year or more since 2005.</p> <p>4) In question MG18, options 4, 5 and 6 were included. These options help to identify, more specifically, the type of place where he/she moved.</p>

			<p>5) In question MG24, option 17 was included. This option helps to identify, more specifically, to where he/she moved.</p> <p>6) In question MG36, options 12, 13 and 14 were included. These options help to identify, more specifically, the reason for moving.</p>
	MT (Temporal Migration)	MT (Temporal Migration)	1) In question MT02, the date was modified to indicate the interviewer to ask where he/she lived in 2007 (it applies only to panel members).
	TB (Employment)	TB (Employment)	<p>1) In question TB02, options 7 and 8 were included. These options help to identify, more specifically, the main activity carried out during last week.</p> <p>2) In question TB11, options 11 to 14 were included. These options help to identify, more specifically, the main reason why he/she did not go back to work.</p> <p>3) In questions TB18 and TB33, options 10 and 11 were included. These options help to identify, more specifically, the type of job benefits that he/she had in the last job.</p> <p>4) In questions TB08 and TB09, the instructions to the interviewer were modified. These instructions indicate the interviewer to verify if he/she quit working before/after January 2007.</p> <p>5) From question TB40 to TB53, dates were modified. If the answer in question TB40 is that he/she worked from January 2007 to December 2007, the following questions aim at finding out the name of the occupation performed during that year, main tasks or activities carried out during that year, number of hours worked per week during that year, etc.</p>
	ATA (Adult Time Allocation)	ATA (Adult Time Allocation)	None
	SHI (Individual Shocks)	SHI (Individual Shocks)	None
	EE (Expectations)	EE (Expectations)	<p>1) The name of the following questions was modified:</p> <p>a) EE04-Before EE01a-Now</p> <p>b) EE01-Before EE07a-Now Additionally, the president's name changed to Felipe Calderón.</p> <p>c) EE03-Before EE07b-Now Additional changes: cost of a dollar to \$14.00 pesos; year to 2012; president's name to Felipe Calderón, and the instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that follows was modified.</p>

			<p>d) EE03-Before EE07c-Now Additionally, the amount in answers 1 and 2 of question EE07c were modified in order to know the cost of a dollar in 2012.</p> <p>2) Questions EE02a, EE03a and EE04a were included.</p> <p>3) In question EE06, the writing/wording was modified.</p> <p>4) In question EE12 (option 1 and 2), the amounts were modified to know how much he/she thinks will earn at 30 years old (it applies for individuals younger than 25).</p>
	VLI (Individual Violence and Victimization)	VLI (Individual Violence and Victimization)	<p>1) An instruction to the interviewer was included. This instruction indicates that he/she should verify if the respondent is a panel member.</p> <p>2) Question VLI05a was included. This question asks if he/she has been assaulted, robbed or victim of any violent incident outside the household, plot or business.</p> <p>3) In question VLI12, option 6 was included. This option helps to identify, more specifically, where did the violent incident happened.</p>
	NE (Interview Section Notes)	NE (Interview Section Notes)	None
IIIB	GH (Tastes and Habits)	GH (Tastes and Habits)	<p>1) In question GH01, the following options were included in order to know, more specifically, what does he/she likes to drink at parties, gatherings, etc.</p> <p>a) In answer 4, "aguardiente or any fermented maguey juice"</p> <p>b) In answer 5 "Rum, Brandy o Cognac"</p> <p>c) The option to specify "other alcoholic beverages" changed from answer 5 to 6.</p> <p>d) Option 7 (Hot beverages) was included.</p> <p>e) The option to specify "other non-alcoholic beverages" changed to answer 8.</p>
	RG (Risk)	RG (Risk)	<p>1) Questions RG01 to RG07 were modified in terms of writing/wording and amounts.</p> <p>2) In question RG18, the number of years was modified. Now, the question asks how likely is that he/she will be working in three years.</p> <p>3) In question RG19, the number of years was modified. Now, the question asks how likely is that he/she will be working in 10 years.</p>

	CO (Trust)	CO (Trust)	<p>1) Question CO09 was included. This question asks on what he/she would spend the money.</p> <p>2) In question CO06, the amount of money changed to \$20,000 pesos.</p> <p>3) In question CO06 (option 1), an instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was included.</p> <p>4) In question CO07 (option 1 and 2), an instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was included.</p> <p>5) In question CO08 (option 1 and 2), the amount was modified.</p>
	ES (Health Status)	ES (Health Status)	<p>1) In question ES13, option 3 was included. This option helps to identify, more specifically, the time the health problem lasted.</p> <p>2) The following health issues/illnesses were included in question ES22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) O. Throat b) P. Respiratory, digestive or urinary problems c) Q. Allergies d) R. Blood Pressure e) S. Stress <p>3) Questions ES30 to ES37 (regarding the human influenza virus) were included.</p>
	SM (Emotional Wellbeing)	SM (Emotional Wellbeing)	None
	EC (Acute Morbidity)	EC (Acute Morbidity)	<p>1) An instruction was included indicating the interviewer to first fill out column EC01 and then continue by row.</p> <p>2) Question EC01a was included. This question asks if he/she has been diagnosed with a certain illness.</p> <p>3) Question EC01b was included. This question asks the year in which he/she was diagnosed with a certain illness.</p> <p>4) Question EC02a was included. This question asks for the type of treatment he/she follows.</p> <p>5) Codes 2 and 3 were included in question EC03. These codes help to identify, more specifically, the amount spent on medicines.</p> <p>6) Question EC04 was included. This question asks the reason why he/she does not take medicines/follow a treatment (it applies only to those individuals who do not take medicines/follow a treatment).</p> <p>7) Question EC04a was included. This question asks in a scale from 1 to 10 how well does he/she follow the treatment.</p>

	ATS (Self-Treatment)	ATS (Self-Treatment)	None
	CE (Outpatient Utilization)	CE (Outpatient Utilization)	<p>1) In question CE10, option 12 was included. This option helps to identify, more specifically, the main reason why he/she used outpatient services.</p> <p>2) In question CE13, option 12 and 13 were included. These options help to identify, more specifically, the type of services received during the visit to the healthcare provider.</p>
	HS (Inpatient Utilization)	HS (Inpatient Utilization)	<p>1) In question HS08, option 7 was included. This option helps to identify, more specifically, the reason why he/she was hospitalized.</p> <p>2) In question HS15, option D and E were included. These options help to identify, more specifically, the type of services received while he/she was hospitalized.</p>
	CA (Insurance Condition)	CA (Insurance Condition)	<p>1) In question CA03, options 3 to 6 were included in part A. These options help identify, more specifically, the reason why he/she has access to certain type of insurance.</p> <p>2) Part D in "Insurances (CA Type)" was modified. Now, this part asks to specify the name/type insurance provided by the state government.</p> <p>3) In question CA03, option 1 of part H was modified.</p>
	RE (Recontact Information)	RE (Recontact Information)	<p>1) In question RE03, options 7 to 12 were included. These options help to identify, more specifically, the relationship that he/she has with each relative living in the USA.</p>
	CR (Credit)	CR (Credit)	<p>1) In question CR01 (option 3), an instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was included.</p> <p>2) In question CR01 (option 4), an instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was included.</p> <p>3) Questions CR01a, CR01b, CR01c and CR01d were included. These questions are related to the use of credit cards.</p> <p>4) Questions CR03a to CR03I were included. These questions are related to credit card payments.</p> <p>5) In question CR04, the instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was modified.</p> <p>6) In question CR05, the options were eliminated. Now, the question asks for the amount only.</p> <p>7) Question CR05a was included. This question asks how long the rotating savings and credit association lasted.</p> <p>8) Questions CR06, CR07 and CR08 were eliminated.</p>

			<p>9) In question CR09, the writing/wording was modified.</p>
			<p>10) In question CR09, option 8 was eliminated (the program "Crédito a la palabra" no longer exists).</p> <p>11) In question CR14, option 8 was eliminated (the program "Crédito a la palabra" no longer exists).</p> <p>12) In question CR26, an instruction to the interviewer was included. This instruction indicates that he/she should include credit card debts.</p> <p>13) In question CR29, option 9 was included. This option helps identify, more specifically, the institution where he/she has savings.</p>
	PR (Preferences)	PR (Preferences)	<p>1) In question PR01 (option 2), an instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was included.</p> <p>2) In question PR03 (option B and D), the amount of money was modified.</p> <p>3) In question PR03, the instructions to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow were modified. Specifically,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Part B b) Part C c) Part D <p>4) The amount of money was modified in the options of question PR03 and PR04. Additionally, in question PR04, the time frames were modified.</p> <p>5) In question PR04, the instructions to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow were modified. Specifically,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Part B b) Part C c) Part D d) Part E and G
	TP (Non-Resident Parents Transfers)	TP (Non-Resident Parents Transfers)	<p>1) In question TP24, option B was included. This option helps to identify, more specifically, the kind of help that he/she offered to his/her father/mother.</p> <p>2) In TP26, option B was included. This option helps identify, more specifically, the type of support he/she received from his/her father/mother.</p>

	TH (Non-Resident Siblings Transfers)	TH (Non-Resident Siblings Transfers)	<p>1) In questions TH001a and TH01a, dates were modified to know if he/she has siblings who died since 2005 to date.</p> <p>2) In question TH001a (option 3), an instruction to the interviewer was included. This instruction indicates that he/she should review the printed-list and then continue to question TH12x.</p> <p>3) In question TH21, an instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was included.</p> <p>4) In question TH22, the instructions regarding the questions that should follow were eliminated.</p>
	THI (Non-Resident Child Transfers)	THI (Non-Resident Child Transfers)	None
	TO (Transfers of Other Non-Resident Persons)	TO (Transfers of Other Non-Resident Persons)	None
	NE (Interview Section Notes)	NE (Interview Section Notes)	None
IV	RES (Pregnancy Summary)	RES (Pregnancy Summary)	<p>1) In questions RES00a and RES01a, dates were changed from 2001 to 2005.</p>
	HE (Pregnancy History)	HE (Pregnancy History)	<p>1) In question HE01a, dates were changed from 2001 to 2005.</p> <p>2) In question HE16a1, the instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was eliminated.</p> <p>3) In question HE26, option D was included. This option helps to identify, more specifically, the medicines/supplements taken during pregnancy.</p> <p>4) In question HE39, option 7 was included. This option helps to identify, more specifically, who provided care during birth.</p> <p>5) In question HE40, options 9, 10 and 11 were included. These questions help to identify, more specifically, the reason for choosing certain person/place/health center.</p> <p>6) In question HE51, option 18 was included. This option helps to identify, more specifically, the reason why she stopped breastfeeding.</p>

	AC (Contraception)	AC (Contraception)	<p>1) The word "Norplant" was eliminated from part D in Means/Methods (AC Type).</p> <p>2) Part M (Contraceptive Patch) was included in Means/Methods (AC Type).</p> <p>3) In question AC12, the following changes were made: a) The option of Contraceptive Patch was included (which leads to question AC14).</p> <p>4) In question AC16, option 14 was included. This option helps to identify, more specifically, the reason for choosing certain contraceptive method.</p> <p>5) In question AC25, option 11 was included. This option helps to identify, more specifically, the preferred type of method.</p> <p>6) In question AC38, the instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was modified.</p> <p>7) In question AC41, the following changes were made: a) The numbering changed to AC40a; b) The word "exam" was substituted for "mammograms"; c) The instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was modified.</p> <p>8) In question AC42, the following changes were made: a) The numbering changed to AC40b; and b) The word "exam" was substituted for "mammograms".</p> <p>9) In question AC43, the following changes were made: a) The numbering changed to AC40c; and b) The word "exam" was substituted for "mammograms".</p> <p>10) The following questions were included: a) AC40d to know the reason why she did not perform breast self-examinations; b) AC42 to know how often she had mammograms; and c) AC43 to know the last time she had a mammogram.</p>
	NE (Interview Section Notes)	NE (Interview Section Notes)	None
V	EDN (Child's Education)	EDN (Child's Education)	<p>1) Questions EDN02a and EDN02b were included. These questions ask if the boy/girl has ever attended preschool or kindergarten regularly, and how old was he/she when he started attending.</p> <p>2) In question EDN04, option 15 was included. This option helps to identify, more specifically, the reason why the boy/girl is not attending school.</p> <p>3) In question EDN05, option 6 was included. This option helps to identify, more specifically, the main activities of the boy/girl.</p> <p>4) In question ED07a, the dates were modified to know if the child graduated/stopped attending school before/after 2004/2005.</p>

	EDN (Child's Education)	EDN (Child's Education)	<p>5) In question EDN17, option 7 was included. This option helps to identify, more specifically, the reason why the boy/girl is not attending school the next school year.</p> <p>6) In question EDN27, the dates were modified to indicate the interviewer that he/she should fill in the first column (for those attending school the past school year 2007-2008) or the second column (for those who did not attend school the past school year).</p> <p>7) In questions EDN28 to EDN3, the dates were changed to 2007-2008.</p> <p>8) In questions EDN37 to EDN46, dates were changed to 2008-2009 y 2007-2008.</p> <p>9) In question EDN42a, option 6 was included. This option helps to identify, more specifically, school fees.</p> <p>10) In question EDN42c (option 3), parts A to D (annual, monthly, weekly, unique, respectively) were included.</p> <p>11) In question EDN42c option 3 was included. This option helps to identify, more specifically, expenditures related to education.</p> <p>12) Option 2 in column "school year 2007-2008" was eliminated.</p> <p>13) In question EDN46, the instructions to the interviewer regarding the questions that should follow were modified.</p> <p>14) In EDN46a1, the instruction to the interviewer was modified.</p> <p>15) In question EDN46c, the amounts of money were modified (except option 2, 22, 221 and 221).</p>
	EMN (Child Employment)	EMN (Child Employment)	1) In question EMN14, option 3 was eliminated.
	ATN (Child's Time Allocation)	ATN (Child's Time Allocation)	None
	CEN (Child Outpatient Utilization)	CEN (Utilización de consulta externa del niño)	1) The option "midwife" was eliminated from part H.
	ESN (Child's Health Condition)	ESN (Child's Health Condition)	1) In question ESN07, option E was included. This option helps to identify, more specifically, the kind of chronic illness diagnosed.
	HSN (Child Inpatient Utilization)	HSN (Child Inpatient Utilization)	1) In question HSN18, the writing/wording was modified.
	AUTN (Autotratamiento del niño)	AUTN (Autotratamiento del niño)	None

	VAC (Child Self-Treatment)	VAC (Child Self-Treatment)	1) A new section for current vaccines (Current Card 2009) was included.
	FH (Child's Upbringing)	FH (Child's Upbringing)	1) In questions FH01 to FH05, option 2 was included. These options help to identify, more specifically, the age at which the child started crawling/walking/talking/toilet training, etc. 2) In question FH08, option 3 changed to SEDESOL daycare (Estancias Infantiles).
	NE (Interview Section Notes)	NE (Interview Section Notes)	None
PXY	HM (Marital History)	HM (Marital History)	None
	MG (Migration)	MG (Migration)	1) In question MG08, an instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was included.
	ED (Education)	ED (Education)	1) In question ED12a (option 1), the instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was modified. 2) In question ED12b, dates were changed from 2001 to 2005. 3) In question ED14, dates changed from 2003-2004 to 2008-2009).
	TB (Employment)	TB (Employment)	1) In questions TB02 to TB05, the instructions to the interviewer regarding the questions that should follow were modified. 2) In question TB11, options 11, 12, 13 and 14 were included. These options help to identify, more specifically, the main reason why he/she did not go back to work. 3) In question TB18, options 10 and 11 were included. These options help identify, more specifically, the type of job benefits that he/she had. 4) Question TB23 was eliminated and therefore, the order of the following questions was modified. 5) In question TB32 (option 1 and 2), the instructions to the interviewer regarding the questions that should follow were modified. 6) In question TB33, options 10 and 11 were included. These options help to identify, more specifically, the type of job benefits that he/she had.

	TB (Employment)	TB (Employment)	<p>7) Question TB31 was changed to TB32. Additionally, the instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was modified.</p> <p>8) In question TB36A, the instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was modified.</p> <p>9) In question TB39 (option 1), the instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was modified.</p> <p>10) In question TB39 (option 3 and 8), an instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was included.</p>
	CR (Credit)	CR (Credit)	<p>1) In question CR04, an instruction to the interviewer was included to indicate that he should ask about participation in the last ROSCA (in case there is more than one).</p> <p>2) In question CR06, the instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was modified.</p> <p>3) In question CR11 (option 8), the instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was included.</p> <p>4) In question CR11, option 8 was eliminated because the program "Crédito a la palabra" no longer exists.</p> <p>5) In question CR16 (option 1), an instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was included.</p> <p>6) In question CR24 (option 8), an instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was included.</p> <p>7) In question CR26, an instruction to the interviewer was included to indicate that he/she should consider credit card's debts.</p> <p>8) In question CR30 (option 3 and 8), the instructions to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow were eliminated.</p>
	GH (Tastes and Habits)	GH (Tastes and Habits)	None
	ES (Health Status)	ES (Health Status)	<p>1) In question ES16, option 1 and 5 were included. These options help to compare his/her health with people the same age and gender.</p> <p>2) In question ES22, the following health issues/illnesses were included: O. Throat; P. Respiratory, digestive or urinary problems; Q. Allergies; R. Blood Pressure; S. Stress.</p>
	CE (Outpatient Utilization)	CE (Outpatient Utilization)	None

	HS (Inpatient Utilization)	HS (Inpatient Utilization)	1) Questions HS02 and HS03 were modified. Now, these questions ask about inpatient care during the last 12 months.
	CA (Insurance Condition)	CA (Insurance Condition)	1) Part D in "Insurances (CA Type)" was modified. Now, this part asks to specify the name/type insurance provided by the state government.
	TP (Non-Resident Parents Transfers)	TP (Non-Resident Parents Transfers)	None
	TH (Non-Resident Siblings Transfers)	TH (Non-Resident Siblings Transfers)	1) In question TH001, dates were changed from 2001 to 2005. 2) In question TH001a (option 3 and 8), an instruction to the interviewer was included. This instruction indicates that he/she should review the pre-printed list and then continue to question TH12x. 3) In question TH01a, dates were changed from 2001 to 2005. 4) In question TH01a, options 2 and 8 were eliminated. 5) In question TH22 (option 1), the instruction to the interviewer was eliminated.
	THI (Non-Resident Children Transfers)	THI (Non-Resident Children Transfers)	1) In question THI24b, an instruction to the interviewer was included. This instruction indicates that he/she should consider the codes. 2) In question THI26, the instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was eliminated.
	TO (Transfers of Other Non-Resident Persons)	TO (Transfers of Other Non-Resident Persons)	None
	RES (Pregnancy Summary)	RES (Pregnancy Summary)	1) In questions RES00a and RES01a, dates were changed from 2001 to 2005.
	HE (Pregnancy History)	HE (Pregnancy History)	1) In question HE01a part "a" and "b", dates were changed from 2001 to 2005. 2) In question HE09 (option 1), an instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was included. 3) In question HE21, an instruction to the interviewer was included. This instruction indicates that he/she should write down the address of the medical service. 4) In question HE28, option 7 was included. This option helps to identify, more specifically, who provided care during his/her birth.

			5) In question HE30 (column [0] [2]), an instruction to the interviewer regarding the question that should follow was included.
	AC (Contraception)	AC (Contraception)	1) In question AC12, option 13 (Contraceptive Patch) was included.
	NE (Interview Section Notes)	NE (Interview Section Notes)	None
S	SA (Health Measures)	SA (Health Measures)	<p>1) In question LS00, dates were changed from 2005 to 2009.</p> <p>2) Question LS00* was eliminated.</p> <p>3) Question SA00x was included. This question asks for the interviewer's ID.</p> <p>4) Question SA00 was included. This question asks the interviewer to add the date and time of health measures.</p> <p>5) In question SA01, codes were eliminated.</p> <p>6) In question SA01a, the order was modified (before SA16). This question asks the time of his/her last meal.</p> <p>7) In question SA03, the age in the interviewer's instruction was changed from 15 to 12 years old.</p> <p>8) Question SA03b was included. This question asks to identify the image with which he/she identifies.</p> <p>9) Question SA03c was included. This question indicates the interviewer that he/she should verify if the respondent is a man or a woman.</p> <p>10) Question SA09 changed to SA03d.</p>
			<p>11) Question SA10 changed to SA03e.</p> <p>12) In questions SA04 and SA05, the age was modified from "older than 15 years old" to "older than 12 years old".</p> <p>13) Question SA06 was eliminated.</p> <p>14) In SA11X, an instruction to the interviewer was included. This instruction indicates that he/she should verify the age.</p> <p>15) In question SA11, the age was modified from older than 12 years old to older than 15 years old.</p> <p>16) In questions SA11a and SA11b, an instruction to the interviewer was included. This instruction indicates that he/she should measure hip circumference and size sitting down (for those individuals older than 15 years old).</p>

			<p>17) In question SA12, an instruction to the interviewer was included. This instruction indicates that he/she should take the first blood pressure measurement (for those individuals older than 15).</p> <p>18) In question SA13, the instruction to the interviewer was eliminated.</p> <p>19) In question SA12a, an instruction to the interviewer was included. This instruction indicates that he/she should take the first pulse measurement (for those individuals older than 15).</p> <p>20) In question SA14, an instruction to the interviewer was included. This instruction indicates that he/she should take the second blood pressure measurement (for those individuals older than 15).</p> <p>21) In question SA14a, an instruction to the interviewer was included. This instruction indicates that he/she should take the second pulse measurement (for those individuals older than 15).</p> <p>22) In question SA15, the instruction to the interviewer was eliminated.</p> <p>23) In SA16X1, an instruction to the interviewer was included. This instruction indicates that he/she should verify the age.</p> <p>24) In SA16X2, an instruction to the interviewer was included. This instruction indicates that he/she should check the cover (SAX).</p> <p>25) Questions SA16x and SA16z were eliminated.</p> <p>26) The order and name of health measures was modified. The current order is as follows: A) Question SA16b for total cholesterol; B) Question SA16c for cholesterol HDL; and, C) Question SA16d for glycosylated hemoglobin.</p> <p>27) In question SA17a, the instructions to the interviewer were eliminated (except to paste the label).</p> <p>28) Questions SA20 to SA26 were included. These questions ask for the interviewer's input about the type of clothes he/she was wearing during the interview, the measurement results, etc.</p>
	NE (Interview Section Notes)	NE (Interview Section Notes)	1) A new section was included. This section asks for information regarding the measurement session at the household.
EA	ECA (Cognitive Abilities)	ECA (Cognitive Abilities)	1) Figures were modified.

	NE (Interview Section Notes)	NE (Interview Section Notes)	None
EN	ECA (Cognitive Abilities)	ECA (Cognitive Abilities)	1) Figures were modified.
	NE (Interview Section Notes)	NE (Interview Section Notes)	None

4.1 Retrospective Information

In books IIIA, IIIB and IV, there are sections designed to collect retrospective information on household members. Examples of these sections are education, marriage, migration and participation in the labor market. The individuals who answered these sections in the MxFLS-1 and MxFLS-2 (panel members) did not have to re-answer these sections. They only had to update these sections with information from 2005 to the date of the MxFLS-3 interview. The classification of each individual as panel or new member (according to the books answered in 2002) is in the pre-printed list.

Generally, the MxFLS-3 collects less information if the individual is a panel member as opposed to a new member. The questionnaires were structured 1) to collect the same retrospective information for new and panel members and 2) to update the information collected during MxFLS-2 for panel members. That is, the questions aim at collecting information from 2005 to the date of the MxFLS-3 interview. This way we have complete retrospective information for panel individuals in the MxFLS-3.

Table 3 provides a summary of the differences between the data collected for panel and new individuals in the retrospective sections, and their implications for the panel history.

Table 3. MxFLS-1, MxFLS-2 and MxFLS-3 Retrospective Information

Section	New Members	Panel Members	Complete Panel Members History
IIIA-ED (Education)	Last level of education attained	Last level of education attended since school year 2004/2005.	Use the MxFLS-2 education section information for schooling information prior to 2005.
IIIA-ED (Repeated Grades)	Repeated school levels since elementary school	School levels repeated since 2005	Use the MxFLS-2 education section information for schooling information prior to 2005. Schooling information between 2005 and 2009 is reported in MxFLS-2 and MxFLS-3.
IIIA-HM (Marriage History)	Complete Marital History	Marriage History since 2005	For all interviewees who did not get married before 2005, MxFLS-3 provides complete marital history. Details on marriages that ended before 2005 can be found in MxFLS-2.
IIIA-MG (Permanent Migration)	All questions related to birth (place of birth and all changes in residence since the age of 12)	All changes in residence since the age of 12	Use MxFLS-1 for place of birth and place of residence at 12 years old.
IIIA-TB (Employment) Verify TB54x	Questions related to most recent employment, employment in 2006 and first employment	Questions related to most recent employment, employment in 2006	For panel members, additional information can be found in MxFLS-2.
IV-RES (Pregnancy History)	Pregnancy History	Pregnancy History after 2005	Use MxFLS-2 for the pregnancy history section before 2005. For births after 2005, use MxFLS-3.

5. File Structure

This section contains information about the organization of the MxFLS files, its names and other characteristics. Additional information on the database can be found in the questionnaires and code manuals. To facilitate the analysis, every household questionnaire includes the file name that contains the information found on that page. There is a code manual for each questionnaire that describes the data and its level of observation.

5.1. Basic File Organization

The MxFLS-3 files are organized in two main groups:

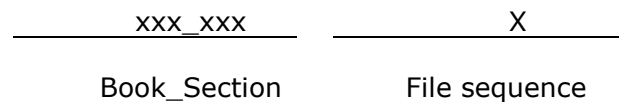
- Detailed documentation of the Mexican Family Life Survey (MxFLS-3)
- Databases

5.2. Household Surveys

The household files include the databases, the questionnaires and code manuals. Databases are available in Stata 8.0 format. For those who are interested in working with a different format, Stata Transfer software is recommended. This software can convert the files from Stata to ASCII, dBase, Excel, SAS, SPSS, Statistica and SYSTAT.

Household survey data files:

- Every zipped file contains 11 household survey books. As a reference, the letters "hh" indicate the data corresponds to households; the numbers "09" indicate the data corresponds to the MxFLS-3; and ".dta" indicates the data is in Stata format.
- The household survey is comprised of 11 interview books. The files are labeled as follows: hh09dta_byy, one file for every section of each the book; where dta indicates the corresponding data files and yy is equivalent to the name of the book (c, 1, 2, 3A, 3B, 4, 5, S, EA, EN and X for the Proxy book).
- There are questionnaire files and code manuals for all the household survey data files. It is easy to understand the file's nomenclature. The first characters are associated with the specific book questionnaire followed by the specific section characters and the final number denotes any multiple section database files.



For example, in regards to the permanent migration section (MG) in book 3A, the first database: iiaa_mg means that the file contains information from book 3A, section MG. The following: iiaa_mg1 denotes a second file of information from book 3A, section MG.

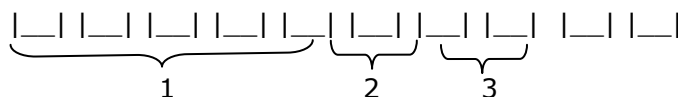
5.2.1 Level of observation and Identifiers

In the MxFLS, like in other longitudinal surveys, it is very important to identify the households and individuals that were interviewed at baseline (we will refer to these households/individuals as panel households or panel individuals).

In order to facilitate the process of merging information from different rounds, we describe the method used to generate household and individual identifiers.

Household Identifier (Folio)

The Folio or number that we use to identify households is comprised of the following 10 digits:



1. The first six digits are the numbers that identify the panel household.
1. The seventh position indicates the round in which the household was interviewed/formed for the first time. The letter "A" corresponds to panel households, interviewed/formed in 2002; letter "B" to new households, interviewed/formed in 2005 (these new households are the result of split-offs of one or more than one panel member from their original household of 2002); and "C" for new household interviewed/formed in 2009-2012.

2. The eighth digit is either a "P" or an "H". The letter "P" indicates that the household belongs to a panel member, whereas the letter "H" indicates that it belongs to a new member. According to fieldwork protocols, households that belong to new members are interviewed only if they are formed by the offspring (born after 2002) of a panel member.
3. The last two digits allow to identify the new households that are formed due to split-offs of panel members from their original household of 2002. In the case of panel households, these two digits are "00". In case of new households, the two digits correspond to the LS (individual identifier) of the panel member who splitted from the original household. If there is more than one panel member in the new household, the LS is the lower of the two.
4. Special Cases. If two panel members that come from two different panel households form a new household, the folio is generated as follows:

Special Cases	Criteria for the last two digits of the folio
At least one woman and one men	The LS of the men is used
At least two men	The LS of the eldest men is used
At least two women and no men	The LS of the eldest woman is used

Example:

Panel Household in 2002

Suppose the panel household had the following four members:

Folio 2002	LS 2002	Name	Pid_link
123450 AP 00	01	Juan	123450 AP 00 01
123450 AP 00	02	María	123450 AP 00 02
123450 AP 00	03	Pedro	123450 AP 00 03
123450 AP 00	04	Enrique	123450 AP 00 04

Changes in the Panel Household from 2002 to 2005

Suppose that in 2005, Juan and Maria who were interviewed in the same household than in 2002 have a daughter named Camila. Additionally, suppose that Pedro and Enrique left the panel household and created a new household.

First, we add Camila (with a consecutive LS number) to the roster of the panel household. It is important to highlight that we never use the LS of the individuals who left the household or died.

Folio 2005	LS 2005	Nombre	Ls01a. Still living in this household?
123450 AP 00	01	Juan	1. Yes
123450 AP 00	02	María	1. Yes
123450 AP 00	03	Pedro	3. No
123450 AP 00	04	Enrique	3. No
123450 AP 00	05	Camila	4. New member

Question LS01a of the MxFLS-2 has the following codes to indicate the status of each individual within that household:

Codes	Description
0	Passed away

1	Still lives in this household
3	Lived in 2002 but not in 2005
4	New member

In this case, Juan and Maria, who were interviewed in the same household, have "1" in the LS01a; Camila, who was born after the MxFLS-1 and before the MxFLS-2 has "4"; and Pedro and Enrique, who were no longer living in that household, have "3".

New Household Formation in 2005

The MxFLS-2 folio that corresponds to the household formed by Pedro and Enrique is 123450 BP 03. This folio is generated as follows:

Folio 2005	LS 2005	Name	Ls01a. Still living in this household?
123450 BP 03	01	Pedro	4. New member
123450 BP 03	02	Enrique	4. New member

The first six digits—which identify the panel household from which the new household was formed—do not change. The seventh digit is a "B" indicating that the household was formed in the MxFLS-2. The eighth digit is a "P" indicating that the household belongs to a panel member (i.e., Pedro is a panel member). The last two digits correspond to Pedro's LS (i.e., in the panel household Pedro had an LS of 03). We used Pedro's LS instead of Enrique's because Pedro's has a lower value (03 vs 04).

Changes in the Panel Household from 2005 to 2009

Suppose that by the MxFLS-3, Maria and Juan have another child, Carlos (born in 2008). Additionally, Maria has another daughter, Adela, who was born in 2003 and lives with her grandparents. Pedro (who used to live with Enrique) has a son, and Enrique returns to the panel household.

These changes in the panel household are summarized below:

Folio 2009	LS 2009	Name	Ls01a. Still living in this household?
123450 AP 00	01	Juan	1. Still lives in this household
123450 AP 00	02	Maria	1. Still lives in this household
123450 AP 00	03	Pedro	3. Lived in 2005 but not in 2009
123450 AP 00	04	Enrique	6. Lived in 2005, not in 2009, and returned in 2009
123450 AP 00	05	Camila	1. Still lives in this household
123450 AP 00	06	Carlos	4. New member
123450 AP 00	07	Adela	5. Son/daughter of an original member who does not live in the HH

It is important to note the following:

First, Enrique has "06" in the Ls01a because he returned to the panel household. Second, Carlos and Adela are included in the roster with consecutive LS numbers. That is, Carlos has LS 06 and Adela LS 07. Pedro's line stays the same, in case he returns to the panel household.

Question LS01a of the MxFLS-3 has the following codes to indicate the status of each individual within that household:

Codes	Description
0	Passed away
1	Still lives in this household
3	Lived in 2005 but not in 2009
4	New member
5	Son/daughter of an original member who does not live in the HH
6	Lived in 2005, not in 2009, and returned in 2009

In this case, Carlos, who is a new member has "04" in the LS. Adela's LS is "05" because she is the daughter of a panel member (born after 2002) and does not live in the household. According to the survey's protocol, the MxFLS should track Adela and interview the household where she lives.

Changes in the New Household from 2005 to 2009

Folio 2009	LS 2009	Name	Ls01a. Still living in this household?
123450 BP 03	01	Pedro	1. Still lives in this household
123450 BP 03	02	Enrique	3. Lived in 2005 but not in 2009
123450 BP 03	03	Sara	4. New member
123450 BP 03	04	José	4. New member

Adela's Household (daughter of a panel member born after 2002)

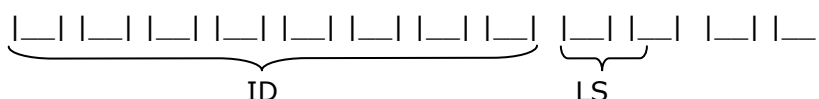
As mentioned above, Adela lives with her grandparents Rosendo and Rosa:

Folio 2009	LS 2009	Name	Still living in this household?
123450 CH 07	01	Rosendo	4. New member
123450 CH 07	02	Rosa	4. New member
123450 CH 07	03	Adela	4. New member

The folio of Adela's household is 123450 CH 07. The first six digits show the panel household that originated this new household. The seventh digit shows the household was interviewed/formed in 2009. The eighth digit indicates that the household belongs to a new member. The last two digits correspond to Adela's LS.

Individual Identifier (Pid_link)

The pid_link is a unique individual indicator that stays constant throughout rounds. The pid_link is comprised of 12 digits. The first 10 digits correspond to the household number in which the individual was registered for the first time, whereas the last two digits correspond to the first LS that was assigned to him/her.



The pid_link allows linking, at the individual level, information from different rounds. The pid_link never changes, even when individuals move to other households.

The following rule applies to generate the pid_link:

Panel member (original member) of 2002	Folio 2002 + LS 2002
New members registered in 2005	Folio 2005 + LS 2005
New member registered in 2009	Folio 2009 + LS 2009

Example:

Panel Household in 2002

Based on the information presented above, the following pid_links corresponds to these panel members:

Folio 2002	LS 2002	Name	Pid_link
123450 AP 00	01	Juan	123450 AP 00 01
123450 AP 00	02	María	123450 AP 00 02
123450 AP 00	03	Pedro	123450 AP 00 03
123450 AP 00	04	Enrique	123450 AP 00 04

The first 10 digits correspond to the household's folio in which they were registered for the first time (i.e., in 2002). The last two digits correspond to the LS that was assigned to each participant within that household.

Changes in the Panel Household from 2002 to 2005

In our previous example, Camila is included in the panel household in 2005. The pid_links of the panel household in the MxFLS-2 are the following:

Folio 2005	LS 2005	Name	Ls01a. Still living in this household?	Pid_link
123450 AP 00	01	Juan	1	123450 AP 00 01
123450 AP 00	02	María	1	123450 AP 00 02
123450 AP 00	03	Pedro	3	123450 AP 00 03
123450 AP 00	04	Enrique	3	123450 AP 00 04
123450 AP 00	05	Camila	4	123450 AP 00 05

New Household Formation in 2005

As shown in the Table presented below, Pedro and Enrique's pid_link is the same, even though they left the panel household between 2002 and 2005.

Folio 2005	LS 2005	Nombre	Ls01a. Still living in this household?	Pid_link
123450 BP 03	01	Pedro	4.	123450 AP 00 03
123450 BP 03	02	Enrique	4.	123450 AP 00 04

Changes in the Panel Household from 2005 to 2009

In our previous example, in the MxFLS-3, Carlos is included in the panel household, Adela and her grandparents are included in Adela's household and Pedro's wife and

son are included in Pedro's household. The following table shows the pid_link of each household member:

Folio 2009	LS 2009	Name	Ls01a. Still living in this household?	Pid_link
123450 AP 00	01	Juan	1	123450 AP 00 01
123450 AP 00	02	Maria	1	123450 AP 00 02
123450 AP 00	03	Pedro	3	123450 AP 00 03
123450 AP 00	04	Enrique	6	123450 AP 00 04
123450 AP 00	05	Camila	1	123450 AP 00 05
123450 AP 00	06	Carlos	4	123450 AP 00 06
123450 AP 00	07	Adela	5	123450 AP 00 07

Carlo's pid_link is 123450 AP 00 06, the first 10 digits correspond to the household's folio in which he was registered for the first time (123450 AP 00), whereas the last two digits correspond to his LS. It is important to note that Adela was included in the panel household with a five in the LS01a to show that she is the daughter of a panel member but does not live in that household.

Changes in the New Household from 2005 to 2009

Folio 2009	LS 2009	Name	Ls01a. Still living in this household?	Pid_link
123450 BP 03	01	Pedro	1	123450 AP 00 03
123450 BP 03	02	Enrique	3	123450 AP 00 04
123450 BP 03	03	Sara	4	123450 BP 03 03
123450 BP 03	04	José	4	123450 BP 03 04

Sara's pid_link is 123450 BP 03 03. The first 10 digits correspond to the household's folio in which she was registered for the first time (123450 BP 03); the next two digits correspond to the LS (03). Similarly, Jose's pid_link is 123450 BP 03 04.

Adela's Household (daughter of a panel member born after 2002)

Finally, the following table shows the pid_links of the Adela's household.

Folio 2009	LS 2009	Name	Ls01a. Still living in this household?	Pid_link
123450 CH 07	01	Rosendo	4	123450 CH 07 01
123450 CH 07	02	Rosa	4	123450 CH 07 02
123450 CH 07	03	Adela	4	123450 AP 00 07

5.3. Household Questionnaire Files and Code Manuals

- There are eleven questionnaire files, one for each household book (hh05q_byy); where the letter "q" refers to the corresponding questionnaire files.
- There are eleven code manuals files. One for each household book (hh05cb_byy); where the letters cb refer to the code manual files.

- The zip file (hh05q_all) contains all eleven household questionnaire files.
- The zip file (hh05cb_all) contains all eleven code manual files.

The questionnaire files and code manuals are in PDF format.

6. File Combinations

The MxFLS data are stored in separate files (e.g., section ii_ah in book 2 contains information about assets and section ii_in also found in book 2, contains information on non-labor income). To analyze the data, combinations between the different data files is usually required. The way in which data are combined depends on the nature of the analysis. This section discusses different ways in which data files may be combined.

6.1. Linking Data

Sometimes, you may need to analyze data that is in different files. For example, book 3A section iii_a_ata and book 5 section y_atn, contain data on time allocation. Data in section iii_a_ata refers to adult time allocation and section y_atn refers to child time allocation. The adult variables begin with ata, while the child variables begin with atn; however, the information in both files refers to the same. In this case, it might be interesting to combine both files. To do so, it is necessary to use the APPEND command in STATA or the SET command in SAS. The result will be a file containing all child and adult observations. It is worth mentioning that if the variable names are different, the variables can be renamed in order to match with the variables in the other file. When linking data from books 3A, 3B, and 4, it is important to verify if any section of these books is included in the Proxy book. This way, the interviewee's data (provided by him or herself) can be combined with data from the Proxy book.

The following table shows additional combinations. It is important to keep in mind that some files may need to be restructured before they are combined due to the different levels of observation. Also, some files may require renaming some variables.

Table 4. Household Files that allow Linking Information

Theme	Files	Specific Informant
Files	ii_ah and iii_a_ah	Book 2 and Book 3A Informant
Credit	ii_crh and iiib_cr	Book 2 and Book 3A Informant
Non-labor income	ii_in and iii_a_iin	Book 2 and Book 3A Informant
Violence and Victimization	ii_vlh and iii_a_vli	Book 2 and Book 3A Informant
Education	iii_a_ed and v_edn	Children and adults
Employment	iii_a_tb and v_emn	Children and adults
Time allocation	iii_a_ata and v_atn	Children and adults
Outpatient Utilization	iiib_ce and v_cen	Children and adults
Health Status	iiib_es and v_esn v_he and v_esn	Children and adults
Inpatient Utilization	iiib_hs and v_hsn	Children and adults
Self-Treatment	iiib_ats and v_autn	Children and adults
Cognitive Abilities	ea_eca and en_ecn	Children and adults

6.2. Combining files at the Individual and Household Level

One of the most basic ways to create file combinations is to merge information from different files for a given individual or household. If both files contain data at the same level of observation, the merge will be “one to one”.

6.2.1. Combining files at the Individual Level

Suppose that the purpose of your study is analyzing a file containing information on education, height and weight of each individual. Book 3A file iii_ed (adult) and Book 5 file y_edn (children) contain information on education. Book S file s_sa contains height and weight measurements for each individual. To create this new file, we order each file by Folio and LS and then we merge by Folio and LS.

For example, suppose that a researcher wants to create a file with the child’s current weight and his/her weight at birth. Book S file s_sa contains information on current weight, while the iv_he2 file contains information on weight at birth. There is one observation per individual in s_sa just as in iv_he2. However, observations in s_sa are identified using Folio and LS, and observations in iv_he2 are identified using Folio and He06 (remember, book 4 section HE inquires on the history of pregnancies and identifies each pregnancy with a personal identifier LS for each son or daughter that is a household member).

First, it would be necessary to remove all the adult information from s_sa (remember that this file contains information on both children and adults). This can be done by eliminating information of those who are over a specific age limit. Second, it would be necessary to rename the variable He06 as LS in iv_he2 (or to rename the variable LS as He06 in s_sa). Third, it would be necessary to organize the files by Folio and LS and merge the files by Folio and LS. It is important to keep in mind that if the universe of observations in s_sa is greater than the universe of observations in iv_he2, there will be observations that will not match and therefore, will have to be erased.

6.2.2. Merging files at the Household Level

In the case of two files at the household level, such as ii_in and ii_inr from book 2 (that contain household characteristics), we organize each file by Folio and merge by Folio.

6.3. Combination of files at the Individual and Household Level

Often, it is necessary to merge different files that are not at the same level of observation. For this type of situation, it is sometimes necessary to restructure the files. When looking for the best way to combine MxFLS files it would be useful to determine if the variables identified in one of the files are a sub-component of the variables identified in another file.

For example, suppose we need to create a file containing information on the level of education of adults and household assets. The identifying variables in the education's file (iia_ed) are Folio and LS, but the identifying variable on household asset's file (ii_ah) is only Folio. In this case, given that the identifying variable in ii_ah is a sub-component of the identifying variable in iia_ed, we could simply merge using the variable Folio. The result would be a database at the individual level where the information on household assets is repeated for all the individuals who are members of the same household.

Now, suppose that we need to merge the education file (book 3A) with the violence and victimization file in book 3A. The identification variables in iia_ed are Folio and LS. The identifying variables in iia_vli1 are Folio, LS and SEQUENCE (an individual could have many incidents of violence and victimization and all of these incidents would be registered in iia_vli1). The file we want to create would be done in the following way:

First, given that the identifying variables in iia_vli1 are sub-components of the identifying variables in file iia_ed, we could simply merge by Folio and LS. This would result in a database containing as many logs as incidents of violence and victimization reported by each individual. Each log would contain information on the education level of each person and information on a particular incident.

The second option is to restructure the iia_vli1 file in such way that it is organized at the individual level, as opposed to the level of incidents of violence and victimization. In this case, the identifying variables would be Folio and LS. This could involve the creation of a file containing, for example, variables vli(01) – vli(15) for the first incident, vli12_1_1, vli12_1_2, ..., vli12_1_15 (up to 15 because the highest number of violent incidents reported by one individual is 15). This file will have more variables than iia_vli1 but fewer observations. If the data in iia_vli1 is restructured to create a file at the individual level, merging this file by Folio and LS with the iia_ed file will result in a database containing information on violence

and victimization and education at the individual level. It is worth mentioning that the restructuring of data files to convert them to a different level of observation, can be easily done in STATA with the reshape command or in SAS with the proc transpose command.

7. Number of questions and Variable names

The majority of the variable names in the MxFLS-3 correspond to the survey's question number. For example, variable names in section ED (Education) begin with ED followed by the number of question. In the MxFLS-3 questionnaires, there was an attempt to match the number of questions and names to MxFLS-1 and MxFLS-2. If a question was included or changed in MxFLS-3, generally an "a" or "b" was included to the question.

7.1. Missing values and Special codes

For numeric variables, a period (.) means a missing value. For text variables (string), a space means a missing value. The missing values in some variables could be the result of a no-response to a given question or the result of the "skips" or filters of the questionnaire. For example, question ah01 in book 3A requests that the interviewer verifies if the informant has answered book 2. If he/she has already answered that book, this person will not need to answer that section and can skip to the next one. On the contrary, if he/she has not answered that book, the interviewer will ask the entire AH section. Other reasons why missing values can exist are that the interviewee does not want or cannot answer the question. There are special codes for these cases, which end in 5, 7, 8 or 9 depending on the situation. Specifically, these special codes can take the following values (depending on the question and space assigned for the response):

5, 95, 995 or 9995 = Out of range, response cannot be registered because there is not enough space in the questionnaire.

7, 97, 997 or 9997 = Interviewee did not want to respond

8, 98, 998 or 9998 = Interviewee did not know the answer

9, 99, 999 or 9999 = The question does not apply

7.2. Type of answers

The majority of questions in the MxFLS require a numeric value response. However, there are some questions of open response. There are a maximum number of digits allowed for questions that require a numeric response. When a maximum number is reached in a given question, the interviewer must use the corresponding special code.

Some questions allow multiple answers. For example: Within your family, who decides matters regarding your children's education? In this case, alphabetical responses are specified.

For categorical variables, the questionnaire provides different options for each answer. The Code manuals also provide the response layout. For categorical variables, frequency distribution is also provided. When multiple answers are allowed in these specific variables, the Code manuals specify the number of interviewees who answered each question. If a variety of answer combinations were possible, the Code manual would not give the response layout.

8. Special characteristics of household's information in MxFLS-3

In this section, we present special characteristics of household's data that could affect the analysis.

8.1. Symmetric Information

In two sections of book IIIA (assets (AH) and household decisions (DH)), husbands and wives answer the same questions. In other words, husbands answer questions related to him and to the rest of his family (including his wife). Similarly, wives answer questions related to her and to the rest of the family (including her husband). This information allows comparisons on what couples think of themselves and of other household members.

Book IIIA section AH is only answered by household members who have a spouse/partner who has already provided household asset information requested in book II. Within a household, if two people are married, the asset's information provided could be the same and one person's information could be used to fill-in possible omissions of the other person. Similarly, in book IIIA section DH, married individuals describe the way household decisions are made. Information from both informants may be used to verify consistency and in case of missing information, it could be complemented.

The same happens in book IIIB section TH where detailed information on non-resident siblings' transfers is collected. The MxFLS collects information on the characteristics of non-resident siblings of all household members.

8.2 Duplicate Information

There are questions that are asked in multiple sections of the questionnaires. In most cases, the informant was the main source of information; in other cases he/she also served as a Proxy informant (or provided information on pre-printed lists). For example, in book 2, the section of household assets (AH) contains information that is also requested on individual books. Although it may be easier to use the household information from book 2, it is more likely that the information provided in the individual books is more accurate, or can be used to compliment the information from the first source.

Age. Information regarding age is asked in book C section LS (generally one household member provides the age of all household members) and on the cover of each individual book. We do not correct possible inconsistencies between the age that is reported in book C and that reported on the cover of individual books.

Sex. Information about individual's gender is asked in book C section LS, book S section SA and on the cover of books 3A and 3B. Like in the case of age, we do not correct any possible inconsistencies between the information reported in these books.

Marital Status. Marital status is asked in book C section LS and on the cover of books 3A, 3B and IV. When cleaning data, we try to make sure that the marital status registered on the LS list is the same than the marital status registered on the cover of the individual books.

Level of Education. Book C section LS reports the highest level of education achieved. This question is repeated in book 3A and 5.

Labor and Non-labor Income. Book 3A section TB requests information on labor income. This information is also requested in the Proxy book. Book 2 section IN asks for information on non-labor income at the household level and book 3A section IIN at the individual level. Information at the individual level is preferred, but the data at the household level is especially useful in analyzing total household income in cases when there is missing information for one or more household members.

Parental Survival. The household member list is registered in the LS section, which contains a line number for the mother and father of each household member (Is06 and Is07). Special codes are used to record whether the parents live but are not household members or if they passed away. Book 3 section TP asks if the mother or father are alive or passed away.

8.3. Relationships between Household Members

The MxFLS contains information on family relationships, particularly between husband and wife and between parents and children. In this sense, it is possible to identify who is the partner of each individual and who are their children. This information is not limited to household members, non-resident relationships are also covered.

Kinships within the LS roster (Book C)

Section LS has complete information on the relationship of current household members. The information provided in the list of household members LS is as follows:

Table 5. Kinship Relations

Variable	Information	Observations
Ls05	Who is the head of household in the MxFLS-3 and what is his/her relationship with the other household members.	This information shows the relationship that each household member has with the head of household. For example, if members LS 3 and 4 are sons of the head of household, they would be brothers or half-brothers. If member 5 is the head of household's mother and member 3 is the son of the head of household, it is almost certain that member 5 is the grandmother of member 3. Other examples are not so clear. For example, if members 6 and 7 are the grandchildren of the head of household, they could be siblings or cousins.
Ls06 Ls07	Household member's Father line number (LS) Household member's Mother line number (LS)	This variable allows linking an individual with his or her parents through their individual ID. For example, if person X has an Is06=1 and an Is07=2, her father is the head of household (given that the head of household is always LS=1) and her mother is LS=2.
Ls08	Line number of the caregiver responsible for children under the age of 15.	This variable indicates the person who is the caregiver (within the household) of children under the age of 15.

Identification of children in other sections

Book IV sections HE1 and HE2 contain information on the history of pregnancies for women between the ages of 14 and 49 years old. The data collected includes specific details about the child since the moment of birth and the mother's pre and post-natal care.

These sections correlate each birth with the personal identification number (LS) for each son or daughter who are household members. This allows merging children's information with other information in the survey. Sons or daughters whose LS is unknown were coded with a "99".

Sons or daughters who are non-household members Book 3B section THI provides detailed information on non-household-member sons or daughters. Detailed information on the characteristics of sons or daughters (household members) was not collected if this information was already given by another informant. For example, if person X (a man) is married to Y (a woman) who is father of the same children as Y and has had no other wives, the information provided by person Y regarding their children is used as information for children belonging to person X. If person X had children with another woman, person X would answer questions regarding his other children.

Non-household member siblings Book 3B section TH (siblings) gives detailed information on siblings who are not household members. In this case, and contrary to what happens with sons or daughters who are not household members, information on all the non-household member siblings was collected (even though the information of non-household member siblings could have been provided by another member). To obtain the number of children/siblings of each household member or to know who their parents are, it is necessary to merge different sections of the MxFLS. The following table shows how to create a database with this information.

Table. 6 Source of information for an Informant's immediate family members

Siblings	
Within the household	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For a household member, use variable Is05 in book C section LS to identify his/her siblings within the household. For any other member whose mother or father is a household member, check the Household Member roster (LS) for other members who identify their parents in Is06 and Is07 in book C section LS. For a household member who is not head of household and whose parents are not household members, siblings information is nuclear. Once household siblings have been identified, you can consult the information on individual books.
Outside the household	Use the sibling characteristic information regarding non-household members in book IIIB section THI.
Sons or Daughters	
Female informants	For each childbirth, use the information in book 4, section HE. For children alive, you can also use information from book 5.
Male informants	For each child belonging to the current couple, use the information given by the spouse/partner in book IV section HE and book 5. For children over the age of 15 of previous spouses/partners who are non-household members use data from book 3B section THI.
Parents	
Within the household	Depending on the required information, use data from books 3A and 3B for each parent or from book C section LS.
Outside the household	Use the information from book 3B section TP.

9. Cleaning MxFLS data

This section describes the systemization process of the information in the MxFLS-3. Collecting, systematizing and cleaning data are fundamental processes in any survey. In the case of the MxFLS, the process of entering data was carried out almost immediately after collecting data on the field. Once the phase of questionnaire design came to an end, the system for entering data "CAFÉ (Computer Assisted Field Editing)" was designed. CAFÉ was installed in laptops and the editor's team, who travelled with researchers to the field, was in charge of entering the information into the system.

This way, once our interviewers filled out the household information on the pre-printed questionnaires (and the fieldwork supervisor finished with the reviewing process), the information was given to the team in charge of entering it into the system. Entering data, while working in the field allowed, first, returning to the household to finish, verify any mistake/missing information or inconsistency, and second, to make the cleaning process more efficient.

The editor's team incorporated and corrected the information directly from their laptops using the assisting editing information system designed to detect mistakes or omissions. For example, if an informant's gender registered in the LS roster does not match with the gender registered on the cover of book 3A, an error message was generated. The editor would be held responsible for discussing possible errors with the interviewer. Given that the team in charge of entering data was on the field, some mistakes could be easily corrected. In our previous example, the interviewer could easily recall the interviewee's gender as the interview most likely took place a few days ago. Other mistakes required that the interviewer return to the household and verify the information directly with the informant. The MxFLS's team carried out an additional data cleaning process to correct any final mistake and publish the data.

9.1 Search System and cleaning process: "Look Ups"

To detect and solve more complicated errors, a cleaning process called "Look Ups" (LU) was implemented. Sophisticated Computer programs were required to guarantee the quality of information while using LU. This process used additional information from the questionnaires that was not entered into the electronic format. For example, information inconsistencies could have been created by inadequate corrections, which can be corrected by side note references created by the interviewer.

As an example, the LU program verifies that parents are at least 12 years older than their children. The program will automatically generate an error message that should be corrected using the original questionnaires. However, if the person in charge is not sure on how to correct the data, then the information is not corrected immediately. Some problems were relatively easy to correct, whereas others such as filters or omitted skips could not be corrected immediately.

9.2 Special cleaning for Open questions

Open questions. Some questions allow open answers. A specialized team carried out the cleaning process for these open answers.

Questions with answers "other, specify". This type of answer is found when the answer provided by the informant did not match any of the pre-coded options. In this type of answers, it was necessary to verify the text and decide if the answer could be included to an existing category, or if a new category should be created. Specialized teams from CIDE and UIA carried out this task. New categories were created when answers were substantially different from pre-coded options.

Numeric Variables. Some numeric answers did not fit in the space provided. In such cases, our trained interviewers were asked to fill-in the space with code 9 ending in 5 ("lack of space") and register the correct response in the questionnaire section "observations" or in "other, specify". If the interviewer provided a valid reason for this type of answer, numeric fields were included, allowing the correct response to be entered. It was not possible to correct all answers with this code, so special codes will sometimes appear in the data.

9.3. Verification Section

In all sections, there was an attempt to:

- Verify the LU process and determine if any remaining error or inconsistency could be corrected.
- Verify numeric answers and special codes, and verify all variables with missing values or “does not know” codes.
- Create or correct the “_1”, “_2” variables in such a way that special codes could be preserved and the number associated with a particular variable contained valid answers. Variables “_1” are generally associated with a numeric value and are indicative of whether or not the person answered the question.
- Verify that “skips” or “filters” were followed accordingly, and make appropriate corrections in cases where missing data was not due to skips or filters.
- Designate names and variable labels as clearly as possible.
- Correct the possibility of duplicate observations.
- Locate and eliminate any variable that could identify the informant.

9.4. Verification of identifiers throughout the books

It is essential to assign correctly the identifiers FOLIO and LS. The process for assigning these IDs was rigorously verified using a special program that reviewed that the same identifiers were assigned to the same individuals throughout the different sections. Additionally, this program verified that the age and name of each individual were correct throughout the sections.

9.5. Verification on units of measure

Some questions contained a numeric response and allowed to choose a unit of measure. For example, question CS10 from book I (Consumption) asked about the amount of products bought within the last few days. Among the answers were the options of kilograms, pieces, or other units. The informants could have provided wrong answers. For example, if an individual answered he had bought 10 kilograms of bread; the appropriate unit of measure for this response is more likely to be 10 pieces instead of kilograms. Similarly, if a woman reported an abortion after 11 months of pregnancy, clearly, the appropriate unit of measure was weeks as opposed to months. These types of corrections were applied to very few cases.

9.6. Creating variables and files

Some variables and data files were created to facilitate their use, for example:

Answers associated with occupation and employment in book 3A were coded but also allowed open answers. These open answers were subsequently coded according to the “Mexican Classification of Occupations (CMO)”. These new variables are ‘... cmo’ and are followed by the corresponding number question.

Information regarding age, date of birth and education may vary between books. The MxFLS team created a “best guess” for these variables using data from the MxFLS-2.