

General Social Survey (GSS)
NORC

OBTAINING GSS SENSITIVE DATA FILES

The GSS geographic identification code files are made available to researchers under special contract with NORC. The GSS takes its promise of anonymity to its respondents very seriously and this is the basis for the contract process. Under contract, the GSS will provide data on State, Primary sampling unit, County, & Census tract, but in no circumstances will individually identifying information (name, address, etc.) be provided.

The procedure for obtaining the GSS Sensitive Data is outlined below:

- 1) After you return the documentation specified in “Obtaining GSS Sensitive Data Files” to us by e-mail, our review process for approval will start.
- 2) Once we approve your application, we will send you via e-mail the Contract/Order Form. You will return these to us along with a check for \$750.
- 3) We will send you a copy of the contract, a CD-ROM with the data requested, and documentation on the area variables. You must merge the data included on the CD-ROMs with your own GSS dataset.

The process can take several months. To avoid delays, we ask potential users of these Sensitive Data files to be prepared to submit the following for the review process for approval (more information is contained in “Obtaining GSS Sensitive Data Files”):

- 1) **Research Plan** – Include a specification of which area datasets & variables you intend to use. The Research Plan must fully specify all of the research that is to take place using the data and must be project specific.
- 2) **Curriculum Vitae** – One for each participating research staff
- 3) **Sensitive Data Protection Plan** - Study the “Criteria for Sensitive Data Protection Plans” and submit a Sensitive Data Protection Plan meeting all of its standards.
- 4) **Human Subjects Review Clearance** - Obtained from the appropriate body at your Institution, using the Sensitive Data Protection Plan as part of the application for approval.

To request further instructions, any of the documents mentioned above, or questions regarding the process in general, please contact the GSS at

GSS@NORC.org
773-256-6288

Thank you for your interest in the GSS. We look forward to hearing from you.