CUNY INSTITUTE FOR STATE & LOCAL GOVERNANCE

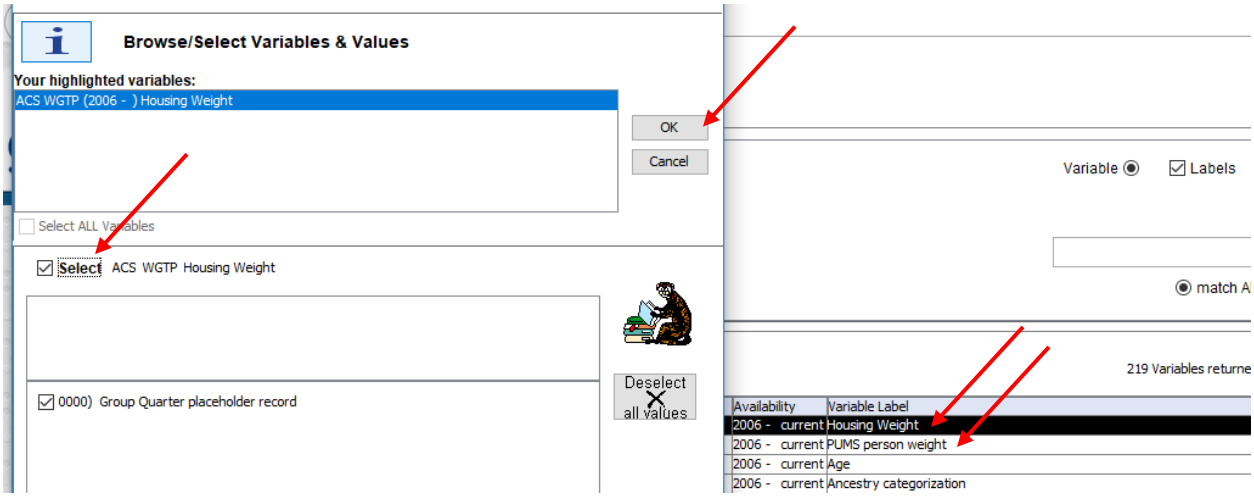
Using the "Make a Table" Tool in DataFerrett

*Note: These instructions use **Health Insurance** and **Rent Burden** as two examples of indicators that you can analyze with the "Make a Table" tool in DataFerrett. The **Health Insurance** indicator measures the percentage of people who do not have health insurance coverage, and the **Rent Burden** indicator measures the percentage of households that are rent burdened, meaning they spend more than 30 percent of household income on rent. For both of these indicators, we are comparing outcomes for different racial and ethnic groups.*

Step 1. Follow steps 1-9 in the DataFerrett section of CUNY ISLG's "Using American FactFinder and the DataFerrett" instruction document. You will launch DataFerrett, view variables in the American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample, and select the relevant Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs).

Step 2. Next, you will want to select the correct weights. If you will be using person-level variables (e.g., **Health Insurance**), you will need the "PUMS person weight." If you will be using household-level variables (e.g., **Rent Burden**), you will need the "Housing Weight."

Selecting these will not weight the variables for you, they will just give you the option to weight them appropriately when using the data later, so it's fine to select both options. When you double-click on each of them, a new box will appear, and you will have to click the "Select" box and then click "OK" to add the variable to the dataset. A box will pop up letting you know that you have added the variable to your DataBasket (which just means your dataset).



Step 3. Once you have added the appropriate weights, you can go through and select any relevant variables of interest in the same way that you selected the weights. This will include both the variables that you would like to use to disaggregate the data (e.g., race, gender, disability status) and your outcomes of interest. A few things to note:

- You will have to select race and ethnicity variables separately.
- If you want to look at person-level and household-level variables simultaneously (e.g., race and homeownership), you will need to select the RELP or "Relationship" variable.

This variable allows you to identify the person-level characteristics of the householder in each household.

- If you want additional information about a variable, you can double-click on it and see the details about how it is coded. If it is a continuous variable (e.g., age), you can see information like whether there is a cut-off (e.g., 0 means under 1 year, while 99 means 99 or older – the variable is "top-coded") or a code for missing values. For categorical variables (e.g., race), you can also see what the different categories are. There may be multiple similar variables, so you can look to see which one will best suit your needs.

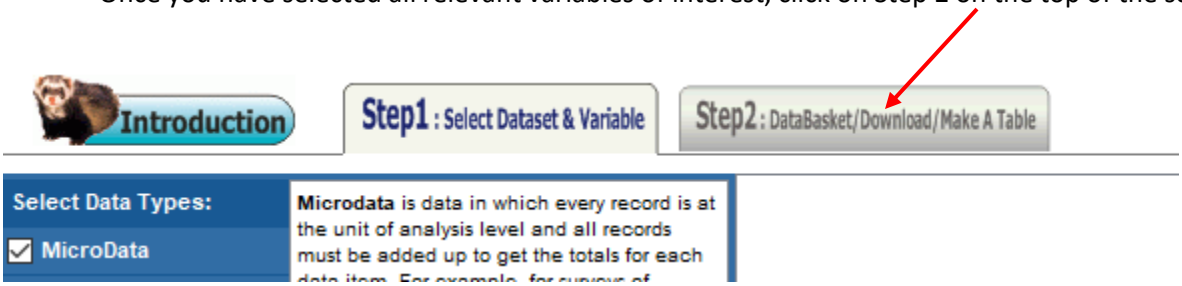
For **Health Insurance,** select:

- HICOV (Health insurance coverage recode)
- HISP (Hispanic recode)
- RAC1P (Recoded detailed race code)

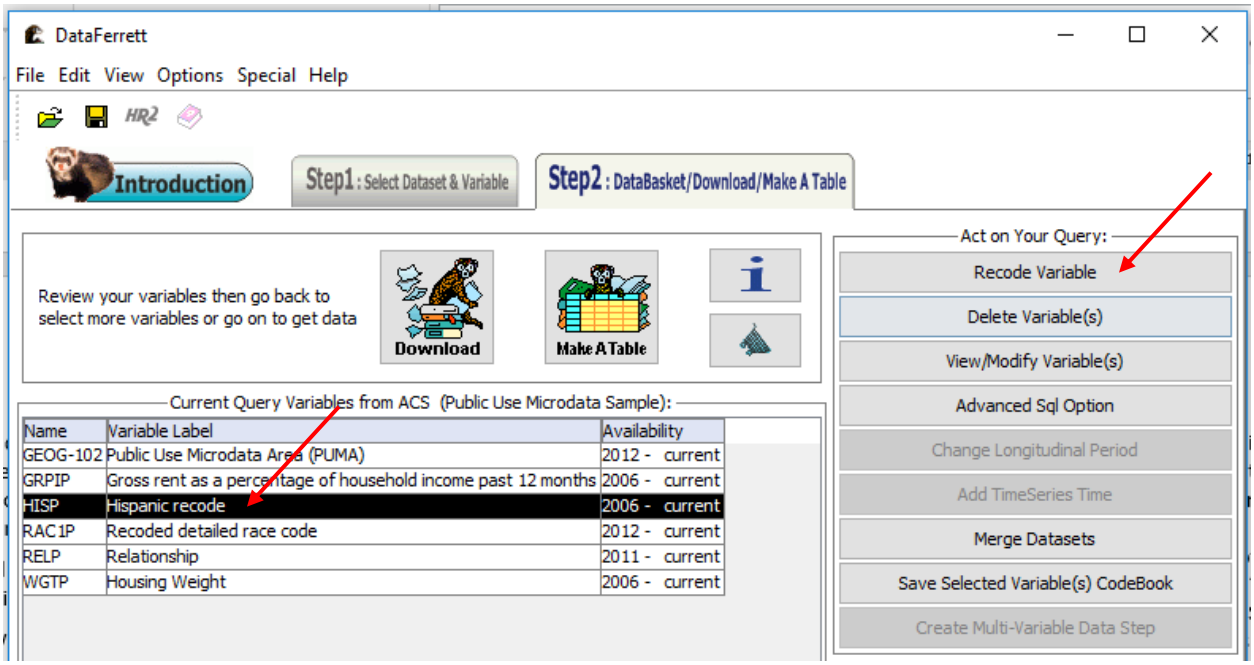
For **Rent Burden,** select:

- GRPIP (Gross rent as a percentage of household income past 12 months)
- HISP (Hispanic recode)
- RAC1P (Recoded detailed race code)
- RELP (Relationship)

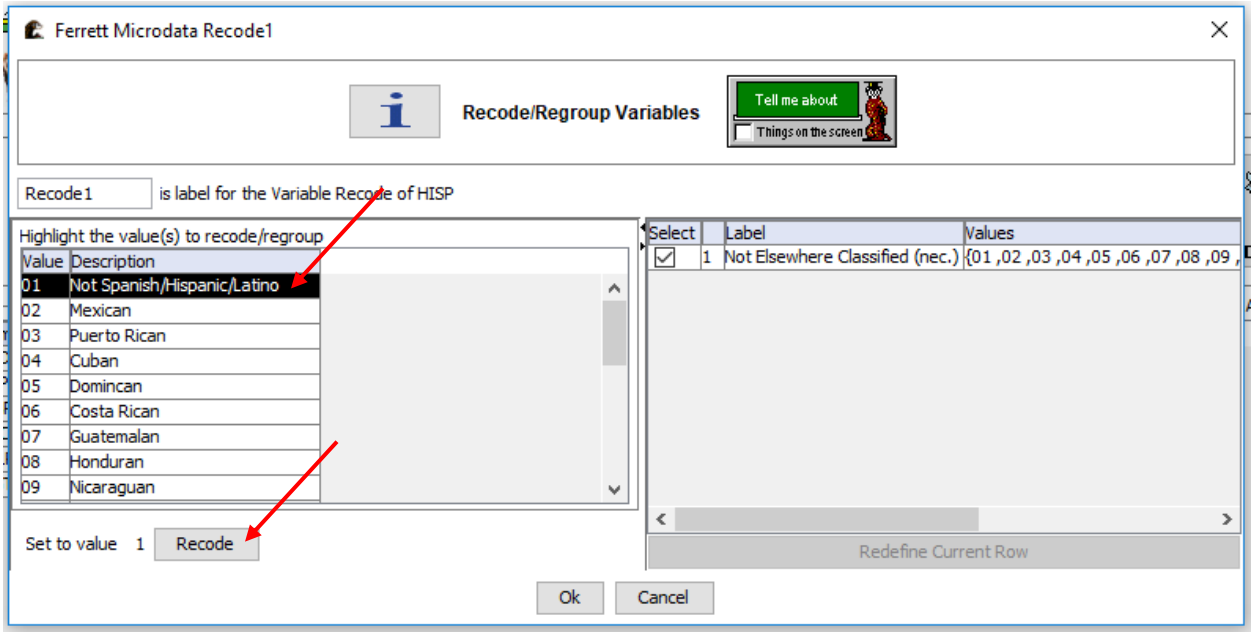
Once you have selected all relevant variables of interest, click on Step 2 on the top of the screen.



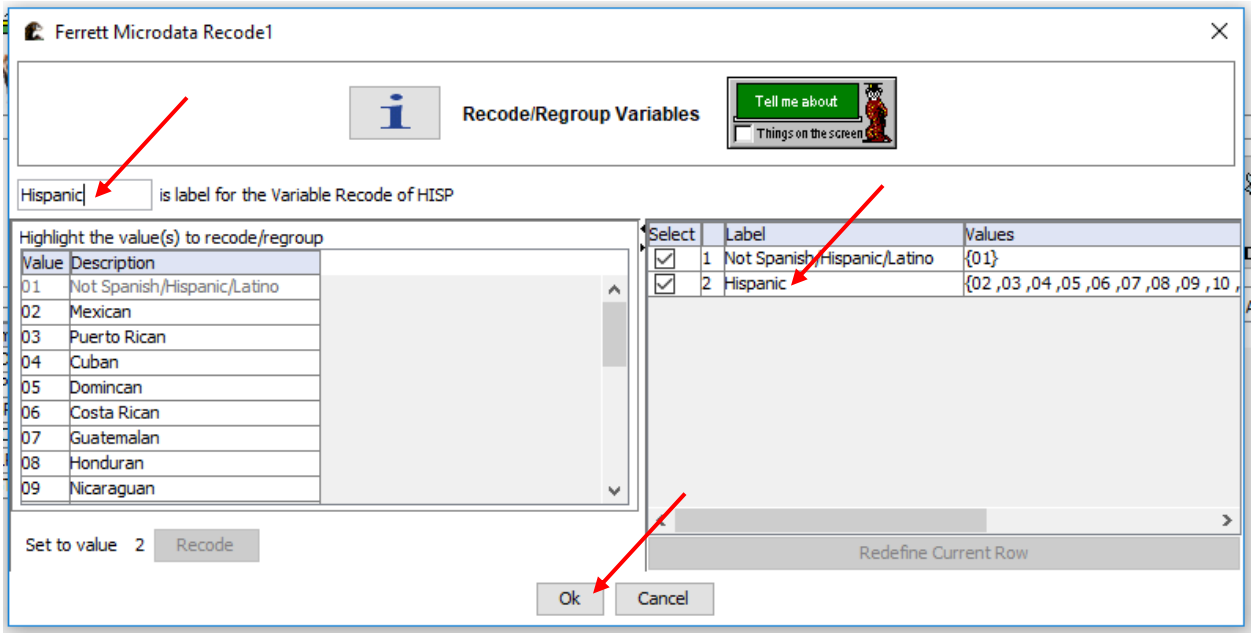
Step 4. Next, you will recode the relevant variables for your analysis. Recoding is necessary when you want to isolate, combine, or otherwise manipulate values in a variable (e.g., if you want to combine multiple racial groups into one "Other" category). To analyze both **Health Insurance** and **Rent Burden** by race and ethnicity, you will want to recode the Hispanic recode (HISP) and Recoded detailed race code (RAC1P) variables. Select HISP and click "Recode Variable."



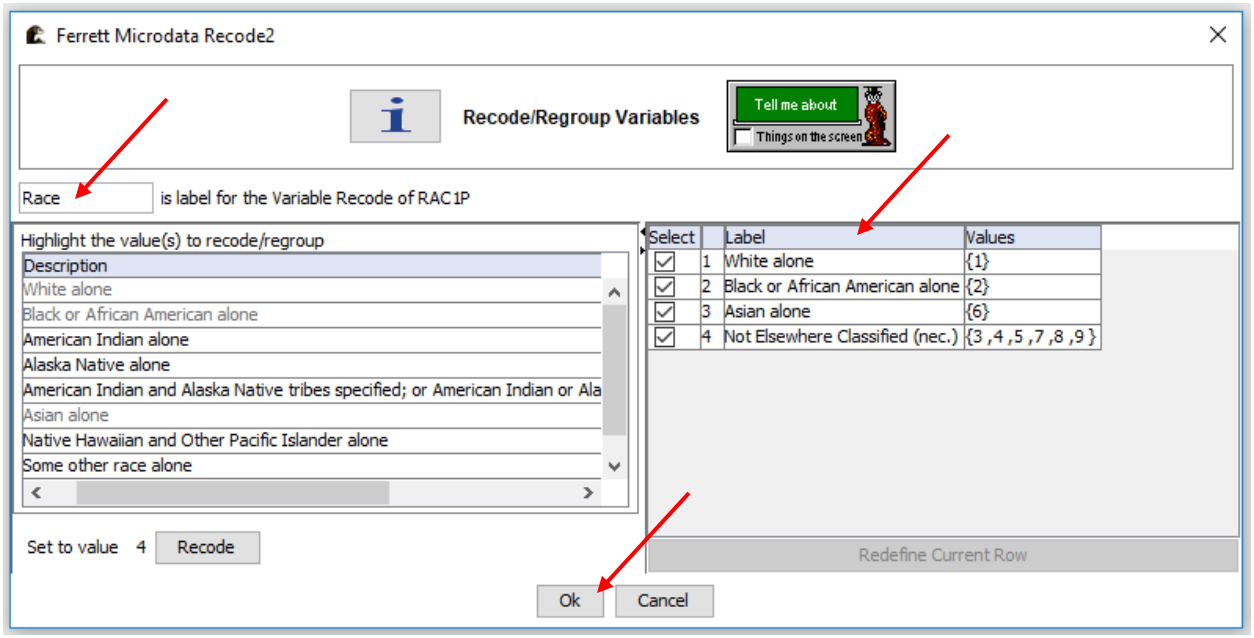
Select 01 (Not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino) and click "Recode."



Change value label “Not Elsewhere Classified…” to “Hispanic.” Change the variable name to “Hispanic.” Click “OK.”

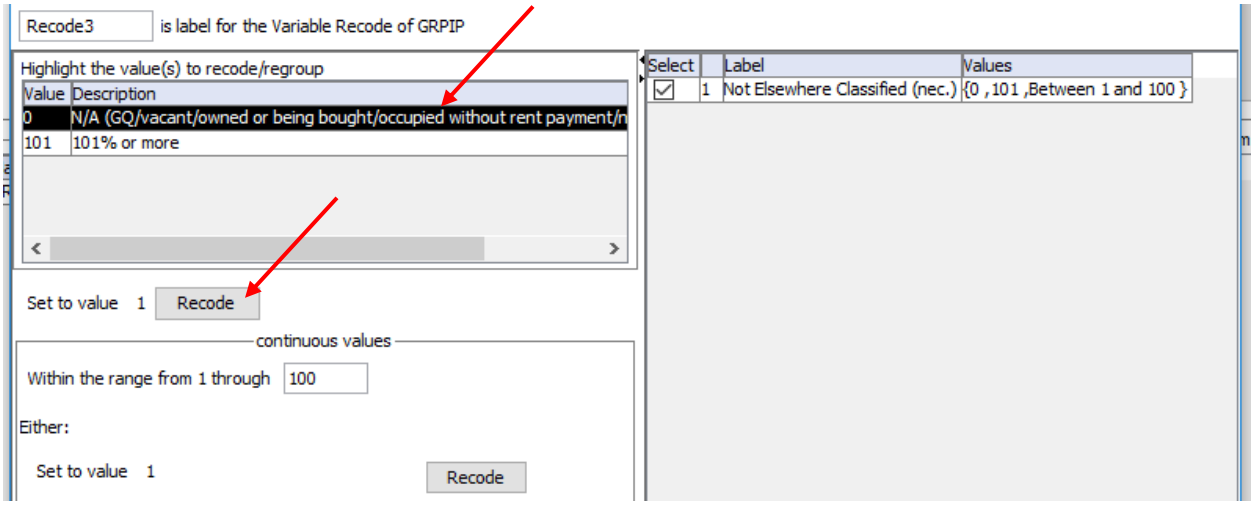


Next, recode the Recoded detailed race code (RAC1P) variable. Recode “White alone,” “Black or African American alone,” and “Asian alone” (and/or other relevant groups). Change the variable name to “Race” and click “OK.”

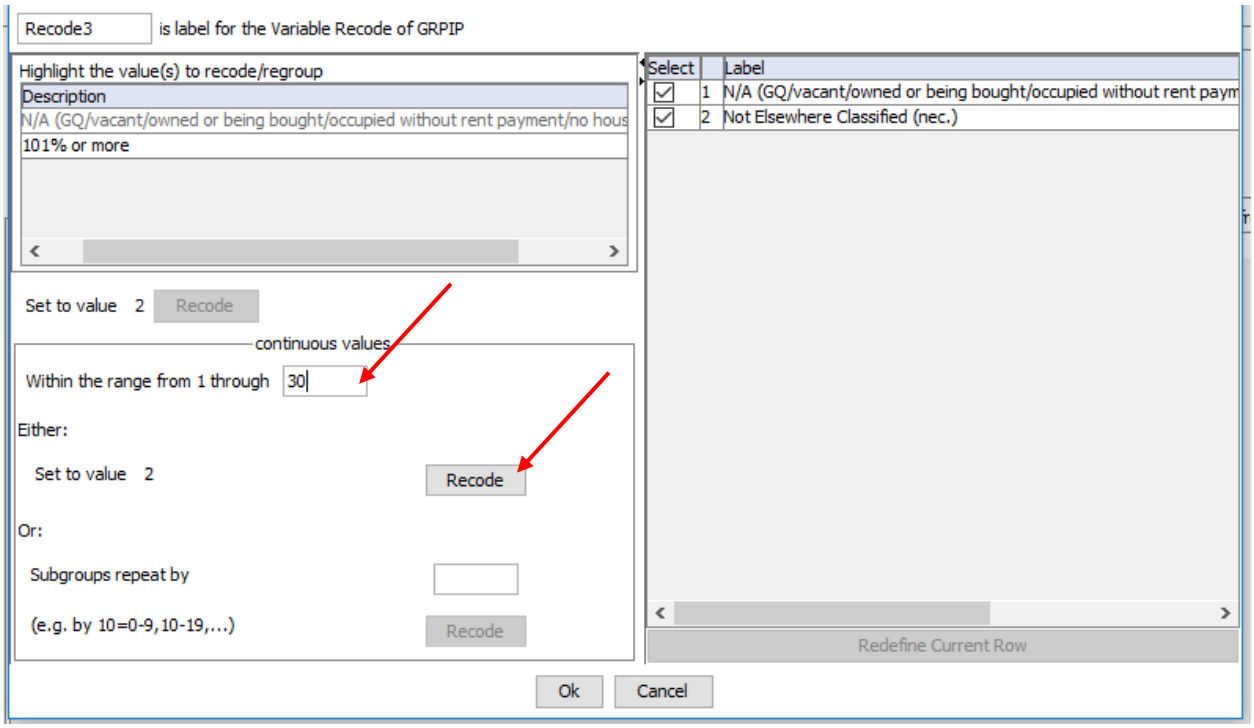


Step 5. Recode the remaining variables for the **Rent Burden** analysis. For the **Health Insurance** analysis, no further recoding is necessary since the HICOV variable already contains the values we need: "With health insurance coverage" and "No health insurance coverage."

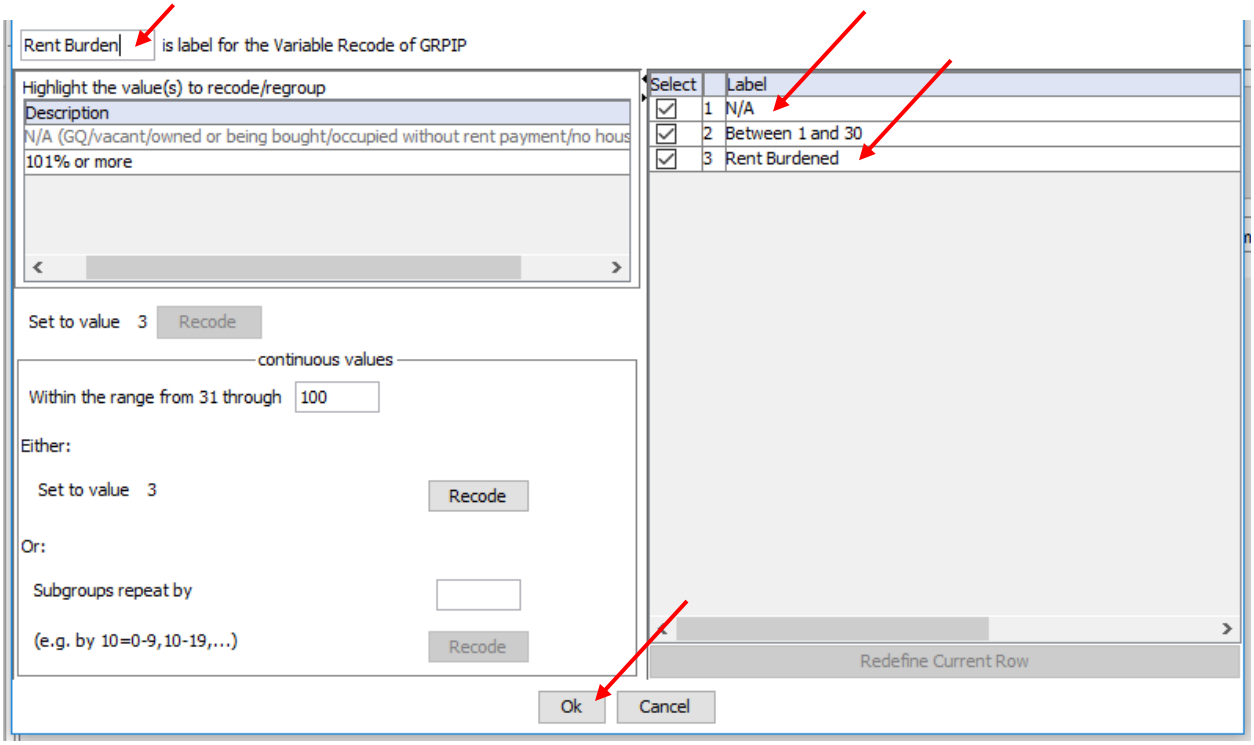
For **Rent Burden**, select GRPIP and click "Recode Variable." Select 0 (N/A GQ/vacant…) and click the "Recode" button directly below (make sure you don't select the "Recode" button farther down).



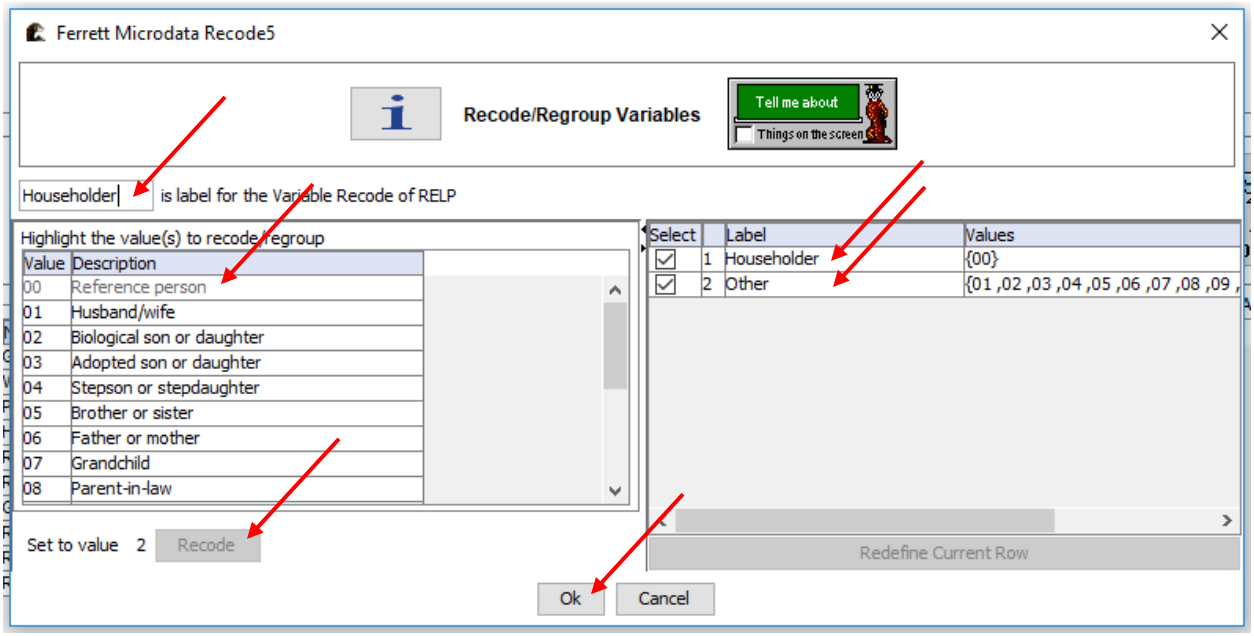
In the box called "continuous values," type "30" into the text box, so the text reads "Within the range from 1 through 30," and click "Recode."



In the right box, change label “N/A GQ/vacant…” to “N/A” and change “Not Elsewhere classified…” to “Rent Burdened.” At the top left, change the variable name to “Rent Burden” and click “OK.”

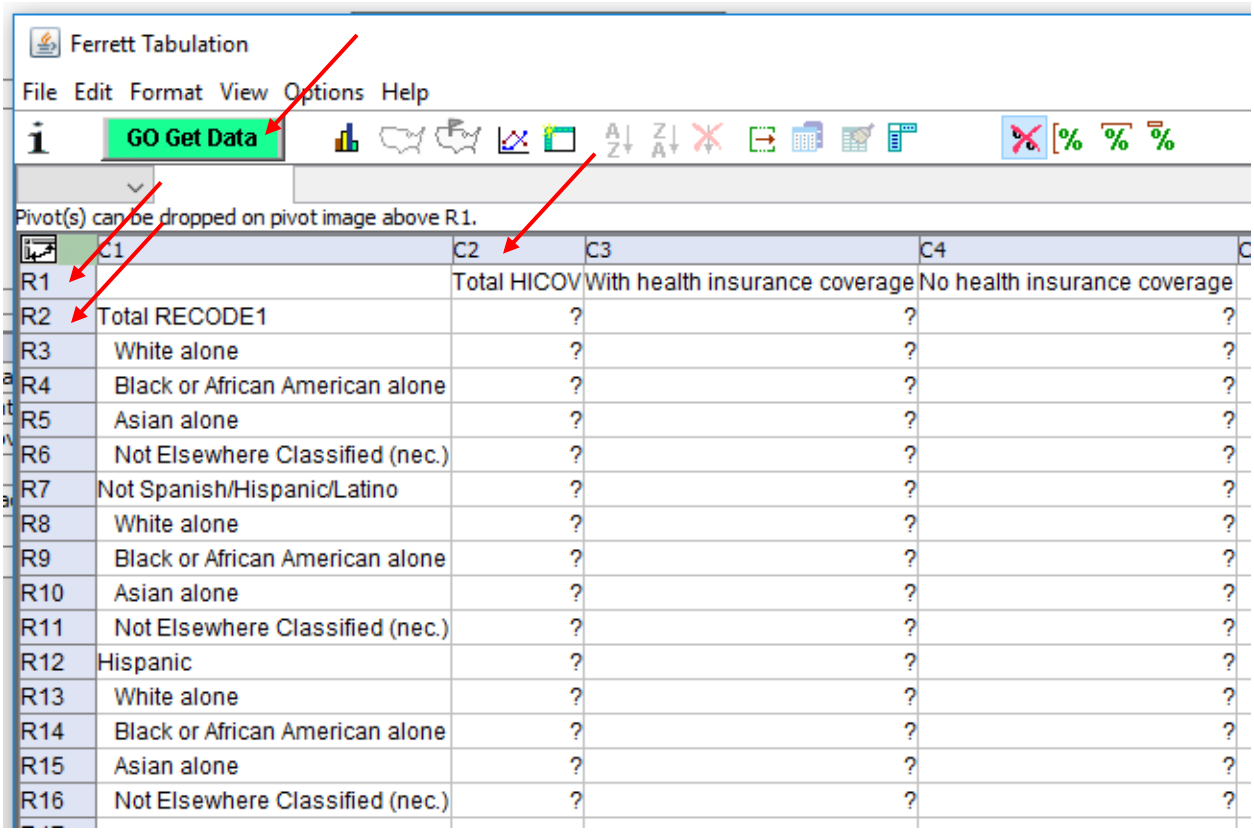


Next, select RELP and click “Recode Variable.” Select 00 (Reference person) and click “Recode.” In the right box, change label “Reference person” to “Householder” and change “Not Elsewhere Classified…” to “Other.” At the top left, change the variable name to “Householder.” Click “OK.”



Step 6. Click “Make a Table” button. Click “OK” when the pop-up window appears.

For the **Health Insurance** analysis, select and drag the recoded Hispanic variable to cell R1 in the table, and then select and drag the recoded Race variable to cell R2. Select and drag the Health insurance coverage recode variable to cell C2. Then click “GO Get Data.”



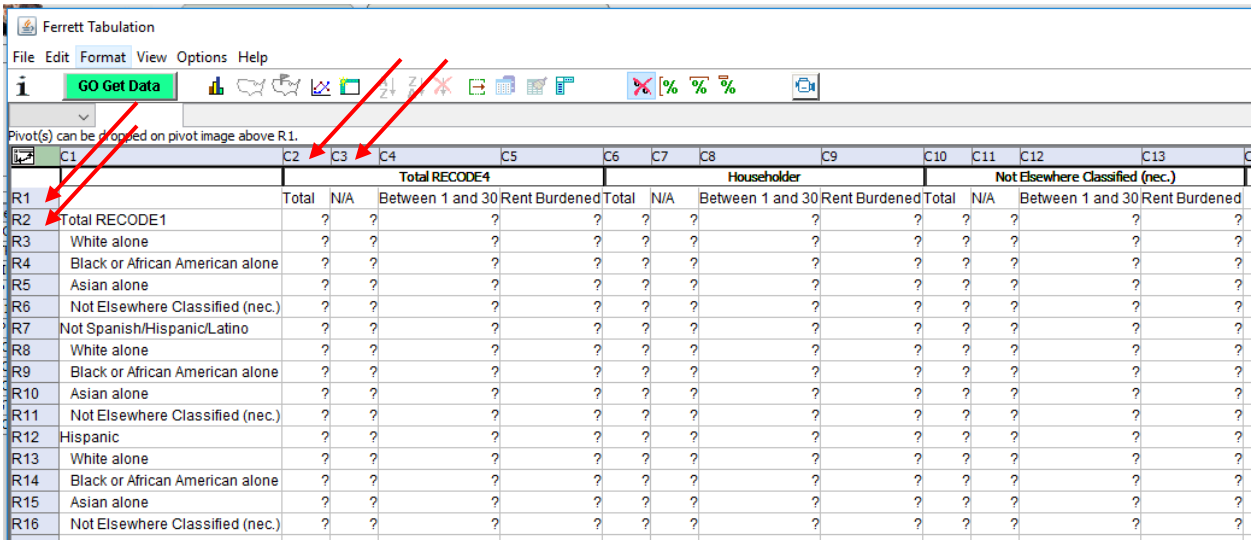
	C1	C2	C3	C4	C
R1		Total HICOV	With health insurance coverage	No health insurance coverage	
R2	Total RECODE1	?	?	?	
R3	White alone	?	?	?	
R4	Black or African American alone	?	?	?	
R5	Asian alone	?	?	?	
R6	Not Elsewhere Classified (nec.)	?	?	?	
R7	Not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino	?	?	?	
R8	White alone	?	?	?	
R9	Black or African American alone	?	?	?	
R10	Asian alone	?	?	?	
R11	Not Elsewhere Classified (nec.)	?	?	?	
R12	Hispanic	?	?	?	
R13	White alone	?	?	?	
R14	Black or African American alone	?	?	?	
R15	Asian alone	?	?	?	
R16	Not Elsewhere Classified (nec.)	?	?	?	

To analyze and save the data, copy and paste the table into Excel. You will want to focus on the race/ethnicity groups that are relevant to your analysis. In the example below, the relevant rows are White, Black, and Asian (R8, R9, R10) under the heading "Not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino," and Hispanic (R12). (*Note: You need to use the racial categories under the "Not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino" heading in order to avoid double-counting people who fall under those racial categories and are Hispanic.*) The health insurance calculation for each racial/ethnic group is the number of people with no health insurance coverage (C4), divided by the total number of people (C2), and multiplied by 100.

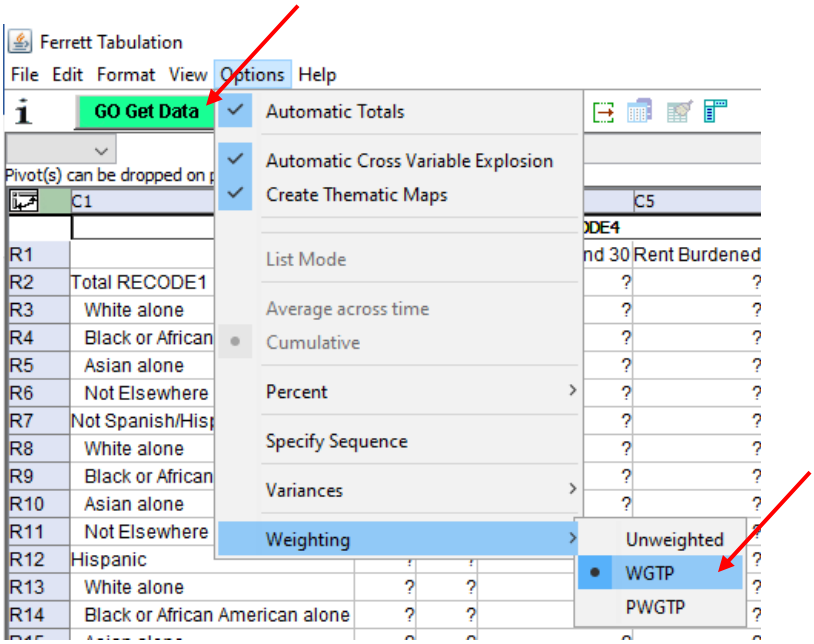
Percentage of people without health insurance coverage = C4/C2 x 100

	C1	C2	C3	C4
R1		Total HICOV	With health insurance coverage	No health insurance coverage
R2	Total RECODE1	8,622,806	7,992,563	630,243
R3	White alone	3,639,488	3,450,491	188,997
R4	Black or African American alone	2,104,893	1,963,786	141,107
R5	Asian alone	1,251,827	1,149,973	101,854
R6	Not Elsewhere Classified (nec.)	1,626,598	1,428,313	198,285
R7	Not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino	6,105,043	5,756,628	348,415
R8	White alone	2,732,359	2,629,234	103,125
R9	Black or African American alone	1,879,000	1,752,753	126,247
R10	Asian alone	1,241,668	1,140,117	101,551
R11	Not Elsewhere Classified (nec.)	252,016	234,524	17,492
R12	Hispanic	2,517,763	2,235,935	281,828
R13	White alone	907,129	821,257	85,872
R14	Black or African American alone	225,893	211,033	14,860
R15	Asian alone	10,159	9,856	303
R16	Not Elsewhere Classified (nec.)	1,374,582	1,193,789	180,793

For the **Rent Burden** analysis, select and drag the recoded Hispanic variable to cell R1 in the table, and then select and drag the recoded Race variable to cell R2. Select and drag the recoded Householder variable to cell C2, and then select and drag the recoded Rent Burden variable to cell C3. A warning about different weights will appear. Click “OK.”



Since you are using both person-level and household-level variables, you need to make sure you have selected the correct weight. In the main menu, select “Options” > “Weighting” and make sure “WGTP” is selected. The click “GO Get Data.”



To analyze and save the data, copy and paste the table into Excel. You will want to focus on the race/ethnicity groups that are relevant to your analysis and the data under “Householder.” (As noted above, when looking at person-level and household-level variables simultaneously, you need to analyze the data by the race/ethnicity of the householder.) In the example below, the

relevant rows are White, Black, and Asian under the “Not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino” heading, and Hispanic (R8, R9, R10, and R12). The relevant columns are C6, C7, and C9. The rent burden calculation for each racial/ethnic group is the number of rent burdened householders (C9), divided by the total number of householders minus those in the N/A column (C6-C7), and multiplied by 100.

Percentage of households that are rent burdened = C9/(C6-C7) x 100

	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9
		Total RECODE5						Householder	
R1		Total	N/A	Between 1 and 30	Rent Burdened	Total	N/A	Between 1 and 30	Rent Burdened
R2	Total RECODE1	7,885,570	3,024,774	2,489,815	2,370,981	3,159,693	1,131,161	986,501	1,042,031
R3	White alone	3,393,671	1,516,113	1,078,453	799,105	1,506,617	629,572	483,903	393,142
R4	Black or African American alone	1,853,492	618,684	624,865	609,943	761,565	224,323	243,751	293,491
R5	Asian alone	1,159,627	577,736	269,654	312,237	394,171	184,001	95,041	115,129
R6	Not Elsewhere Classified (nec.)	1,478,780	312,241	516,843	649,696	497,340	93,265	163,806	240,269
R7	Not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino	5,615,659	2,536,907	1,649,952	1,428,800	2,358,510	970,067	711,581	676,862
R8	White alone	2,586,078	1,282,433	779,597	524,048	1,201,471	546,395	379,469	275,607
R9	Black or African American alone	1,654,499	576,414	543,310	534,775	686,386	211,174	214,810	260,402
R10	Asian alone	1,149,739	572,890	266,335	310,514	391,760	182,710	94,329	114,721
R11	Not Elsewhere Classified (nec.)	225,343	105,170	60,710	59,463	78,893	29,788	22,973	26,132
R12	Hispanic	2,269,911	487,867	839,863	942,181	801,183	161,094	274,920	365,169
R13	White alone	807,593	233,680	298,856	275,057	305,146	83,177	104,434	117,535
R14	Black or African American alone	198,993	42,270	81,555	75,168	75,179	13,149	28,941	33,089
R15	Asian alone	9,888	4,846	3,319	1,723	2,411	1,291	712	408
R16	Not Elsewhere Classified (nec.)	1,253,437	207,071	456,133	590,233	418,447	63,477	140,833	214,137