

OSHSYS98 Data Edits

Documented below are the edits Tillinghast – Towers Perrin performed on the data provided to us in connection with the preparation of OSHSYS Version 3.0 (“OSHSYS98”).

1. NCPDS Year 2000 Compliant Data Fields

The NCPDS data is from NCPDS tapes provided as of June 30, 1998 and earlier evaluations. Only the 1998 tape had 4-digit date fields. All earlier tapes were provided with 2-digit date fields. We modified fields to 4-digit format. For the majority of fields, e.g., date of accident, we assumed that the date year “XX” was “19XX”. The exception to this was the date of birth field for which we used a windowing assumption such that for a given tape year, the date of birth should imply that the employee was at least 13 years old.

2. NCPDS Duplicate SSNs

The NCPDS tapes contain the demographic data used to calculate the exposed Navy civilian population. Each unique Social Security Number was assumed to be a Navy employee. We tested the 1998 raw NCPDS data for duplicate SSNs and found 53 duplicate occurrences. We judgementally deleted one of each pair of records with duplicate SSNs. The duplicate records are shown in the accompanying Excel file.

3. OWCP Year 2000 Compliant Data Fields

The OWCP 1998 tape covers all FECA claims with activity from July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998. In addition to this data, we used the historical OWCP tapes that include all active claims from years 1989 to 1997. Only the 1998 tape had 4-digit date fields. All earlier tapes were provided with 2-digit date fields. We modified fields to 4-digit format. For the majority of fields, e.g., date of accident, we assumed that the date year “XX” was “19XX”. The exception to this was the date of birth field for which we used a windowing assumption based on the date of birth information in the NCPDS tables.

4. Relation of NCPDS and OWCP Data tables

Demographic data was based on NCPDS tables. The NCPDS demographic information was assumed to be more reliable than the FECA demographic data, so the OWCP data was matched back against the NCPDS data to obtain the appropriate details for each claim. If the claim in OWCPXX was not found NCPDXX or NCPD(XX-1), it was deemed invalid and excluded from OSHSYS tables. Primary link was on Social Security Number (SSN); secondary link was on combination of Full Name and Date of Birth.

5. Exclusion of Unaccepted Claims

OSHSYS includes only claims with adjudication status of accepted. The most recent activity entry in the OWCP tapes was used to determine the current adjudication status based on the ADJUDICATION field. Entries commencing with "A" were deemed to be accepted; all other claims were excluded.

6. Reconciliation to Control Totals

Control total summaries provided for comparison with electronic data were inadequate. The OWCP summary total information did not contain sufficient information for satisfactory checking, but merely recorded count totals. We recommend that the appropriate authority produce control total reports showing more detailed information such as aggregate totals of numeric fields (e.g., payment totals) and summary totals by tape year and/or loss year.

Conclusion

The preparation of the data for OSHSYS required that we make a number of material data edits based on judgement to obtain NCPDS and OWCP data that was internally consistent. Going forward, it may be more efficient for the data preparation and checking to be undertaken by an experienced EDP resource within the Navy who will then be responsible for distributing data to all end users. This is the best way to ensure that data sets used for different purposes are comparable and that conclusions drawn from one analysis can be used as input for different purposes.