

Maryland Higher Education Commission  
Data Dictionary

***ELEMENT TITLE:***

**Family Size**

**DEFINITION:** Indicate the number of people the student's family supported during the most recent academic year. The variable as defined by the FAFSA: anyone in the immediate family who receives more than 50 percent support from the dependent student's parents, or the independent student and spouse, may be counted in the household size even if that person does not reside in the house, as in the case of a sibling who is over 24 but still in college and receiving the majority of support from parents. Siblings who are dependent as of the application date are also included; regardless of whether they received at least 20 percent of their support from their parents. Any other person who resides in the household and receives more than 50 percent support from the parents may also be counted (aunt, cousin, etc) as long as the support is expected to continue throughout the award year. An unborn child who will be born during the award year may also be counted in the household size.

**FORMAT:** numeric – 2 digits

**CODES:** Enter two-digit family size using leading zeros.  
If family size is unknown, set to 0 (zero).

**COMMENTS:**

**RELATED TO:**

**GLOSSARY:**

**SYSTEMS:** FAIS

**SYSNAME:** FAMSIZE

**DOCUMENTED:** 04/28/04 Revised: 08/10/04

-DD78-