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AN INVESTIGATION OF MODEL-BASED IMPUTATION PROCEDURES USING DATA FROM THE INCOME SURVEY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

by

Vicki J. Huggins
Lynn Weidman
Statistical Research Division
Bureau of the Census

Recommended by: Paul Biemer

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The purpose of this study is to investigate the feasibility of using model-based imputation methods for record nonresponse in a longitudinal survey. Record nonresponse means that the responses to an entire set of questions (record type) are missing for a wave. In this study we have selected four variables to model and impute: (i) rcpt = receipt of earnings; (ii) wpay = weeks worked with pay; (iii) earn = earnings amount; and (iv) maid = medicaid coverage. Maid is on the person (P) record and the others on the wage and salary (WS) record. For any wave a person may respond to neither record type, to P, or to both. So the first three variables are reported or missing simultaneously and maid may or may not be missing at the same time as the others.

In order to reduce the amount of data manipulation required in this study, we want to select a subset of the available ISDP waves. The methods we envision will impute months in their order of occurrence, so that all previous months of data are available at the time a given month is imputed. Thus, we will use three waves of data—waves 1 and 2 will be complete data and the variables in the months of wave 2 will be modeled. Wave 3 will include missing record types so that we may model the relationship of missing variables to responses in wave 2. We will use only one rotation group in order to reduce the amount of data manipulation required and any complications which would be caused by waves overlapping for different rotation groups. I.e., all data will cover the same three waves and nine months.

Previous study of the relationship between demographic and employment-related variables has shown that the race (white, nonwhite) and sex status of a person is an important factor. For this reason we will attempt to put the data into four race-sex cells and model each one separately. This, in effect, models the interaction of race-sex with all the other variables in the model. Because of the small number of records available for use after fulfilling the data requirements introduced in the previous paragraph, we may not be able to fit models for all four race-sex cells. Or we may have to reduce the number of variables in some of the models.

For the data in each cell we must estimate models and evaluate imputations which use these models. The imputations are done by month and within month a specified order of variables is used. When imputing a variable, the current month value of all previously

imputed variables on the same and other record types are available, as are observed variables from other record types. All previous month variables are available as are all following month variables that are observed.

Of the four variables we are modeling we will treat two of them as continuous (weeks with pay and earnings) and two of them as categorical (receipt of earnings and medicaid coverage). Each month for each variable will be modeled separately. The explanatory variables will include those shown in Table 1 and wave 2 values of some demographic variables. For the categorical variables we will fit logit models and for the continuous variables linear regression models.

Table 1: Months of Variables Used in Fitting Models

		Variable in Model			
Month Modeled	Variable Modeled	rcpt	wpay	earn	maid
4	rcpt	1,2,3,7	3,7	2,3,7	3,4,5
	wpay	-	1,2,3,7	2,3,7	-
	earn	-	1,2,3,7	1,2,3,7	-
	maid	3,4,5	3,4,5	3,4,5	1,2,3,7
5	rcpt	2,3,4,7,8	4,7	3,4,7	4,5,6
	wpay	-	2,3,4,7,8	3,4,7	-
	earn	-	2,3,4,7,8	2,3,4,7,8	-
	maid	4,5,6	4,5,6	4,5,6	2,3,4,7,8
6	rcpt	3,4,5,7,8,9	5,7	4,5,7	5,6,7
	wpay	-	3,4,5,7,8,9	4,5,7	-
	earn	-	3,4,5,7,8,9	3,4,5,7,8,9	-
	maid	5,6,7	5,6,7	5,6,7	3,4,5,7,8,9

The numbers are the months for which the variable at the top of the column is used in modeling the variable at the left.

We will discuss three major stages in this study

1. Creation of data files that include nonresponse to be used for estimating model parameters.
2. Estimating models and searching for those most applicable.
3. Imputing values onto a data file for comparison with originally reported values.

Following that we will present conclusions and recommendations for further study.

CREATION OF ESTIMATION FILES

A file of records to be used for model estimation was created for each of white males, white females and nonwhites. Because of the small number of records of nonwhites available in our selected data set we were not able to separate them by sex. When estimating models for variables in wave 2 we must allow for record types WS, WS and P, or neither being missing in each of waves 2 and 3. The records of complete respondents for wave 1 were separated into two sets.

i) Both record types reported in wave 2. The following response patterns occured for wave 3. (R = reported, M = missing)

record type P	WS	number
R	R	1217
R	M	169
M	M	18

ii) One or both record types missing in wave 2. The following response patterns occured for waves 2 and 3.

wave 2		wave 3		
P	WS	P	WS	number
R	M	R	R	22
R	M	R	M	220
M	M	M	M	24
R	M	M	M	7
M	M	R	R	2
M	M	R	M	1

We will not simulate records with the last 3 patterns because of their small frequencies of occurrence.

For each demographic group, each record in (i) is assigned one of the first three patterns from (ii) or not used according to a set of probabilities. The records selected for use are written out to form the estimation file for that group.

The counts of these patterns for the three estimation files are:

wave 2 P	wave 2 WS	wave 3 P	wave 3 WS	white male	white female	non-white
R	M	R	R	15	18	28
R	M	R	M	181	166	84
M	M	M	M	10	7	22

MODEL ESTIMATION

Overview

There are 36 cases in this study for which models can be estimated—3 sex/race groups x 4 variables x 3 months. Because of previously determined prevalance of change in response to questions from wave to wave, more models were fit for month 1 wave 2 than for months 2 and 3. We have not had time to examine in detail all the models estimated. These include:

month 1, wave 2:	rcpt - white female, nonwhite
	earn - white female
	wpay - white female, nonwhite
	maid - nonwhite
month 2, wave 2:	earn - white female
month 3, wave 2:	wpay - white female, nonwhite

also missingness for WS in wave 3 for all records combined

Table 1 lists the months of data for each of these variables used when estimating a model for one of these variables in a specific month. The actual terms in the models are given in Appendix A and their definitions in Appendix B.

The statistical package GLIM (Generalized Linear Interactive Modeling) was used for modeling. It will estimate both linear regression and logit models, as well as many others. There are two main reasons it was selected: it tells the user when their are linear dependencies among the independent variables and leaves the linearly dependent variables out of the model; it is easy to add terms to or delete terms from an existing model interactively. It also performs transformations and calculations with variables and arrays.

For each case estimated, several models were fit by adding to and subtracting from independent variables used in a prior fit. This was done to find models that used fewer terms without significantly decreasing the closeness of the model fit. In the case of

linear regression we can actually perform F-tests to determine the effect of an increase or decrease in the number of terms included. For the logit models there are only asymptotically approximate chi-square tests (see Appendix A), so we use our judgement to decide on a model to use for imputation. The measure of fit given by GLIM is the scaled deviance, which is the residual sum of squares for linear regression models.

Appendix A includes tables of models fit that include terms in the model, scaled deviance and degrees of freedom. Some of the cases were modeled extensively to get a good idea of how the different variables affected the fit, but only a few models were tried for most cases.

Discussion of Estimation Results

Receipt of Wages

Logit models were fit in order to estimate the probability that a person did or did not receive wages in a given month. A difficulty encountered was that only a small percentage of persons reported no receipt of wages. For wave 2, month 1 the counts are:

i. 10 of 191 white females
ii. 2 of 206 white males
iii. 7 of 134 non-whites

Models for white females and non-whites were estimated. It is difficult to determine if any individual variables significantly affect receipt. The variances of parameter estimates are fairly large for most cases, especially for non-whites. The numbers of non-receipt are really too small to base any conclusions on them, but there are indications that the models are somewhat useful.

7 white females of the 10 non-receipt cases have probability of non-receipt ranging from .3433 to .8927. .0866 is the smallest. Only 12 of the 181 receipt cases have a probability as large as .1. 5 of these have probability greater than .3433 with .7060 the largest. An additional 40 cases have probability between .01 and .1.

For the 7 nonwhite non-receipt cases we estimated P(no receipt) as .0523, .1048, .2607, .8811, .9965, .9988, 1.0.

Of the 127 cases with receipt, only 11 have P(no receipt) $\geq .1$ and 44 have probability essentially 0.

These results suggest that there are sets of variables highly correlated with non-receipt of wages. Further examination with more data should be done.

Medicaid Receipt

Only the non-whites had enough cases of medicaid receipt to attempt modeling. If medicaid receipt was reported in a wave for a person, it was reported in all months of the wave. No one reported receiving medicaid after not receiving medicaid in a previous wave. Thus we were essentially modeling the probability of discontinuing medicaid receipt for the first month in a wave. Of the 8 cases that remained on medicaid in wave 2, 7 have P(medicaid) = 1.0 and the other P(medicaid) = .3333. Of the 6 cases that went off medicaid, two have P(medicaid) = .3333 and the others less than .0002. All those not on medicaid in wave 3 have very small P(medicaid) in wave 2.

This indicates some success in modeling discontinuance of medicaid, but more data is required for further investigation.

Earnings Amounts

There are some problems that become apparent from examination of the data

1. Some people report amounts that fluctuate with the number of pay periods or weeks in a month, others don't. (See Figures C.1 to C.4 in Appendix C.)
2. Do weeks with pay correspond directly to monthly amounts, or can amounts be from the previous month's work while weeks is for the current month?
3. There are lots of fluctuations in earnings for some people but not for others. We can't expect to get good models by grouping them together. We suggest breaking down records into four types that can be rather easily identified.

    a. constant earnings
    b. deterministic fluctuations (e.g., due to number of weeks)
    c. random fluctuations
    d. severe fluctuations

(a) and (b) are easily imputed. (c) can be modeled. (d) can be modeled but some imputes will have large errors. These cases can be modeled together with (c) after editing extreme values.

When using the residual sum of squares to measure model goodness of fit a few very large residuals can distort this measure. For our longitudinal data large residuals will occur when a person has earnings for a single month that are much higher or lower than in other months. In fact, for month 5 one residual contributes a very large percentage of the total deviance for all cases. This problem can be tackled by the use of data editing. In Appendix A models are included for two types of editing for month 4 earnings: (1) not using ∅ earnings when modeling; (2) editing all months according to month-to-month ratios. It is apparent that these procedures improve the overall fit, especially (2).

Weeks with Pay

Weeks pay were scaled by dividing by the maximum number of work weeks in the month before modeling. Imputes would be made by determining the appropriate fraction from the model, multiplying by the maximum weeks, and rounding to the nearest integer.

The results for both white females and nonwhites followed the same general pattern in going from month 4 to month 6. The fit for month 4 was not significant, but was for months 5 and 6. This can be seen by looking at the F-statistics in Appendix A. An examination of residuals from these models gives the same story. In month 4 only one of the records with fewer than the maximum weeks reported was fitted correctly, while about 50% were fitted correctly for 3 of the 4 cases in months 5 and 6. The reason for this fit pattern is probably the increase in information available for use as successive months are modeled. A reason that it is difficult in general to model wpay is that there are not many cases of fewer than maximum weeks reported (less than 10% for white females). Separately estimating models for people whose wpay are "frequently" less than the maximum may improve this fit.

Missing Wage and Salary Records

We wanted to see if there was any information that would indicate when a person would not respond in wave 3. That is, does one's response to questions in wave 2 tell us anything about the propensity to respond in wave 3? New estimation data sets for white males and females were created by selecting subsets directly from records of type (i).

The fits from this modeling were very poor, especially for those missing in wave 3.

IMPUTATION RESULTS

The imputation of variables onto a data file is performed by a FORTRAN program that uses the model parameters estimated by GLIM. Each month that is imputed requires a different modification of this program because different months of the independent variables are used. A version for imputing month 4 was prepared and used to impute rcpt, wpay and earn for white females. This imputation was done for all the appropriate records with complete wave 1 and wave 2 responses. The distributions of imputed and observed values are compared below.

	rcpt	
	yes	no
observed	549	36
imputed	580	5

	wpay					
	0	1	2	3	4	5
observed	2	8	15	10	36	514
imputed	0	0	0	0	3	582

Earnings were arbitrarily placed into categories for the purpose of this comparison.

	earnings											
upper bound	200	400	600	800	1000	1200	1500	2000	2500	3000	4000	+
observed	107	62	99	102	85	49	30	26	14	4	5	2
imputed	79	75	109	108	85	48	30	31	12	1	4	3

The results for rcpt and wpay are not very good. They follow the patterns expected from the model fits as discussed previously. The agreement for earnings is very close, especially for amounts above $400. From our examination of the earnings models and residuals we expect that there are some reported amounts close to zero that will not be imputed accurately by this model. This definitely shows up on the lower tail of the above distributions.

Additional comparisons for uncategorized earnings are shown in Appendix C.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Not enough cases with no receipt of wages, medicaid coverage or weeks with pay less than the maximum occurred to be able to model them well.

2. We should try to improve the fit for wpay in the first month of a wave. Part of our difficulty might be that month 4 can have 5 weeks, but months 2,3,5,6,7 and 8 all have 4 weeks. Another type of scaling than the one we used might be needed.

3. Imputes for rcpt are based on Prob(rcpt). Most of the non-receipt cases have Prob(rcpt) $\leq .6567$ and a small percentage of the receipt cases have probabilities that are small. The distribution of imputed rcpt would better match that of observed rcpt if we adjusted the imputation probabilities to make use of this information. One reason for this result is the very small number of non-receipt cases.

4. Before modeling earn the records should be separated into groups according to variability of amount reported. For the most variable groups data editing may also be needed to improve the model fit.

5. Our attempt to model probability of nonresponse in wave 3 failed completely. If this continues to be true with other data sets it would tell us that there are no identifiable differences between respondents and nonrespondents for this record type. This would support the application of models fit to respondents to imputation of nonrespondents.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

In the current study we have accumulated knowledge about the longitudinal behavior of the variables we attempted to model, including the frequency of different responses. Much of this came about from examining the data in order to see if there were reasons for the estimated models to look as they did. Much of this knowledge is summarized in the previous section. Based on what we have learned we suggest our work to continue along the following lines.

1. Use as our data set 3 consecutive waves from SIPP.

2. Construct our imputation file more carefully so that it has more records with infrequently occurring responses. (see (1) under Conclusions)

3. Look into ways for improving the estimated models. For example, including more response variables, including different functions of previously used response variables, and including interactions.

4. Determine ways of classifying longitudinal patterns of observed values for earn and wpay in order to fit more accurate models.

5. Investigate the feasibility of using prob(rcpt = yes) differently for the imputation of rcpt.

6. Look further into estimating the probability of WS nonresponse. This can give more information about the nonresponse mechanism or lack thereof.

7. Fit models for all months and investigate the longitudinal consistency of the imputations.

APPENDIX A

The models fit to the data are summarized here. Each model is fit for a particular dependent variable, month and demographic group. The exception is the last table for missing record type in wave 3.

Each table has four columns containing information about the model being fit. Under variables are listed the explanatory variables in the model. For model 1 this is a list of the variables. For other models a line beginning with a + gives variables added to the preceding model and a line beginning with a - gives variables removed from the preceding model. Occasionally there will be a listing of the form (5) + ___, - ___ . (5) is the model which is being altered at this step, not the preceding model.

Column 2 gives the scaled deviance for each model. If ℓ_f is the likelihood of the full model (using all the information in the observations) and ℓ_c is the likelihood of the current model, then scaled deviance is defined by

$$S(c, f) = -2 \log (\ell_c / \ell_f) .$$

For the linear regression models fitted this is the same as the residual sum of squares.

Column 3 gives the degrees of freedom (number of observations minus number of parameters estimated) for each model. For wpay column 4 has F-tests for the significance of the regression. For other models this column has comments concerning the correlation matrix of the estimated parameters.

In order to determine whether adding terms to a model improves or deleting terms from a model degrades the fit we can use an asymptotic test similar to those of analysis of variance. Let model 2 with r_2 degrees of freedom be nested within model 1 with r_1 degrees of freedom. If the full model f has n degrees of freedom, then

$$S(1,f) \sim X^2_n - r_1 \text{ and } S(2,f) \sim X^2_n - r_2$$

where the distribution is exact for normal error models and approximate for others. For comparing models 1 and 2 we can then look at

$$S(2,f) - S(1,f) = S(2,1) \sim X^2_{r_1 - r_2}.$$

RCPT - white females - month 4

	variables	deviance	df	comments
1.	rm3, rm2, rm1, rp3, mm1, m0, wpm1, em1n, mp1, wpp3, ep3	41.55	180	lots of aliasing 2 high correlations
2.	+age, ed, mars, re1	33.93	172	
3.	+smsa -rp3, mm1, mp1, wpp3	32.32	172	no high correlations used for imputation

MEDICAID - non-whites - month 4

	variables	deviance	df	comments
1.	rm1, r0, rp3, mm3, mm2, mm1, mp3, wpm1, wp0, mwk3, em1, e0, me3, em1r, e0r	3.567	120	lots of aliasing high correlations
2.	-gm, mm3, mm2, mwk3, me3, em1r, e0r	3.567	122	one high correlation
3.	-wpm1	3.567	123	
4.	-wp0, -em1	3.824	125	
5.	-e0	3.824	126	used for imputation

EARNINGS - white females

all cases month 4

1.	em3, em2, em1, ep3, me3	1821 + 04	185	
2.	+age, ed, mars, rel, smsa	1798 + 04	175	

0 earnings omitted month 4

1.	em3, em3a, e3, em2,em2a, e2, em1, em1a, e1, ep3, ep3a, e3p, me3	1268 + 04	168	
2.	-em3a, em2a, em1a, ep3a	1372 + 04	172	used for imputation
3.	(1)-e2, em1	1311 + 04	170	
4.	-em3a, em2a, e3p	1316 + 04	172	
5.	-ep3a	1342 + 04	173	
6.	+ep3a, age, ed, mars, rel, smsa	1285 + 04	162	mse increased over (4)

earnings edited month 4

1.	em3, em2, em1, ep3, me3	622 + 04	170	
2.	log(earn) dependent	1435 + 05	170	much worse

all cases month 5

1.	em3, em2, em1, ep3	3348 + 04	184	one very large residual
2.	+age, ed, mars, rel, smsa	3067 + 04		

all cases month 6

1.	em3, em2, em1, ep3	8714 + 03	183	
2.	+age, ed, mars, rel, smsa	8517 + 03	173	

WPAY - white female - month 4

	variables	deviance	df	F-test
1.	wpm3, wpm2, wpm1, wpp3, ep3, em1, mep3, age, ed, mar, eam1, rel, cnt, smsa, region, em1, ern, em2, em3, mwp3	1.414	165	$\frac{1509/25}{1.414/165} = 1.17$ $F_{25,165} = 1.90$ Cannot reject hypothesis that regression coefficients are 0.
2.	-mep3	1.414	165	
3.	-mwp3	1.414	166	
4.	-em2, -em3	1.415	168	
5.	+em2, +em3, -wpp3, -mep3 +mep3, +mwp3	1.414	166	
6.	-em2, -em3, -ent0, -mep3, -mwp3	1.419	169	model used for imputation

0 cases out of 11 where # of wpay < max were estimated correctly by model 6

WPAY - white female - month 5

	variables	deviance	df	F-test
1.	wpm3, wpm2, wpm1, wpp2, ep2, em1, mep2, age, ed, mar, rel, cnt, smsa, region, eap1, wpp3, mwp2, mwp3, ep3, mep3, em2, em3	2.461	164	$\frac{1.693/26}{2.461/164} = 4.66$ $F_{28,164} = 1.90$ Reject hypothesis that regression coefficients are 0.
2.	-mep2	2.461	164	
3.	-wpp2	2.528	165	
4.	-ep3	2.530	166	

5 cases out of 12 where # of wpay < max were estimated correctly by model 4

WPAY - white females - month 6

	variables	deviance	df	comments
1.	wpm3, wpm2, wpm1, wpp1, ep1, em1, mep1, age, ed, mar, rel, cnt, smsa, region, enp, wpp2, mwp2, ep2, mep2, wpp3, ep3, mwp1, mwp3, mep3, em2, em3	2.102	162	$\frac{5.310/28}{2.102/162} = 14.64$ $F_{28,162} = 1.85$ Reject hypothesis that regression coefficients are 0.
2.	-ep1, -wpp3	2.104	164	
3.	-mep1	2.104	164	
4.	-wpp2	2.104	165	
5.	-wpp1	2.105	166	

5 out of 12 cases where # of wpay < max were estimated correctly by model 5

WPAY - non-whites - month 4

	variables	deviance	df	comments
1.	wpm3, wpm2, wpp3, ep3, em1, mep3, ale, ed, mar, eam1, rel0, cnt, smsa, region, em1, ern, em2, em3, mwp3	1.895	108	$\frac{1.737/25}{1.895/108} = 3.99$ $F_{25,108} = 1.97$ Reject hypothesis that regression coefficients are 0.
2.	-em2, -em3	1.904	110	
3.	-ep3, -em1	1.939	112	

1 case out of 20 where # of wpay < max was estimated correctly by model 3

WPAY - non-whites - month 5

	variables	deviance	df	comments
1.	wpm3, wpm2, wpm1, wpp2, ep2, em1, mep2, age, ed, mar, rel, cnt, smsa, region, eap1, wpp3, mwp2, wmp3, ep3, mep3, em2, em3	2.239	107	$\frac{3.377/26}{2.239/107} = 6.21$ $F_{26,107} = 1.98$ Reject hypothesis that regression coefficients are 0.
2.	-ep3	2.327	108	

8 cases out of 15 cases where # wpay <max were estimated correctly by model 2

WPAY - non-whites - month 6

	variables	deviance	df	comments
1.	wpm3, wpm2, wpm1, wpp1, ep1, em1, mep1, age, ed, mar, rel, cnt, smsa, region, eap1, wpp2, mwp2, ep2, mep2, wpp3, ep3, mwp1, mwp3, wep3, em2, em3	5.486	105	$\frac{5.945/28}{5.486/105} = 4.02$ $F_{28,105} = 1.90$ Reject hypothesis that regression coefficients are 0.
2.	-mep1	5.486	105	
3.	-mwp2	5.486	105	
4.	-ep2	5.540	160	

4 cases out of 20 where # of wpay < max were estimated correctly by model 4

MISSING WAGE & SALARY RECORD IN WAVE 3

white males

	variables	deviance	df	
1.	rm3, rm2, rm1, em2, em1, wpm2, wpm1	112.1	157	
2.	-wpm2, -wpm1	112.9	159	
3.	-em1	121.4	160	much worse
4.	+em1, age, ed, mars, rel, hhnum, smsa	101.3	148	

white females

	variables	deviance	df	
1.	rm3, rm2, rm1, em2, em1, wpm2, wpm1	106.3	129	
2.	-wpm2	108.0	130	
3.	+age, ed, mars, rel, hhnum, smsa	96.37	118	

APPENDIX B

Variable transformations used in fitting models

Definitions of variables used in models

The month for which a model is being estimated has the designation 0. One month previous is m1, etc., one month in future is p1, etc.

r = receipt of wages
wp = weeks with pay
e = earnings amount
m = medicaid coverage
wm = maximum weeks in a month

Variables that are computed as functions of these variables will be defined. rm3, rm2, rm1, r0, rp1, rp2, rp3, mm3, mm2, mm1, m0, mp1, mp2, mp3 always have the obvious meaning described above.

<u>transformed variables used in modeling receipt of wages</u>

wpm1 = wp1/wmm1

$$wpp3 = \begin{cases} wpp3/wmp3 & \text{if wpp3 observed} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

em1n = min (ep3+.0005)/(em2+.0005), 5

$$ep3 = \begin{cases} \min\ (ep3+.0005)/(em1+.0005),\ 5 & \text{if ep3 observed} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

<u>transformed variables used in modeling medicaid coverage</u>

em1 = min (e0+.0005)/(em1+.0005), 5

$$e0 = \begin{cases} \min\ (ep3+.0005)/(eo+.0005),\ 5 & \text{if ep3 observed} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

e0r = min (e0)(wm0)/wmp3, 5

em1r = min (em1) * (wmm1)/wm1, 5

$$me3 = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if ep3 missing} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

transformed variables used in modeling earnings

$$em3a = \begin{cases} (em3)\ \frac{wp0}{wm0} \Big/ \frac{wpm3}{wmm3} & \text{if } wpm3 \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$e3 = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } wpm3 \neq 0 \\ (em3 + em2 + em1)/3 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$em2a = \begin{cases} (em2)\ \frac{wp0}{wm0} \Big/ \frac{wpm2}{wmm2} & \text{if } wpm2 \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$e2 = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } wpm2 \neq 0 \\ (em3 + em2 + em1)/3 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$em1a = \begin{cases} (em1)\ \frac{wp0}{wm0} \Big/ \frac{wpm1}{wmm1} & \text{if } wpm1 \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$e1 = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } wpm1 \neq 0 \\ (em3 + em2 + em1)/3 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$ep3a = \begin{cases} (ep3)\ \frac{wp0}{wm0} \Big/ \frac{wpp3}{wmp3} & \text{if } wpp3 \neq 0 \text{ and not missing} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$e3p = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } wpp3 \neq 0 \\ (em3 + em2 + em1)/3 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$me3 = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if ep3 not missing} \\ (em3 + em2 + em1)/3 & \text{ep3 missing} \end{cases}$$

transformed variables used in modeling weeks with pay

month 4

em3 = min em3/(wpm3+.005), 5000
em2 = min em2/(wpm2+.005), 5000
em1 = min em1/(wpm1+.005), 5000
eam1 = min em1/(em2+.005), 50

ep3 = { min ep3/(wpp3+.005), 5000 if ep3 observed
      { 0 missing

mep3 = { 0 if ep3 observed
       { 1 missing

mwp3 = mep3

ern = { min ep3/(em1+.005), 50 if ep3 observed
      { 0 missing

month 5

ep2 = { min ep2/(wpp2+.005), 5000 if ep2 observed
      { 0 missing

eap2 = { min ep2/(em1+.005), 50 if ep2 observed
       { 0 missing

mep2 = { 0 if ep2 observed
       { 1 missing

mwp2 = mep2

month 6

ep1 = { min ep1/(wpp1+.005), 5000 if ep1 observed
      { 0 missing

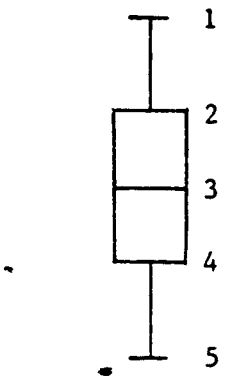
eap1 = { min ep1/(em1+.005), 50 if ep1 observed
       { 0 missing

mep1 = { 0 if ep1 observed
       { 1 missing

mwp1 = mep1

APPENDIX C
Earnings Amounts

Interpreting a box plot. There are 5 pieces of information given by each of the box plots.



1. Maximum value
2. Upper quartile
3. Median
4. Lower quartile
5. Minimum value

Not all box plots have these five components visible if two or more of them have the same value. Some plots have only a single horizontal line that indicates constant observed values.

Figure C.1 Each box summarizes nine months of earnings for a white female. They show differences in variability of earnings.

Figures C.2. - C.4. Each box summarizes three months (one wave) of earnings. Plots with no median and one large value have two amounts at the lower edge of the box and one at the maximum.

Figure C.5. Scattergram of non-zero reported amounts vs. residuals (= observed-imputed).

Figure C.6. Histogram of imputed amounts for zero reported amounts.

Figure C.7. Histogram of percentage error of impute for non-zero reported amounts. Note that some values have been trimmed off each end.

Figure C.8. Scattergram for same data as C.7. This shows clearly that most large negative percentages are due to reported values of less than $500.

FIGURE C.1.a

9 months of earnings for 30 white females

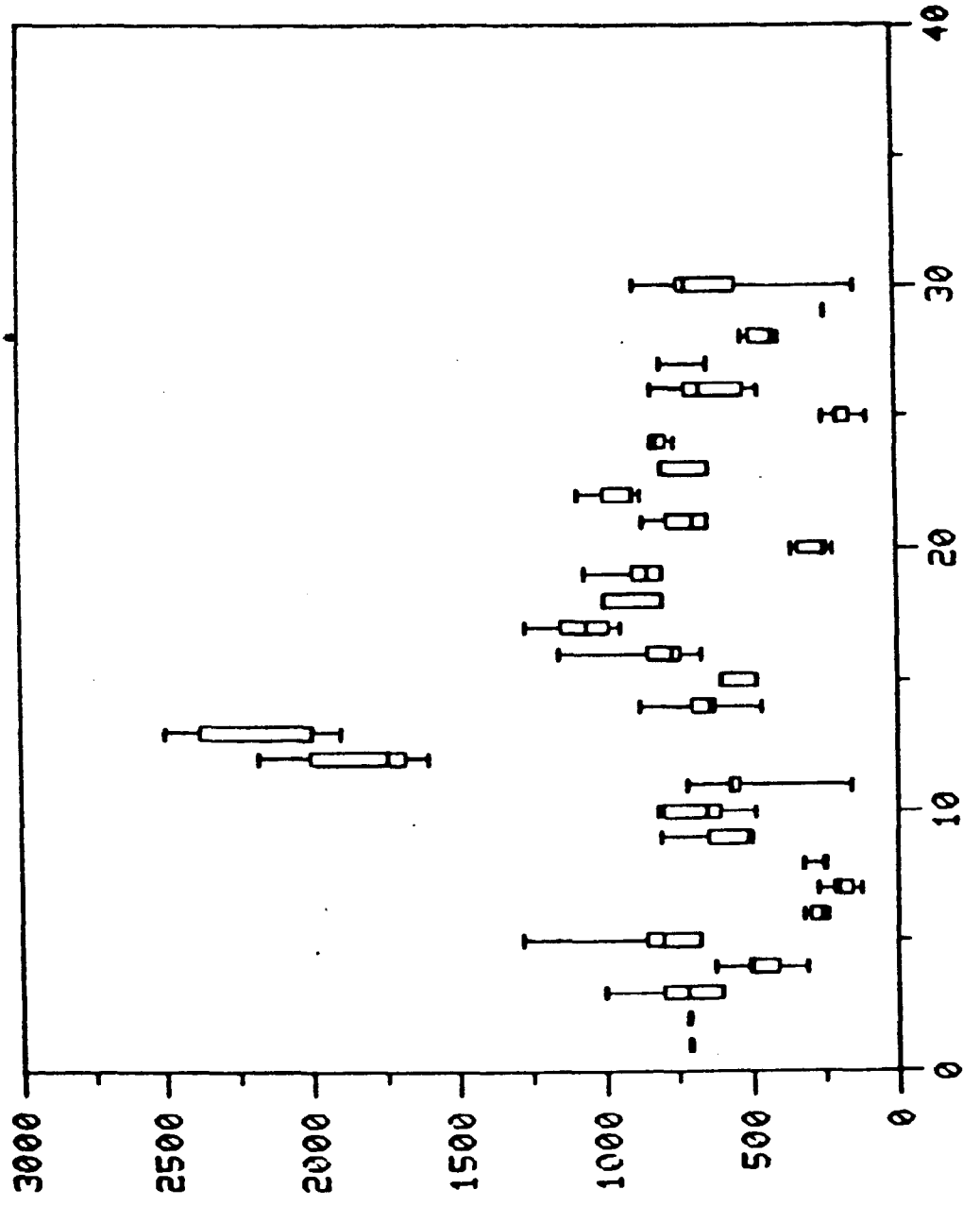


Figure C.1.b

9 months of earnings for 30 white females

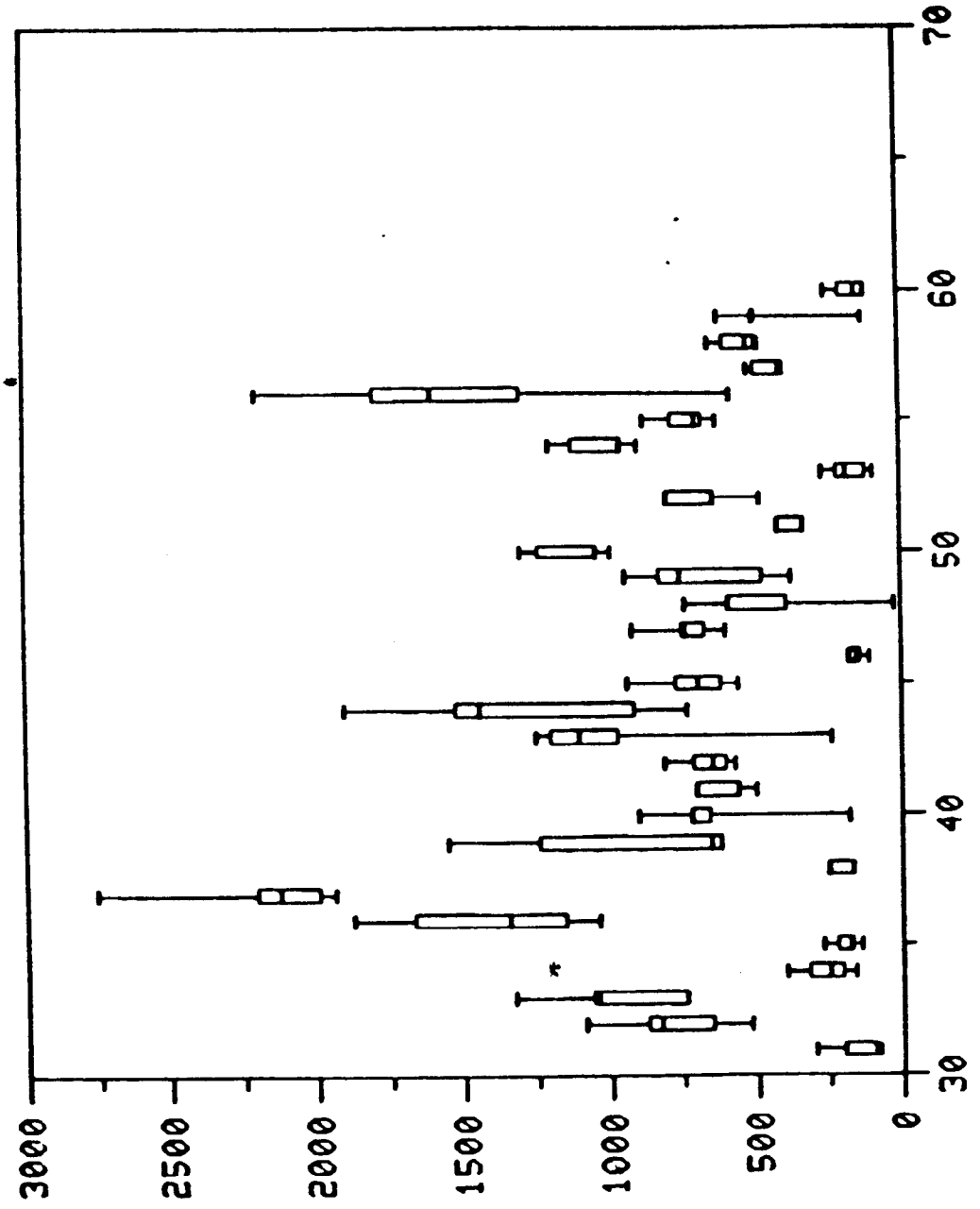


Figure C.1.c

9 months of earnings for 30 white females

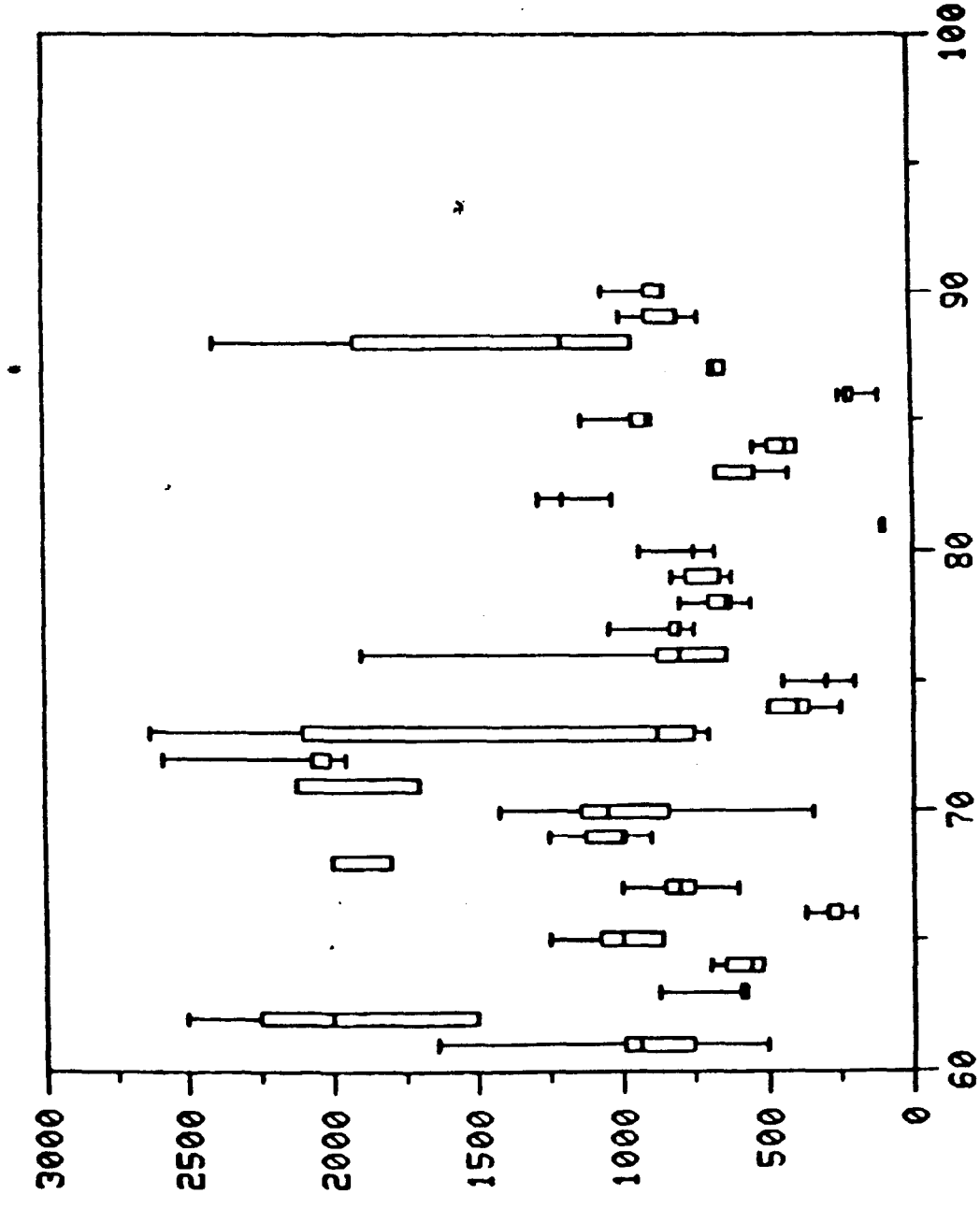


Figure C.2

Wave 1 earnings for 30 white females

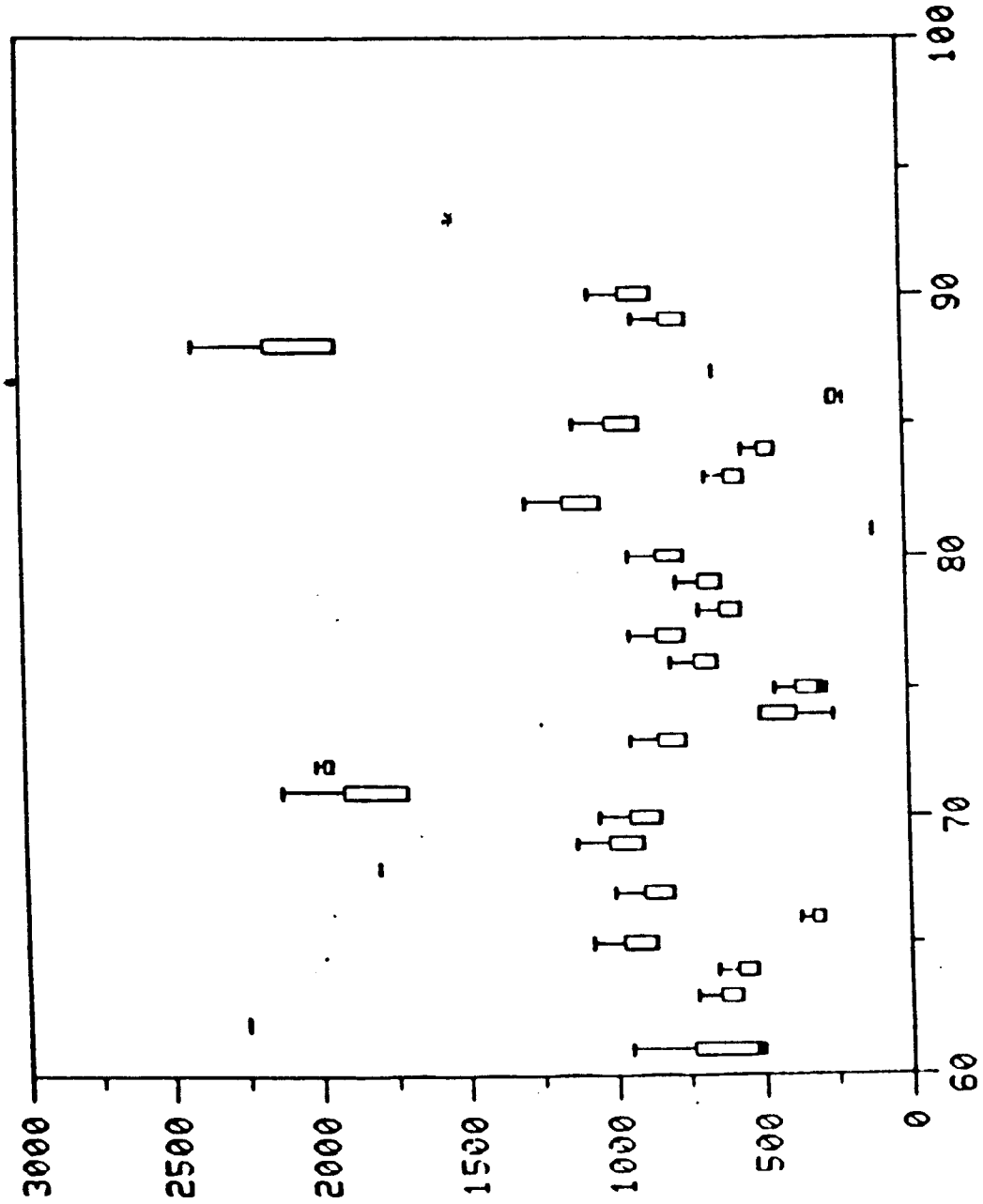


Figure C.3

Wave 2 earnings for 30 white females

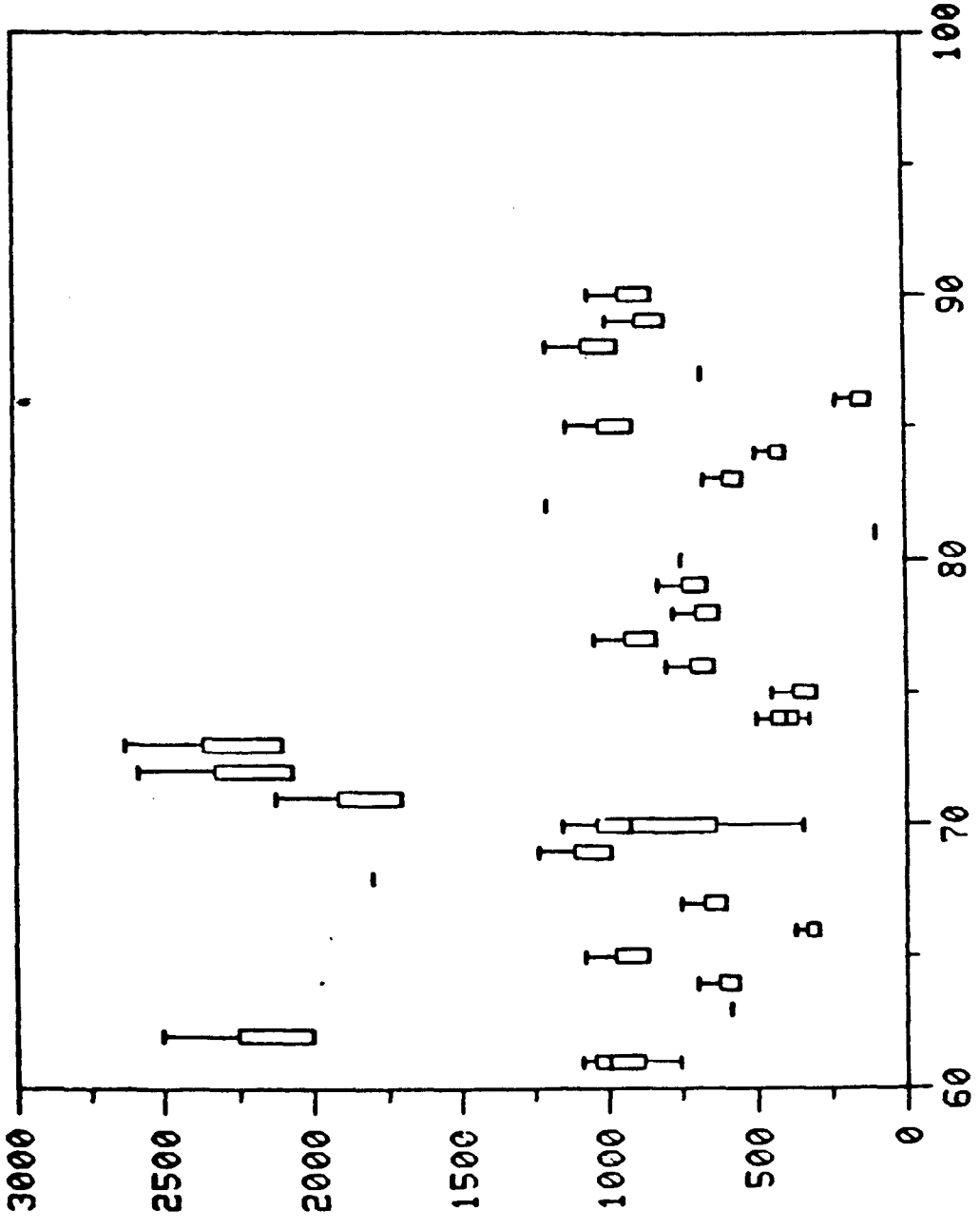


Figure C.4

Wave 3 earnings for 30 white females

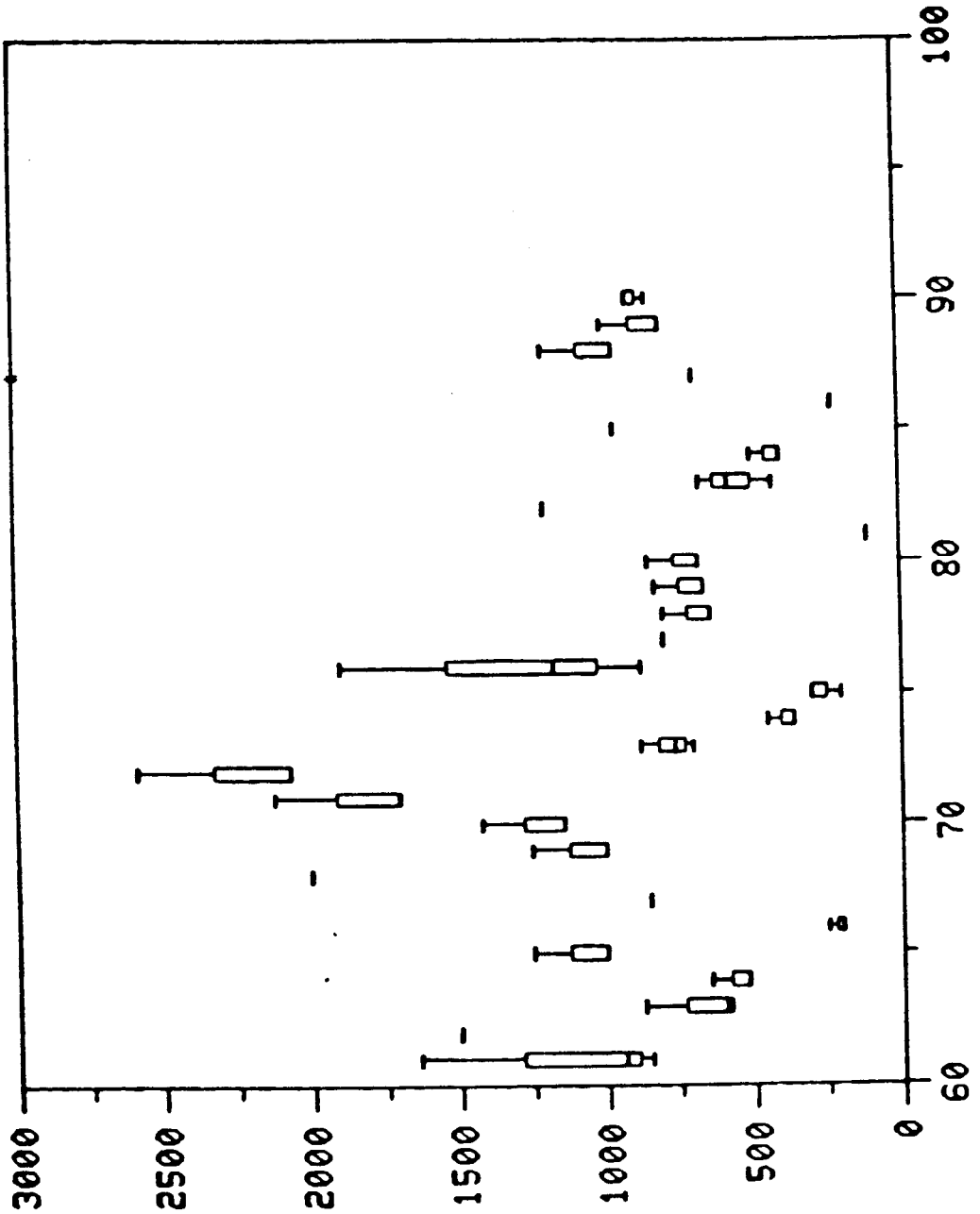


Figure C.5

Non-zero reported amounts vs. residuals

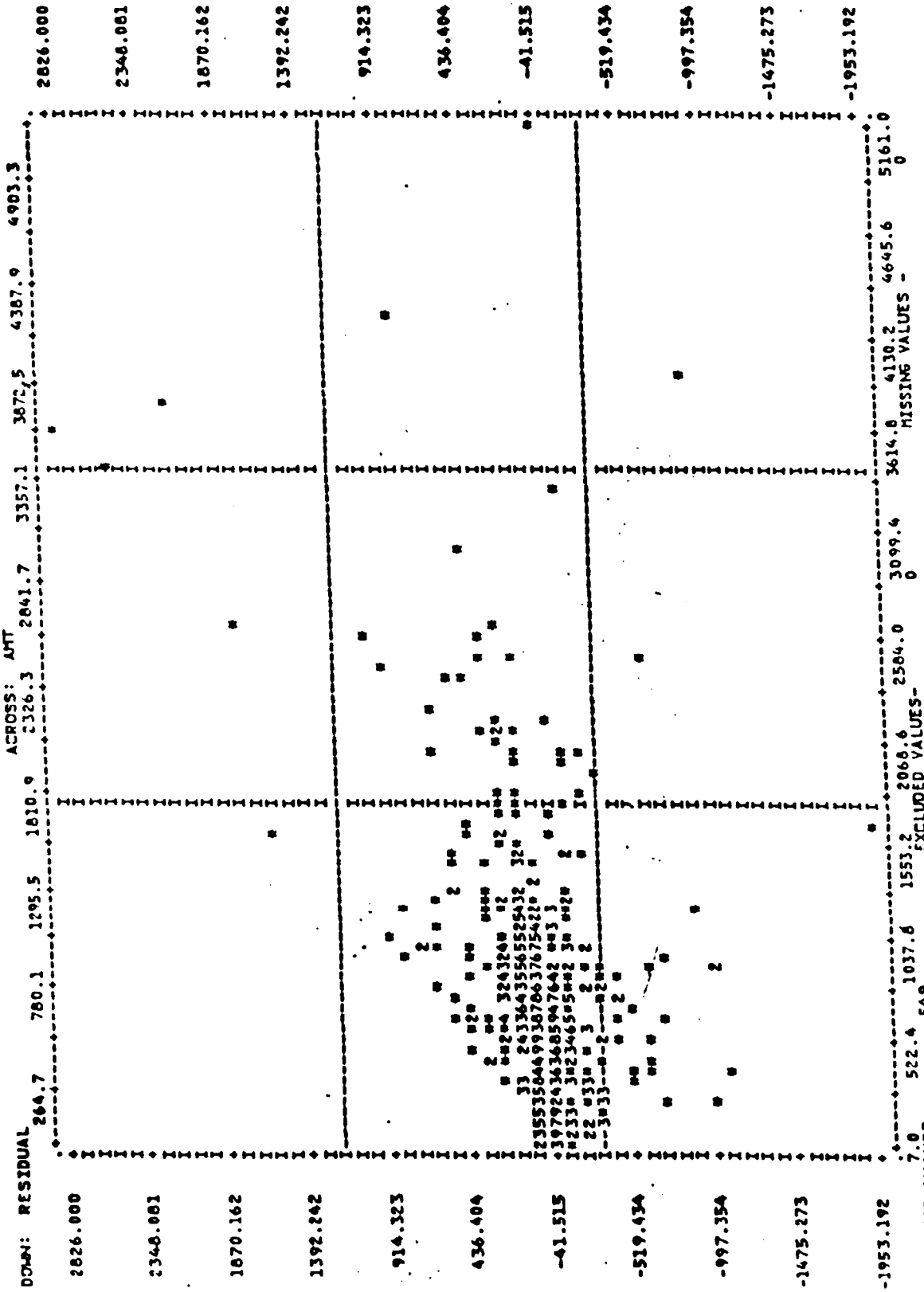


Figure C.6

Histogram of imputed amounts for amounts reported as zero

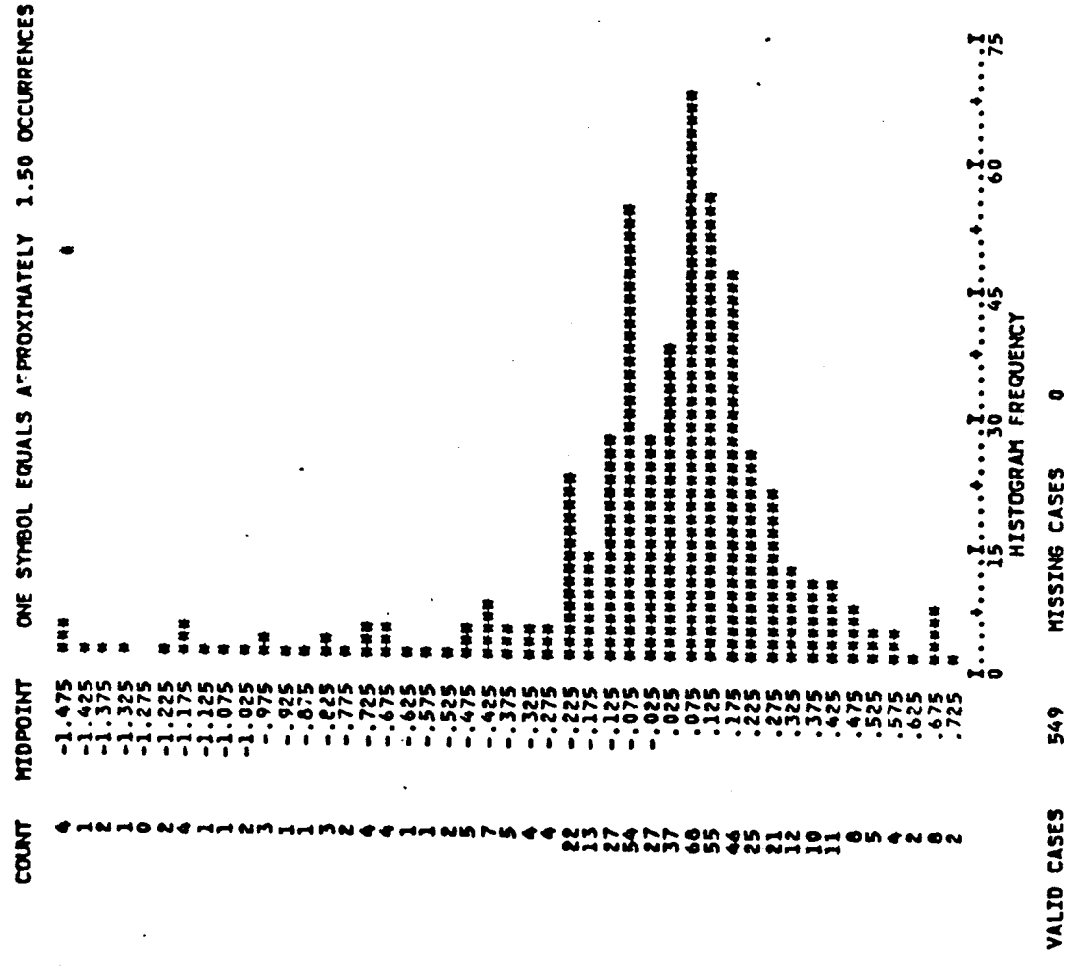


Figure C.7

Histogram of percentage error of impute for non-zero reported amounts