

## H. 24-MONTH EVENT HISTORY CALENDAR

### H.1. Introduction

L.A.FANS used an interactive event history calendar (EHC) to collect information on residence, employment, unemployment and absences from work, receipt of public assistance, and health insurance for the two-year period preceding the interview. Calendar methods have been shown to improve respondent recall and the quality of date reporting compared with standard question-list methods (Freedman et al., 1988; Becker and Sosa, 1992; Hamill et al., 1990; Goldman et al., 1989; Belli, 1998; Belli et al., 2001).

The L.A.FANS EHC was adapted from an interactive calendar program developed for the Panel Study on Income Dynamics (PSID) by Belli, Shay, and Stafford (2001). The EHC Windows-based interactive computer program was written in Visual Basic by the computing staff at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research (ISR). ISR's computing staff, led by William E. Connert, modified the EHC program for L.A.FANS' use. An online demonstration of the PSID version is available at:

<http://www.isr.umich.edu/src/psid/ehc/ehc.html>. *Users of the L.A.FANS EHC data who download the PSID EHC are cautioned that the L.A.FANS and PSID versions are significantly different in the domains covered, coding used, and variables coded.* Please see the EHC section of the L.A.FANS codebook for a description of L.A.FANS EHC variables.

The EHC covers six “domains” or areas of the respondent's life. For each domain, there is a separate section of the EHC and separate “pop-up” questions that the interviewer uses to solicit information (described below). The domains covered by the L.A.FANS EHC are:

1. Landmark Events;
2. Residence;
3. Employment (jobs);
4. Unemployment and Absences from Work;
5. Receipt of Public Assistance (TANF, SSI, General Relief (GR), Food Stamps); and
6. Health Insurance (including coverage for the RSC and SIB if respondent is the PCG).

In these domains, the EHC records two types of entries: (a) events, which are occurrences on a specific date (e.g., a Landmark Event—see below), and (b) spells, which are periods of time during which the respondent has a particular status (e.g., a period of employment).

L.A.FANS also collected “calendar history” information in other sections of the questionnaires using conventional questions-lists (q-lists). For RSAs and PCGs, L.A.FANS collected a marriage and relationship history in Section E of the Adult module. For RSCs and SIBs, L.A.FANS collected a two-year residence history in Section C of the Parent Module. Although collected using a different approach, information from both of these histories covers the same time period as events in the EHC and is intended for use with the EHC data.

This description of the EHC “questionnaire” is organized as follows. Section H.2 provides a brief overview of how the interviewer administered the EHC. It describes what the

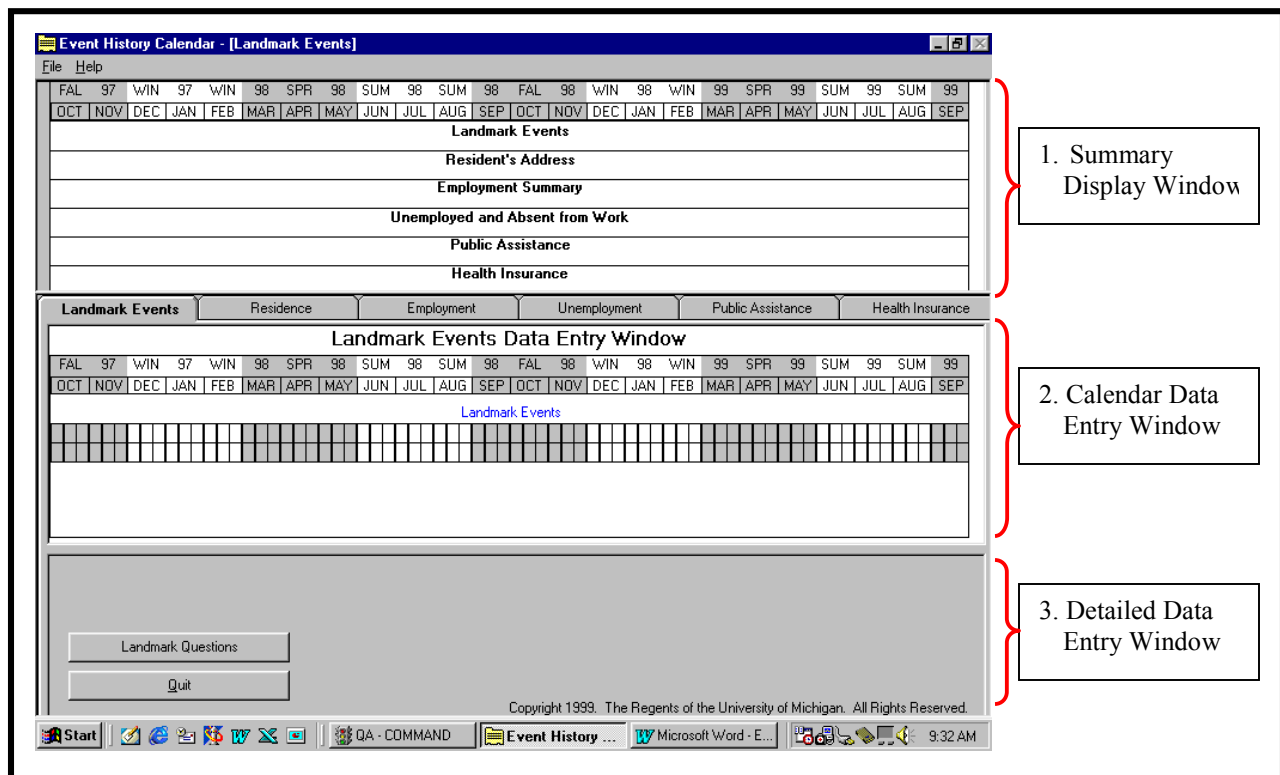
interviewers see on the computer screen while using the EHC and how interviewers entered the information that the respondent provided. More information on the interviewers' use of the EHC is provided in Chapter 8 of the L.A.FANS Field Interviewer Manual, which is available at [www.lasurvey.rand.org](http://www.lasurvey.rand.org). Section H.3 describes specific conventions and methods used across all domains of the EHC. In Section H.4, we describe each domain in the EHC. Finally, in Section H.5, we illustrate how the EHC is administered by showing the step-by-step completion of a hypothetical case.

## H.2. Overview of the EHC from the Interviewers' Perspective

The EHC is an interactive computer display that allows interviewers to enter and revise information about events and spells reported by the respondent. By displaying all of the information on the screen at the same time, the program lets the interviewer look for inconsistencies, prompt the respondent for time sequences, and probe gaps and periods that appear questionable.

The EHC program automatically sets up the window to cover the 24-month period preceding the interview date for each respondent. For example, in Figure 1 the respondent was interviewed in September 1999. Therefore, the EHC program automatically sets the screen to cover the period from October 1997 to September 1999.

**Figure 1. Elements of the EHC Screen**



The EHC computer screen has five elements, as shown in Figure 1:

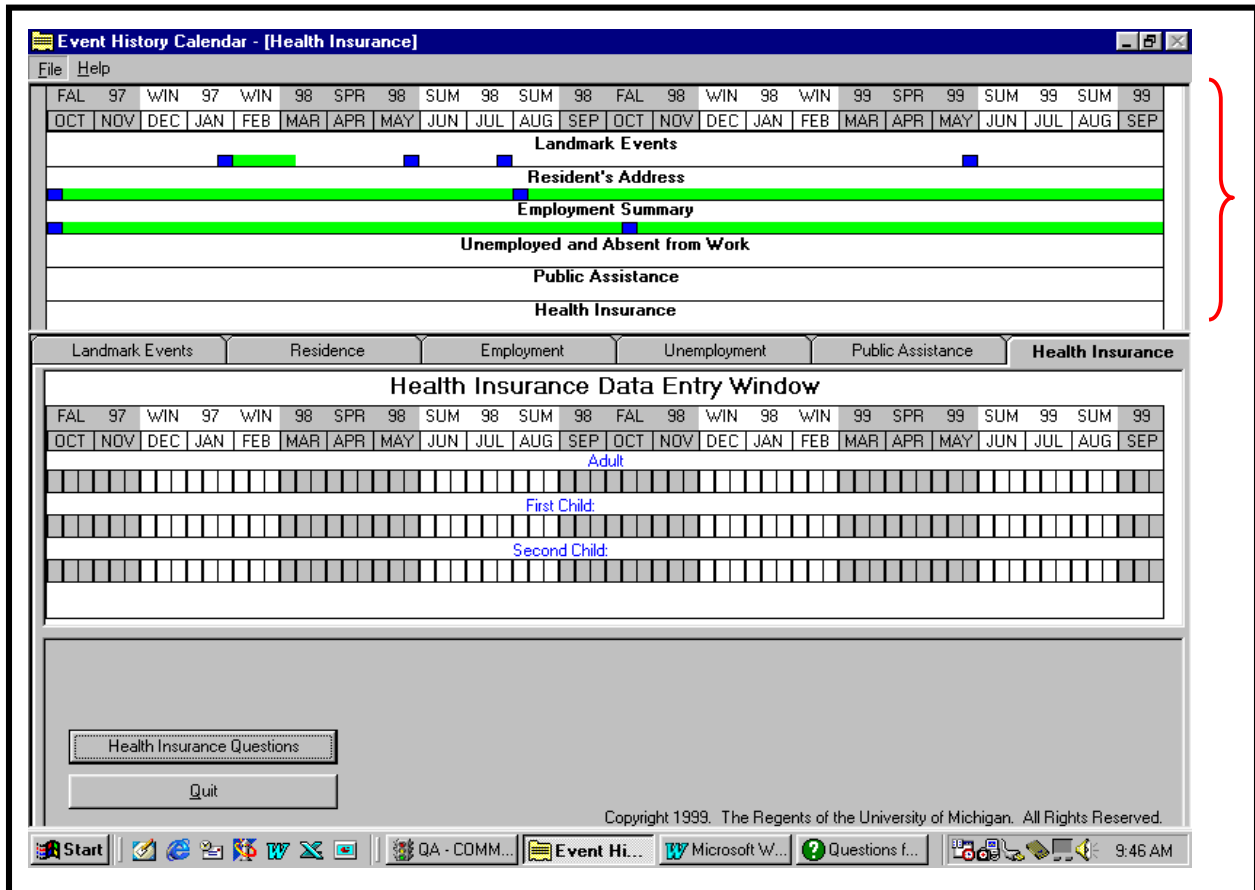
1. A Summary Display Window (at the top of the screen);
2. A two-year Calendar Data Entry Window (in the middle of the screen);
3. A Detailed Data Entry Window (at the bottom of the screen);
4. Pop-up questions; and
5. Data checking procedures.

The Pop-Up Questions appear on a separate screen. Each of these elements is described below.

***The Summary Display Window***

The Summary Display Window (SDW) summarizes all of the spell and event information that the interviewer has entered. The SDW always appears at the top of the EHC screen regardless of which domain the interviewer is working on. For example, in Figure 2, the interviewer is asking the respondent about the periods when he/she was covered by health insurance (bottom part of the screen). The Summary Display Window at the top displays information already entered in the EHC on events (blue squares) and spells (green lines) in the first three domains: Landmark Events, Resident’s Address, and Employment Summary.

**Figure 2. Summary Display Window**

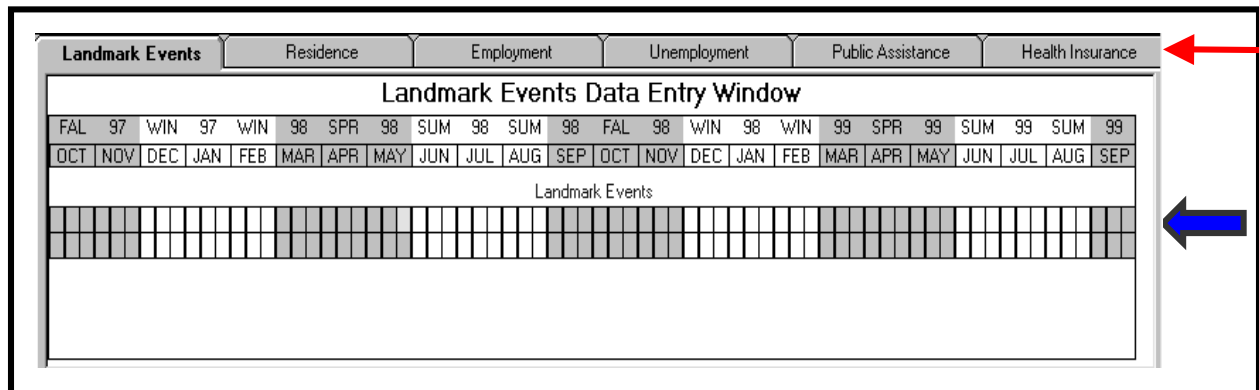


For example, by examining the SDW above, the interviewer can see at a glance that the respondent had a change in employment in October 1998. If the respondent is having difficulty providing a date for a change in health insurance around this time, the interviewer can probe by asking “was that before, after, or at the time of your job change?” By moving the mouse over each spell or event, the interviewer can also view additional information. For example, by moving the mouse over an employment spell, the interviewer will see the job title and employer for that period.

**The Two-Year Calendar Data Entry Window**

The middle section of the EHC display is the two-year calendar data entry window (CDE) in which the interviewer enters the beginning and end dates of spells and the dates of events. The interviewer first chooses which domain to work on by clicking on one of the tabs across the top of this window, shown by the red arrow in Figure 3. In the example in Figure 3, the interviewer has clicked on the Landmark Events tab. Each domain occupies a row or a set of rows in the display. In Figure 3, there are two rows in which landmark events can be recorded, shown by the thicker, blue arrow. The rows in the CDE are divided into thirds of a month. A

**Figure 3. Calendar Data Entry Window for Landmark Events**



respondent who reports that an event occurred in October is asked whether the event took place in the beginning, middle, or end of the month. Note that if the respondent reports a particular date, the interviewer can record the date directly (see below).

**Figure 4. Entering a Spell**

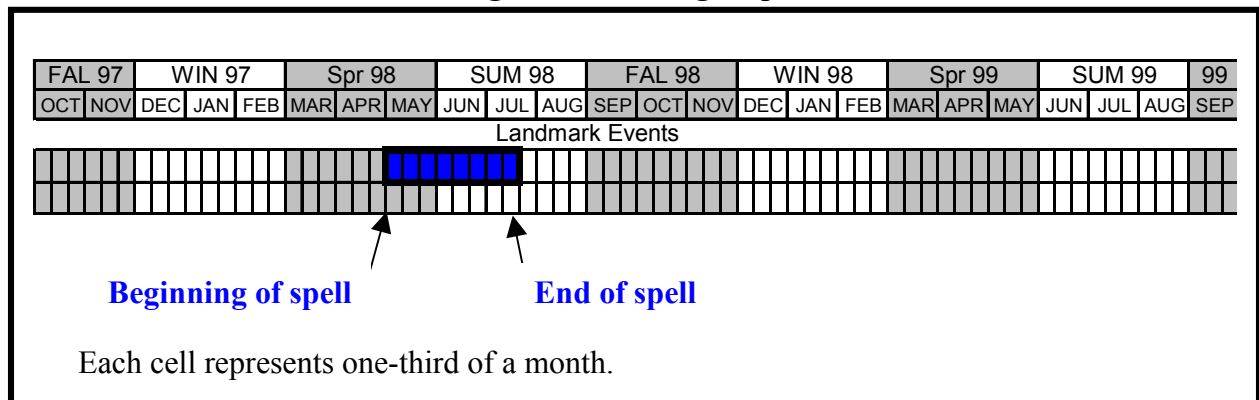


Figure 4 shows how a spell looks after it has been entered into the EHC. Although the Landmark Events domain is usually used to record events, in this case it is used to record a spell that began in the first third of May 1998 and ended in mid-July 1998. To enter the spell, the interviewer clicks on the box for the first third of May 1998 and then on the box for mid-July 1998. The display then shows a colored bar between the two dates.

### ***Detailed Data Entry Window***

Immediately after the interviewer enters an event or a spell, the EHC program requests the interviewer to complete some additional information about the spell in the Detailed Data Entry (DDE) window. The specific information to be collected depends on the particular domain. For example, in the Landmark Events domain, once the interviewer enters a date in the Landmark Event row, the Detailed Data Entry window in Figure 5 appears on the screen.

**Figure 5. The Detailed Data Entry Window**

This screen allows the interviewer to enter a particular day of the month in cases in which the respondent knows the particular day on which the event occurred. The screen also includes a space to enter a text description of the event. The specific pieces of information to be collected are unique to each domain (with the exception of starting and ending times). For example, in the Employment domain, the DDE records information on the respondent's employer name and address and occupation.

### ***Pop-Up Questions***

The EHC was designed to be used interactively by the interviewer and respondent. However, to insure that all information is collected and that each interviewer uses a standardized set of questions, the EHC included Pop-Up Questions for each domain. These questions appear on a separate screen and interviewers were instructed to read the questions to the respondent verbatim. The specific Pop-Up Questions for each domain are described below.

### ***Data Checking Procedures***

The EHC program checks information as the interviewer enters it. For example, it checks whether or not the interviewer has correctly entered spells, inadvertently skipped domains, left inappropriate fields blank, and completed all required information. In the employment domain, the program checks if the respondent reported working more than 60 hours a week. If the program detects a potential error, a pop-up box alerts the interviewer of the problem.

The EHC program questions the interviewer if two events are entered on exactly the same date. Moreover, within the same domain, it does not allow two spells to have exactly the same beginning and ending dates. For instance, the interviewer cannot enter two different jobs that begin and end on exactly the same date. On the other hand, interviewers could enter a new job and a residential move with the same beginning and ending dates. In cases in which two events within the same domain occurred on exactly the same date, interviewers were instructed to enter one of the events on the following date, then to enter a note explaining the situation.

### ***Interface Between the EHC and the Main Adult Questionnaire***

The software that runs the questionnaire program on interviewers' laptops is designed to preload data from earlier sections of the Adult Questionnaire into the EHC program and to extract information from the EHC when it is completed and preload this information into subsequent sections of the Adult Questionnaire. Information that is preloaded into the EHC includes:

- The dates of any marriages or births reported by the respondent in Section E, which are preloaded into the Landmark Events section.
- The type of adult respondent (RSA and/or PCG) and whether the household includes an RSC or an RSC and SIB, which is loaded to set up the correct health insurance questions (PCGs are asked both about their own health insurance coverage and that for the RSC and SIB).

Information that is extracted from the EHC and preloaded into subsequent sections includes:

- Whether the respondent moved at least once during the previous two-year period (preloaded into Section J).
- The date the respondent reported moving to the current residence (preloaded into Section J)
- Whether the respondent is currently working and whether there is any spell of employment reported in the last two years (preloaded into Section K).
- Whether the respondent currently has more than one job (preloaded into Section K).
- Whether the respondent is currently receiving TANF/CalWORKS or has received it in the past two years (preloaded into Section L).

The information preloaded into Sections J, K, and L sets up the appropriate skip patterns so that respondents are asked only those questions about residential mobility, employment, and welfare that apply to them.

### **H.3. Conventions and Methods Used in the EHC**

In this section, we discuss the conventions and methods used to record event histories across the different domains covered in the EHC.

#### ***Two-Year Window***

For each respondent, the EHC covers the two-year period prior to the date of the L.A.FANS interview. The EHC sets this window automatically, based on the adult module interview date for this particular respondent. Since different respondents in a household may complete the EHC at different times, the two-year window for each respondent can be different.

#### ***Spells and Events***

The EHC records both spells and events the same way. A spell or event is defined as a period of time—whether it is one day long or many days long—in which a respondent is doing something (e.g., holding a job, being covered by health insurance, getting married, having a baby, etc.). Spells and events both have a beginning date and an end date, regardless of how long they last. Some spells have a starting date outside the two-year window because they began before the two-year window. L.A.FANS collects information on the starting date of any spell for which duration is included in the two-year window. All *events* recorded in the EHC (which are essentially one day spells) must occur within the calendar period. No spells or events have an *ending* date outside the two-year window, because the window ends at the interview date.

#### ***On-Going Spells (Current Status)***

Interviewers began each domain by asking about the respondent's current status. For an ongoing spell (i.e., a spell that reflected a respondent's current status), the ending is coded as "CONT" to indicate that this spell is continuing or on-going at the time of interview.

#### ***Thirds-of-a-Month***

The EHC collects the year, month, and whether the event occurred in the beginning, middle, or end of the month (i.e., thirds-of-a-month). Since the number of days and weeks in a month varies, the days and weeks constituting an exact third of a month vary. The EHC follows the convention that the first third of the month encompasses days 1-10, the second third encompasses days 11-20, and the final third of the month encompasses days 21 through the end of the month. If a respondent provides a specific date, the interviewer enters the specific date and the EHC program makes the determination about which third of the month the date falls into. When respondents gave an answer such as "the second week in February" interviewers were trained to ask, "Would you say it was in the first, middle, or last part of the month?"

#### ***Most-Recent to Most-Remote vs. On-Line***

Two techniques were used in completing the EHC. Interviewers used the "most-recent to most-remote" technique whenever possible. In each domain, they began with current status and

worked backward through the two-year period. In some cases, however, respondents reported events or spells in a different order. When this occurred, interviewers recorded information using the “on-line” technique, i.e., recording events or spells in whatever order the respondent preferred. When the on-line technique was used, interviewers were trained to insure that all events and spells were recorded at the appropriate times and that dates were consistent with other events reported in the calendar. Interviewers also recited time sequences in each domain and across domains back to respondents. For example, if a respondent reported going on vacation in June 2000 and buying a new car in July 2000, an interviewer would ask “So you went on vacation in June 2000 and then the next month, in July, you bought the car. Is that correct?”

### ***Notes, Don’t Knows, and Refusals***

The EHC program provided interviewers with a “notes” section in which they could record additional information about the respondent’s answer. For instance, if a respondent offered only a vague start-date for a particular job, an interviewer could record that the response was vague in the notes section. To protect respondent confidentiality, these notes are not available on the public use or restricted L.A.FANS data sets. However, they were used by L.A.FANS staff in occupation coding and checking other data items in the EHC.

“Don’t know” and refusal responses were coded in the EHC. Interviewers were trained to record as much information as possible. Don’t know and Refusals are recorded in the data files using standard L.A.FANS conventions.

### ***Probing in the EHC***

Interviewers were instructed to use several techniques in cases where respondents were unsure of specific dates. The ***narrowing technique*** involves asking the respondent what year and season or quarter the event occurred in (e.g., winter of 1999, spring of 2000, etc.). Once the year is identified, the interviewer then asked about the month and third-of-a month in which a spell began or ended.

Interviewers also used the ***how-long-ago verification technique*** to probe for or verify dates. For example, if a respondent was interviewed in July 2001 and reported that he changed health insurance policies in April 2000, the interviewer would ask “So that happened in April 2000, just over one year ago. Is that correct?” Another example is a respondent interviewed in September 2001 who remembers the duration of a spell, but not the starting date (e.g., “I’ve been on Food Stamps for 9 months”). An interviewer would respond “You’ve been on Food Stamps for 9 months. That means that you started receiving Food Stamps in January 2001. Is that correct?”

Another technique is ***cross-checking*** with landmark events or other events already entered in the calendar. For example, an interviewer might ask “you said that you got your job promotion in June 1999, around a month before you moved to Los Angeles. Is that right?”

When interviewers completed a domain, they briefly reviewed with the respondent all the information in that domain.



### ***Drop-Down Menus***

Pre-coded responses were shown in each domain in the EHC through a set of drop-down menus that displayed the responses and let the interviewer select a response by clicking on it. Drop-down menus also included an “Other, specify” category. Selecting this category allowed the interviewer to enter a textual response. These text responses were coded in the process of data cleaning and are included in the definition of the values for these variables.

### **H.4. Domains in the EHC**

In this section we provide an overview of each of the six domains covered in the EHC.

#### ***Landmark Events***

The objective of the Landmark Events domain is to record important events in the respondent’s life during the preceding two-year period in order to help him/her to date other events in the EHC. Marriage dates and dates of children’s births were preloaded into the EHC by the CAPI software. The objective was to obtain at least four landmark events—one in each six-month period. If an entire year of the calendar did not have at least one landmark event, interviewers used both the 4th of July and Christmas as substitute landmark events (since these two holidays fall approximately six months apart). The pop-up questions used to elicit landmark events are shown below.

#### **POP-UP QUESTIONS FOR LANDMARK EVENTS**

To begin with, please tell me about major events in your life that occurred since [date two years before interview]. These should be events that you know the dates of.

I have recorded: [mention marriages or children’s births which were preloaded]

Can you please give me one or two other major events that have happened since [date two years before interview]?

PROBE: Examples include: births, deaths, divorces, marriages, a vacation, an accident, a major purchase, a promotion or pay raise, a residential or job change.

The dates and brief descriptions (e.g., vacation in Hawaii) of events were recorded.

#### ***Residential History***

The Residence domain records the complete address for all places that the respondent lived during the two years before the interview, as well as the beginning and ending dates of residence. The pop-up questions used for this domain are as follows.

### **POP-UP QUESTIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL HISTORY**

Now I want to ask you about all the places you lived or stayed since [ <i>date two years before interview</i> ]. This includes any place you lived or stayed for one month or more. When did you move to your current address?
PREVIOUS RESIDENCE: Where did you live before that? Time line: When did you move into that place? When did you move out of that place?
ADDRESS: What was the address at that place? [Street number, street name, city, state, zip code, and country]

As in all domains of the EHC, the end date of an on-going spell of residence (i.e., residence at the address that a respondent currently lives) is coded CONT. The beginning date of the spell is coded as a date, regardless of whether it occurred within the two-year time window or before it.

The pop-up questions are repeated until the two-year residential history is complete. Interviewers were instructed to record the complete address (including street number, complete street name, city name, state, zip code, and country, if outside the U.S.). In cases where the respondent was unable to report the complete address, interviewers recorded as much information as possible. If a respondent reported that he/she had no place to live during at least a month of the two-year period, the interviewer asked if he/she was staying somewhere or if he/she was homeless. If the respondent stayed somewhere for less than a month, interviewers recorded this information in the “notes” section. If the respondent reported being homeless, interviewers recorded the beginning and ending dates, and entered “homeless” in the address line. They also entered the city and state in which the respondent lived during the period of homelessness.

### ***Employment***

The employment domain was to determine whether the respondent was employed at any time during the two-year window, and if so, to collect information about each job. “Employed” is defined as working for pay as a regular employee; working in a family farm or business; or working for one’s self (i.e., being self-employed). The work must have been performed for pay for at least one hour per week for at least a month. In the case of a family farm or business where the respondent is not paid, he/she must have worked for at least 15 hours a week. The pop-up questions for this domain are shown below.

### **POP-UP QUESTIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT**

Next I will ask you about all the jobs you have held since [ <i>date two years before interview</i> ]. This includes any times you worked for others for pay, were self-employed, or worked in a family business.
CURRENT JOBS: Are you currently working? How many jobs do you currently have? TIME LINE: When did you start working at this job?
PREVIOUS JOBS: Where did you work before that? TIME LINE: When did you start working at this job? When did you stop working at this job?
OTHER JOBS: Did you have any other jobs at all during the period since [ <i>date two years before interview</i> ]? TIME LINE: When did you start working at this job? When did you stop working at this job?

Currently working includes:

- Respondents who are employed but who are temporarily at home because they are sick, on vacation, or on sabbatical leave.
- Respondents who have an irregular job schedule but who *do* have an ongoing job. For example, some companies take a several weeks-long break at certain times of the year (e.g., between production cycles, etc.). Their employees continue to be employed but do not come to work during this period.
- Respondents who are paid in kind rather than with money. In-kind payments can include receiving meals, living quarters, or supplies. For example, a respondent may work in exchange for a place to live and meals, even though he/she is not paid any cash at all.

If the respondent was not currently working, the interviewer asked whether he/she had worked at any time during the two-year window. If the respondent had not worked at all during this time, the interviewer moved directly to the next domain (Unemployment). Respondents may mention that they are retired, a student, disabled, or keeping house. Interviewers were instructed to ask respondents whether they have done any work for pay at any time during the past two years.

The employment domain includes another set of pop-up questions that are keyed to the items the interviewer had to complete in the “Detailed Questions Window.” These questions were asked about each job and are shown below.

**POP UP QUESTIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT—DETAILED QUESTIONS**

EMPLOYER NAME: What is/was the name of your employer, the company you work/worked for, or this business?
EMPLOYER ADDRESS: What is/was the address of your employer, the company you work/worked for, or this business?
OCCUPATION: What kind of work are/were you doing at this job?
ACTIVITIES/DUTIES: What are/were your most important activities or duties at this job?
FULL/PART TIME: Do/did you work full-time or part-time at this job?
HOURS PER WEEK: How many hours per week on average do/did you work at this job?
PROFIT/LOSS: How much total income (profits) did you receive from this business during the last 12 months? How much was your loss?
WAGE/SALARY: What is/was your wage rate or salary?

Interviewers were trained to probe for any jobs the respondent might have held concurrently. For example, in addition to working 40 hours a week as a secretary, a respondent might also have worked evenings and weekends during the Christmas season. Each of these jobs

is recorded as a separate spell. For employers who do not have company names, such as dentists, lawyers, etc., interviewers entered the name of the owner.

When asking about the number of hours per week the respondent worked on a particular job, interviewers were instructed to capture an accurate estimate of the average number of hours, using whole numbers, rounding off to the nearest hour (i.e., 30 minutes or more should be rounded to a one hour). Wages and salaries were recorded as gross earning, i.e., earning before taxes and other deductions. The amount recorded for wages does not include earnings that unincorporated business owners pay themselves or any reimbursement of expenses. However, it does include bonuses, incentive pay, overtime, tips, and commissions in gross earnings.

Once information on a particular job was completed, a pop-up box appeared on the screen asking whether the respondent experienced changes in position or salary for that job. If the respondent had changed position or salary while holding this job, the interviewer reentered the data for that particular job as separate spells for each wage or position change. For example, if a respondent began a job in June 1998 and received a raise in July 1999, the interviewer would enter that job as two spells: the first from June 1998 to July 1999 at the original wage, and the second from July 1999 to the interview date at the higher wage.

Special rules were developed within the EHC for self-employed respondents. If the respondent worked in an incorporated business that he/she owned (regardless of what share of the business he/she owned), the respondent was considered to be employed by that business rather than self-employed. If the respondent worked in his/her own business and the business was unincorporated, the respondent was considered to be self-employed. If the respondent-owned business had a name, that name was entered as the employer's name, but interviewers were also required to enter a note that the respondent owned the business and was self-employed. The business address entered was either a commercial address used by the business or the respondent's home address. Free-lancers (i.e., people who work out of their homes but on different jobs for different clients) who reported that they work for a number of different employers are treated as self-employed. For the employer name, interviewers entered "various" and for the employer address, interviewers entered the respondent's home address.

Self-employed respondents and those who own their own unincorporated business (in part or in whole) were asked about their net profit/loss rather than their wage/salary. Respondents who worked for their own incorporated businesses were treated as employees and were asked about wages and salaries. For self-employed and unincorporated businesses, net profit/loss was defined as the total of all gross receipts (total money coming into the business) minus all business expenses. This includes all monies taken out of the business for the respondent's use (e.g., \$2000 a month as salary), as well as anything left in as profit. Breaking even is recorded as \$0 and a net loss as a negative amount (e.g., -\$10,000).

Net profit/loss for unincorporated businesses was recorded on an annualized basis. *If an unincorporated business was still in operation at the time of interview*, interviewers asked about the net profit or loss for the business during the 12 months before the interview. If the business had been in operation for less than 12 months, interviewers recorded the net profit or loss the time the respondent had this business. *If the business was no longer in operation at the time of*

interview, L.A.FANS recorded for the net profit or loss for the business during the 12 months before the business ended.

***Unemployment and Absence from Work***

This domain verified gaps in employment and collected information on spells in which the respondent was unemployed or absent from work. The interviewer used information in the employment domain to identify and ask the respondent about periods of time when the respondent was apparently not working. This domain used separate pop-up questions for Unemployment and for Absence from Work.

The Unemployment pop-up questions were as follows.

**POP-UP QUESTIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT**

NON-WORK PERIODS: From the calendar, it looks like you were not working between ____ and ____ . Is that correct?
WORK PERIODS: Was there any period, during the times you told me you were working, when you were actually out of work?
MAKING MONEY: Did you do anything to make money during this period?
REASON NOT WORKING: Why weren't you working? PROBE: Were you fired or laid off from a job, retired, in school, a homemaker, sick or hospitalized, on disability, or something else?
LOOKING FOR WORK: Were you looking for work during this period?

The interviewer asked these questions for each gap which appeared in the employment domain. If employment spells that had not previously been recorded were identified, the interviewer returned to the employment domain and entered the information there. For respondents who had a complete employment history, i.e., there are no gaps in employment spells, the interviewer asked if they were ever unemployed in the two-year calendar period. As in other domains, respondents who were unemployed at the time of the interview had an end date of "CONT" for their final spell.

The questions in the lower part of the pop-up box were asked for each identified spell of unemployment. Respondents who reported doing something to make money during this period were asked what they did. Their response was coded using the following drop-down menu.

**DROP DOWN LIST FOR UNEMPLOYMENT**

Answers to the question: "Did you do anything to make money during this period?"
1. No, did not do anything to make money
2. Received unemployment payments only
3. Worked at temporary or odd jobs
4. Worked at temporary or odd jobs & received unemployment payments
5. Other, please specify

Interviewers were instructed to insure that the “anything to make money answer” was recorded for the period of time to which it applied. A second question asked why the respondent was not working and the answer was coded using a drop-down menu. If a respondent reported not working because he/she was on maternity/paternity leave, was on disability due to an illness or injury, or was on vacation, interviewers were instructed to verify that these were periods of unpaid leave from a job. If the periods were actually paid leave from a job, then the respondent was considered employed during that period and the information recorded in the Absence from Work sub-domain (see below). A third question on whether the respondent was looking for work determines whether or not the respondent was in or out of the labor force during that time period.

When the employment sub-domain was complete, all periods of time in the two-year calendar should be filled in either on the employment or on the unemployment domains.

The objective of the Absence from Work section was to collect information on periods when the respondent *was employed but was absent from work*, as distinguished from periods of unemployment (i.e., respondent did not have a job). The pop-up questions for this section are shown below.

**POP-UP QUESTIONS FOR ABSENCE FROM WORK**

<p>WORK PERIODS: During the times you were employed since [<i>date two years before interview</i>], did you miss work for a period of one month or more?</p>
<p>PROBE: Were you on sick leave, vacation, on disability, on maternity or paternity leave, or something else?</p>
<p>REASON FOR WORK ABSENCE: Why weren't you working?</p> <p>PROBE: Were you laid off, temporarily absent, on strike, on maternity or paternity leave, on disability, or something else?</p>

In this section, interviewers were instructed to verify that any periods of absence from work actually coincided with a period of employment in the employment domain. The reason for the absence was coded using the following drop-down menu.

**DROP DOWN LIST FOR ABSENCE FROM WORK REASON**

<p>Answers to the question: “Why weren't you working?”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fired or laid off from a job</li> <li>2. Temporarily absent from a job</li> <li>3. On maternity or paternity leave</li> <li>4. On disability</li> <li>5. Sick or hospitalized</li> <li>6. On vacation</li> <li>7. Other, please specify</li> </ol>
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If the respondent reported absence from work due to disability or sickness, a lay-off, on strike, etc., interviewers verified that the person was actually employed during the entire period. For example, people are on lay-off if they are waiting to be called back to a job from which they were temporarily separated for business-related reasons, such as temporary drops in demand, business downturns, plant remodeling, material shortages, and inventory taking. They must

either have been given a date to report back to work or, if not given a date, must expect to be recalled to their job within six months. If this was not the case (e.g., they have been on lay-off for more than six months), then the respondent was reclassified as being unemployed starting from the day they were laid-off.

**Public Assistance**

In this domain the interviewer recorded spells of receipt of four types of public assistance for the respondent and the respondent’s children: Food Stamps; Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) known in California as CalWORKs; General Relief or General Assistance; or

**POP-UP QUESTIONS FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

<p>Next, let’s talk about any times since <i>[date two years before interview]</i> that you received public assistance. First, let’s talk about Food Stamps.</p> <p>CURRENT FOOD STAMPS: Are you (or your children) currently receiving Food Stamps?          TIME LINE: When did you start receiving Food Stamps?</p> <p>PREVIOUS FOOD STAMPS: Were there any (other) times since <i>[date two years before interview]</i> that you (or your children) received Food Stamps?</p> <p>TIME LINE: When did you start receiving Food Stamps this time? When did you stop? Any other times?</p>
<p>CURRENT AFDC/CALWORKS/TANF: Are you (or your children) currently receiving AFDC/CalWORKS/TANF?</p> <p>TIME LINE: When did you start receiving AFDC/CalWORKS/TANF?</p> <p>PREVIOUS AFDC/CALWORKS/TANF: Were there any (other) times since <i>[date two years before interview]</i> that you (or your children) received AFDC/CalWORKS/TANF?</p> <p>TIME LINE: When did you start receiving AFDC/CalWORKS/TANF this time? When did you stop? Any other times?</p>
<p>CURRENT GENERAL RELIEF: Are you (or your children) currently receiving General Relief or General Assistance?</p> <p>TIME LINE: When did you start receiving General Relief or General Assistance?</p> <p>PREVIOUS GENERAL RELIEF: Were there any (other) times since <i>[date two years before interview]</i> that you (or your children) received General Relief or General Assistance?</p> <p>TIME LINE: When did you start receiving A General Relief or General Assistance this time? When did you stop? Any other times?</p>
<p>CURRENT SSI: Are you (or your children) currently receiving SSI?</p> <p>TIME LINE: When did you start receiving SSI?</p> <p>PREVIOUS SSI: Were there any (other) times since <i>[date two years before interview]</i> that you (or your children) received SSI?</p> <p>TIME LINE: When did you start receiving SSI this time? When did you stop? Any other times?</p>

Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Receipt of support from equivalent programs in other states during the two-year period was also recorded (e.g., the TANF program in Wisconsin is known as Wisconsin Works). At the time of L.A.FANS-1, some welfare recipients still used the term AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children). For this reason, the acronym AFDC was also included in the question. The specific questions asked about public assistance are displayed above.

With the exception of Food Stamps, any public assistance spells overlapping with spells of full-time employment (35 hours per week or more) appeared on the interviewer’s screen in orange. Interviewers verified that the respondent was both receiving public assistance benefits and engaged in full-time work during this period, and made corrections if needed. Interviewers were instructed that under some circumstances, receiving public assistance benefits and working full-time might be legal.

***Health Insurance***

This domain collected information on the respondent’s health insurance coverage during the preceding two years. Respondents who are Primary Care Givers (PCG) were also asked about the health insurance status of one or two children (RSC, and SIB if selected). In this case, health insurance coverage for the PCG, the RSC, and the SIB were each recorded on a separate set of rows or bars.

The pop-up questions for health insurance are shown below. Note that Medicaid is known as MediCal in California. Healthy Families is a low-cost health insurance program that is part of SCHIP (State Child Health Insurance Programs). For each spell of health insurance, the interviewer recorded answers to these questions in the Detailed Data Entry window.

**POP-UP QUESTIONS FOR HEALTH INSURANCE**

CURRENT COVERAGE: Are (you / child’s name) currently covered by any type of health insurance? PROBE: This could include insurance through an employer or job, a plan you or someone else purchased, or a program like Medicare, MediCal or Healthy Families?
TIME LINE: When did this health insurance start?
PREVIOUS COVERAGE: What type of health insurance did (you / child’s name) have before that?
TIME LINE: When did this health insurance start? When did this health insurance end?
NON-COVERAGE: From the calendar, it looks like (you / child’s name) were/was not covered by health insurance between _____ and _____. Is that correct?

Once all spells of insurance were entered, the interviewer scanned the display and asked about periods of non-coverage. PCGs were asked first about their own coverage and then separately about coverage for the RSC and SIB. Interviewers were instructed to probe periods when one or two types of respondent were covered but not the other(s).



Periods containing a change in the type of health insurance coverage were recorded as two separate spells. If a respondent had never been covered by health insurance, interviewers recorded his/her birth date as the start-date.

For each spell of coverage or non-coverage, interviewers asked these detailed questions:

**POP-UP QUESTIONS FOR HEALTH INSURANCE—DETAILED QUESTIONS**

TYPE: What type of health insurance are/were (you / child's name) covered by (RECORD PRIMARY INSURANCE)
NON-COVERAGE: Between _____ and _____, what was the main reason (you/ child's name) were/was not covered by health insurance?

The type of health insurance was recorded using the following drop-down menu for insured spells.

**DROP DOWN LIST FOR TYPE OF HEALTH INSURANCE**

Answers to the question: "What type of health insurance did (you / child's name) have?" (ONE ANSWER ONLY)
1. Employer/union provided (through R's job)
2. Employer/union provided (through a family member's job)
3. Purchased directly plan—not employer/union (through R's plan)
4. Purchased directly plan—not employer/union (through family member's plan)
5. Medicare
6. Medicare with supplemental coverage
7. Medicaid
8. CHAMPUS/TRICARE/CHAMPVA
9. Military Health
10. Indian Health Service
11. Healthy Families
12. Other government health insurance plan, please specify
13. Covered by someone outside this household
14. Not covered by health insurance

The main reason for non-coverage was recorded using a drop-down menu for uninsured spells shown below. Only one reason (the "main" reason) for non-insured spells was recorded. For children born during the two-year calendar period, interviewers entered the birth date of the child as the start-date of either coverage or non-coverage, and included a note in the Notes section.

## DROP DOWN LIST FOR NONCOVERAGE BY HEALTH INSURANCE

Answers to the question: "What was the main reason (you/ child's name) were/was not covered by health insurance?" (ONE ANSWER ONLY)

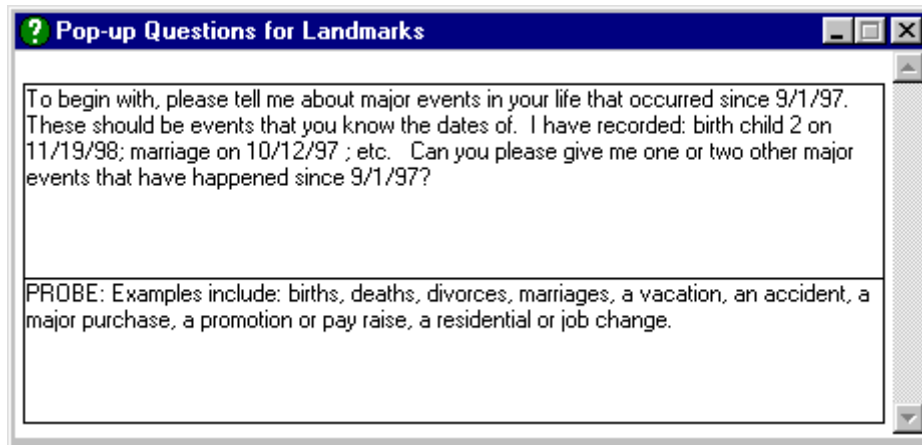
1. Too expensive; can't afford health insurance.
2. No health insurance offered by employer of self, spouse, or parent
3. Not working at a job long enough to qualify
4. Job layoff, job loss, or any reason related to unemployment
5. Not eligible because working part time or temporary job
6. Can't obtain insurance because of poor health, illness, age, or pre-existing condition
7. Dissatisfied with previous insurance or don't believe in insurance
8. Have been healthy; not much sickness in family; haven't needed health insurance
9. Able to go to VA or military hospital for medical care
10. Covered by some other health plan, such as Medicaid (GO BACK AND CORRECT CALENDAR)
11. No longer covered by parent's policy
12. Other, please specify

### H.5. Completing the EHC for an Illustrative Case

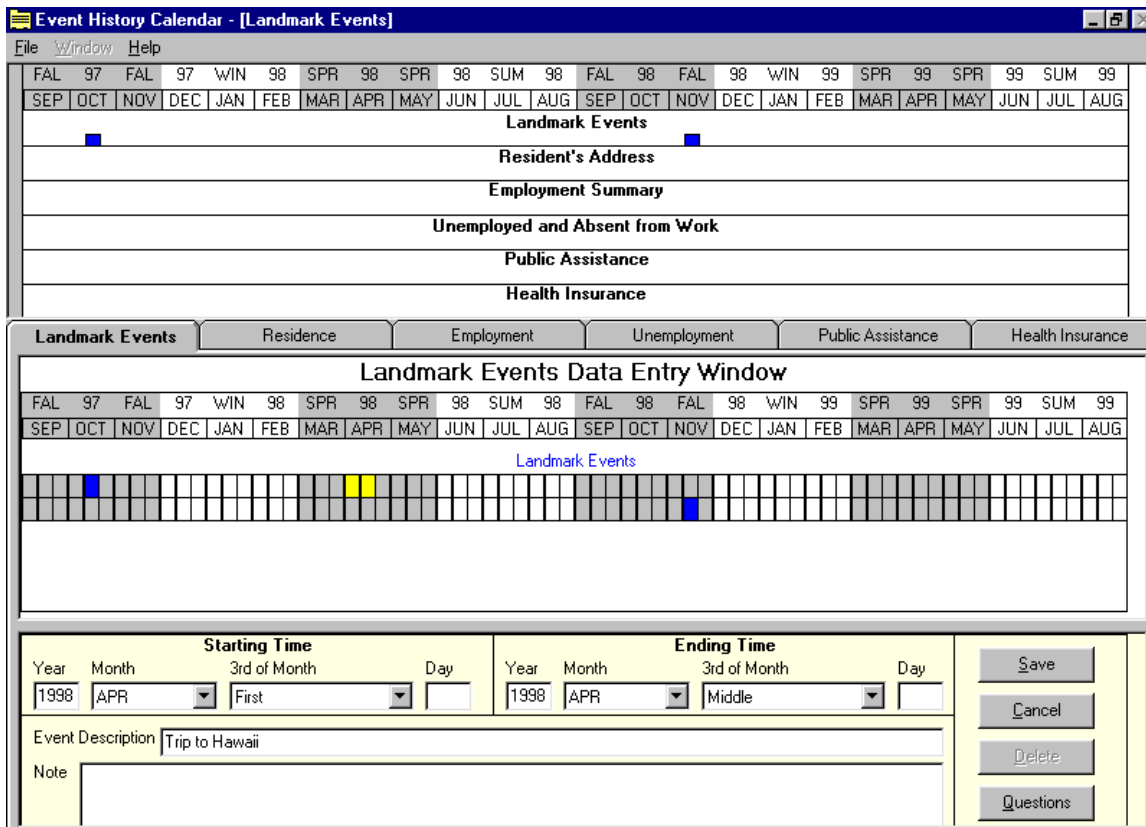
In this final section, we provide an illustration of an interviewer completing the EHC for a hypothetical case. We proceed step by step through this module, showing each of the screens that the interviewer would see. The following is the first screen that appears when the EHC is launched:

The screenshot shows the 'Event History Calendar' software interface. The main window has a title bar 'Event History Calendar - [Landmark Events]' and a menu bar with 'File', 'Window', and 'Help'. Below the menu bar is a calendar grid for the period from Fall 1997 to August 1999. The calendar grid is divided into sections for 'Landmark Events', 'Resident's Address', 'Employment Summary', 'Unemployed and Absent from Work', 'Public Assistance', and 'Health Insurance'. Below the calendar grid is a 'Landmark Events Data Entry Window' which also shows a calendar grid for the same period. At the bottom of the window, there are two buttons: 'Landmark Questions' and 'Exit'. The copyright notice at the bottom right reads 'Copyright 2000. The Regents of the University of Michigan. All Rights Reserved.'

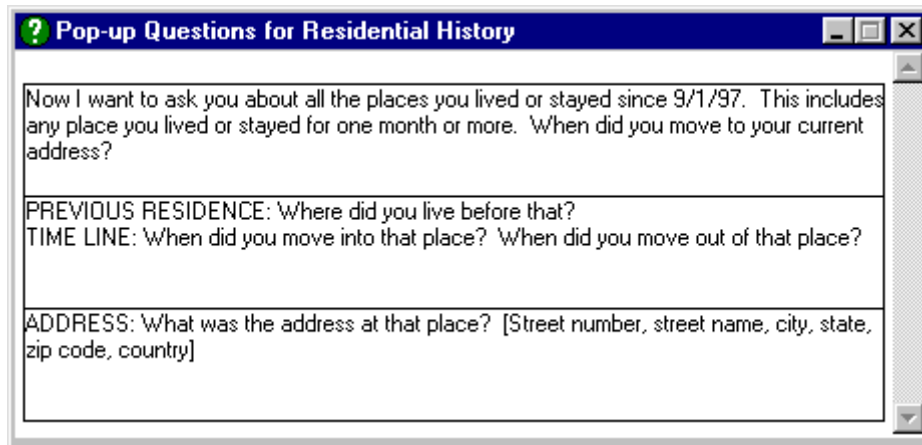
It shows two events that have been pre-loaded into the EHC: the respondent's marriage in October 1997 and the birth of a child in November 1998. Clicking on the "Landmark Questions" tab at the bottom left of the screen brings up the following pop-up question window:



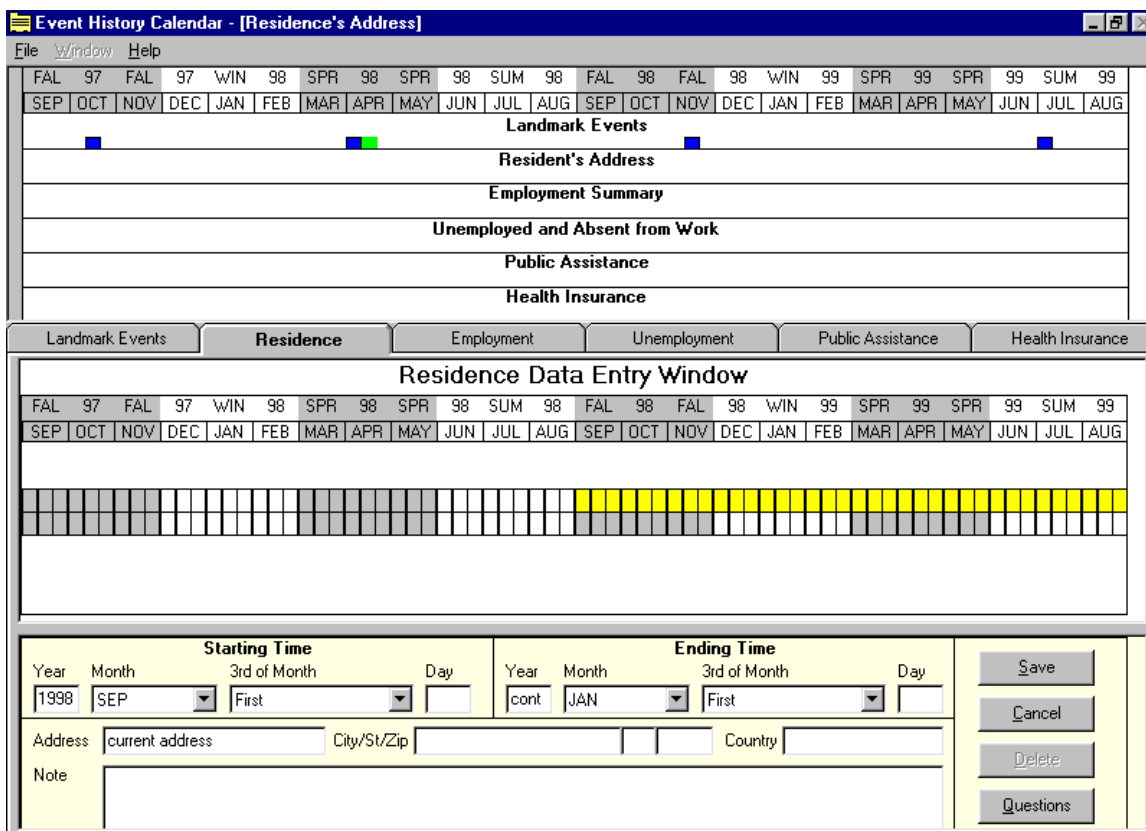
Note that the preloaded events appear in the pop-up questions. The respondent answers that he went on vacation to Hawaii in April 1998, and the following screen shows how the interviewer records this information:



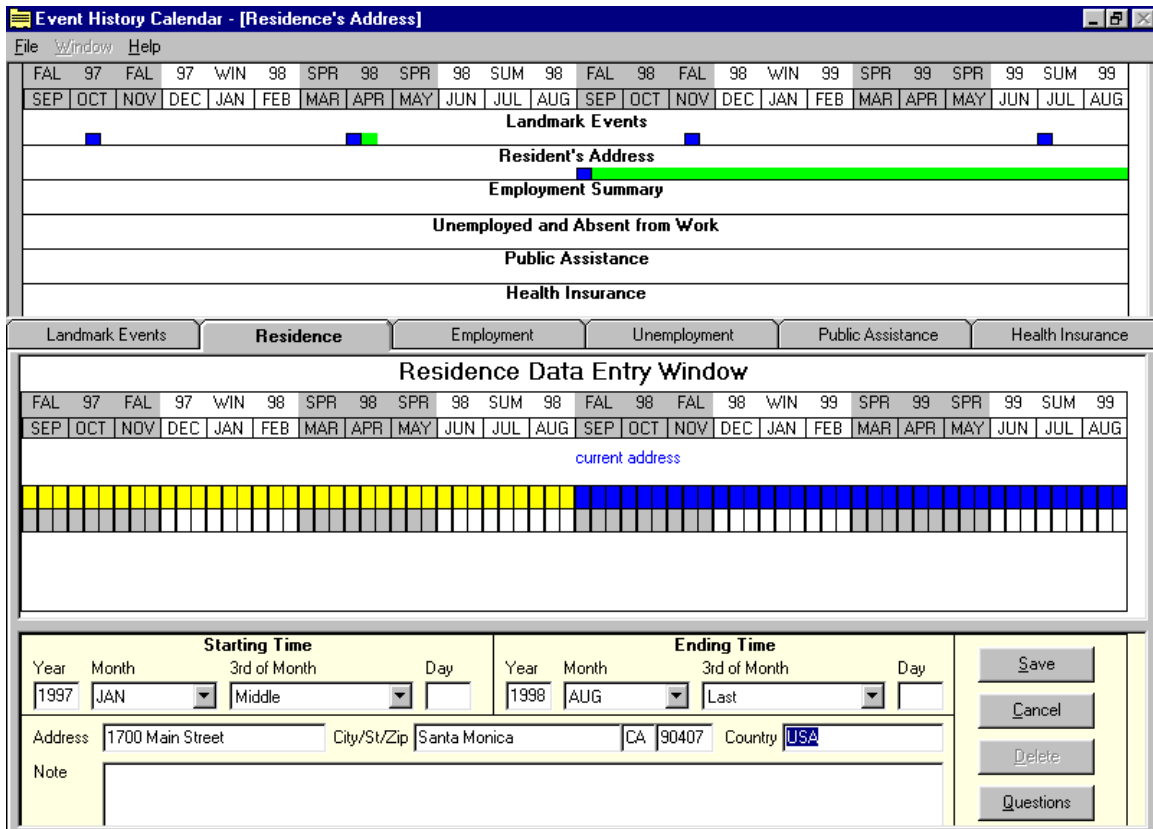
The interviewer adds Independence Day in 1999 as a Landmark Event because the respondent is unable to report any other events for 1999. The interview next moves to the Residence History. The following are the pop-up questions for this domain:



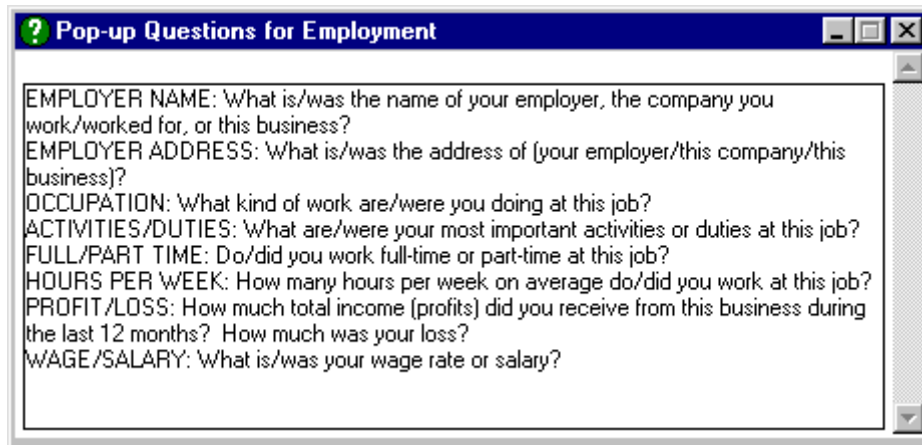
The respondent begins by telling the interviewer about when he moved into his current residence:



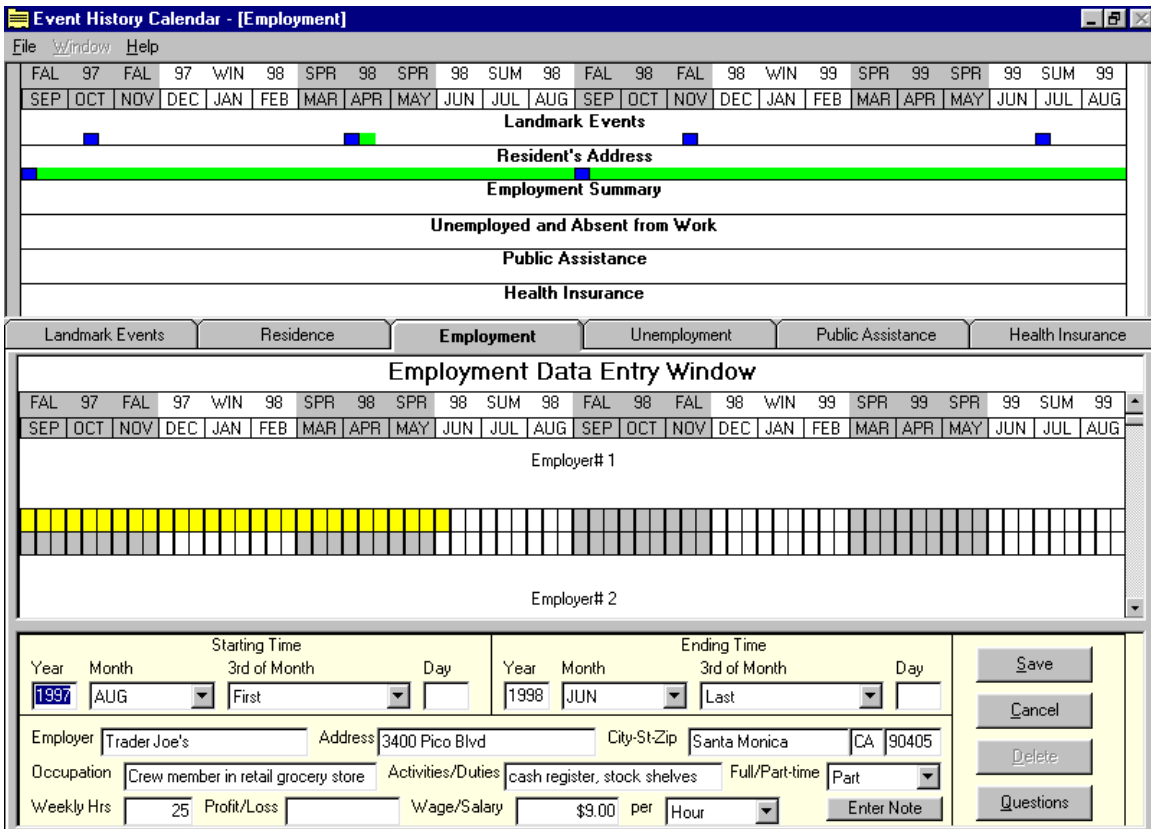
The interviewer next asks about the respondent's previous residence, which is recorded in the following window:



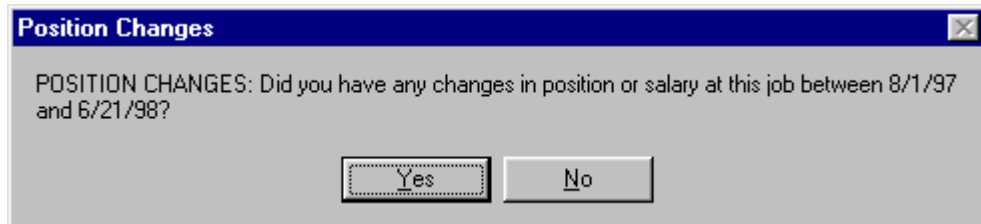
Since these two addresses complete the entire residence timeline, the interviewer moves on to the Employment domain and the following set of pop-up questions:



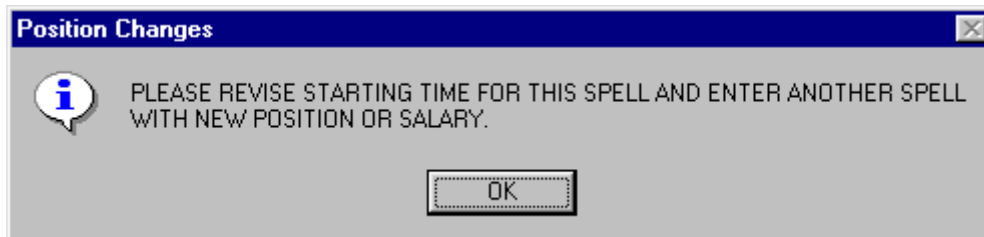
The respondent begins by reporting a job that he worked at when he lived at the previous residence he just identified to the interviewer (rather than his current job):



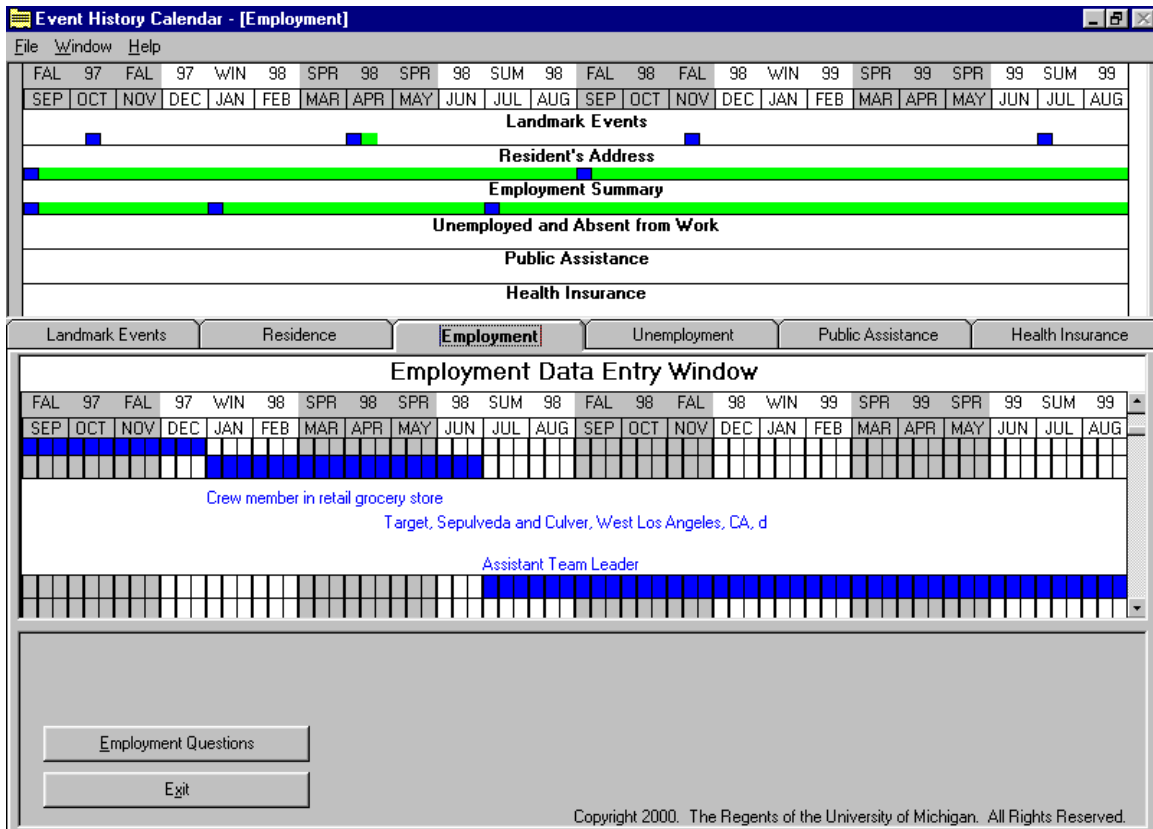
When the interviewer finishes entering the information and clicks on “Save,” the following pop-up window appears:



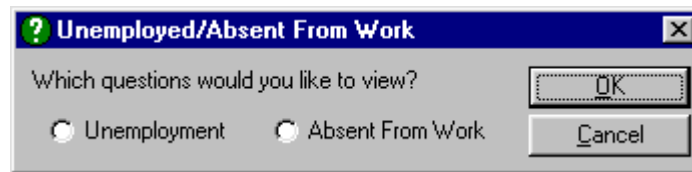
If the respondent says “Yes,” then following instructions appear:



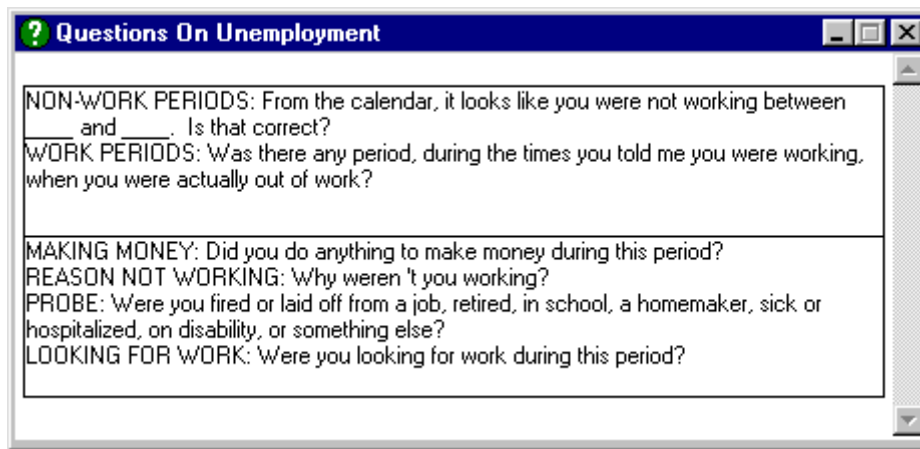
The interviewer goes back to the calendar to enter a separate spell. Note that the window that opens has the employer’s name and address filled-in. This is because the interviewer is still working with the pair of bars associated with Employer #1. At the bottom of the Calendar Data Entry Window the pair of bars associated with Employer #2 are visible, which the interviewer completes with the respondent, yielding the following complete employment history:



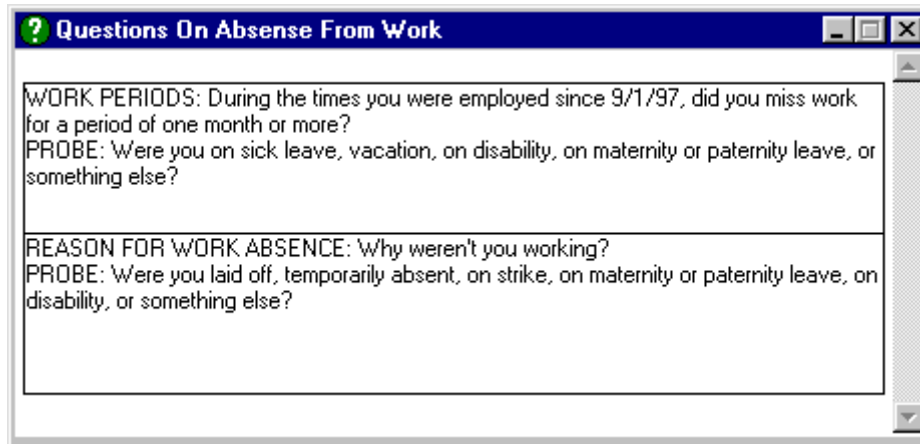
Clicking on the “Unemployment Questions” button in the next domain brings up the following window:



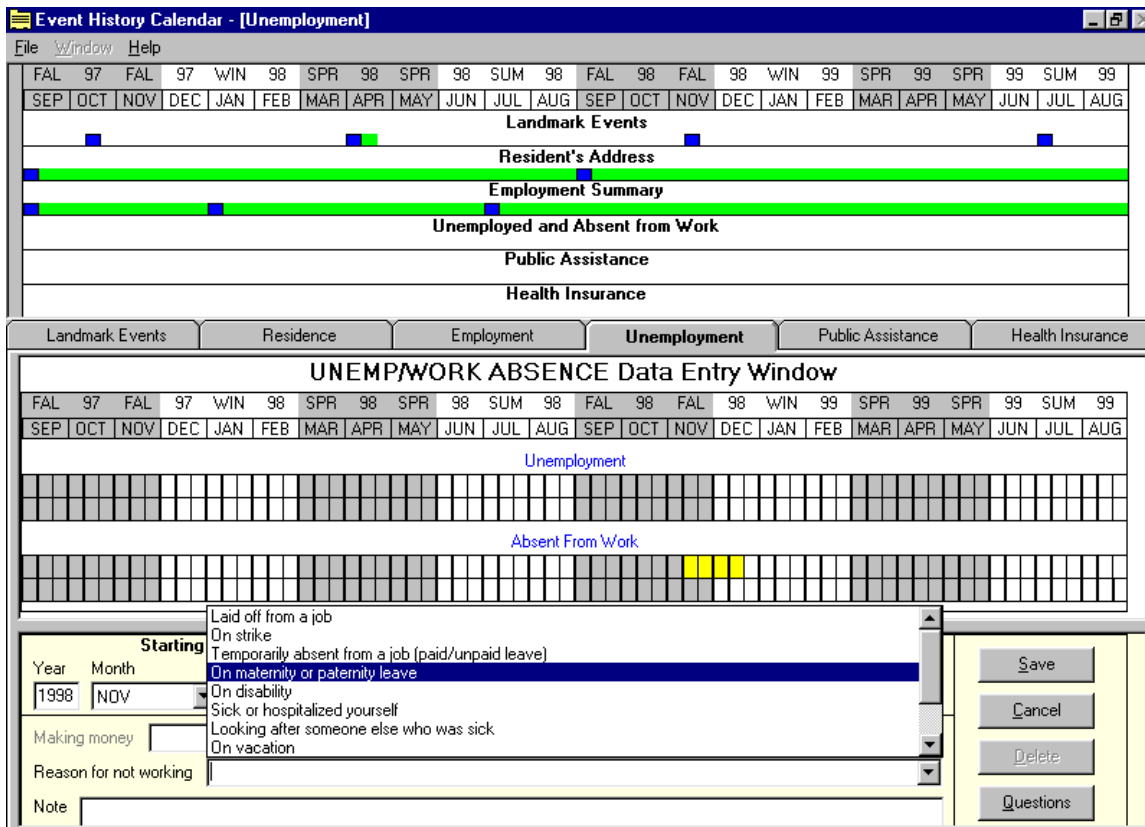
Choosing “Unemployment” brings up the following set of pop-up questions:



When “Absent from Work” is chosen, the following questions appear:



The respondent reports a single Absent from Work spell, which was one-month of paternity leave that occurred following the birth of his second child in November 1998. This is recorded using the calendar bar to record the beginning and ending dates and the drop down menu for “Reason not working,” as shown in the following screen:



The following are the pop-up questions form the next domain, which covers public assistance:



**? Questions for Program Participation**

Next, let's talk about any times since 9/1/97 that you received public assistance. First let's talk about Food Stamps.

**CURRENT FOOD STAMPS:** Are you [or your children] currently receiving Food Stamps?  
**TIME LINE:** When did you start receiving Food Stamps?

**PREVIOUS FOOD STAMPS:** Were there any (other) times since 9/1/97 that you [or your children] received Food Stamps?  
**TIME LINE:** When did you start receiving Food Stamps this time? When did you stop? Any other times?

**CURRENT AFDC/CALWORKS/TANF:** Are you [or your children] currently receiving AFDC/CalWORKS/TANF?  
**TIME LINE:** When did you start receiving AFDC/CalWORKS/TANF?

**PREVIOUS AFDC/CALWORKS/TANF:** Were there any (other) times since 9/1/97 that you [or your children] received AFDC/CalWORKS/TANF?  
**TIME LINE:** When did you start receiving AFDC/CalWORKS/TANF this time? When did you stop? Any other times?

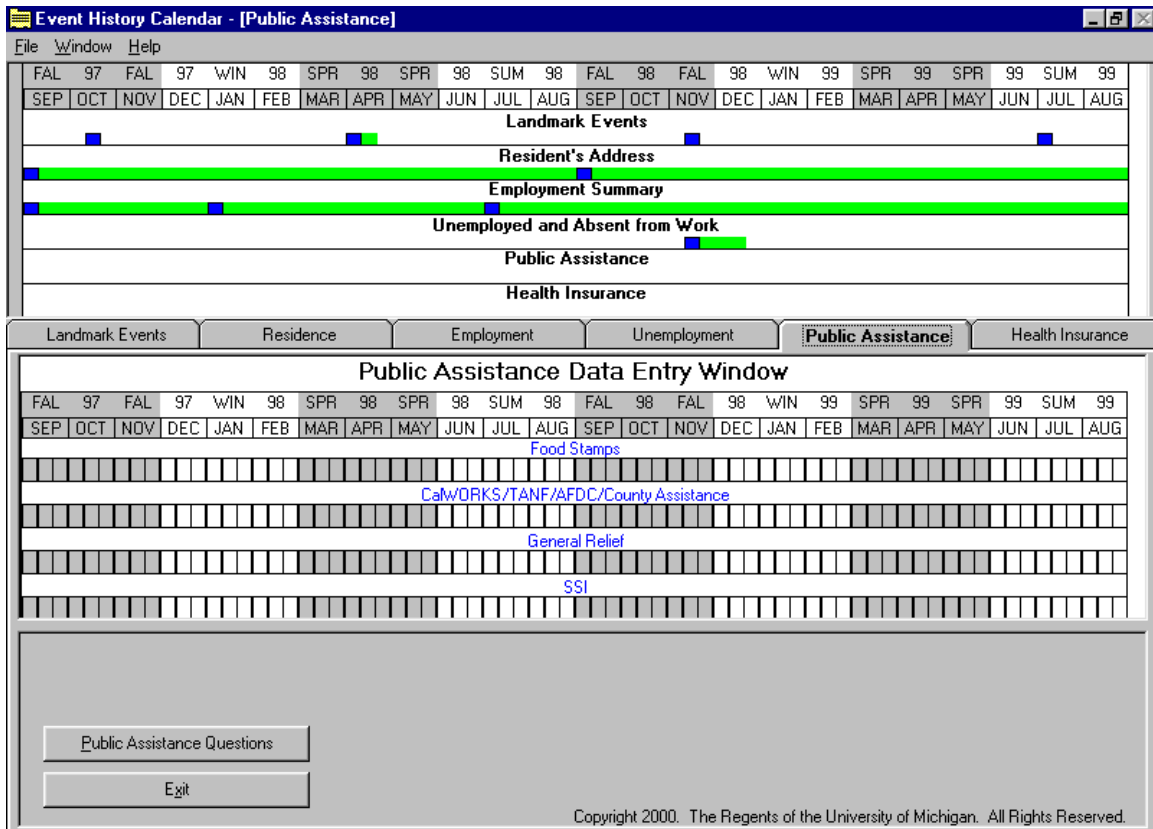
**CURRENT GENERAL RELIEF:** Are you [or your children] currently receiving General Relief or General Assistance?  
**TIME LINE:** When did you start receiving General Relief or General Assistance?

**PREVIOUS GENERAL RELIEF:** Were there any (other) times since 9/1/97 that you [or your children] received General Relief or General Assistance?  
**TIME LINE:** When did you start receiving General Relief or General Assistance this time? When did you stop? Any other times?

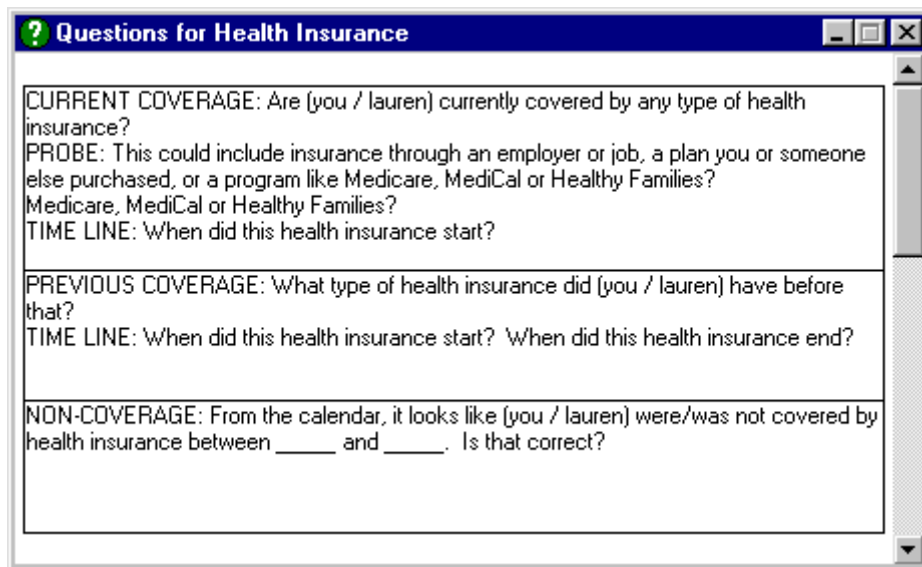
**CURRENT SSI:** Are you [or your children] currently receiving SSI?  
**TIME LINE:** When did you start receiving SSI?

**PREVIOUS SSI:** Were there any (other) times since 9/1/97 that you [or your children] received SSI?  
**TIME LINE:** When did you start receiving SSI this time? When did you stop? Any other

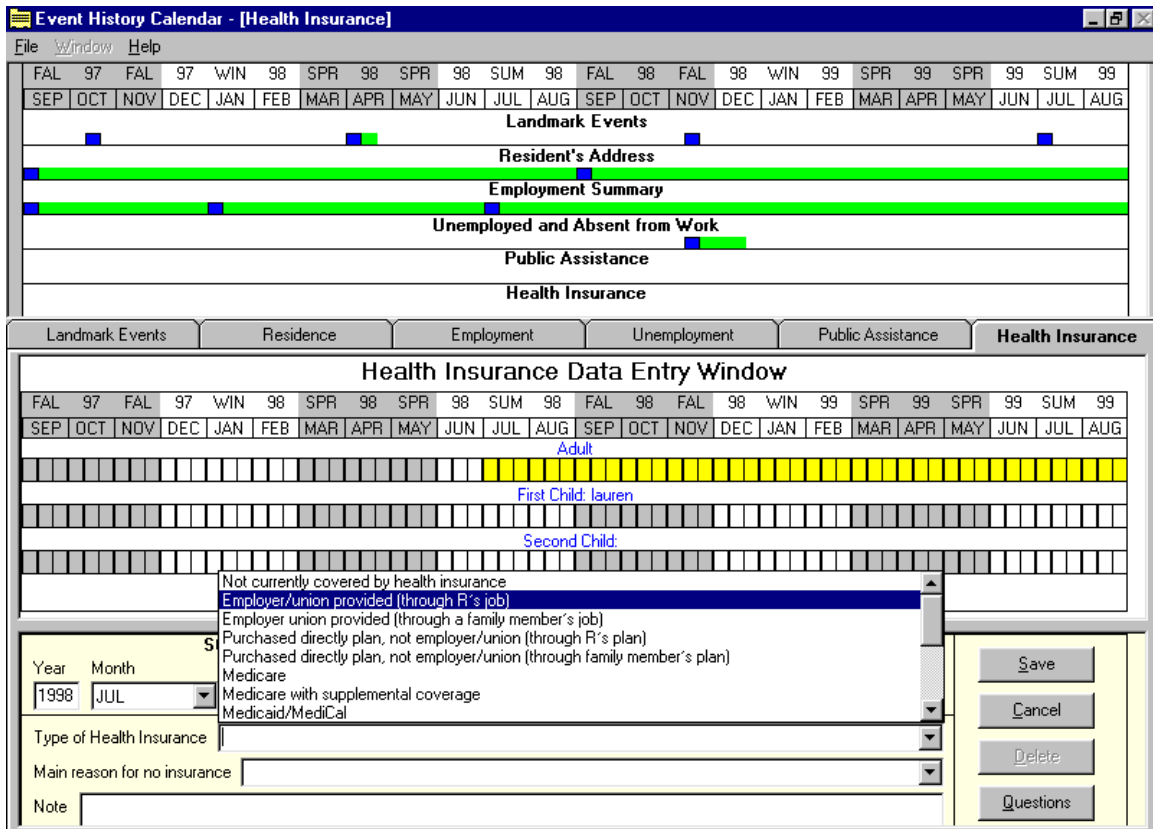
This history remains blank because the respondent did not receive any form of public assistance during the two-year period covered by the EHC:



Finally, the following are the pop-up questions from the Health Insurance domain:



Note that the questions mention the respondent's child and three bars appear in the calendar, one for the respondent, one for his first child (Lauren), and one for his second child:



The respondent reports being currently covered by health insurance through his employer. The interviewer can verify the date that the respondent began working for his current employer using information in the Summary Display Window. The respondent also reports a spell of no health insurance, prior to his current job:

**Event History Calendar - [Health Insurance]**

File Window Help

FAL 97	FAL 97	WIN 98	SPR 98	SPR 98	SUM 98	FAL 98	FAL 98	WIN 99	SPR 99	SPR 99	SUM 99	SUM 99											
SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG

**Landmark Events**

**Resident's Address**

**Employment Summary**

**Unemployed and Absent from Work**

**Public Assistance**

**Health Insurance**

Landmark Events   Residence   Employment   Unemployment   Public Assistance   **Health Insurance**

**Health Insurance Data Entry Window**

FAL 97	FAL 97	WIN 98	SPR 98	SPR 98	SUM 98	FAL 98	FAL 98	WIN 99	SPR 99	SPR 99	SUM 99	SUM 99											
SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG

Adult

First Child: lauren

Second Child:

**Starting Time**

Year: 1994   Month: JAN   3rd of Month: First   Day: [ ]

**Ending Time**

Year: 1998   Month: JUN   3rd of Month: Last   Day: [ ]

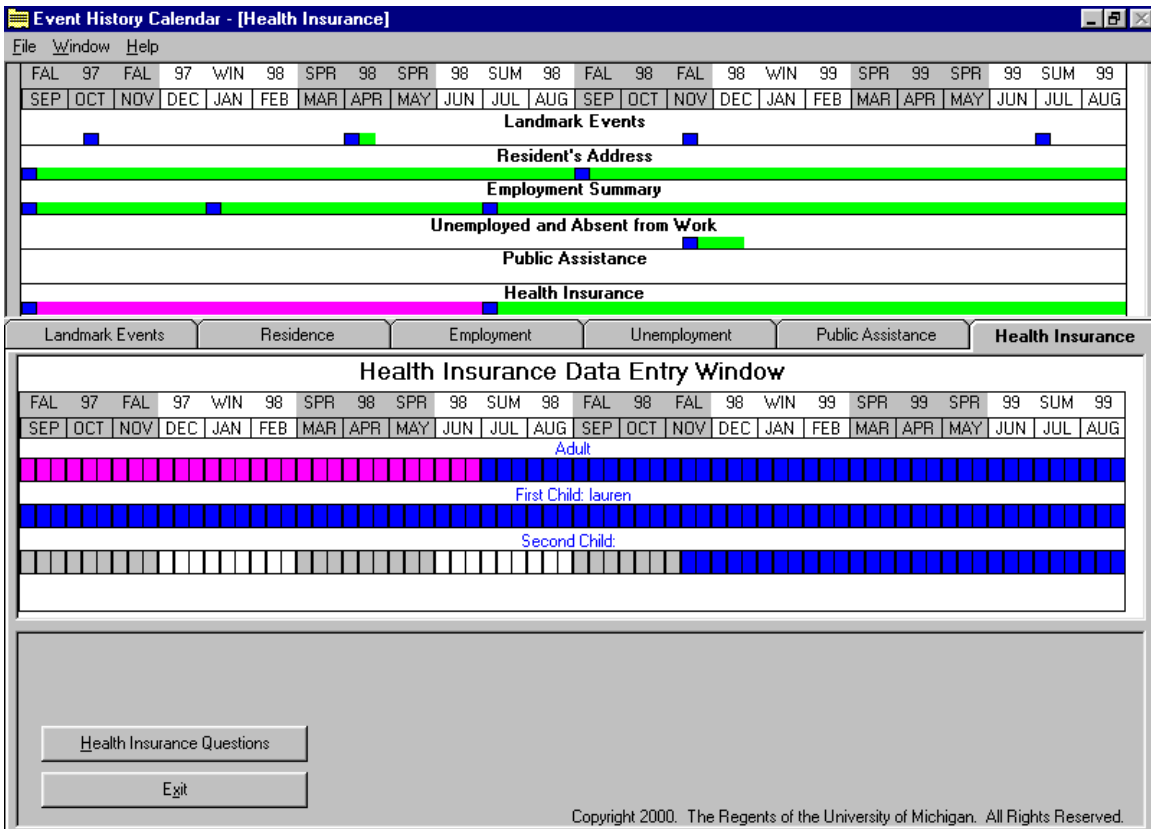
Type of Health Insurance: Not currently covered by health insurance

Main reason for no insurance: No health insurance offered by employer of self, spouse, or parent

Note: [ ]

Save   Cancel   Delete   Questions

Both the type of health insurance (none) and the main reason for no insurance (none offered by employer) are recorded using the pull-down menus in the Detailed Data Entry window. Together, these two spells complete the respondent's health insurance time line. The first child's health insurance history parallels her father's, while the second child's health insurance history begins with his birth, as shown in the following screen:



The calendar is now complete. After the interviewer reviews the information with the respondent, she clicks on the “Exit” button in the bottom left of the screen and continues with the remainder of the questionnaire.

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