

# ***Programming and Use of Blaise to SAS Transformation Tool for Streamlining Processing in the Panel Study of Income Dynamics***

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The Panel Study of Income Dynamics is a nationally representative longitudinal study of over 8000 U.S. families. In order to facilitate the early the processing stages, PSID staff developed a tool (Data Extraction, Transformation and Loading DETL) that streamlines first step processing of Blaise files. The Oracle database, Oracle Forms and Reports, SAS/Access and SAS/Macros are used to develop the application. Once Blaise tables are extracted at the block level into SAS, processing staff can take advantage of the Blaise metadata information to create SAS setups for further processing. The DETL tool allows the user to confirm question text, frames, levels and frequencies of each variable before adding them to SAS set ups. DETL then can perform some basic SAS transformations including making a wide file, making a long file, renaming variables and merging various tables without requiring the user to write out all of the SAS syntax. DETL writes SAS code, generates SAS tables and copies the program and logs to server locations per the user specifications. The tool also creates metadata about SAS tables generated in the first step processing and uses the information to merge datasets in the second step.

This paper will discuss the development of DETL tool and will specifically how it is used in the PSID to streamline processing in the early stages including pulling forward set ups from previous waves to the current wave along with reports informing the user about which variables are new and which variables have been dropped.