PSID SAMPLE: AMERICA’S FAMILY TREE

The original PSID sample of roughly 18,000 people in 5,000 households consisted of a nationally representative sample and an oversample of low-income families. The oversample was included to facilitate investigations of poverty-related issues. PSID data include economic, social, and health information collected using in-person, telephone, and computer-assisted interviewing methods. PSID families are followed regardless of where they live. The sample grows naturally as children and grandchildren from these families form their own households and are invited to join the PSID. Samples of immigrants have been added to the PSID in 1997/1999 and 2017/2019 so that the sample continues to closely resemble the national population, making PSID America’s Family Tree.

CONTENT OF CURRENT QUESTIONNAIRE

- Employment
- Wages & Income
- Expenditures
- Wealth
- Mortgage Distress & Foreclosures
- Pensions
- Philanthropy
- Time Use
- Education
- Marriage & Fertility
- Health Status
- Health Behaviors
- Health Insurance
- Program Participation
- Computer Use & Technology
- Housing Characteristics

STUDY DIRECTION AND OVERSIGHT

PSID is directed by faculty at the University of Michigan, with data collection conducted by the Survey Research Operations group within the Survey Research Center at the U-M Institute for Social Research. An external Board of Overseers, comprised of leading scientists from various disciplines, provides scientific input to the project.

SPONSORSHIP

Major sponsorship of the PSID is provided by: the National Science Foundation, the National Institute on Aging, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute on Child Health and Human Development, the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

DATA ACCESS: PSID.org

All waves of the PSID and study supplements are accessible via the PSID Data Center, which provides:

- Automatic merges of all waves of data from the PSID and its major supplements
- Customized codebooks and datasets in a variety of formats including SAS, Stata, SPSS, Excel, and text
- Instructional web tutorials, bibliographies, technical papers and user documentation

Some types of PSID data are available only under a restricted contract. These include but are not limited to: geospatial data below the level of state; mortality data; assisted housing data from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Medicare claims; and educational characteristics from the National Center for Education Statistics.
The TAS interview domains are coordinated with the CDS adolescent measures and the PSID employment and health measures, and also include measures unique to this specific life stage. Together with over 50 years of longitudinal data in the PSID, CDS and TAS support a wide range of research on the ways in which time, money, social resources, parenting practices, and characteristics of caregivers and family members are linked to the cognitive and behavioral development of children, adolescents, and young adults.

DATA COLLECTED IN THE CDS

- High quality age-graded assessments of cognitive, behavioral, and health status obtained from the parents and the children
- Extensive information on children’s out-of-school activities through unique time diary data and stylized survey time use measures
- Rich information about family processes, the home environment, psychosocial characteristics of the caregivers, time parents spend with children, and specific onetray investments from parents/other family members
- Detailed information on schooling and school environments from preschool through high school, with links to the National Center for Education Statistics’ Common Core of Data and Private School Universe Survey available
- Measures of family, education, and occupational planning and expectations for the adolescents that link directly into the PSID work and education data, allowing for modeling of the adolescent precursors to adult educational and occupational choices and attainment

CDS-2020

- Collection of information about the impact of COVID-19 on child well-being and family circumstances from a select group of respondents

DATA COLLECTED IN THE TAS

- Information on young adulthood transitions in schooling, work, and family formation
- Young adults’ expectations for future family formation and occupations
- Key transitions in responsibilities, time use, and life goals
- Measures of psychosocial well-being
- College names and locations are collected, with links to the National Center for Education Statistics’ Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System available

STUDY DIRECTION AND OVERSIGHT

The CDS and TAS are directed by faculty at the University of Michigan, with data collection carried out by the Survey Research Center at the Institute for Social Research.

CDS SPONSORSHIP

The CDS and TAS are primarily sponsored by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University.