Appendix E: Calculation of Total U.S. Experience

The variable indicating total amount of U.S. experience (USEXP) was calculated for **household heads** and **spouses** by summing the durations of employment periods in the United States. Because some life history data was not collected for heads for communities 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24, and for spouses from communities 1 to 32, this was not possible in those communities.

For household heads from communities 20-24, spouses from communities 1 to 32, and for non-household heads and spouses, USEXP is calculated as follows:

1) if USTRIPS equals 0, USEXP equals 0;
2) if USTRIPS equals 1, USEXP equals USDUR1;
3) if USTRIPS equals 2, USEXP equals (USDUR1 + USDURL);
4) if USTRIPS is greater than 2, USEXP equals USTRIPS multiplied by ((USDUR1 + USDURL)/2);
5) if any necessary variable has a missing value, USEXP equals 9999 (Missing).
6) if USBORN=1 then USEXP=8888 (N/A)

In cases where USEXP is calculated by this formula to be greater than what is possible (typically because of one trip substantially longer than the others, which affects the mean), USEXP is recoded to equal the total time possible, where total time possible equals ((USDURL-USDUR1)*12)+12+USDURL.

For example, where:
        USYR1=1985
        USDUR1=36
        USYRL=1989
        USDURL=8
        USTRIPS=4,
                total time possible = ((1989-1985) * 12) +12 +8
                                = 68
                and estimated USEXP = 4 * ((36+8)/2)
                                = 88

Thus, because the first trip was substantially longer than the subsequent trips, the average trip length calculated with USDUR1 and USDURL is estimated to be higher than what is possible. In this case, then, USEXP is downcoded to equal total time possible, or 68.