

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

DATA ON FOOD AND NUTRITION

M PANEL STUDY OF INCOME DYNAMICS



[PSID.org](#) [↗](#)

PSID

PSID OVERVIEW

The PSID is the world's longest running nationally representative household panel survey. With over 50 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 from 1968-1997 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 9,200 families and 24,000 individuals by 2021. The PSID has distributed data on more than 80,000 individuals over the course of the study.

FOOD AND NUTRITION OVERVIEW

Questions about food expenditures and food assistance have been a [core topic](#) of the PSID since its inception in 1968. Food assistance has been expanded in more recent waves to encompass government food assistance programs, and content on food security and nutritional knowledge is available for some waves. The value of these data has grown with the addition of health as a core topical domain starting in 1999.

In addition, substantial information on [food, nutrition, and health](#) was collected from PSID families in the original [Child Development Supplement](#) (CDS: 1997, 2003, 2008). In [2014, 2019](#) and 2021 the same information is collected on all eligible children in PSID households born since 1997. CDS-2020 includes food, nutrition and health information collected during the COVID-19 outbreak. An early release file of CDS-2021 is available.

FOOD CONSUMPTION AND OBESITY

The original CDS I-III, CDS-2014 and CDS-2019 have collected detailed information about the types of food

children eat for breakfast, during school, and for snacks; the frequency of family meals; family rules about eating; and food security. The CDS has considerable information on health behaviors including exercise and sleep habits. Height and weight measurements are available in the CDS for children and their caregivers, and in the PSID for both response persons and their spouses or partners in 1986 and every wave since 1999.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

Information on food stamp program participation has been collected in most every wave since 1968. Additional questions specific to the food stamp program were added starting in 1999 on the number and identity of family members receiving benefits, and benefit amounts, as well as questions about other government-sponsored food programs in child and adult day care centers. In 2001, questions about WIC participation and the receipt of free or reduced-cost breakfasts and lunches for family members were added, and many of these questions continue to be collected.

FOOD EXPENDITURES

The PSID collected information on how much is spent on food in most waves since [1968](#). Annual amounts spent on food eaten at home and food eaten out have been collected in most every wave. Amounts spent on having food delivered were collected in 1968 and in every wave since 1994.



FOOD SECURITY

A version of the U.S. Household Food Security Survey Module developed by ERS-USDA was collected between 1999 and 2003, and again starting in 2015. The module was also included in CDS-2014,

CDS-2019, CDS-2020 and CDS-2021. These questions ask about various levels of food security such as worries about having enough food and enough healthy food, cutting back to conserve food, and running out of money to buy food. These data allow the food security status of each family to be defined along a continuum extending from high food security to very low food security.

POTENTIAL RESEARCH AREAS

- Over 50 years of data allow study of connections between social, economic, and food-related behaviors and outcomes across business cycles and policy changes
- Data collected over the life course allow study of how early experiences affect later-life outcomes
- The genealogic panel allows comparisons of family members from different generations and research on the effects of parental and grandparental experiences and behaviors on those of current generations
- The effects of changes in food stamp program participation and other government-sponsored programs on various outcomes can be tracked over time
- Data on food expenditures, consumption, income, and wealth can be combined with data on health to understand the effects of socioeconomic status on life course health including obesity
- Lifetime and intergenerational participation in food assistance programs can be estimated