

The GSS Replicating Core

Current as of 2020 Panel and Cross-Section

Background on active questions in the General Social Survey Replicating Core

This document shows a list of the currently active items in the General Social Survey's Replicating Core, including both the core itself as well as the household relationship items that were previously collected as part of the HEF. It serves as both an update to and a refocusing from a previous version ([Repeated Items in the General Social Survey](#)) listing core and quasi-core items. That document had aimed to capture all items that rotated on and off of the core, as well as other repeating items which did not come from the GSS core, such as those provided by NSF on their science module, ISSP modules included over the years, and items related to gender, sexuality, and high risk behaviors. While description of those items is certainly useful, they are not considered part of the GSS Replicating Core.

Brief glossary of key terms

- Items marked with an * will have to be modified in some form to be collected in 2020 via non Face-to-Face (F2F) interviews, or removed entirely. They are a combination of items whose current wording does not function outside of an interviewer-mediated context, items which are dependent on physically observing the respondent and their household, and items that the GSS team expects will require substantial wording changes.
- Items ending in /y indicate that two different forms of the variable exist, with a wording experiment between the two forms. This experiment is differentiated by the "form" variable associated with each GSS case (X and Y).
- Items beginning in:
 - SP- are focused on the respondent's married spouse
 - CO- are focused on the respondent's unmarried cohabiting partner
 - MA- are focused on the respondent's mother, mother substitute, or female head of household growing up
 - PA- are focused on the respondent's father, father substitute, or male head of household growing up
- Items ending in -1 (e.g. HUNT1) indicate that they are new modifications of an older variable. The most recent modification concerns the addition of unmarried cohabiting partners to the GSS who are now treated with the same significance as spouses. Note that this naming convention does not apply to variables ordered in a sequence (e.g. RACECEN1-3)
- The document presents variables as included in the dataset. However, it is worth noting that some variables are created based on other raw variables. For example, variable AGE is created based on three raw variables: BRTHMO (Month), BRTHDY (Day) and BRTHYR (Year), which are not made public due to confidentiality reasons. Variables that depend on recoding of raw variables are noted.

Items Appearing on All Ballots

Demographic, Household Characteristics, Paradata, and Process Data

Demographic and life-course data

- Age: AGE (recode from date of birth), ZODIAC (recode from date of birth)
- Birth cohort: COHORT
- Sex: SEX*
- Race: RACECEN1, RACECEN2, RACECEN3, RACE*
- Ethnicity: ETHNIC (recode from ETH1-3), ETH1, ETH2, ETH3,
- Hispanic Origin: HISPANIC
- Siblings: SIBS
- Marital status or cohabitation status: MARITAL, WIDOWED, DIVORCED, MARTYPE*, POSSLQ/Y
- Number of children: CHILDS
- Age at birth of first child: AGEKDBRN
- Geocoded variables: REGION, XNORCSIZ, SRCBELT, SIZE (recode from respondent address)
- Education: EDUC* (recode from a series of education questions), DEGREE* (recode from a series of education questions), MAJOR1*, MAJOR2*
- Religious affiliation: RELIG*, DENOM*, OTHER*, JEW, RELITEN, FUND (recode from a series of religion questions)
- Household income: INCOME, INCOME16, CONINC (recode from INCOME16, base 2000 dollars), REALINC (Recode from INCOME16, base 1986 dollars)
- Citizenship status: USCITZN*, FUCITZN, MNTHSUSA, YRSUSA
- Language: OTHLANG, OTHLANG1, OTHLANG2, BETRLANG, SPKLANG

Work/employment data

- Employment status: WRKSTAT, EVWORK, WRKSELFAM
- Industry: INDUS10* (recode from open-ended variable), WHATSLF2
- Private or public sector: WRKGOVT, WRKGOVT1, WRKGOVT2
- Number of employees: NUMEMPS
- Labor supply: HRS1, HRS2, WEEKSWRK, PARTFULL
- Occupation: OCC10* (recode from open-ended variable), ISCO08 (recode from open-ended variable)
- SEI and Prestige: PRESTG10, PRESTG105PLUS, SEI10, SEI10EDUC, SEI10INC (recode from OCC + other variables)
- Income from occupation: RINCOME*, RINCOM16*, CONRINC (recode from RINCOM16, base 2000 dollars), REALRINC (recode from RINCOM16, base 1986 dollars)
- Size of workplace: LOCALNUM
- Superiors/subordinates in workplace: WKSUB1, WKSUBS1, WKSUP1, WKSUPS1
- Veteran Status: VETYEARS

Spouse/Partner data

- Education: SPEDUC*, SPDEG*, COEDUC*, CODEG* (recode from a series of education questions)
- Employment status: SPWRKSTA, SPEVWORK, SPWRKSLF, COWRKSTA, COEVWORK, COWRKSLF

- Industry: SPIND10*, COIND10* (recode from an open-ended variable), WHATSP2, WHATCO2
- Labor supply: SPHRS1, SPHRS2, COHRS1, COHRS2
- Occupation: SPOCC10*, COOCC10* (recode from an open-ended variable)
- SEI and Prestige: SPPRES10, SPPRES105PLUS, SPSEI10, SPSEI10EDUC, SPSEI10INC, COPRES10, COPRES105PLUS, COSEI10, COSEI10EDUC, COSEI10INC (recode from OCC + other vars)
- Religious Preference: SPRELIG*, SPDEN*, SPOTHER*, SPJEW, SPFUND, CORELIG*, CODEN*, COOTHER*, COJEW, COFUND (recode from a series of religion questions)

Parental/Social origin data (many of these measures are proxy reports referring to time while respondent was growing up, or when respondent was age 16)

- Birthplace: BORN
- Relative family income: INCOM16
- Family Type: FAMILY16/Y* (slight recode for clarity), FAMDIF16
- Father's education: PAEDUC*, PADEG* (recode from a series of education questions)
- Mother's education: MAEDUC*, MADEG* (recode from a series of education questions)
- Father's work status: PAWRKSLF, PAWRKSLFFAM
- Father's occupation: PAOCC10* (recode from an open-ended variable)
- Father's industry: PAIND10* (recode from an open-ended variable), WHATPA2
- Father's SEI and Prestige: PAPRES10, PAPRES105PLUS, PASEI10, PASEI10EDUC, PASEI10INC (recode from OCC + other vars)
- Mother's work status: MAWRKGRW, MAWRKSLF2, MAWRKSLFFAM
- Mother's occupation: MAOCC10* (recode from an open-ended variable)
- Mother's industry: MAIND10* (recode from an open-ended variable), WHATMA2
- Mother's SEI and Prestige: MAPRES10, MAPRES105PLUS, MASEI10, MASEI10EDUC, MASEI10INC (recode from OCC + other vars)
- Parental birthplace: PARBORN*
- Grandparents' birthplace: GRANBORN
- Region of residence: REG16
- Type of residence: RES16
- Geographic mobility since age 16: MOBILE16 (recode)
- Religious affiliation growing up: RELIG16*, DENOM16*, OTH16* JEW16*, FND16 (recode from a series of religion questions)

Household variables (many of these are collected as part of the Household Enumeration Form, Household Relationships module (new in 2020) or derived from data contained in either module)

- Household size and composition: HOMPOP*, BABIES*, PRETEEN*, TEENS*, ADULTS* (derived from HEF/Household Relationships information), UNRELAT
- Demographics and relationships of household members:
 - RELATE1-RELATE14*, RELHHD1-RELHHD14*, RELHH1-RELHH14*, RELSP1-14*
 - GENDER1-GENDER14*
 - OLD1-OLD14*
 - MAR1-MAR14*
 - AWAY1-AWAY14*

- WHERE1-WHERE14* (derived from HEF/Household Relationships information)
- Household race: HHRACE*
- Household type: HHTYPE*(derived from HEF/Household Relationships information), HHTYPE1 (recode from HHTYPE)
- Generations in household: FAMGEN* (derived from HEF/Household Relationships information)
- Respondent's relationship to Head of Household: RPLACE (derived from HEF/Household Relationships information)
- Presence of visitors: VISITORS, RVISITOR (derived from HEF/Household Relationships information)
- Earners in household: EARNRS
- Dwelling type: DWELLING* (derived from HEF/Household Relationships information)

Racial composition of neighborhood

- RACLIVE

Technical data and Paradata

- Pre-interview: HLTHSTRT*, HUADD*, HUADDWHY*, DWELLPRE*, KIDSINHH*, RESPOND*, INCUSPOP*, NEISAFE*
- Post-interview: RLOOKS*, RGROOMED*, RWEIGHT*, RHLTHEND*, HUCLEAN*, COOP*, COMPREND*
- Consent: CONSENT, ADMINCONSENT
- Other people: WHOELSE1-WHOELSE6*
- Interview length: LNGTHINV* (recode from timestamps)
- Interviewer characteristics: INTAGE*, INTETHN*, INTSEX*, INTYRS*, INTTHISP*, INTRACE1-INTRACE3*
- Respondent skin tone: RATETONE*
- Interview mode: MODE
- Fees: FEEUSED*, FEELEVEL*
- Interview language: SPANENG
- Weights: FORMWT, OVERSAMP, WTSS, WTSSALL, WTSSNR, WTSSHH (weighting variables are all composites from many sources of information)
- Respondent ID: ID
- Household informant information: HEFINFO*
- Respondent number in Household roster: RESPNUM
- Year of interview: YEAR
- Date of interview: DATEINTV
- Ballot of interview: BALLOT
- Wording form of interview: FORM
- Did respondent complete ISSP: ISSP
- Does R have telephone: PHONE
- Sampling information: SAMPLE, SAMPCODE, PHASE

Attitudes and Opinions

Priorities for national spending

- NATSPAC/Y, NATENVIR/Y, NATHEAL/Y, NATCITY/Y, NATCRIME/Y, NATDRUG/Y, NATEDUC/Y, NATRACE/Y, NATARMS/Y, NATAID/Y, NATFARE/Y, NATROAD, NATSOC, NATMASS, NATPARK, NATCHLD, NATSCI, NATENRGY

Voting and political preferences

- Voting in recent election: VOTE16
- Presidential vote: PRES16
- Hypothetical presidential vote: IF16WHO
- Political views: POLVIEWS
- Party affiliation: PARTYID (recoded from a series of political affiliation questions)

Religious attitudes and behavior

- Attendance at religious services: ATTEND
- Frequency of Prayer: PRAY
- Life after death: POSTLIFE
- Feelings about the Bible: BIBLE
- Papal authority: POPESPKS
- Belief in God: GOD
- Born again experiences: REBORN
- Proselytizing for Christianity: SAVESOUL
- Religious and spiritual identity: RELPERSN, SPRTPRSN

Class identification and economic well-being

- Subjective social class placement: CLASS
- Satisfaction with financial situation: SATFIN
- Trend in financial situation: FINALTER
- Subjective assessment of financial situation relative to average: FINRELA
- Rank in society: RANK

Subjective well-being and social life orientations

- General happiness: HAPPY
- Happiness in relationship: HAPMAR, HAPCOHAB
- Satisfaction with work: SATJOB

Attitude and opinion items (abbreviated as A&O in appendix A)

- Capital punishment: CAPPUN
- Criminal Courts: COURTS
- Likelihood of world war: USWARY (only on BALLOT A)

Items only appearing on Ballots A and B

Behaviors and Non-opinion Measures

Verbal ability

- WORDA*, WORDB*, WORDC*, WORDD*, WORDE*, WORDF*, WORDG*, WORDH*, WORDI*, WORDJ*, WORDK*, WORDL*, WORDM*, WORDSUM (recode from WORDA-WORDM)

Computer and internet usage

- Use computer: COMPUSE*
- Use web via mobile device: WEBMOB
- Time spent on email per week: EMAILHR, EMAILMIN
- Use internet: USEWWW*
- Time spent on internet per week: WWWHR, WWWMIN

Socializing with personal contacts

- Relatives: SOCREL
- Neighbors: SOCCOMMUN
- Friends: SCOFRIEND
- Bar: SOCBAR

Media use/contact

- Time spent on TV: TVHRS
- Read newspaper: NEWS

Attitudes and Opinions

Gender roles

- Affirmative Action: DISCAFFW, DISCAFFM, FEHIRE, FEJOBFAFF,
- Working mothers: FECHLD, FEPRESCH
- Traditional gender roles: FEFAM
- Women in politics: FEPOL
- Households suffer when men overwork: MEOVWRK

Racial Attitudes and Stereotypes

- Racial preference in employment: AFFRMACT
- Causes of racial inequality: RACDIF1, RACDIF2, RACDIF3, RACDIF4
- Blacks should work way up: WRKWAYUP
- Racial stereotypes, Wealth: WLTHWHTS, WLTHBLKS, WLTHHSPS
- Racial stereotypes, Hardworking: WORKWHTS, WORKBLKS, WORKHSPS
- Racial stereotypes, Intelligence: INTLWHTS, INTLBLKS, INTLHSPS
- Neighborhood composition: LIVEWHTS, LIVEBLKS
- Attitudes to marriage: MARWHT, MARBLK, MARASIAN, MARHISP

Suicide

- Physician-assisted suicide: LETDIE1
- Right to commit suicide: SUICIDE1, SUICIDE2, SUICIDE3, SUICIDE4

Sexual behavior

- Sex education in public schools: SEXEDUC
- Sexual attitudes: TEENSEX, PREMARSZ
- Birth control for teens: PILLOK

Work Orientation

- Job security: JOBLOSE, JOBFIND

Family & Children

- Approval of spanking: SPANKING
- Ideal number of children: CHLDIDEL
- Divorce law too lenient or restrictive: DIVLAW

Religion (Abbreviated as A&O: Prayer in Appendix A)

- Prayer in public schools: PRAYER

Immigration

- Number of immigrants increase or decrease: LETIN1A

Items only appearing on Ballots A and C

Behaviors and Non-opinion Measures

Firearms

- Gun ownership: OWNGUN, ROWNGUN, PISTOL, RIFLE, SHOTGUN
- Hunting: HUNT1

Home ownership

- Current home ownership: DWELOWN
- Home ownership at age 16: DWELOWN16

Subjective well-being and social life orientations

- Subjective health: HEALTH

Everyday Discrimination

- Treated with less respect: DISRSPCT
- Worse service in restaurants/stores: POORSERV
- Treated as unintelligent: NOTSMART
- People are afraid: AFRAIDOF
- Threatened or harassed: THREATEN

Attitudes and Opinions

Legalized abortion

- Fetal defect: ABDEFECT
- No more children: ABNOMORE
- Health risk: ABHLTH
- Financial wellbeing: ABPOOR
- Rape: ABRAPE
- Unmarried mother: ABSINGLE
- Any reason: ABANY

Civil liberties (Stouffer)

- Atheist: SPKATH/Y, COLATH, LIBATH/Y
- Racist: SPKRAC/Y, COLRAC, LIBRAC/Y
- Communist: SPKCOM/Y, COLCOM/Y, LIBCOM/Y
- Militarist: SPKMIL/Y, COLMIL, LIBMIL/Y
- Homosexual: SPKHOMO/Y, COLHOMO, LIBHOMO/Y
- Muslim clergy: SPKMLSM/Y, COLMSLM, LIBMSLM/Y

Sexual behavior

- Sexual attitudes: XMARSEX, TEENSEX, HOMOSEX
- Gay marriage: MARHOMO

Racial attitudes

- Closeness to other races: CLOSEBLK, CLOSEWHT
- Reverse discrimination: DISCAFF
- Open housing: RACOPEN
- Racial composition of workplace: RACWORK

Crime, punishment, and firearms

- Gun laws: GUNLAW
- Fear walking at night near home: FEAR

Tax attitudes

- Tax burden: TAX

Subjective wellbeing

- Subjective life feeling: LIFE

Economic well-being

- How to get ahead in life: GETAHEAD

Work orientation

- Work as central life interest: RICHWORK

Items only appearing on Ballots B and C

Behaviors and Non-opinion Measures

Work status

- Any unemployment in past 10 years: UNEMP
- Union membership: UNION1

Attitudes and Opinions

Confidence in institutions

- CONARMY, CONBUS, CONCLERG, CONEDUC, CONFED, CONFINAN, CONJUDGE, CONLABOR, CONLEGIS, CONMEDIC, COMPRESS, CONSCI, CONTV

Family & children

- Ideal qualities for children: HELPOTH, OBEY, THINKSELF, POPULAR, WORKHARD
- Co-residence of parents with adult children: AGED

Crime, punishment, and firearms

- Police striking adult male: POLHITOK/Y
- Police striking adult male using abusive language: POLABUSE/Y
- Police striking adult male murder suspect: POLMURDR/Y
- Police striking adult male attempting escape: POLESCAP/Y
- Police striking adult male attacking police: POLATTAK/Y
- Marijuana legalization: GRASS

Government Intervention

- Equalize incomes: EQWLTH
- Improve living standards: HELPPPOOR
- Solve national problems: HELPNOT
- Help with health costs: HELPSICK
- Help Blacks: HELPBLK

Economic well-being

- Standard of living relative to parents: PARSOL
- Projected standard of living relative to children: KIDSSOL

Sexual behavior

- Watched x-rated movie: XMOVIE
- Laws around pornography: PORNLAW

Subjective well-being and social life orientations

- Social life feelings/Misanthropy: CANTRUST, FAIR, HELPFUL, TRUST

Appendix A: Ballot Orderings for GSS Replicating Core

There is no single canonical order for the GSS since items can appear in different sequences in different ballots. Below is the approximate ordering of variables in each ballot, using the descriptions of the items from above.

Ballot A	Ballot B	Ballot C
Priorities for national spending	Priorities for national spending	Priorities for national spending
A&O: Likelihood of world war	A&O: Prayer	Respondent residence, region, mobility
A&O: Prayer	Gender roles	Family type
A&O: Courts	Gender discrimination	Father work/employment
Gender roles (partial)	Family & children (partial)	Father education
Gender discrimination	Respondent residence, region, mobility	Mother education
Gender roles (partial)	Family type	Mother work/employment
Respondent residence, region, mobility	Father work/employment	Siblings
Family type	Father education	Marital status
Father work/employment	Mother education	Ethnicity
Father education	Mother work/employment	Respondent work/employment
Mother education	Siblings	Work orientation
Mother work/employment	Marital status	Subjective well-being and social life orientations (partial)
Marital status	Ethnicity	Spouse/partner work/employment
Ethnicity	Respondent work/employment	Number of children
Siblings	Subjective well-being and social life orientations (partial)	Age at birth of first child
Respondent work/employment	Spouse/partner work/employment	Institutional confidence
Work orientation	Work status	Government intervention (partial)
Subjective well-being and social life orientations (partial)	Class identification and economic well-being	Civil liberties (Stouffer)
Spouse/partner work/employment	Economic well-being	Subjective well-being and social life orientations (partial)
Superiors/subordinates in workplace	Superiors/subordinates in workplace	Family & children (partial)
Civil liberties (Stouffer)	Institutional confidence	Crime, punishment, and firearms (partial)
A&O: Capital punishment	Crime, punishment, and firearms (partial)	A&O: Capital punishment
Crime, punishment, and firearms	government intervention (partial)	Crime, punishment, and firearms (partial)

Firearms	Voting and political preferences (partial)	A&O: Courts
Class identification and economic well-being	A&O: Capital punishment	Crime, punishment, and firearms (partial)
Race, racial comp of neighborhood	A&O: Courts	class identification and economic well-being (partial)
Racial attitudes	Subjective well-being and social life orientations (partial)	Subjective well-being and social life orientations (partial)
Racial attitudes & stereotypes	Crime, punishment, and firearms (partial)	Race, racial comp of neighborhood
Immigration	Family & children (partial)	Racial attitudes
Economic well-being	Sexual behavior (partial)	Subjective well-being and social life orientations (partial)
Subjective well-being & social life orientation	Family & children (partial)	Legalized abortion
Family & children (partial)	Suicide	Sexual attitudes
Number of children	Family & children (partial)	Economic well-being
Age at birth of first child	Sexual behavior (partial)	Subjective well-being
Sexual behavior	Socializing with personal contacts	Sexual behavior
Family & children (partial)	Media use/contact	tax attitudes
Legalized abortion	Subjective well-being and social life orientations (partial)	Voting and political preferences (partial)
Suicide	Race, racial comp of neighborhood	Government intervention (partial)
Sexual attitudes	Racial attitudes	Voting and political preferences (partial)
Family & children (partial)	Racial attitudes & stereotypes	Religious affiliation
Socializing with personal contacts	Immigration	Religious affiliation growing up
Tax attitudes	Number of children	Religious attitudes & behaviors (partial)
Voting and political preferences	Age at birth of first child	Spouse/partner religious affiliation
Media use/contact	Sexual behavior (partial)	Religious attitudes & behaviors (partial)
Religious affiliation	Voting and political preferences (partial)	Respondent education
Religious affiliation growing up	Government intervention (partial)	Spouse/partner education
Religious attitudes & behaviors (partial)	Respondent education	Class identification and economic well-being (partial)
Spouse/partner religious affiliation	Spouse/partner education	Work status
Religious attitudes & behaviors (partial)	Voting and political preferences (partial)	Birthplace, parents' birthplace, grandparents' birthplace

Birthplace, parents' birthplace, grandparents' birthplace	Religious affiliation	Citizenship status
Citizenship status	Religious affiliation growing up	Household size and composition (non-HEF items)
Respondent education	Religious attitudes & behaviors (partial)	Household income
Spouse/partner education	Spouse/partner religious affiliation	Respondent income
Household size and composition (non- HEF items)	Religious attitudes & behaviors (partial)	Home ownership
Household income	Birthplace, parents' birthplace, grandparents' birthplace	Age/birthday
Respondent income	Citizenship status	Languages spoken
Home ownership	Household size and composition (non-HEF items)	Military duty
Age/birthday	Household income	Everyday discrimination
Languages spoken	Respondent income	
Military duty	home ownership	
Verbal ability	age/birthday	
Computer and internet usage	languages spoken	
Everyday discrimination	military duty	
	Verbal ability	
	Computer and internet usage	

