

GSS on the Web

Data and documentation on the GSS exist several places on the Internet. For a guide to these sites go to:

www.gss.norc.org

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2010 Data

The GSS has switched from a repeating, cross-section design to a combined repeating cross-section and panel-component design. The 2006 GSS was the base year for the first panel. A sub-sample of 2,000 GSS cases from 2006 was selected for reinterview in 2008 and again in 2010 as part of the GSSs in those years. The 2008 GSS consists of a new cross-section plus the reinterviews from 2006. The 2010 GSS consists of a new cross-section of 2,044, the first reinterview wave of the 2,023 2008 panel cases with 1,581 completed cases, and the second and final reinterview of the 2006 panel with 1,276 completed cases. Altogether, the 2010 GSS had 4,901 cases (2,044 in the new 2010 panel, 1,581 in the 2008 panel, and 1,276 in the 2006 panel). The 2010 GSS is the first round to fully implement the new, rolling panel design. In 2012 and later GSSs, there will likewise be a fresh cross-section (wave one of a new panel), wave two panel cases from the immediately preceding GSS, and wave three panel cases from the next earlier GSS.

The 2010 topical modules are on 1) aging, 2) the Internet, 3) shared capitalism 4) gender roles, 5) intergroup relations, 6) immigration, 7) meeting spouse, 8) knowledge about and attitudes towards science, 8) religious identity, 9) religious trends, repeating a number of previous GSS items, 10) genetics, 11) veterans, 12) crime and victimization, 12) social network and group membership, and 13) sexual behavior (continuing the series started in 1988).

The International Social Survey Program (ISSP) modules are on social inequality and the environment. The social inequality module is the fourth administration of this topic having been previously fielded in 1987, 1992, and 1999. The environment module is the third administration having previously appeared in 1993-94 and 2000.

In addition to the continued support of the National Science Foundation (NSF) the 2010 GSS received funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the University of Notre Dame, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and Rutgers University.

The latest GSS data, 1972-2010, are available from 1) the Roper Center, Box 440, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, 06268. Phone (860) 486-4882 Fax: (860) 486-4882, EMAIL: lois@ropercenter.uconn.edu; 2) the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), Box 1248, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, 48106. Phone (313) 763-5010. EMAIL: netmail@icpsr.umich.edu; 3) the Survey Documentation Archive at the University of California, Berkeley at <http://sda.berkeley.edu/archive.htm>; and 4) at GSS's own site at www.gss.norc.org.

For other information contact Tom W. Smith, NORC, 1155 East 60th Street, Chicago, IL, 60637. EMAIL: smitht@norc.uchicago.edu ■

ISSP Data Available

The GESIS Data Archive for the Social Sciences at the University of Cologne has released merged files for the 2008 Religion module (<http://zacat.gesis.org/webview/index.jsp?object=http://zacat.gesis.org/obj/fStudy/ZA4950>). It is also about to issue a cumulative file that combines the religion modules for 1991, 1998, and 2008. This is expected out by October, 2011.

In addition, the preliminary, partial release of the 2009 Social Inequality module has been released <http://www.gesis.org/issp/news/article/issp-2009-social-inequality-iv-first-partial-data-release-is-available-v100>.

For these and earlier ISSP datasets see <http://www.gesis.org/issp> ■

At the annual meeting of the ISSP held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico on May 1-4, 2011 the group finalized the content of the 2012 module on the Family, Work, and Gender. For 2013 the topic will be the third administration of National Identity. For 2014 the module will be the second fielding of the 2004

Citizenship topic. Sweden and Germany co-chaired the Family, Work, and Gender drafting group, the United States is chairing the National Identity drafting group, and Canada is chairing the Citizenship drafting group. The 2012 ISSP meeting will be in Cavtat, Croatia.

The ISSP now has 48 countries as members:

Argentina	Croatia	Germany	Korea (South)	Portugal	Taiwan
Australia	Cyprus	Great Britain	Latvia	Russia	The Netherlands
Austria	Czech Republic	Hungary	Lithuania	Slovakia	The Philippines
Belgium	Denmark	Iceland	Mexico	Slovenia	The United States
Bulgaria	Dominican Rep.	Ireland	New Zealand	South Africa	Turkey
Canada	Estonia	Israel	Norway	Spain	Ukraine
Chile	Finland	Italy	Palestine	Sweden	Uruguay
China	France	Japan	Poland	Switzerland	Venezuela

About 4,829 research uses have been documented using ISSP data. A copy of the bibliography is available by contacting the ISSP secretariat or from the ISSP Web site (see below).

ISSP documentation and information can be obtained at the following Web sites:

<http://www.gesis.org/issp/>

<http://www.issp.org/>

Cross-National Same-Gender Sexual Behavior

The increase in approval of same-gender sexual behavior and gay marriage in the United States over the last 20 years is part of a global trend occurring in most nations around the world. Both the existing momentum of change and cohort turnover (with more tolerant younger generations steadily replacing older less accepting generations) are likely to continue the shift towards greater tolerance of homosexuality. See Tom W. Smith, “Cross-national Difference in Attitudes towards Homosexuality,” GSS Cross-National Report No. 31. Chicago: NORC, 2011.



Civil Liberties

Support for civil liberties reached an all-time high in 2010 (Tom W. Smith, Trends in Support for Civil Liberties,” GSS Social Change Report No. 59. Chicago: NORC, 2011). While support for allowing group members to teach in a college, make a public speech, and have a book in the local, public library has in general increased, support grew the most for homosexuals and the least for “a person who believes that Blacks are genetically inferior.” Majorities support civil liberties for all groups except for “a Muslim clergyman who preaches hatred of the United States.” The Muslim extremist group was added to the GSS in 2008 and in 2010 only an average of 40% backed these three civil liberties for this group. For other recent reports on this topic see Tom W. Smith, “A Review of the Stouffer Civil Liberties Items on the General Social Survey,” GSS Topical Report No. 42. Chicago: NORC, 2009 and James A. Davis, “On the Seemingly Relentless Progress in American’s Support for Free Expression, 1972-2006,” GSS Social Change Report No. 52. Chicago: NORC, 2007.



Panels

An analysis of the first regular GSS panel under the new rolling, panel design (the 2008 reinterview of the 2006 panel) showed that bias from panel attrition was minor and could be adjusted for by variable-specific weighting. A second analysis of change examined the consistency of reports over time. Of course change can come from two sources, true change or measurement unreliability. With three waves there are statistical models that can be utilized to differentiate between these two factors. Michael Hout is editing a special issue of Sociological Methods and Research that will examine the first three-wave data (2006-08-10). But for two-wave data there is a subset of unchangeable variables for which any alteration in reports indicates measurement error since no true change can occur. For example, country of birth cannot change between wave 1 and 2 so any change in reports represents measurement error. An analysis of 25 unchanging variables (mostly retrospective, demographics) finds a very high degree of consistency for many variables, but several variables with 60% or less giving consistent responses. For full results see Tom W. Smith and Jaesok Son, “An Analysis of Panel Attrition and Panel Change on the 2006-2008 General Social Survey Panel,” GSS Methodological Report No. 118. Chicago: NORC, 2010.

International Nonresponse Workshop

The International Nonresponse Workshop was sponsored and supported by the National Science Foundation, the World Association for Public Opinion Research, and the International Association of Survey Statisticians. It was held in Chicago on June 2-3, 2011. It was organized by Tom W. Smith and the other attendees were Paul Biemer, University of North Carolina, J. Michael Dennis, Knowledge Networks, Cheryl Eavey, National Science Foundation, Robert Groves, US Bureau of the Census, Timothy Johnson, University of Illinois, Chicago, Dominique Joye, University of Lausanne, Switzerland, Jibum Kim, NORC, Frauke Kreuter, University of Maryland & Institute for Employment Research, Germany, Kristen Olson, University of Nebraska, Colm O'Muircheartaigh, University of Chicago, Fritz Scheuren, NORC, Benjamin J. Skalland, NORC, Ineke Stoop, Social and Cultural Planbureau, the Netherlands, Patrick Sturgis, University of Southampton, Great Britain, and Roger Tourangeau, University of Maryland.

This workshop report considers 1) how auxiliary data (AD) can be used to analyze nonresponse bias, 2) other benefits of using AD, 3) recommendations regarding using AD for nonresponse analysis relating to a) sample frames, b) linked databases, c) paradata, d) aggregate data, and e) AD in general, 4) propensity models, 5) resources for nonresponse analysis, and 6) nonresponse bias measures. The report will be published in the International Journal of Public Opinion Research.

GSS Linked to National Death Index

The newly constructed GSS-NDI (General Social Survey – National Death Index) dataset will allow social epidemiologists to better understand how social factors—ideas, attitudes, beliefs, relationships, and actions—affect health. It links records from the 1978 through 2002 waves of the General Social Survey to death records through 2008 from the National Death Index. The GSS-NDI dataset contains 32,830 total records, of which 9,271 have been classified as deceased. The GSS-NDI also contains information on the primary cause of death for each deceased participant using the single-level Clinical Classification Software (CCS) system (in addition to the original ICD-9 and ICD-10 coding). Creation of the GSS-NDI was funded by a grant provided by the National Institute on Minority and Health Disparities (NIMHD), and details regarding the construction of the dataset will be available in an upcoming publication in *BMC Research Notes* entitled, “The General Social Survey-National Death Index: An Innovative New Dataset for the Social Sciences.” The dataset will become publically available starting in mid-October, 2011.

Acquiring Sensitive Data

The GSS can provide restricted data that includes state, primary sampling unit, county, and Census tract information. However, the GSS requires that all information that might identify respondents to the survey be kept secure, and thus the GSS requires a formal application process be followed to obtain sensitive data. Any request for GSS information must include a research plan, Curriculum Vitae for all members of the project, a human subjects review clearance, and a Sensitive Data Protection Plan which will describe how the data will be handled. This includes identifying all persons who will have access to information and how they will be able to access the information. A description of where the data will be physically located (including where removable drives will be kept) must be included as well as the exact ways in which the system the data will be processed on is secured. A plan for how duplication of data, including automatic backing up of files, will be prevented as well as how printing out the data will be restricted. The GSS also requires that all results derived from the data it provides be treated with the same level of security as that which applies to the data given by the GSS in first place. Once all application materials are approved, a contract for the use of sensitive data will be established for all relevant parties. For further details on GSS requirements regarding this issue, including necessary fees, please see the following:

<http://www.norc.org/NR/rdonlyres/21C53AAC-1267-43B6-A915-A38857DC9D63/1805/ObtainingGSSSensitiveDataFiles2.pdf>

General Social Survey

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