

PSID 2019 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 41, the PSID has now collected data over more than five decades, from 1968 through 2019.

This data release consists of the [2019 PSID Main Interview](#) and includes data collected on 9,569 families and 26,084 individuals. Over 50 years later, there are 3,232 individuals who participated in the original wave and are still participating today.

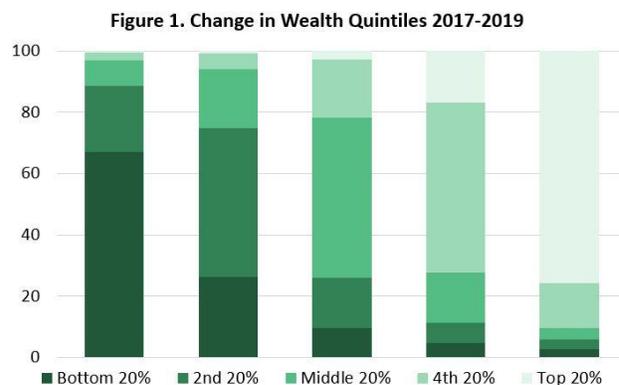
With this release, we also provide an updated version of the Family Identification Mapping System ([FIMS](#)), which contains matched identification variables of PSID sample members’ relatives. In 2019, 1,070 individuals who were reference persons or spouse/partners had a great-grandparent who was observed in a PSID family unit from 1968-2019. In addition, 4,814 had a grandparent and 7,891 had a parent who was observed in a PSID family unit from 1968-2019. 4,730 parent-child family pairs and 1,345 grandparent-grandchild family pairs exist in 2019, where both individuals in the pair are reference persons or spouse/partners of their own family unit.

The content of the PSID is extensive. Information on these individuals and their descendants has been collected continuously for over half a century, 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 the U.S. federal government shutdown that started in December 2018. 2.5% of families reported financial difficulties, and of those

families, 70.6% reported that they dealt with the financial difficulty by decreasing spending and 28.3% responded that they visited food banks.

PSID is unique in that researchers can examine the changes that families experience over time. Below are some of the changes reported between the 2017 and 2019 waves of data collection.

Wealth – The collection of comprehensive wealth data began in 1984 as a supplement to the PSID Main interview. It was collected in five year increments until 1999, when it was added to the instrument as a permanent section of the interview. We can examine the changes in wealth over the last 35 years, and biennially for the last 20 years. Information on family wealth collected in the 2019 wave represents wealth at the time of the interview. Figure 1 shows the changes by quintile from 2017 to 2019. 67.2% percent of families in the bottom quintile in 2017 remain there in 2019, while 75.7% remain in the top quintile, though overall 56.4% of families move from one quintile to another between the two waves.



Family Food Security – The PSID can also show the dynamics of food security. Table 1 shows the transitions for food security status from 2017-2019. Food security status is collected using the 18-item U.S. Household Food Security Survey Module (HFSSM).¹ In Table 1, family food insecurity is defined as having a score of ≥ 1 on the HFSSM,

which includes any family with less than high food security. The percentage of families who were food secure increased by 3% from 2017 to 2019. Despite this increase, 15.4% saw a change in food security status and 28.3% were food insecure in either 2017 or 2019.

Table 1. Family Food Security 2017-2019

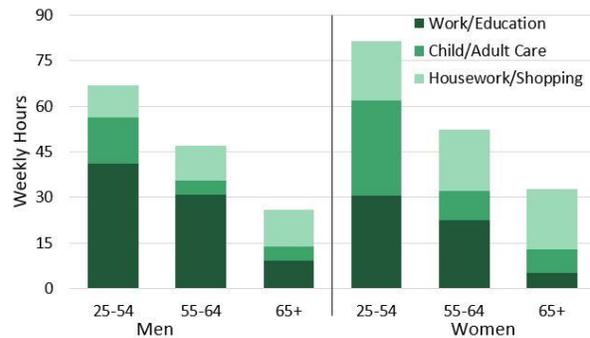
	Secure 2019	Insecure 2019	Total
Secure 2017	71.7%	6.2%	77.9%
Insecure 2017	9.2%	12.9%	22.1%
Total	80.9%	19.1%	100%

*weighted using family-level sample weights

Time Use – Beginning in 2017, the PSID Main interview began collecting time use data. Figure 2 shows weekly time use in 2019 in aggregated categories for men and women in various age groups. We see that women in each age group spend more in total on work, education, child and adult care, and housework/shopping than do men. The figure also shows that total time spent in these activities decreases with age.

While this pattern is mainly due to work hours, child and adult care also decrease with age. Alternatively, housework hours increase slightly with age.

Figure 2. Weekly hours in various activities by sex & age, 2019



**weighted using individual-level sample weights

Many other dynamic changes for individuals and families can be examined using PSID data. We encourage you visit our website (psid.org), register and download the data to explore the over 84,000 variables collected from 82,573 individuals who have participated over the course of the study.

¹ U.S. Household Food Security Survey Module: Three-Stage Design, With Screeners: Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; 2012.