

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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ISSP 2013+

3 Uneven Recovery

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2012 GSS Data

The new 1972-2012 GSS cumulative dataset is on our web site at www.gss.norc.org.

The latest GSS cumulative file for 1972-2012 is also 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; and
- 3) the Survey Documentation Archive at the University of California, Berkeley at <http://sda.berkeley.edu/archive.htm>.

Panel GSS data and other datasets are also available from the GSS web site (www.gss.norc.org).

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

GSS Renewed

The National Science Foundation has approved funding for the GSS from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2015. That will cover the next round of the GSS in 2014. Exact design and content of the 2014 GSS will be decided by the GSS PIs and Board of Overseers in September, 2013. ■

ISSP Data Available

The GESIS Data Archive for the Social Sciences at the University of Cologne has released the final merged files for the 2010 Environment module:

<http://info1.gesis.org/dbksearch19/Docs.asp?no=5500>.

The data and documentation are also available at GESIS in NESSTAR as part of ZACAT. Go to <http://zacat.gesis.org/webview/> and then click on ISSP in the left column. The preliminary release of the 2011 Health module will also be found there.

For earlier ISSP datasets: <http://www.gesis.org/en/issp/issp-home/> ■

At the annual meeting of the ISSP held in Santiago, Chile on April 28-May 1, 2013 the group finalized the content of the 2014 module on Citizenship II. For 2015 the topic will be Work Orientation IV. For 2016 the topic will be Role of Government V. Canada and Sweden chaired the Citizenship drafting group, Germany is chairing the Work Orientation working group, and Great Britain will chair the Role of Government group. Georgia and Suriname have joined the ISSP. The 2014 ISSP meeting will be in Tampere, Finland.

Over the years, 57 countries have participated in the ISSP:

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

About 5,600 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/>

Occupational and Industry Coding

Studying the role of occupation and industry in American society is complicated by the changing nature of the work force and how occupations and industries are coded. The GSS used the 1970 Census classification of occupations and industries to code the 1972-1990 GSSs and the 1980s Census classifications to code 1988-2010. The 1988-1990 GSSs were dual coded. With support from NSF the GSS is in the process of retrieving old cases from 1972-2010, data entering the verbatim answers to the occupation/industry questions, and coding all cases according to the 2007 North American Industrial Classification System and the 2010 Census classification of occupations. The new 2012 GSS cases will be similarly coded. This will mean that all GSS cases are coded to one standard and that the latest developments in occupations and industries are covered. It is expected that the new codes will be available in late 2013.

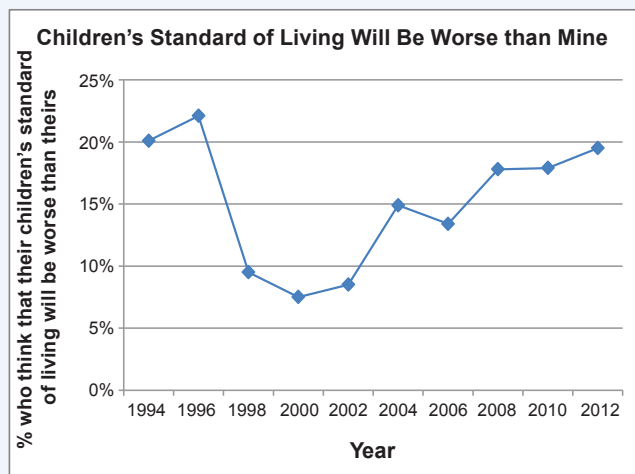
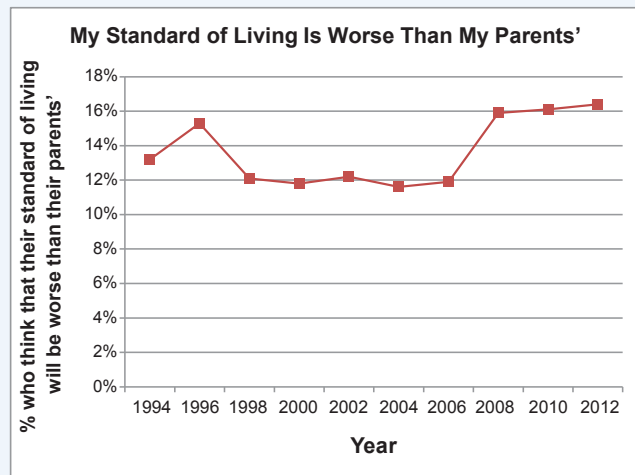
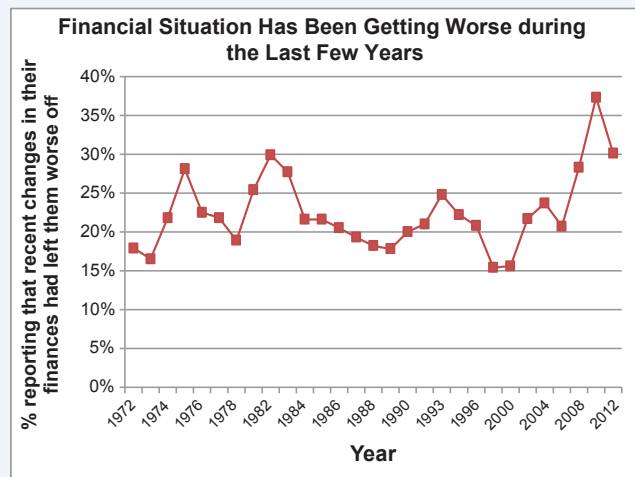
Uneven Economic Recovery from the Great Recession

The economic setbacks of the Great Recession led to people assessing their financial standing as more dire than they did in years past. In 2012, most assessments of Americans' pessimism about economic well-being were found to have improved from record lows in 2010. As shown on the graph below, in 2010 a record 37.3% of Americans said recent changes in their finances had left them worse-off. This dropped to 30.1% in 2012, but that was still the second highest level during the last 40 years.

However, many repercussions of the Great Recession still continue. For example, many people lowered their ratings of their socio-economic standing after the Great Recession. This trend has not reversed. The percentages of those who identified as lower class, of those who said that they were worse-off financially than their parents, and of those who predicted that their children would be worse-off than they themselves either worsened or showed no improvement from 2010 to 2012, as is shown in the next two graphs.

The GSS also analyzed how different groups of Americans reacted to the Great Recession. In terms of job prospects (how likely they are to lose their job), since 1977 the gender differences have been small, but men had greater concerns than women did in 2008 and 2010 while women's concerns topped those of men in 2012. Likewise, since 1977 men have been more likely than women to think they could not find an equally good job, but in 2012 women were slightly more pessimistic than men were. These switches show that men were more impacted in the early stage of the Great Recession (e.g. by unemployment in construction) and women more affected later on (e.g. by rising unemployment in the government sector).

In addition, when looking at differences between age groups, it was found that younger workers with less job seniority are most concerned about losing a job, but older adults are most likely to say it would not be easy to find an equally good job if they lost employment.

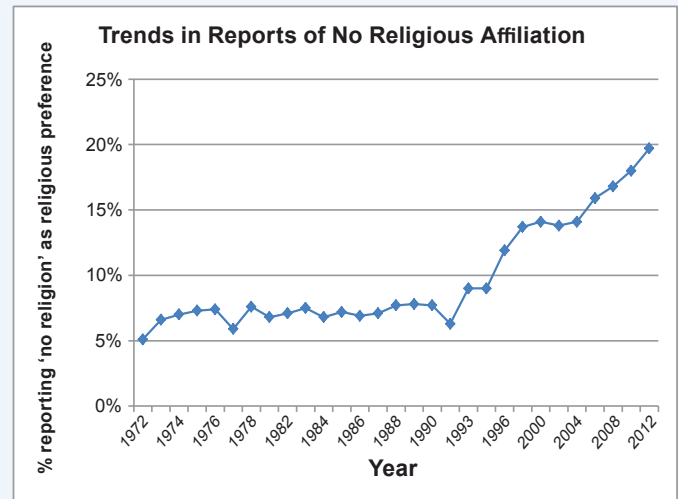


Trends in Identification with Organized Religions

The GSS has been tracking trends in the rapidly changing American religious landscape since 1972. Among the biggest changes seen is the rising numbers of people who do not identify with an organized religion.

More Americans than ever report that they have no religious preference. As the graph below shows, about 20% of American adults said in 2012 that they had no religious preference. This trend of Americans without a specific religious affiliation has accelerated since 1990.

This decline in people identifying themselves with an organized religion does not indicate a decline in conventional religious belief, as belief in God remains very widespread—59% of Americans believe in God without any doubt. In fact, atheism is still very rare in the United States; in 2012, just 3 percent of Americans said they did not believe in God.



GSS Panel Workshop

A workshop was held in Chicago on March 6-7, 2013 reporting on methodological and substantive papers using the new GSS three-wave panels for 2006-08-10. The program for that workshop is presented below:

March 6, 2013

- 9:00 a.m. Introduction and Welcome: Michael Hout and Tom W. Smith
- 9:15 Tom W. Smith, "The GSS Panels from 2006 to 2016: An Overview"
- 9:45-10:45 Michael Hout and Orestes P. Hastings, "The Social Recession: The Personal and National Consequences of the Great Recession, 2006-2010"
- 10:45-11:45 Cyrus Schleifer and Mark Chaves, "Family Formation and Religious Service Attendance: Untangling Marital and Parental Effects"
- 1:00-2:00 p.m. Duane Alwin, "Preliminary Evidence in Support of the Reliability of Measurement in the General Social Survey"
- 2:00-3:00 Andrew Halpern-Manners and John Robert Warren, "Panel Conditioning in Longitudinal Social Science Data: Implications for the GSS"
- 3:00-4:00 Steve Vaisey and Andrew Miles, "What You Can—and Can't—Do with Three-Wave Panel Data"
- 4:00-5:00 Christopher Winship and Weihua An, "Race-of-Interviewer Effects in the General Social Survey"

March 7, 2013

- 9:00 a.m. General Discussion led by Michael Hout covering general synthesis, extensions and innovations in GSS panel design, data products, methodological experiments, best analysis approaches, etc.
- 12:00 Adjournment

Cross-National Reports

Smith, Tom W. “CNR 32 Beliefs about God across Time and Countries” Cross-National Report, Chicago, NORC, 1, 2012.

Smith, Tom W. “CNR 33 Surveying Hard-to-Reach Populations in Comparative Perspective” Cross-National Report, Chicago, NORC, 11, 2012.

Methodological Reports

Hout, Michael Hastings, Orestes P. “MR119 Reliability and Stability Estimates for the GSS Core Items from the Three-wave Panels, 2006–2010” Methodological Report, Chicago, NORC, 6, 2012.

Topical Reports

Kim, Jibum Smith, Tom W. Kang, Jeong-han “TR44 Religious Affiliation, Religiosity, and Mortality” Topical Report, Chicago, NORC, 2012.

General Social Survey

NORC, A Social Science Research Center
1155 East 60th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637