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 data extracts 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.
CHARITABLE GIVING
Starting in 2001, respondents reported information on charitable giving in the domains of purpose for giving, which family member was involved in the decision about giving and to what extent, and charitable type, including:

- Religious - church, synagogue, mosque, TV or radio ministry
- Health care and medical research - hospitals, heart associations, or telethons
- Educational - colleges, grade schools, PTAs, or scholarship funds
- Youth or family services - scouting, sports leagues, or foster care
- The arts, culture, or ethnic awareness - museum or public broadcasting
- Improving neighborhoods - community associations or service clubs
- Preserving the environment - conservation efforts, animal protection, or parks
- International aid or world peace - children's funds, disaster relief, or human rights
- Organizations that help people in need of food, shelter, or other basic necessities
- Organizations that serve a combination of purposes, such as the United Way

In 2021, a series was added asking about donations made during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RELEIGIOSITY
In addition to the religious giving and religious volunteering questions described above, respondents reported their religious affiliation (if any) and the affiliation of their spouse/partner.

HELP RECEIVED
Starting in 1999, respondents reported whether they received help from a community group, church, or other place of worship, as well as from family and friends or the government. The types of help include: transportation; housing; child care; health care; finding a job; job training; food; clothing; and covering other expenses.

POTENTIAL RESEARCH AREAS
- Inter- intragenerational connections, including between parents and adult children, and siblings
- Life course modeling: Baby boomers can be followed from childhood to adulthood and into retirement
- Policy panel analysis: Modeling philanthropic behavior before and after policy changes
- The association between labor market behavior and volunteering to study the human capital of workers
- Neighborhood and other geocode data can be used under confidential contract to examine issues such as government support of local nonprofit organizations
- Aging and health: The relationship between volunteering and health
- The association between religiosity and a variety of economic behaviors can be studied, including labor market behavior, savings behavior, risky behavior, and philanthropic behavior