

## CONTENT OF CURRENT QUESTIONNAIRE

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

## GENERATIONAL & LIFE COURSE DATA

The long panel, genealogical design, and broad content of the PSID data offer unique opportunities to conduct generational and life course research. The PSID now contains more than 40 years of prospective life histories on families and their members – some of whom have become parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, some of whom (about 6,000) have died since the survey began.

These data are being used to support increasingly complex models of outcomes for individuals over the life cycle, for relatives within the same generation of a given family (e.g., sibling models), and for individuals across multiple generations of the same family (e.g., parent-adult child models). These models facilitate the use of innovative research strategies whose results yield greater scientific knowledge of ways to promote individual health and well-being.



## 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.

*Co-Directors:* Charlie Brown and Robert Schoeni

*Co-Principal Investigators:* Vicki Freedman (aging & health), Narayan Sastry (child & family) and Frank Stafford (special projects)

*Assistant Director:* Katherine McGonagle

## SPONSORSHIP

PSID is sponsored by: the National Science Foundation, the National Institute on Aging, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture – Economic Research Service, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Dept. of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.

## DATA ACCESS

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

# PSID

DATA ON FAMILIES SINCE 1968



[www.psidonline.org](http://www.psidonline.org)

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

## OVERVIEW

The PSID is the world's longest running nationally representative household panel survey. With more than 40 years of data on the same families and their descendants, the PSID is a cornerstone of the data infrastructure for empirically based social science research in the U.S.

The PSID gathers data on the family as a whole and on individuals residing within the family, emphasizing the dynamic and interactive aspects of family economics, demography, and health. PSID data were collected annually 1968-97 and biennially after 1997.

With low attrition and high success in following young adults as they form their own families, the sample size has grown from roughly 5,000 families in 1968 to more than 9,000 families and 22,000 individuals. The PSID has distributed data on more than 70,000 individuals collected over the past four decades.

## THE 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 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 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.

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## THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT SUPPLEMENT

Extensive data were collected on parents and their children in more than 2,300 PSID families in 1997 when children were 0-12 and again in 2002/2003 when the children were 5-18 in order to study the dynamic process of early life experiences.

A third wave of data collection in 2007/2008 interviewed children and adolescents between the ages of 10-18, and their primary and secondary caregivers.

The CDS children who are turning 18 are now being interviewed in a Transition to Adulthood study which has collected data in 2005, 2007, 2009, and 2011. These young adults are being followed as PSID respondents as they establish their own independent family units.



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## DATA ON HEALTH & AGING

The PSID has gathered rich information in the domain of health, wealth, and pensions. These data can be used in combination with panel data on employment, income, race, and education, which in some cases is available over almost the entire life course.

Data collected on health includes health status, onset and recency of health conditions, health behaviors such as alcohol use, smoking, and exercise, BMI, health insurance, and expenditures. Information about mental health was collected starting in 2001. A health history calendar was implemented starting in 2007 to collect information on early childhood health conditions, including age of onset and duration.

## DISABILITY AND USE OF TIME

A supplemental data collection (DUST) was conducted in 2009 to investigate the connections between disability, time use, and well being among older couples. More than 750 heads and wives were each interviewed twice about two randomly selected days – one week day and one weekend day – yielding over 1500 time diaries. Information was obtained about:

- What respondents did
- Where they were during activities
- Who did the activities with them
- How they felt
- For whom the activity was carried out (household and care-related activities)



Diaries also include detailed measures of well-being for three randomly selected activities per diary. The first interview also included in-depth questions about the respondent's health, functioning, well-being, and stylized time use/participation measures.