

Release Notes for the GSS 2008 Merged Data

About This Release of the Data

The GSS is in transition from a replicating cross-sectional design to a design that uses rotating panels. In 2008 there were two components: a new 2008 cross-section with 2,023 cases and the first re-interviews (panel) with 1,536 respondents from the 2006 GSS. The 2,023 cases in the cross-section have been previously released as a part of the 1972-2008 cumulative data. This new release includes those 1,536 re-interviewed panel cases along with the 2,023 cases.

Please note that this is not a cumulative file—those cases and variables not surveyed in 2008 are excluded. Also note that, although those 1,536 cases were from the 2006 sample, this release does not include their responses in 2006. We plan to release a data file with the previous responses in the future.

Newly Added Weight Variables

- WTPAN: weight for the panel cases only
- WTNRPAN: weight for the panel cases, considering non-respondents
- WTCOMB: weight for both cross-section and the panel cases combined
- WTNRCOMB: weight for both cross-section and the panel cases combined, considering non-respondents

Variables Used in the Panel

This release introduces new variables that were asked only of the panel cases of the 2008 GSS. The majority of variables introduced are related to the 2007 International Social Survey Program (ISSP) module on leisure time and sports.

PANEL	PANEL or CROSS-SECTION
NOFLYGUN	No guns if on no-fly list
KD6JWOTH	Respondent's child 6 considered Jewish
PAYENVIR	How willing would the respondent be to pay higher prices to protect the environment
IMMAFFUS	Respondent thinks immigrants to USA will make USA better
IMMAFMJB	Should priority be given to people who have family in USA or qualification
CONTERRR	How concerned the respondent is about the next terrorist attack

TVDVDVCR	How often watch TV, DVD, videos
GOMOVIES	How often go to movies
GOSHOP	How often go out shopping for pleasure
READBOOK	How often read books
ATTCULT	How often attend cultural events
SEERELS	How often get together with relatives
SEEFRNDS	How often get together with friends
PLAYGAME	How often play cards or board games
LSTMUSIC	How often listen to music
PHYSACTS	How often take part in physical activities
ATTSPRT	How often attend sporting events as spectator
DOCRAFTS	How often do handicrafts
TIMECOMP	How often spend time on Internet or PC
BETRUSLF	Free time activities enable the respondent to be real self
RELATPEO	Free time activities enable the respondent to strengthen relationships with people
ENJYBKS	How much enjoyment the respondent gets from reading books
ENJYFRND	How much enjoyment the respondent gets from getting together with friends
ENJYPHYS	How much enjoyment the respondent gets from physical activities
ENJYTV	How much enjoyment the respondent gets from watching TV, DVD, videos
ESTCNTCT	How often use free time to establish useful contacts
RELAX	How often use free time to relax and recover
LEARNSKL	How often use free time to learn skills
FRBORED	In free time, how often feel bored
FRRUSHED	In free time, how often feel rushed
FRTHNKWK	In free time, how often find self thinking about work
PEOALONE	In free time, the respondent prefers to be with other people or to be by oneself
AWAYHOME	In last 12 mo, how many nights the respondent stayed away from home for vacations or social visits
OFFWORK	In last 12 mo, how many days of leave from work
SPORT	What sport the respondent plays most frequently
TVSPORT1	What sport the respondent watches on TV most frequently
TVSPORT2	What sport the respondent watches on TV 2nd most frequently
GAMES	Types of game the respondent plays most frequently
PHYSMNTL	How important is taking part in sports or games
MEETPEO	How important is meeting other people
COMPETE	How important is competing against others
LOOKGOOD	How important is looking good
PRDSPRTS	How proud are you when America does well at an international sports or games competition? Would you say...
SPRTSDEV	Taking part in sports develops children's character
SPORTSTV	There is too much sports on TV
RACSPRTS	Sports bring different groups and races inside USA closer together
INTLSPRT	International sports competitions create more tension between countries than good feelings

GOVSPRTS	US government should spend more money on sports
PARTSPRT	In last 12 mo, how often the respondent has participated in sports association
PARTCULT	In last 12 mo, how often the respondent has participated in cultural association
PARTREL	In last 12 mo, how often the respondent has participated in religious organization
PARTCOM	In last 12 mo, how often the respondent has participated in civic association
PARTPRTY	In last 12 mo, how often the respondent has participated in political association
CANTRUST1	People can be trusted or can't be too careful
LACKFACS	Lack of facilities nearby prevents the respondent from doing free time activities
LACKMONY	Lack of money prevents the respondent from doing free time activities
HLTHAGE	Personal health prevents the respondent from doing free time activities
CAREOTH	Need to take care of someone prevents the respondent from doing free time activities
LACKTIME	Lack of time prevents the respondent from doing free time activities
WORDK	Word K
WORDL	Word L
WORDM	Word M
WORDN	Word N
WTPAN	Weight variable
WTNRPAN	Weight variable
WTCOMB	Weight variable
WTNRCOMB	Weight variable

A Note on the Global Economics Module in GSS 2008

There were some errors in the Global Economics Module (WORK3YRS – OTHPLAN) in the GSS 1972 – 2008 data file, and they are fixed in this release.