

PSID 2017 Release – Data Highlights

The Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) is the world’s longest running, nationally representative household panel survey. Beginning in 1968, PSID has collected data on the same families and their descendants, making it a cornerstone of the data infrastructure for empirical social science research. With the release of wave 40, the PSID has now collected data over nearly five decades, 1968 through 2017.

This data release consists of the [2017 PSID Main Interview](#) Data and includes data collected on 9,607 families and 26,445 individuals. Fifty years later, there are 3,507 individuals who participated in the original wave and are still participating today.

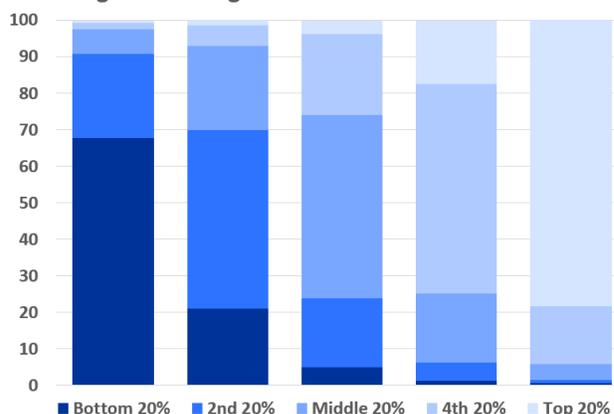
With this release, we also provide an updated version of the Family Identification Mapping System ([FIMS](#)), which contains identification variables of PSID sample members’ relatives. In 2017, there were 3,777 great-grandchildren who are reference persons or spouse/partners. There were an additional 3,288 grandchildren and 4,971 children in the sample. 4,846 parent-child family pairs and 1,410 grandparent-grandchild family pairs are in the sample, where both individuals are reference persons or spouse/partners in their own family in 2017.

The content of the PSID is extensive. Information on these individuals and their descendants has been collected continuously over the past nearly five decades, including data covering income, employment, wealth, expenditures, health, marriage, childbearing, child development, philanthropy, education, and numerous other topics. With this release, the PSID also includes information about rental equivalence, computer expenditures, time use, and a screen for possible dementia.

PSID is unique in that researchers can examine the changes that families experience over time. Below are some of the changes reported between the 2015 and 2017 waves of data collection.

Income – The first publication using the longitudinal nature of the PSID evaluated the changes in income between 1967 and 1968 (Smith and Morgan (1970))¹. Almost 50 years later, we can examine the changes in income between 2014 and 2016. Information on family income collected in the 2017 wave represents income for the family from calendar year 2016. Figure 1 shows the changes by quintile from 2014 to 2016. 68% percent of families in the bottom quintile in 2014 remain there in 2016, while 78% remain in the top quintile. This is similar to the changes between 1967 and 1968 – where 75 percent remained in the bottom quintile.

Figure 1. Change in Income Quintiles 2014-2016



Food Stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, “SNAP”) – The PSID can also show the dynamics of food stamp participation. Table 1 shows the transitions for participation in SNAP between 2014 and 2016 (similar to income, SNAP is reported for the previous calendar year).

The percentage of families who received SNAP fell between 2014 and 2016, from 12.1% to 10.9%.

¹Smith, James and Morgan, James N. Dynamics of Income Distribution: Poverty and Progress: Variability of Economic Well-being and Its Determinants. American Economic Review. 1970. 60, (2): 286-295.

However, 65.5% of the families who received SNAP in 2014 were still receiving SNAP in 2016.

Table 1. Family SNAP Receipt 2014-2016*

	2016 No SNAP	2016 SNAP	Total
2014 No SNAP	85.0%	2.9%	87.9%
2014 SNAP	4.2%	7.9%	12.1%
Total	89.2%	10.9%	100%

*weighted using family-level sample weights

Health Insurance – The PSID can also show the dynamics of health insurance coverage. Table 2 shows the change in insurance coverage for the over 20,000 individuals at the time of the interview, who were present in PSID Family Units in both 2015 and 2017.

The uninsured rate decreased overall, with 48.7% of those uninsured in 2017 also uninsured in 2015.

Table 2. Individual Insurance Coverage 2015-2017**

	2017 Insured	2017 Uninsured	Total
2015 Insured	88.1%	3.9%	92.0%
2015 Uninsured	4.3%	3.7%	8.0%
Total	92.4%	7.6%	100%

**weighted using individual-level sample weights

Many other dynamic changes for families and individuals can be examined using PSID data. We encourage you visit our website (psid.org), register and download the data to explore the over 78,000 variables collected from 80,666 individuals who have participated over the course of the study.