

BACKGROUND

The “Big Three”—ANES, GSS, PSID

Since the 1970s, NSF has been in the forefront of providing funding not only to one-time surveys conducted for specific research projects, but also to ongoing surveys that have supported several generations of social science researchers. The three major population surveys that receive NSF funding (currently about 15 percent of the NSF SBE budget) are the American National Election Studies (ANES), the General Social Survey (GSS), and the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), briefly described below.

AMERICAN NATIONAL ELECTION STUDIES (ANES)

ANES was established in 1948 by the University of Michigan to collect information from eligible voters on various aspects of voting, public opinion, and political participation in the United States. Following ad hoc and partial support of the Michigan election studies in the early 1970s, NSF made its first long-term grant to support a reorganized ANES in 1977, and NSF funding continues to this day (through the Political Science Program in SBE). In 2005, Stanford University became a partner with the University of Michigan in implementing the ANES.

NSF has charged the ANES with achieving two major benefits for the research community. First is to extend the time-series of core data pertaining to citizens' social background, political predispositions, underlying social and political values, contemporary perceptions and evaluations of relevant groups and would-be leaders, opinions on questions of public policy, and participation in political life. Second is to improve the measurement of the core concepts first created in the earlier Michigan studies and to develop instrumentation and study designs to allow new theories of voting and public opinion to be tested.

Focus

ANES is designed “to advance the scientific study of public opinion and political behavior” by investigating the causes or consequences of turnout or candidate choice. Interviews are conducted with U.S. eligible voters on topics of partisanship and attitudes toward parties, candidate and incumbent evaluations, most important problems and issues, ideology and values, attitudes toward the political system, the nation and government, and political participation and mobilization.

Study Design

ANES conducts several kinds of surveys of the American electorate: time series studies, pilot studies, panel studies, and other/”special” studies. The time series studies are conducted during presidential election years – although from 1958 through 2002 they were also conducted during midterm elections – and typically include a pre-election survey and a post-election survey. When there were congressional election-year studies, typically there was only a post-election survey. Since 1979, pilot studies have been conducted in “off-years” with no elections in order to test new questions and refine study design and methodology for the time series surveys. The samples are cross-sectional, selected according to equal probabilities, and typically self-weighting; sample sizes vary depending on the type of study and the topic. Originally, interviews were conducted face-to-face and recorded on paper questionnaires. By 1995, interviews were

conducted on laptops using CAPI (computer assisted personal interviewing) or by telephone. Interviewing over the Internet was initiated for the 2008-2009 Panel Study. Although the 2008 Time Series Study was completely conducted in face-to-face mode, a section of questions on select topics was, for the first time in the Time Series, self-administered [Audio Computer-Assisted Self Interviewing or ACASI], to reduce social desirability pressures. This practice was continued and expanded in 2012. In 2012, for the first time in Time Series history, face-to-face interviewing was supplemented with data collection on the Internet. Data collection was conducted in the two modes independently, using separate samples. The Internet sample was drawn from the *Knowledge Networks* (now *Gfk*) panel. A supplemental Internet sample will also be collected in 2016, although this time the respondents will recruited from scratch as part of a nationwide probability sample. In early 2016, ANES will field a recruitment pilot study experimenting with incentives, methods of household contact, and within-household enumeration and respondent selection procedures for Internet data collection.

Special Studies/Features

ANES has conducted several unique “other” studies, selected examples of which are described briefly below:

- **1984 Continuous Monitoring Study:** telephone surveys were conducted to examine the impact of the 1984 presidential election campaign on voters' perceptions, beliefs, and preferences, including evaluations of candidates. Questionnaires were modified slightly throughout the study to ask about the most salient issues in the campaign at the time of the interview.
- **1988 Super Tuesday Study:** interviews were conducted with respondents in 16 states having primaries on Super Tuesday. Questions included opinions on candidate recognition and evaluations, assessment of each candidate's chances of winning his/her party's nomination and the November general election, attitudes on public issues, and other related issues. Immediately following Super Tuesday, brief re-interviews were conducted that contained recognition and feeling thermometers on all candidates and traits of selected candidates.
- **1988-90-92 Senate Election Study:** merged data from ANES senate studies conducted in 1988, 1990, and 1992 to analyze respondents' views on candidates for the House and Senate. It included telephone interviews throughout the year with 76 respondents, interviewed in each of 46 sampled weeks about political issues and the campaign. Additionally, and unlike with the main Time Series, the Senate Election Study (SES) involved representative samples collected in each of the 50 states in each wave of the study.
- **2000-2002-2004 Panel Study:** a panel study designed especially to allow researchers to investigate Americans' evolving perceptions of and reactions to the contested 2000 presidential election and the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. It includes up to five waves of panel data beginning with a pre-election interview conducted as part of the traditional 2000 Time Series Study. Respondents were re-interviewed in a post-election wave in 2000, a pre-election wave in 2002, a post-election wave in 2002, and a post-election wave in 2004. The study features face-to-face (CAPI) and telephone (CATI) interviews.
- **2008-2009 Panel Study:** tracked and repeatedly interviewed the same group of respondents starting in January 2008 during the presidential primary/caucus season and ending during the first year of the Obama presidency in September 2009. To leverage the panel design, many questions are repeated, with the same respondents answering at two or more points in time.

In addition to the 10 primarily political "ANES waves" of the study, the Panel Study includes questions for other waves that were written by outside investigators who funded some administration costs. More questions were selected from among batteries of questions that the data collection firm had used in their own past research, rounding out an additional 11 waves of primarily non-political content.

- **2010-2012 Evaluations of Government and Society Study (EGSS):** a series of surveys conducted over the Internet in 2010-2012 using samples representative of the national population of adult citizens (drawn from the *Knowledge Networks* panel). Each survey has a separate sample. The chief aims of the surveys were to measure public opinion in advance of the 2012 election and to pilot new instrumentation.

ANES participates in the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES), which involves to date national election studies from 53 countries around the world. Each national study agrees to donate approximately 15 minutes out of a national postelection survey for a module designed by the CSES planning committee. The cumulative result so far is a dataset of nearly 240,000 respondents, collected across 147 elections, that includes a set of commonly coded demographic background variables, the module of survey questions, and a detailed mass of information about each country's democratic institutions. To date, there have been four survey modules through 2015; the first module was fielded from 1996-2000, the long period being needed to accommodate the varying schedules of national elections across so many countries.

In 2006, the ANES Online Commons was created as a forum for individuals to offer feedback and suggest improvements to the ANES. This year, 35 proposals were submitted for the 2016 Pilot Study and the 2016 Time Series Study (a final round of submissions will be invited in early 2016). In all, over 300 proposals have been submitted for various studies since the inception of the Online Commons, with roughly 100 of these successfully inspiring new or revised instrumentation on ANES surveys.

ANES also maintains the Cumulative Data File (CDF). The CDF merges into a single file all cross-section cases and variables for select questions from the ANES Time Series studies conducted since 1948. Questions that have been asked in three or more Time Series studies are eligible for inclusion, with variables recoded as necessary for comparability across years. The file is currently being reviewed to include additional variables that have been adopted and used frequently across recent elections.

ANES also maintains the "Guide to Public Opinion." The Guide provides immediate access to tables and graphs that display the ebb and flow of public opinion, electoral behavior, and choice in American politics over time. It serves as a resource for political observers, policy makers, and journalists, as well as teachers, students, and social scientists.

In recent years, ANES has added to its website two utilities that, like the CDF and the Guide to Public Opinion, are maintained by staff and made available to the user community. The "Core Utility" provides access to information on the content of each Time Series study since 1992. It is organized thematically with links that provide marginal distributions of responses to the questions in recent elections. For all items asked since 1992, information is also provided indicating the years prior to 1992 when the question was asked. The ANES Search Utility searches ANES Time Series study codebooks to locate questions and variables by keyword. (It should be noted that we are currently adding information for the 2012 Time Series to this utility.)

ANES TOPICS AND VARIABLES

ANES Study Types:

- **Time Series Studies** – conducted during years of national elections
- **Pilot Studies** – conducted to test new questions or refine existing instrumentation and study designs to improve the time series (conducted in “off years” with no election)
- **Panel Studies** – conducted to collect data over a selected time period of special interest by re-interviewing respondents over the chosen period
- **Other Studies** – studies that are unique in purpose and design and do not fall into the other categories

ANES Topics in Recent Elections (selected):

1. Social and religious characteristics of the electorate

- Age
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation
- Race and Ethnicity
- Native Born/Immigrant Status of Respondent and Respondent's Parents
- Education
- Occupation
- Employment status
- Household Union Membership
- Social Class, Self-Identification
- Income
- Homeownership/Renting
- Invested in Stock Market
- Marital Status
- Children
- Residential Mobility
- Military Service
- Religion of Respondent
- Attitudes about the Accuracy of the Bible
- Religion an Important Part of Life
- Religious Guidance in Day-to-Day Living
- Frequency of Prayer
- Church Attendance
- Respondent Consider Self as Born Again Christian

2. Partisanship and evaluation of the political parties

- Party Identification
- Strength of Partisanship
- Party Likes and Dislikes about the Political Parties (open)
- Affect toward the Parties (feeling thermometers)
- Which Party Best Able to Handle Most Important Problem

- Which Party Would Do Better (economy, keeping out of war, and other issues)
- Important Difference in What Democratic and Republican Parties Stand For
- Is One Party More Conservative
- Which Party Better Able to Keep U.S. Out of War
- Which Party More Likely to Favor a Strong Government

3. Ideological Orientation

- Liberal-Conservative Self-Identification
- Ideological Placement of the Presidential Candidates
- Ideological Placement of the President [when not running]
- Ideological Placement of the Democratic and Republican Parties
- Ideological Placement of U.S. House Candidates
- Government Should Be Doing More/Less
- Handle Problems with Strong Government versus Free Market
- Perceptions of Changes in the Power of Government

4. Public opinion on public policy issues

- Most Important Problems Facing the Country
- Power of the Federal Government
- Government Support for Health Care
- Government versus Private Health Insurance
- Government Guaranteed Job/Standard of Living
- Government Services/Spending Trade-off
- Aid to Blacks/Minorities
- Government See to Fair Treatment in Jobs
- Equal Role for Women
- Gender Roles in Family and Work
- Abortion
- School Prayer
- U.S. Position in the World Over the Last Year
- U.S. Should Not Concern Itself with World Problems
- Foreign Relations (specific focus changes)
- War (specific focus changes)
- Increase/Decrease Government Spending (on many specific issues)
- Condition of Nation's Economy Over the Last Year
- Condition of Nation's Economy Over the Next Year
- Have Economic Policies of Federal Government Made Things Better/Worse
- Retrospective Views on Changes in Unemployment and Inflation
- Prospective Expectations on Changes in Unemployment and Inflation
- Who Is to Blame for Poor Economic Conditions
- Affirmative Action
- Taxes
- Budget Deficit
- Outsourcing
- Free trade/Limits on Imports
- Gun Access/Control
- Death Penalty

- Gays and Lesbians (job discrimination, military service, marriage, adoption)
- Immigration
- Environmental Protection and Climate Change
- Allow People to Invest Portion of Social Security Taxes in Stocks and Bonds
- 2010 Affordable Care Act
- How Often Should Government Rely on Scientific Approaches

5. Views on the political system

- Trust in the Federal Government
- Affect toward Political Institutions
- Satisfaction with Democracy in the U.S.
- Perceptions of Government Wastefulness
- Perceptions of Government Corruption
- Perceptions of Election Fairness
- External Political Efficacy (e.g., does government care what people think)
- Internal Political Efficacy (e.g., does respondent feel capable of participating)
- Preference for Divided versus Unified Government
- Preference for Leaders Compromising versus Sticking to Principle

6. Civic involvement and participation in politics

- Voter Registration
- Voter Turnout
- Timing and Method of Casting Vote
- Tried to Influence How Others Vote
- Believe Voting is a Duty or Choice
- Attend Campaign Events
- Display Campaign Signs
- Work for Candidates or Parties
- Contribute Money to Candidates or PACs
- Contacted by Political Parties about the Election
- Contacted by Others about the Election
- Encouraged by Anyone to Register or Vote
- Contact with Member of Congress
- Contact with Congressional Candidates
- Organizational Membership
- Volunteer Work
- Contribute Money to Church/Charity
- Involvement in Local Community
- Attendance at Local Public Meetings
- Has Respondent Contacted Government Officials
- Political Discussion
- Has Respondent Written/Called Media Organizations about Political Issues
- Political Activity on Social Media Websites
- Participation in Protests, Rallies, or Demonstrations
- Has Respondent Signed a Petition

7. Evaluation of the candidates and other political leaders

- Affect toward Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates
- Affect toward the President [when not running for reelection]
- Affect toward U.S. House and U.S. Senate Candidates
- Affect toward Other Political Leaders
- Likes and Dislikes about the Presidential Candidates (open)
- Trait Evaluations of the Presidential Candidates
- Trait Evaluations of the President [when not running]
- Emotions Felt toward the Presidential Candidates
- Emotions Felt toward the President [when not running]
- Presidential Approval (general and on specific issues)
- Approval of Incumbent Member of Congress
- Approval of Congress
- Retrospective Performance Judgments of the President

8. Vote choice

- Presidential Vote Choice
- Timing of Presidential Election Vote Decision
- U.S. House Vote Choice
- U.S. Senate Vote Choice
- Governor Vote Choice
- Expectation about Which Candidate Will Win
- Perception of Closeness of the Election Contest

9. Group Identities and Attitudes

- Importance of Religious Identity
- Perceptions of Discrimination
- Importance of American Identity
- Patriotism
- Time of Presidential Election Vote Decision
- Affect toward Social Groups
- Importance of Racial or Ethnic Identity
- Linked Fate to Racial or Ethnic Group
- Group Stereotypes
- Perceptions of the Political Influence of Groups
- Racial Resentment

10. Values

- Moral Traditionalism
- Egalitarianism
- Social Trust

11. Personal Experiences and Traits

- Respondent Financial Situation Over the Last Year
- Respondent Financial Situation Over the Next Year

- Difficulties Paying for Health Care
- Worried about Losing/Finding a Job
- Likelihood of Missing a Mortgage/Rent Payment
- Life Satisfaction
- Respondent Health
- Trait: Need for Cognition
- Trait: Need to Evaluate
- “Big Five” Traits (Ten Item Personality Inventory)
- Child Rearing Values (authoritarian predisposition)
- Performance on Vocabulary Test

12. Political Information

- Which Party Controls Congress
- Identify Office Held by Various Political Figures
- State of Residence of Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates
- Religion of Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates
- Knowledge of Selected Policy and Economic Facts
- Knowledge of Selected Facts about Political Institutions
- Name Recognition of Congressional Incumbents and Candidates

13. Attention to Politics, Campaigns, and Media

- General Interest in Politics
- Interest in Current Election Campaign
- Care Who Wins Election
- Pay Attention to News about the Campaign
- General News Consumption (by medium)
- News Consumption about the Campaign (by medium)

GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY (GSS)

The NSF Sociology Program has funded the GSS since its inception in 1972 at NORC at the University of Chicago. The GSS was conducted annually from 1972 to 1994 (except for 1979, 1981, and 1992) and has been conducted biannually since then. It is the only full-probability, personal-interview survey of noninstitutionalized Americans 18 years of age and older currently conducted in the United States that is designed to monitor changes in both social characteristics and attitudes.

Focus

The General Social Survey (GSS) monitors trends and constants in American society overall and among subgroups, allowing for cross-national comparisons. Main areas covered in the GSS include socioeconomic status, social mobility, social control, the family, race relations, sex relations, civil liberties, and morality. The GSS contains a standard core of demographic and attitudinal questions, plus topics of special interest. Core items include background information about respondents (for example, age, sex, education, region of residence) and measures of attitudes (e.g. views about gender roles, confidence in institutions, gun control) and behaviors (e.g. attendance at religious services and voting in the most recent presidential election). Other core topics are civil liberties, crime and violence, intergroup tolerance, morality, national spending priorities, psychological well-being, social mobility, and stress and traumatic events.

Study Design

For each round of surveys, the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research prepares a cumulative dataset that merges previous years of the GSS into a single file, with each year or survey constituting a subfile. The content of each survey changes slightly as some items are added to or deleted from the interview schedule, but the survey has standard “replicating core” items that are included in every wave of the survey. The GSS assembles data on social trends though exact replication of question wordings over time, and the primary source of trend data are the items in the GSS “replicating core.” Many of the core questions have been unchanged since 1972 to facilitate time trend studies. These planned replications cover a wide range of content and can be found in any given GSS. Replicating core items fall into two major categories: socio-demographic/background measures and measurements of social and political attitudes and behaviors.

In addition to the standard core items, there have been over 45 topical modules in the GSS that include questions on specific topics through one-time modules, which add innovative content to the GSS and expand the range of topics it can cover by going into depth on a subject within a single survey. Some of the topics covered in modules (some more than once) include attitudes on the military and recruitment, social networks, religion, work organization, culture, family mobility, emotions, volunteering, gender, mental health, job experiences, medical care, medical ethics, information society, freedom, health status, prejudice, quality of working life, altruism, and adult transitions.

The GSS started with in-person interviews (averaging 90 minutes), which were conducted almost annually until 1993. Since 1994, the GSS has been conducted in even numbered years.

Special Studies/Features

The GSS is part of the International Social Survey Program (ISSP), in which research teams in many countries collaborate to facilitate the ability to provide social science researchers with survey data that are as compatible as possible cross-nationally. The ISSP was established in 1984 by NORC and other social science institutes in the United States, Australia, Great Britain, and West Germany. The ISSP collaboration has now grown to include 49 nations. The GSS has also conducted methodological research designed both to advance survey methods in general and to insure that the GSS data are of high quality.

In 1986, the GSS included an oversample of Blacks to obtain their opinions on various social issues to inform social welfare policies on inequality and government spending to aid the poor. Respondents were asked basic demographic information (age, gender, education) in addition to questions about their socioeconomic status and their perceptions of economic pressure. They were then asked to provide their views on support of government spending for improving the standard of living for blacks and providing assistance to the poor (e.g. welfare).

In 1993, there was a split-frame experiment in which half the cases were drawn from NORC's 1980 sampling frame and half from the new 1990 sampling frame. Beginning with the 1994 General Social Survey, two major innovations were introduced. First, the number of traditional core questions was substantially reduced to allow for the creation of mini-modules of selected topics. Second, a new biennial, split-sample design was implemented, consisting of two parallel sub-samples of approximately 1,500 cases each. The two sub-samples both contained the identical core questions and differed in terms of the topical modules included.

The 2006 GSS was the first to have a Spanish language version, using bilingual interviewers. In 2008 all sections were translated to and administered in Spanish.

GSS TOPICS AND VARIABLES

Replicating Core Socio-Demographic/Background Measures

- Demographic and life course data
- Work/employment data
- Spousal data
- Parental/social origin data
- Household variables
- Process and other technical data

Replicating Core Social/Political Attitudes and Behaviors Measures

- Vocabulary knowledge
- Subjective well-being and social life orientations
- Religious attitudes and behaviors
- Suicide
- Attitudes about family and children
- Attitudes involving sexual behavior and pornography
- Socializing with personal contacts
- Media use/contact
- Work orientations
- Class identification and economic well-being
- Political party identification
- Voting in Presidential elections
- Candidate preference in Presidential elections
- Political views (liberal/conservative scale)
- Views about government intervention
- Priorities for national spending
- Civil liberties
- Confidence in institutions
- Attitudes and behaviors involving crime, punishment, and firearms
- Taxes appropriate
- US involvement in future world war
- Legalized abortion
- Gender role attitudes
- Racial attitudes
- Racial composition of workplace
- Racial stereotypes
- Immigration

GSS Topical Modules (modules vary by year; this is a comprehensive list from the 2015 codebook)

- Adult Transitions
- Altruism
- Altruistic Love

- Art
- Catholics
- Clergy/Sex
- Culture
- Daily Spiritual Experiences
- Disabled
- Doctors and Patients
- Emotions
- Employee Compensation
- Family Mobility
- Freedom
- Frequency of Spiritual Experiences
- Gender
- Genes
- Global Economics
- Gun Control
- Guns
- Health Status
- Immigration (3 card)
- Information Seeking Online
- Information Society
- Intergroup Relations
- Jewish Identity
- Jobs
- Markets
- Markets and Exchange
- Mental Health
- Mental Health I
- Mental Health II
- Multiculturalism
- Multi-Ethnic United States
- Number Known
- Prejudice
- Quality of Working Life
- Religion
- Religion and Culture
- Science, Knowledge about and Attitudes towards
- Self-Employment
- Sexual Orientation
- Shared Capitalism
- Social Networks
- Socio-Political Participation
- Spiritual Transformations
- Terrorism Preparedness

- Voluntary Associations/Social Networks
- Women and Alcohol
- Work Organizations
- Workplace Conflict

Non-Core Replications of GSS Items (items from selected topical modules that are not part of the replicating core but have been included numerous times in the GSS)

- Military/National service/Draft
- Social networks
- Contact with persons with AIDS
- Contact with homicide victims
- Religion
- Religion and health
- Intergroup relations
- Genetics and genetic screening
- National security
- Cultural participation
- Multiculturalism/Immigration
- Mental health
- Medical care
- Internet/Information Society
- Quality of working life
- Altruism
- Science

Additional GSS Variables

- Personality traits
- Civil liberties
- AIDS
- High risk behaviors
- Birth order
- Genes
- Children
- Negative life events
- Income
- National security
- Ethnicity and race
- Military service and work
- Residence
- Vocabulary test
- Religious attendance and identity
- Household members and structure
- Date of interview
- Occupation

- War and international
- Welfare
- Interview characteristics
- Shared memberships

PANEL STUDY OF INCOME DYNAMICS (PSID)

The PSID, which is conducted at the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research, is the longest running longitudinal household survey in the world. It was established in 1968 to study dynamics of income and poverty to inform a national assessment of "War on Poverty" programs. It is designed to maintain a representative sample of families at any point in time as well as across time. It began with a nationally representative sample of over 18,000 individuals living in 5,000 families in the United States, and information on these individuals and their descendants has been collected continuously over the years.

Focus

PSID studies originally focused on the dynamics of income and poverty, but have since broadened the aims to encompass topics of social and health conditions over the full life course. Data is collected on employment, income, wealth, expenditures, health, marriage, child bearing, child development, philanthropy, education, disability and use of time, housing, and other related topics. Information about each family member is collected, but much greater detail is obtained about the head and, if married/cohabitating, spouse or long-term cohabitor. Survey content has changed over time to reflect evolving scientific and policy priorities, although many content areas have been consistently measured since 1968.

Study Design

The PSID includes a *main interview*, in which one person per family is interviewed on a regular basis. Between 1968 and 1997, interviews were conducted annually. Since then, interviews have been biennial. The PSID releases the main interview data in five different data files to facilitate use among established data users: 1) family file; 2) cross-year individual file; 3) birth history file; 4) marriage history file; and 5) parent identification file. The original sample of households was derived from a combination of samples from the Survey of Economic Opportunity and the Survey Research Center's sample file. Not only have these original sample members been followed over time, but also new households formed by the adult children of original PSID households have been added to the PSID sample, a process that has continued to this day. The mode of data collection shifted from in-person to telephone interviewing in 1973 and to computer-assisted telephone interviewing in 1993.

Special Studies/Features

In addition to the Main Interview, there are several other PSID studies:

- **Disability and Use of Time (DUST)** collects information from older couples in PSID families about disability, time use, and well-being. It includes detailed information on disability measures and a 24-hour time diary supplement for the PSID. The study has two parts: first, there is an initial interview of respondents, which is followed by an electronic time diary portion that asks about the respondent's activities on the previous day and how they felt during these activities. There have been two waves of this study, one in 2009 and one in 2013.
- **Child Development Supplement (CDS)** was developed in 1997 to supplement the PSID with information on children ages 0-12 and their parents on socio-demographic, psychological, and economic aspects of childhood. The study has been conducted using

three versions over time: CDS-I, CDS-II, and CDS-III. The first wave conducted in 1997 used the CDS-I, and two following waves included re-interviews of previous participants, using CDS-II in 2002 and CDS-III in 2007.

- **Transition into Adulthood (TA)** was created as a follow-on to the Child Development Supplement (CDS) study, and is designed to obtain information on choices, changes, and transitions from CDS respondents who have turned 18 through 28 years old. It began in 2005 when the oldest CDS respondents reached 18 to 20 years of age; it has been conducted biennially and will continue to be conducted biennially in parallel with the core PSID until 2015 when the youngest individuals in CDS will have reached adulthood. The preliminary release of the 2013 Transition into Adulthood data file (TA-2013) has been released.
- The **Childhood Retrospective Circumstances Study (CRCS)** was the first study conducted by the PSID using the internet as the primary mode of data collection, and it was established in 2013. It was designed to collect a mixed mode (web or paper) module from household heads and, if married/cohabitating, spouses/partners aged 19 and older, about their childhood experiences. The data may be used to study early life influences on adult health and economic outcomes. The final CRCS data from 2014 has been released.

In addition, the PSID has conducted major methodological studies, including a Validation Study designed to assess the quality of cross-sectional and over-time economic data obtained in the PSID. The first wave of the Validation Study was conducted in 1983 and a second wave was conducted in 1987. The standard PSID questionnaire was administered to a sample drawn from a single large manufacturing firm. Questionnaire results were compared to company records to verify respondents' answers to questions such as hours worked, sick time taken, periods of unemployment, and changes of position within the company. A Calendar Methods Study was conducted in 1998 to compare the data quality of retrospective reports on social and economic variables using traditional standardized question-list (Q-list) interviewing methods versus event history calendar (EHC) interviewing methods.

Over the life of the project, the PSID has received support from a number of government agencies, foundations, and other organizations. While the PSID's original funding agency was the Office of Economic Opportunity, the study's major funding source is now the National Science Foundation Economics Program. The PSID also receives funding from the National Institute on Aging, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, the Economic Research Service in USDA, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

PSID TOPICS AND VARIABLES

PSID Study Types:

1. Main Interview
2. Disability and Use of Time (DUST)
3. Child Development Supplement (CDS)
4. Transition into Adulthood (TA)
5. Childhood Retrospective Circumstances Study (CRCS)

Main Interview

The PSID releases the main interview data in five different data files to facilitate use among established data users. 2013 is the most recent wave of the main interview.

Data Files:

1. **Family file** - 5,257 variables (2013): includes all family level variables collected in that year
2. **Cross-year individual file** - 1,822 variables (1985-2013): includes information on every person who was ever in an interviewed family at any point since the study began in 1968
3. **Birth history file** - 105 variables (1985-2013): contains details about childbirth and adoption events of eligible people living in a PSID family at the time of the interview in any wave from 1985 through the most recent wave
4. **Marriage history file** - 20 variables (1985-2013): contains details about marriage events of eligible people living in a PSID family at the time of the interview in any wave between 1985 and the most recent wave
5. **Parent identification file** - 30 variables (2013): provides information collected about parent-child relationships from various sources since the 1983 wave, and the file consists of identifier variables that link children with their parents

Survey Topics:

- Housing, utilities, computer usage
- Employment
- Housework, food expenses, food assistance, transportation, education expenses, other expenditures
- Income
- Health status, health behaviors, health expenditures
- Marriage/fertility
- New head/wife background
- Philanthropic giving and volunteering, religiosity, help received
- Pensions
- Off-year income and public assistance
- Wealth and active savings
- Rosters and transfers

Disability and Use of Time (DUST)

Interview Survey Topics:

- Global well-being
- Impairments and limitations
- American Community Survey (ACS) disability
- Assistive devices
- Personality
- Self-efficacy and spirituality
- Cognitive functioning
- Marital and romantic relationship quality
- Family relationships
- Household care and division of labor
- Participation (in activities outside the home)
- Closing (asks for a report on how satisfied they were with their life as a whole)

Time Diary Topics:

- Self-care activities
- Productive activities
- Obtaining goods
- Household activities
- Physical care, looking after others & school-related activities
- Non-active leisure
- Active leisure, arts & entertainment, & travel
- Organizational activities

Time Diary Questions:

- **Yesterday Time Diary:** Respondents were asked to report what they were doing and how long it took, as well as how they felt during the activity
- **Detailed Well-being:** After completion of the diary, the computer randomly selected (up to) three times of day and more detailed questions were asked about how the respondent felt while doing the activities at these times
- **Caregiving:** Respondents were asked to report time caring for another adult, age 18 or older, who needs help with daily activities
- **How Typical Was Yesterday:** Respondents were asked questions about whether or not the activities during the time period were consistent with their normal routines

Child Development Supplement (CDS)

Survey Topics:

- Health status and behaviors
- Psychological and social well-being
- Family environment
- Parental monitoring
- Child care

- Education
- Achievement
- Time use
- Religiosity
- Future work and schooling expectations
- Sibling relationships
- Caregiver social and psychological resources
- Absent parents
- Spending and savings
- School environment
- Nutrition
- Technology

Transition into Adulthood (TA)

Survey Topics:

- Time use
- Responsibilities
- Self
- Marriage, family, and relationships
- Employment
- Income and wealth
- Education and career goals
- Health
- Social environment
- Religiosity/Race & Ethnicity
- Outlook on life

Childhood Retrospective Circumstances Study (CRCS)

Survey Topics:

- Identifying parents/guardians, parental relationship quality, histories
- Health conditions
- Socioeconomic status
- Friendships
- School experiences
- Exposure to the criminal justice system
- Parent/guardian mental health
- Relationship quality with parents/guardians
- Young adult mentoring