Release Notes for GSS 1972-2024 Release 3
(March 2026)

Datafile Release Notes

GSS Years Affected	Variables	Issue in the Previous Release	Fix in the Current Release
All years	DWELLING, INTAGE, INTYRS	The GSS team developed an updated plan for the 2024 data release to reduce disclosure risks, especially for demographic and topic-sensitive variables. See a fuller description in Release Notes for Release 1 and Release 2. For more information about these changes, please see Appendix E in the GSS 2024 Codebook.	Updated response categories Variables preserving the historical response categories: DWELLING_8222 INTAGE_0418 INTYRS_0418
2024	YEARSUSA, MNTHSUSA MIGAGE, MIGHIST	Related to disclosure risks (see above), it was determined that YEARSUSA and MNTHSUSA should no longer be released as is in the public use datafile. In response, the GSS team developed two summary measures based on this data appropriate for public release. MIGAGE provides age categories for when the respondent immigrated to the United States. MIGHIST provides the year range of the respondent's immigration based on major periods of immigration in the U.S. For more information, please see GSS Methodological Report 144.	Included
2024	AMERSTATUS, BASELINESTATUS, WTSSNRPS_AS	In addition to the nationally representative sample, the 2024 GSS Cross-section includes an oversample of Black, Hispanic, and Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) respondents, obtained from NORC's AmeriSpeak Panel, which utilizes the same national sampling frame as the GSS. These respondents were not eligible for follow-on GSS studies. AmeriSpeak Panel cases were not included in previous releases. For more details, please see GSS Methodological Report 148.	677 AmeriSpeak respondents are now included, increasing the final sample size for 2024 to 3,986 respondents. AmeriSpeak cases are denoted by the indicator AMERSTATUS. Baseline 2024 GSS cases are denoted by the indicator BASELINESTATUS. AmeriSpeak cases are only available in the 2024 GSS single-year file, not the 1972-2024 cumulative file. The full 3,986 respondents should be analyzed with the survey weight WTSSNRPS_AS.
2024	INTID, INTAGE, INTETHN, INTSEX, INTYRS, COOP, COMPREND, HUCLEAN, WHOELSE1-	Variables not previously released addressing: • Interviewer characteristics • Interviewer observations • Interview length, incentives, and other paradata • Respondent skin-tone (interviewer-observed and self-reported)	Included

	WHOELSE6, HLTHSTRT, KIDSINHH, RESPOND, INCUSPOP, NEISAFE, RLOOKS, RGROOMED, RHLTHEND, FEEUSED, FEELEVEL, TOTALINCENTIVE, LNGTHINV, CONSENT, ADMINCONSENT, BATCH, OVERSAMP, RELTRAD16, WORDSUM7, WORDSUMOLD, WORDSUMNEW, ANESELIGIBLE, ANESPRE_STATUS, ANESPOST_STATUS, NEXTELIGIBLE, NEXTSTATUS, WTSSNRPS_NEXT, DATEINTV_NEXT, CREDREP, CREDCHOICE, CREDAM, CREDLAND, CREDEMP, CREDCAR, IMPFINAN, IMPMAR, IMPKIDS, IMPGOD, IMPTHNGS, IMPCULTR, IMPJOB, IMPSELF, UNITED, HAPPY_NEXT, HAPFEEL, ASHAMED, FEARFUL, ANGRY, PROUD, AIMOFART, ABMORAL, ABHELP1-ABHELP4,	• WORDSUM variants
		• ANES follow-on eligibility and participation
		• GSS Next Follow-on, with sections on:
		  ○ Credit history
		  ○ Importance of cultural values
		  ○ Ideal number of children
		  ○ Expanded abortion items
		  ○ Household pets
		  ○ Social networks
		  ○ Top problems in the US	

	GESTATE, NUMPETS, DOG, CAT, SMAMMAL, BIRD, FISH, REPTILE, OTHPET, PETFAM, PETSSEQ, GRNCON, PERLA, PERLA_SELF, CHLDIDEL_NEXT, CHLDPREF_NEXT, KNWSEXOR, NUMGIVEN, RACE1-RACE5, SPOUSE1-SPOUSE5, PARENT1-PARENT5, CHILD1-CHILD5, OTHFAM1-OTHFAM5, COWORK1-COWORK5, MEMGRP1-MEMGRP5, NEIGHBR1-NEIGHBR5, FRIEND1-FRIEND5, ADVISOR1-ADVISOR5, OTHER1-OTHER5, TALKTO1-TALKTO5, TOPPROB1_NEXT, TOPPROB2_HLTH, TOPPROB2_EDUC, TOPPROB2_CRIM, TOPPROB2_ENVR, TOPPROB2_IMMG, TOPPROB2_ECON, TOPPROB2_TERR, TOPPROB2_POVT, TOPPROB2_NONE,		

	HHTYPE1_NEXT, FAMGEN_NEXT		
2024	RACWORK	The question RACWORK was removed from the 2024 questionnaire. There should have been no valid or missing values.	Recoded to .y “Not available in this year”
2022, 2024	RACOPEN, RACOPENV	In implementing the transition from RACOPENY to RACOPENV (see Release Notes for Release 1 below), we did not appropriately move over in-person, phone, and select multimode cases to RACOPEN.	Corrected
2022, 2024	AGED, AGEDV, AGEDNV, COURTS, COURTSV, COURTSNV, DISCAFFW, DISCAFFWV, DISCAFFWNV, DIVLAW, DIVLAWV, DIVLAWNV, FAIR, FAIRV, FAIRNV, FEPOL, FEPOLV, FEPOLNV, GRASS, GRASSV, GRASSNV, HELPFUL, HELPFULV, HELPFULNV, KIDSSOL, KIDSSOLV, KIDSSOLNV, POSTLIFE, POSTLIFEV, POSTLIFENV, PRAYER, PRAYERV, PRAYERNV, RELITEN, RELITENV, RELITENNV, TRUST, TRUSTV, TRUSTNV, USWARY, USWARYV, USWARYNV	Based on the mode of completion (variable: MODE), some cases were not appropriately assigned to the correct experimental version of the variable corresponding to the volunteered response experiment. Upon further investigation, we discovered mode assignments needed to be adjusted for certain variables, particularly for certain ballots. In addition, we discovered a programming anomaly where a select number of web respondents assigned to the NV condition (FORM=1) were able to return to a V/NV variable a second time and were shown and able to select a volunteer response option not available to them by the experimental design. It was determined that these cases should be recoded to .n “No Answer” to preserve the experimental design.	Corrected
2021, 2022	MODE	While investigating the volunteered response experiment discrepancies (see above), we determined that 218 cases in 2021 and 19 cases in 2022 (237 total) would be better	Recoded to 3 “Multimode”

		classified as “Multimode.” This change for 2021 makes it more consistent with mode assignment in 2022 and 2024.	
2022	CONSENT	While processing the 2024 GSS variable of CONSENT, an error was discovered in the 2022 processing.	Corrected
2006-2018	RADIOACT	This variable was assigned an incorrect variable label inconsistent with the content.	Corrected
1993	IMPTHNGS	This variable was assigned an incorrect set of response labels inconsistent with the question.	Corrected

Release Notes for GSS 1972-2024 Release 2
(October 2025)

Datafile Release Notes

GSS Years Affected	Variables	Issue in the Previous Release	Fix in the Current Release
All years	AGEKDBRN, BABIES, BABIES_EXP, CHILDSINHH, CHILDS_EXP, CODEN, DENOM, DENOM16, DIPGED, FAMGEN, FAMGEN_EXP, HIVTEST1, HIVTEST2, HOMPOP, HOMPOP_EXP, MAJOR1, MAJOR2, OTHLANG1, OTHLANG2, PARTNERS, PRETEEN, PRETEEN_EXP, RACEACS14, REGION, REG16, RPLACE, SPDEN, TEENS, TEENS_EXP, UNRELAT	The GSS team developed an updated plan for the 2024 data release to reduce disclosure risks, especially for demographic and topic-sensitive variables. The GSS team has chosen to reduce the number of response categories reported for select demographic variables. The default variable names (e.g., EARNRS, HISPANIC) will have the reduced response option responses for all available years. New variables will contain the historically released responses using a standard suffix format of _XXYY, where XX represents the last two digits of the first year that the variable was active, and YY represents the last two digits of the last year that the variable was active (e.g., _0022 designates the trend was active from 2000 to 2022). For more information about these changes, please see Appendix E in the GSS 2024 Codebook.	Updated response categories Variables preserving the historical response categories: AGEKDBRN_9422 BABIES_7222 BABIES_EXP_22 CHILDSINHH_2122 CHILDS_EXP_22 CODEN_1222 DENOM_7222 DENOM16_7322 DIPGED_1222 FAMGEN_7522 FAMGEN_EXP_22 HIVTEST1_0622 HIVTEST2_0622 HOMPOP_7222 HOMPOP_EXP_22 MAJOR1_1222 MAJOR2_1222 OTHLANG1_0022 OTHLANG2_0022 PARTNERS_8822 PRETEEN_7222 PRETEEN_EXP_22 RACEACS14_2122 REGION_7222 REG16_7222 RPLACE_7522 SPDEN_7322 TEENS_7222 TEENS_EXP_22 UNRELAT_7222

2024	RACECEN1, RACECEN2, RACECEN3	In R1, we released a version which only had six categories (e.g., all Asian subgroups were grouped together). With additional time to review disclosure risk, we determined that there were sufficient protections to release a version of these variables which included all Asian subgroups.	Expanded response categories
2024	ADULTSINHH	During the R1 coding of ADULTSINHH, 24 cases did not properly account for information from the full household composition series which had not been fully processed yet as of R1.	Corrected
2024	ETHREGION22	In conjunction with our revised disclosure risk, all ETHREGION variables were not meant to be released. ETHREGION22 was erroneously released as part of R1.	Recoded to .y “Not available in this year”
2024	PHONE	PHONE was accidentally coded to .y “Not available in this year.” This was in error. It will be released in a future data release.	Recoded to .x “Not available in this release”
2024	RELITEN, RELITENNV, RELITENV	Based on the full set of religion and denomination responses, some cases needed to have values rearranged between these three variables.	Corrected
2024	RINCOME, RINCOM16	Following additional review, additional cleanup particularly regarding missing values needed to be reviewed. As such, we identified 188 cases in RINCOME and 59 cases in RINCOM16 that needed updates.	Corrected
2022	FAMVSWK1	Spanish language respondents were given an incorrect translation of this question. All Spanish language cases who received this question (n=41, excluding AmeriSpeak cases) should be recoded.	Recoded to .n “No Answer”
2022	HIVTEST2	The original questionnaire response options were not recoded to match the final response options. For example, “Clinic” was assigned response option 5 in the questionnaire but is assigned response option 4 in the final variable.	Corrected
2022	HOMPOP_EXP	Cases who did NOT receive the Experimental Household Composition module (i.e., assigned to FORM = 1 or “X”) were all assigned a value of 1.	Recoded to .i “Not applicable”
2022	INTHISP	Error in coding assigned “Not Hispanic” cases to a value of 0.	Recoded to 1 “Not Hispanic”

2022	RLYRLTV	The answer option “You cannot rely on either of them” is missing in the data. Punch 8 values were recoded incorrectly and should have been recoded to 0 “You cannot rely on either of them.” In addition, Punch 9 was not recoded correctly and should have been coded to .d “Can’t choose.” 147 cases were impacted by this error.	Recoded .d to 0 “You cannot rely on either of them” Recoded 9 to .d “Can’t choose”
2021	HOMPOP, CHILDSINHH, ADULTSINHH	203 cases have a household size of 0 listed. This is due to a calculation error where CHILDSINHH had a valid value and ADULTSINHH had a missing value (specifically .s “Skipped on web”).	Recoded to .s “Skipped on web”
2021	USCITZN	Given the combination of USCITZN, USCITZNV, and USCITZNNV for 2024 corresponding with disclosure risk protections, there is no reason to not do so as well with 2021 for consistency.	Included
1976, 1982	PAIND10	Three cases had invalid industry codes. These have been reviewed and corrected.	Corrected
2024	ACPTTG, ADULTS_EXP, AFRAIDOF, BABIES, BABIES_EXP, CHILDS_EXP, CHNGDOCS, CLOSEBLK, CLOSEWHT, CODEN, COFUND, COIND10, CONINC, CONORELGSP, CONRINC, COOCC10, COPRES10, COPRES105PLUS, COREL, COSEI10, COSEI10EDUC, COSEI10INC, DENOM, DENOM16, DEVTYPE, DISRSPCT, DSDNTPAY, FAMGEN_EXP, FAMILY16SEX,	Variables not previously released addressing: • Work and occupations • Household composition • Religion • Racial attitudes	Included

	FEOVRWRK, FUND, FUND16, ~~GRNCON,~~ HELPOTH, HHTYPE1, HHTYPE1_EXP, HIVTEST1, HIVTEST2, HOMPOP, HOMPOP_EXP, INDUS10, LIVEBLKS, LIVEWHTS, MAIND10, MAOCC10, MAPRES10, MAPRES105PLUS, MARASIAN, MARBLK, MARHISP, MARWHT, MASEI10, MASEI10EDUC, MASEI10INC, NOATHOME, NODOCIDU, NONURSE, NORELGSP, NORELGSP16, NOTSMART, OBEY, OCC10, PAIND10, PAOCC10, PAPRES10, PAPRES105PLUS, PASEI10, PASEI10EDUC, PASEI10INC, PAWRKGRW, POORSERV, POPULAR, PRESTG10, PRESTG105PLUS, PRETEEN, PRETEEN_EXP, PTNRSXNOW1, REALINC, REALRINC, REFMORWK,		

	REFPROMO, RELIG, RELIG16, RELIGINF, RELTRAD, SEI10, SEI10EDUC, SEI10INC, SEXNOW2, SEXPAID, SPDEN, SPFUND, SPIND10, SPNORELGSP, SPOCC10, SPPRES10, SPPRES105PLUS, SPREL, SPSEI10, SPSEI10EDUC, SPSEI10INC, TEENS, TEENS_EXP, THNKSELF, THREATEN, UNRELAT, WLTHBLKS, WLTHHSPS, WLTHWHTS, WORKBLKS, WORKHARD, WORKHSPS, WORKLESS, WORKWHTS, WRKWAYUP		

Release Notes for GSS 1972-2024 Release 1
(May 2025)

Datafile Release Notes

GSS Years Affected	Variables	Issue in the Previous Release	Fix in the Current Release
All years	EARNRS, HISPANIC, NUMEMPS, RACECEN1, RACECEN2, RACECEN3, SIBS, USCITZN	The GSS team developed an updated plan for the 2024 data release to reduce disclosure risks, especially for demographic variables. The GSS team has chosen to reduce the number of response categories reported for select demographic variables. The default variable names (e.g., EARNRS, HISPANIC) will have the reduced response option responses for all available years. New variables will contain the historically released responses using a standard suffix format of _XXYY, where XX represents the last two digits of the first year that the variable was active, and YY represents the last two digits of the last year that the variable was active (e.g., _0022 designates the trend was active from 2000 to 2022). For more information about these changes, please see Appendix E in the GSS 2024 Codebook.	Updated response categories Variables preserving the historical response categories: EARNRS_7222 HISPANIC_0022 NUMEMPS_0422 RACECEN1_0022 RACECEN2_0022 RACECEN3_0022 SIBS_7222 USCITZN_0822
Multiple years	MARHOMO, MARHOMO1, MARSAME, MARSAME1	Updated the name of MARHOMO to be MARSAME, and MARHOMO1 to be MARSAME1.	Updated
2022	CHNGTME, CHNGTIME	The variable name for CHNGTME was changed in 2022 to CHNGTIME to be consistent with the variable name in the questionnaire. Given no changes in the question wording or response options were implemented in association with this change, the responses from CHNGTIME should be moved into CHNGTME to increase ease of analysis of this variable over time.	Responses from CHNGTIME moved into CHNGTME CHNGTIME removed
2022	NEAELIGIBLE, NEXTELIGIBLE	NEASTATUS and NEXTSTATUS previously reported which cases completed the NEA follow-on and GSS Next follow-on, respectively. This indicator did not provide information regarding who was eligible to participate in the follow-on.	Included

2022	NMBRKIDS	An error exporting the “None” check box responses unexpectedly incorporated a value of 1 into the numeric field for this variable for 459 cases when it should have been reported as 0.	Recoded to 0
2022	RACOPENV, RACOPENY	Question RACOPEN is included in two experiments (gender-neutral wording and volunteered response). Per the 2022 GSS Codebook, RACOPENV was designated as the reported variable containing data for both experiment “as the -V and -NV effect appears stronger.” Despite this assertion, the variable was released as RACOPENY.	Responses from RACOPENY moved to RACOPENV RACOPENY removed
2022	WRKSTAT, SPWRKSTA	Verbatim answers to WRKSTAT and SPWRKSTA option 5 “Other” were not recoded into WRKSTAT and SPWRKSTA categories 1-7.	19 verbatim answers for WRKSTAT were recoded and 11 verbatim answers for SPWRKSTA were recoded
2021, 2022	ETHNIC	Respondents who skipped the ETHWORLD series were coded as .i “Not applicable”.	Updated to .d “Don’t Know”, .n “No Answer”, or .s “Skipped on web” as appropriate for each case
2021, 2022	ETHREGION95, ETHREGION96	A duplicate ETHREGION variable for Jamaica (originally ETHREGION95) was retained in the data when programmatically these responses were already moved to ETHREGION89, the assigned variable for Jamaica. Therefore, the historical version of ETHREGION95 is erroneous.	ETHREGION95 is now “Other Oceania” ETHREGION96 removed
2021, 2022	ZODIAC	Respondents who did not provide a birth day were incorrectly coded to .i “Not applicable”.	Updated to .n “No Answer”
2021	COHORT	Respondents where year of birth was not provided were temporarily coded 9999.	Updated to .n “No Answer”
2021	PRESTG105PLUS, SEI10EDUC, SEI10INC, SPPRES105PLUS, SPSEI10EDUC, SPSEI10INC, PAPRES105PLUS, PASEI10EDUC, PASEI10INC, MAPRES105PLUS, MASEI10EDUC,	A number of cases for each of these variables are denoted as .y “Not available in this year” when they should be .i “Not applicable.”	Cases affected recoded from .y “Not available in this year” to .i “Not applicable.”

	MASEI10INC, MAJOR1, RESPNUM		
2018	CHNGTME	Previously excluded from the data.	Included
2012, 2022	PAIDLV	Old category labels for PAIDLV were an artifact of an older version of PAIDLV. In Release 1 of the 1972-2022 Cumulative File, GSS combined the variables PAIDLV and PAIDLV1 into a single variable to increase analytic efficiency. With this change, category 0 should have been labeled as “No, there should be no paid leave” with the remaining categories representing the number of months of paid leave they felt a new parent should get. Unfortunately, the old value label for response 2 was retained from the old version of PAIDLV.	Updated
1972-1993	INCDEF, POVLINE	Cases considered not imputable for these variables were coded to reserve code .q, which is not an assigned reserve code. Reserve code .p is designated for this purpose.	Recoded to .p “Not imputable”