

CONTENT OF CURRENT QUESTIONNAIRE

PSID collects a wide variety of information each wave that when combined with the CDS and TA interviews creates unique analytic opportunities. Content of the current PSID questionnaire includes the following:

Employment	Education
Wages	Marriage & fertility
Income	Health status
Expenditures	Health behaviors
Wealth	Health insurance
Mortgage distress & foreclosures	Program participation
Pensions	Computer use
Philanthropy	Housing characteristics

PSID SAMPLE

The original PSID consisted of a national sample. An oversample of low-income families was included to provide adequate sample sizes for investigating poverty related issues. Roughly 18,000 individuals living in 5000 households were members of the original 1968 sample.

All 1968 sample members have the PSID “gene,” and they are followed and interviewed in all subsequent waves across their entire lives, regardless of where they live. All individuals born to or adopted by somebody with the PSID “gene” acquires the gene themselves, and therefore are interviewed and followed. As a result, when children in PSID families grow up and form their own independent households, they are interviewed.

In 1997/1999 a sample of 511 immigrant families was added to enhance representativeness. Using weights provided by the PSID, it has been shown that the PSID sample continues to closely resemble the national population even after more than 40 years of interviewing.

STUDY DIRECTION AND OVERSIGHT

The PSID is directed by faculty at the University of Michigan, with data collection carried out by the Institute for Social Research. An external Board of Overseers, which consists of leading scientists from various disciplines, provides scientific input and monitors the project.

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PSID

A national study of socioeconomics & health
over lifetimes & across generations



DATA ON FOOD AND NUTRITION

INFORMATION ON FOOD & NUTRITION

With more than 40 years of data on the same families and their descendants, the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) is the world's longest running nationally representative household panel survey. PSID gathers data on the family as a whole and on individuals residing within the family. Information is currently collected on roughly 22,000 individuals living in 9,000 families.

Questions about food expenditures and food assistance have been a core topic of the PSID since its inception in 1968. Food assistance has been expanded in more recent waves to encompass new government food assistance programs. Special content on food security and nutritional knowledge is available for some waves. The value of these data has grown with the addition of health as a core topical domain starting in 1999. In addition, the three-wave Child Development Supplement (1997, 2002/03, 2007/08) collects substantial information from PSID families with children in the area of food, nutrition, and health.

Food Expenditures

The PSID has collected information from families about how much is spent on food in most waves since 1968. Annual amounts spent on food eaten "at home" and food eaten out have been collected in most every wave. Amounts spent on having food delivered was collected in 1968, and in every wave since 1994.

Food Consumption & Obesity

The Child Development Supplement (CDS), a three-wave study of nearly 3,000 children in PSID families, collects information about the types of food children eat for breakfast, during school, and for snacks. Information is collected on the frequency of family meals, and family rules about eating. The CDS has a substantial amount of information on health behaviors including exercise and sleep habits. Height and weight measurements are available for children in the CDS, and self-reports are available for their caregivers. Self-reports of height and weight are also available for both heads and spouses in the PSID in 1986 and every wave since 1999.

Food Assistance

Information on food stamp program participation has been collected in most every wave since 1968. Additional questions specific to the food stamp program were added in 1999 on number and identity of family members receiving benefits, and benefit amounts. In 2003 a special series of questions was asked about reasons for leaving the food stamp program, even for one month. Questions about other government-sponsored food programs in child and adult day care centers started in 1999. In 2001, questions about WIC participation and the receipt of free or reduced-cost breakfasts and lunches for family members were added, and many of these questions continue to be collected. In 2003 and 2005, a series of questions was added about food assistance received from non-governmental sources such as family, friends, churches, and community groups.

Food Security

A version of the U.S. Household Food Security Survey Module developed by ERS-USDA was collected between 1999 and 2003. These questions ask about various levels of food security such as worries about having enough food and enough healthy food, cutting back to conserve food, and running out of money to buy food, for example.

These data allow the food security status of each family to be defined along a continuum extending from high food security to very low food security.

Nutritional Knowledge

A special supplement was added to PSID in 1999 to assess awareness of governmental outreach in the area of the "food pyramid," "the 5 a day program," and "dietary guidelines for Americans." This supplement included questions on the perceived importance of maintaining a healthy diet and body weight, knowledge of health impacts of certain foods and health behaviors, and sources of nutritional knowledge and health.

DATA ACCESS

All waves of PSID data are freely accessible through the web-based PSID Data Center, which provides options for automatic merges of data across all waves. Customized codebooks and datasets in a variety of formats (SAS, Stata, SPSS, Excel and Text) are available. Tutorials, bibliographies, and other user information also can be found on the website.

www.psidonline.org

POTENTIAL RESEARCH AREAS

- Four decades of data allow study of connections between social, economic, and food-related behaviors and outcomes for different populations across business cycles and policy changes
- Data collected over the life course allow study of how early experiences affect later-life outcomes, e.g., the effect of food stamps, WIC, and school lunch programs on adult health and earnings
- The genealogic panel allow comparisons of family members from different generations and research on the effects of parental and grandparental experiences and behaviors on those of current generations,
- The effect of changes in food stamp program participation and other government-sponsored programs on various outcomes such as food security and obesity can be tracked over time
- Data on food expenditures, consumption, income, and wealth can be combined with data on health to understand the effects of socioeconomic status on life course health including obesity
- Lifetime and intergenerational participation in food assistance programs can be estimated

