A Summary Evaluation of GSS Questions, 1972-1983

PRELIMINARY VERSION

By

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GSS Technical Report No. 47

October, 1983

This research was done for the General Social Survey project directed by James A. Davis and Tom W. Smith. The project is funded by the National Science Foundation, Grant No. SOC77-03279.

In order to assist the GSS project staff and the GSS Board of Overseers in their overall evaluation of questions appearing on the General Social Surveys, a Variable Description File (See Appendix 1: Summary of GSS Variables) was created for the display and analysis of basic facts about standard GSS variables. Of the 635 variables that appear on the cumulative GSS files 380 were included in the file. Items that had appeared only once and were not now standard GSS variables (222) were excluded (see Appendix 2: Variables with Single Appearance) as were 33 standard items without substantive importance.[1] The Appendix 1 lists nine items of interest for each variable:

1. Its mnemonic
2. The number of surveys it has appeared in
3. The range of years covered
4. Davis' Triviality Index
5. The best trend model
6. Marginal skewness
7. Special problems noted
8. Membership in an attitude scale or set
9. Number of uses in Annotated Bibliography

The definition and source of each of these items is described in the endnotes to Appendix 1.

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[1]The excluded items consisted of nine presidential voting questions covering the 1972-1980 elections that no longer appear, six technical variables (FORM, ID, SAMPLE, OVERSAMP, YEAR and SAMPCODE), three details and recodes of the question used to code age (ZODIAC, BIRTHMO, and BIRTHDAY), four codes of miscellaneous Protestant denominations (OTHER, OTH16, SPOTHER, and SPOTH16), ten individual vocabulary items subsumed by WORDSUM, and CAPPUN2 which was merged with the CAPPUN item.

Table 1 shows the distribution of standard GSS items by occurances. The mode is six which represents how often a typical rotating item (on two surveys off one survey) starting in 1972 or 1973 (depending on rotation group) has appeared. Those with ten appearances have appeared in all surveys and consist almost entirely of demographics. The number of appearances and whether the item has been on the GSS from the start significantly influence both its usage pattern and the model that best fits its trend.

TABLE 1

NUMBER OF SURVEYS VARIABLE HAS APPEARED IN

	Percent
2	7.1
3	10.5
4	5.3
5	5.3
6	26.1
7	6.3
8	3.4
9	12.4
10	23.7 (380)

Tables 2 and 3 describe the marginal changes in variables. The Davis Triviality Index (Table 2) is a measure of the stability of the variable. The larger the number, the more stable the distribution has been. The number can be roughly interpreted as the number of GSS surveys that a variable would have to appear in for the observed amount of change to be statistically significant (see Appendix 1 endnote 4 or Davis, 1983 for details). As Table 2 indicates there has been considerable variation in the stability of items. While 10 percent of the variables vary enough to be reliability detected in a sample

TABLE 2

TRIVIALITY INDEX

	Percent
Less than 1	10.0
1 to 3	21.6
4 to 5	21.3
5 to 10	28.2
10 to 132	18.9
	(380)

TABLE 3

BEST FITTING MODEL

	Percent
Constant	31.1
Linear Component	29.3
Linear Trend	21.5
Non-Linear	17.0
Can't Decide	1.1
	(270)

MISSING = 110 (67 LT 4 surveys; 43 not calculated)

smaller than a single GSS, 19 percent of the variables have not shown enough variation to be statistically distinguished even in all ten GSSs. Table 3 tries to fit the best trend line to each time series. A constant model is accepted if there is no statistically significant unexplained variation around a constant percentage. A linear component model shows a better fit to a linear trend than to a constant, but has a significant amount of unexplained variation. A linear trend, on the other hand, fits a linear trend with no statistically significant variation. A non-linear trend fails to fit a constant model, but the best linear model is not significantly better.

Finally, for a few cases variables fall between the models (for more details see Smith, 1980). Table 3 is based on a subset of variables that have appeared at least four times (313) minus a number of variables that are recodes of other included variables or only cover subpopulations (43). Among this subset of 270 variables, linear components and linear trends predominate covering 51 percent of the variables, followed by constant fits (31 percent) and non-linear trends (17 percent). There is naturally a high degree of association between the triviality index and the models. While 50 percent of the constant models have a triviality of 10+ almost none of the other models (LT 3 percent) have index scores that high.

Table 4 shows the skewness of the variables. The vast majority (84.5 percent) can be recoded to dichotomies no more extreme than 74-26, 6.6 percent are skewed between 75 and 84 percent, and 8.9 percent are 85-15 or greater. Many of the moderately to severely skewed items are part of scales or sets that contain unskewed items. Only 5.1 percent of the variables are cut at 75-25 or more and are not part of an unskewed scale or set.

TABLE 4

SKEW

	Percent
Less than 75	84.5
75 to 84	6.6
85 to 98	8.9
	(380)

In Table 5 the number of usages from the Annotated Bibliography is recorded. There has been a wide range in the popularity of items from 39 variables without any known usages to education with over 400. One factor influencing usages is question type. Demographics are used much more than attitudes or personal evaluations. Behaviors tend to have the lowest use

TABLE 5

NUMBER OF USAGES

	Percent
0-5	27.1
6-17	21.6
18-42	26.1
43-56	12.6
65-401	12.6
	(380)

Mean = 31.3 Median = 17-18

(for details see Smith, 1982). Another factor affecting usages is number of survey appearances. Since the bibliography was compiled last year and since it takes a year or more for the data to be used and published, these counts effectively exclude any variables that occurred in only the 1982 and 1983 surveys. Besides this restriction, there is a general association between number of survey occurances and number of usages. Of items appearing on only two or three surveys only 13 percent have been used 18 times or more, for four to five appearances this increase to 27.5 percent for six usages to 58 percent, and for seven to ten usages to 68 percent.

The problem field notes variables that have been criticized for defects in wording, response categories, conceptual clarity, factuality, or related technical matters. The criticism levelled against them has not necessary been proven, but there is at least indictable evidence in each case.

We used the Variable Description File to identify variables that were weak on each of the criteria included in the file: 1) low usages (LT 10), 2) high triviality (10+) and no modeled trend, and 3) skewed (75 percent+) and not part of an unskewed scale. Using these three constraints we came up with only two variables, COOP and COMPREND, both interviewer coded. Few variables

showed up basically because the number failing the skewness test was very low. We therefore dropped this criterion and looked only for items with low usage and high triviality. This produced sixteen variables. Of these six were DOT variables that are merely recodes of occupation and two on self employment are asked primarily to assist the coding of occupation. Two more (BORN and UNRELAT) are used as screens to ask other questions. That leaves only six variables that are not structurally related to more important variables. These include COOP and COMPREND as noted above, CANADA, CHILDMORE, MAWKBABY, and RIFLE. We also tried lowering the triviality criterion to eight. This added only six more variables--ENGLAND, DRUNK, DENOM16, SPREL6, PAIND16. amd SPIND.[2] While we could have lowered either criterion further, we were already specifying the most stable 27 percent of variables and those whose usage was in the bottom 36 percent. Since few variables are weak on both of these two criteria and among these many would seem to have substantial merit, it does not appear that this mechanical, non-subtantive approach can readily isolate prime candidates for revision or exclusion.

We believe that the Variable Description File and the Appendix might be best used to review the characterists of variables that have been questioned because of technical problems (see the "Problem" variables) or substantive concerns.

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[2]One reason for the small number of "catches" is that items with high triviality tend to either be demographics with high usage or screens for demographics.

REFERENCES

Davis, James A., "Counting Your Change for a Ten: America from 1972 to 1982 as Reflected in the NORC General Social Survey," GSS Technical Report No. 43. Chicago: NORC, 1983.

Smith, Tom W., A Compendium of Trends on General Social Survey Questions. NORC Report No. 129. Chicago: NORC, 1980.

Smith, Tom W., "Who, What, When, Where, and Why: An Analysis of the Usage of the General Social Surveys, 1972-1982." GSS Technical Report No. 37. Chicago: NORC, December, 1982.

APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF GSS VARIABLES

MNEMONIC[1]	NUMBER OF[2] SURVEYS	RANGE OF[3] YEARS	TRIVIALITY[4] INDEX	BEST[5] MODEL	SKEWNESS[6]	ANY PROBLEMS[7]	SCALE[8]	NUMBER OF[9] USAGES
ABANY	5	77-83	2.42	3			1	17
ABDEFECT	10	72-83	3.91	4	83		1	78
ABHLTH	10	72-83	3.73	4	91		1	78
ABNOMORE	10	72-83	4.46	2			1	93
ABPOOR	10	72-83	6.67	4			1	83
ABRAPE	10	72-83	4.23	2	84		1	69
ABSINGLE	10	72-83	4.13	4			1	77
ADULTS	10	72-83	1.18	2				9
AGE	10	72-83	28.93	1				383
AGED	6	73-83	0.95	3				14
AGEWED	10	72-83	19.82	1				19
AMICABLE	6	73-83	3.98	2	76		2	12
ANOMIA1	3	73-76	2.93	4			3	37
ANOMIA2	3	73-76	7.42	1			3	36
ANOMIA3	3	73-76	2.29	4	75		3	36
ANOMIA4	3	73-76	6.02	1			3	45
ANOMIA5	6	73-82	1.03	2			3	64
ANOMIA6	6	73-82	1.50	2			3	60
ANOMIA7	6	73-82	1.51	2			3	60
ANOMIA8	3	73-76	0.45	2			3	44
ANOMIA9	3	73-76	0.58	2			3	43
ARREST	6	73-82	5.41	3	89			9
ATTEND	10	72-83	6.95	2				121
BABIES	10	72-83	3.65	3				33
BLNUMOK	2	82-83	4.18					0
BORN	5	77-83	20.26	1	93		4	6
BRAZIL	5	74-83	1.60	2			5	5
BURGLR	6	73-82	25.87	1	92			24
BUSING	8	72-83	6.42	4	80			56
CANADA	5	74-83	22.69	1			5	6
CAPPUN	10	72-83	1.06	2				64
CHILDS	10	72-83	5.48	2				67
CHINA	5	74-83	0.57	2			5	5
CHLDDTH	3	78-83	3.44					0
CHLDIDEL	8	72-83	2.08	2				35
CHLDMORE	8	72-83	16.36	1				8
CHLDNUM	8	72-83	4.09					4
CHLDSOON	8	72-83	1.26					0
CLASS	10	72-83	32.75	1				87
CLEAN	6	73-83	6.52	1			2	16
COLATH	7	72-82	5.22	3			6	57
COLCOM	7	72-82	2.94	2			6	62
COLHOMO	6	73-82	3.72	3			6	38
COLMIL	4	76-82	4.23	2			6	20
COLRAC	4	76-82	16.02	1			6	18
COLSOC	3	72-74	27.75	1			6	39
COMMUN	6	73-82	1.22	3				26
COMPREND	10	72-83	22.40	1	79			8
CONARMY	9	73-83	2.27	2			7	69
CONBUS	9	73-83	1.65	2			7	71
CONCLERG	9	73-83	1.47	4			7	65
CONEDUC	9	73-83	1.16	2			7	64

SUMMARY (CONINUED)

MNEMONIC	NUMBER OF SURVEYS	RANGE OF YEARS	TRIVIALITY INDEX	BEST MODEL	SKEWNESS	ANY PROBLEMS	SCALE	NUMBER OF USAGES
CONFED	9	73-83	0.51	4			7	76
CONFINAN	7	75-83	1.02	2			7	39
CONJUDGE	9	73-83	0.82	2			7	69
CONLABOR	9	73-83	1.65	4			7	65
CONLEGIS	9	73-83	1.01	2			7	73
CONMEDIC	9	73-83	2.57	2			7	69
CONPRESS	9	73-83	1.96	2			7	68
CONSCI	9	73-83	4.29	4			7	57
CONSIDER	6	73-83	4.84	1			2	16
CONTROL	6	73-83	4.35	1	75		2	15
CONTV	9	73-83	2.06	2			7	53
COOP	9	73-83	11.66	1	82			3
COURTS	10	72-83	0.71	2	85			67
COURTSY	2	74-82	0.13		87			4
DEATH16	3	78-83	53.45					2
DEATH5	3	78-83	13.60					4
DEGREE	10	72-83	4.42	3				23
DENOM	10	72-83	6.37					58
DENOM16	9	73-83	9.25					7
DIVLAW	7	74-83	1.83	3				30
DIVORCE	10	72-83	9.58	3				29
DIVORCE5	3	78-83	6.16					3
DIVREL1	3	78-83	15.45					1
DIVREL4	3	78-83	3.50					1
DOTDATA	10	72-83	9.26					3
DOTGED	10	72-83	8.55					1
DOTPEOP	10	72-83	11.55					7
DOTPRES	10	72-83	9.82					3
DOTSVP	10	72-83	8.29					6
DOTTHNG	10	72-83	15.54					3
DRAFT	2	82-83	0.17				8	0
DRAFTEM	2	82-83	3.53				8	0
DRAFTFE	2	82-83	0.75				8	0
DRAFTFEM	2	82-83	2.17		85		8	0
DRINK	4	77-83	27.80	1			9	15
DRUNK	4	77-83	9.41	1			9	6
DWELCITY	2	82-83	4.42					0
DWELLING	2	82-83	3.85					0
DWELNGH	2	82-83	6.90					0
EARNRS	10	72-83	7.84	3				19
EDUC	10	72-83	6.87	3				401
EGYPT	5	74-83	0.36	2			5	9
ENGLAND	5	74-83	8.93	1			5	6
EQWLTH	3	78-83	3.36					12
ERA	2	77-82	8.42				10	9
ERAMEANS	2	77-82	1.28				10	0
ERAREAD	2	77-82	0.97				10	0
ETHNIC	10	72-83	6.10					57
ETHNUM	10	72-83	4.92	2				12
EVSMOKE	3	78-83	16.80					1
EVWORK	10	72-83	6.20	1				7
FAIR	7	72-83	7.10	2			11	42

SUMMARY (CONINUED)

MNEMONIC	NUMBER OF SURVEYS	RANGE OF YEARS	TRIVIALITY INDEX	BEST MODEL	SKEWNESS	ANY PROBLEMS	SCALE	NUMBER OF USAGES
FAMDIF16	9	73-83	2.09					6
FAMILY16	10	72-83	13.70	5				24
FEAR	6	73-82	8.34	3				55
FEHOME	6	74-83	0.82	2			12	35
FENUMOK	2	82-83	15.36					0
FEPOL	6	74-83	0.86	2			12	24
FEPOLY	2	74-82	0.63					3
FEPRES	7	72-83	1.19	2	81		12	46
FEWORK	7	72-83	1.79	2			12	40
FINALTER	10	72-83	2.14	2				35
FINRELA	10	72-83	5.65	2				39
GETAHEAD	6	73-82	3.18	1				23
GOVAID	8	73-83	6.86	3		6		19
GRANBORN	5	77-83	4.82	1			4	5
GRASS	6	73-83	1.08	2	76			49
GUN	6	73-83	4.85	3	81	1		17
GUNAGE	6	73-83	4.89					1
GUNLAW	8	72-82	8.77	4				52
GUNNUM	6	73-83	2.80					1
HAPMAR	9	73-83	11.61	1				69
HAPPY	10	72-83	6.41	4				115
HEALTH	8	72-82	20.20	1				50
HELPBLK	2	75-83	0.28				13	0
HELPFUL	7	72-83	5.63	2			11	42
HELPNOT	2	75-83	0.28				13	0
HELPPOOR	2	75-83	0.35				13	0
HELPSICK	2	75-83	0.50				13	0
HINUMOK	2	82-83	30.31					0
HIT	6	73-83	0.66	2		2		16
HITAGE	6	73-83	5.02					6
HITBEATR	6	73-83	2.61	1	86		14	19
HITCHILD	6	73-83	1.12	2			14	17
HITDRUNK	6	73-83	10.14	1	90		14	17
HITMARCH	6	73-83	4.13	4	96		14	15
HITNUM	6	73-83	1.98					2
HITOK	6	73-83	3.98	2			14	17
HITROBBR	6	73-83	4.96	4	85		14	18
HOMOSEX	6	73-82	8.27	1			15	43
HOMPOP	10	72-83	1.43	3				32
HONEST	6	73-83	9.70	4			2	15
HOSDIS5	3	78-83	6.35					4
HOSREL1	3	78-83	5.84					2
HOSREL4	3	78-83	3.54					0
HRS1	9	73-83	9.34	4				11
HRS2	9	73-83	0.25					1
HUNT	3	77-82	4.52	3				3
HUNTOTHR	3	77-82	1.72					1
IF80WHO	2	82-83	1.59					1
INCOME	9	73-83	0.41	3				236
INCOME77	5	77-83	0.86					10
INCOME82	2	82-83	1.57					0
INCOM16	10	72-83	7.32	4				25

SUMMARY (CONINUED)

MNEMONIC	NUMBER OF SURVEYS	RANGE OF YEARS	TRIVIALITY INDEX	BEST MODEL	SKEWNESS	ANY PROBLEMS	SCALE	NUMBER OF USAGES
INDUSTRY	10	72-83	18.63	1				15
INTEREST	6	73-83	1.96	2			2	18
ISRAEL	5	74-83	0.89	2			5	8
JAPAN	5	74-83	4.55	4			5	5
JOBFIND	4	77-83	0.92	3				7
JOBHOUR	6	73-82	3.48	3			16	41
JOBINC	6	73-82	3.38	3			16	44
JOBLOSE	4	77-83	1.36	2				7
JOBMEANS	6	73-82	4.85	4			16	43
JOBPROMO	6	73-82	4.86	3			16	44
JOBSEC	6	73-82	2.53	4			16	43
JUDGMENT	6	73-83	7.32	4			2	14
LETDIE1	4	77-83	3.94	1			17	18
LETDIE2	4	77-83	1.70	1			17	11
LIBATH	7	72-82	17.33	1			6	58
LIBCOM	7	72-82	12.09	4			6	61
LIBHOMO	6	73-82	16.70	1			6	33
LIBMIL	4	76-82	7.88	1			6	19
LIBRAC	4	76-82	7.15	1			6	18
LIBSOC	3	72-74	73.41	1			6	40
LIFE	6	73-82	7.99	1				44
MADEATH	3	78-83	8.62					2
MADEG	10	72-83	5.16	3				2
MAEDUC	10	72-83	3.71	3				41
MANNERS	6	73-83	4.79	4			2	16
MARITAL	10	72-83	2.78	3				155
MAWKBABY	9	73-83	16.77					1
MAWK16	9	73-83	5.66					2
MAWORK	9	73-83	1.84	2				15
MEMCHURH	6	74-83	1.99	3			18	31
MEMFARM	6	74-83	52.37	1	96		18	22
MEMFRAT	6	74-83	5.36	3	89		18	27
MEMGREEK	6	74-83	45.53	1	96		18	21
MEMHOBBY	6	74-83	46.18	1	91		18	24
MEMLIT	6	74-83	44.34	1	91		18	27
MEMNAT	6	74-83	14.18	1	97		18	24
MEMNUM	6	74-83	3.96	3			18	24
MEMOTHER	6	74-83	26.69	1	90		18	18
MEMPOLIT	6	74-83	11.03	1	96		18	26
MEMPROF	6	74-83	8.87	1	87		18	32
MEMSCHL	6	74-83	2.76	3	86		18	24
MEMSERV	6	74-83	11.69	1	91		18	23
MEMSPORT	6	74-83	10.07	1	81		18	26
MEMUNION	6	74-83	7.55	3	85		18	26
MEMVET	6	74-83	10.20	1	92		18	26
MEMYOUTH	6	74-83	12.63	1	90		18	23
MILPAY	2	82-83	0.85					0
MILQUAL	2	82-83	0.28					0
MOBILE16	10	72-83	8.55	4				18
NATAID	9	73-83	3.64	2	75		19	47
NATARMS	9	73-83	0.28	2			19	68
NATCITY	9	73-83	1.76	2			19	64

SUMMARY (CONINUED)

MNEMONIC	NUMBER OF SURVEYS	RANGE OF YEARS	TRIVIALITY INDEX	BEST MODEL	SKEWNESS	ANY PROBLEMS	SCALE	NUMBER OF USAGES
NATCRIME	9	73-83	6.16	3		3	19	60
NATDRUG	9	73-83	4.15	2			19	52
NATEDUC	9	73-83	3.52	3			19	63
NATENVIR	9	73-83	2.23	2			19	63
NATFARE	9	73-83	1.14	2			19	72
NATHEAL	9	73-83	5.00	2			19	65
NATRACE	9	73-83	4.18	2			19	58
NATSPAC	9	73-83	0.77	2			19	48
NEWS	6	72-83	1.18	3				17
OBEYS	6	73-83	5.29	4			2	20
OCC	10	72-83	11.27	1				163
OWNGUN	6	73-82	4.83	1			21	24
PADEATH	3	78-83	5.32					2
PADEG	10	72-83	4.74	3				3
PADOTDAT	10	72-83	10.06					1
PADOTGED	10	72-83	6.97					0
PADOTPEO	10	72-83	8.00					1
PADOTPRE	10	72-83	12.56					0
PADOTSVP	10	72-83	8.39					0
PADOTTHN	10	72-83	7.09					1
PAEDUC	10	72-83	4.41	3				67
PAIND16	10	72-83	8.93	1				4
PAOCC16	10	72-83	9.00	2				43
PAPRES16	10	72-83	9.17	2				39
PARBORN	5	77-83	9.48	1	80		4	4
PARTYID	10	72-83	4.74	2				92
PAWRKSLF	10	72-83	10.52	3				4
PHONE	9	73-83	4.48	2				3
PILL	5	74-83	41.55	1	92	3	20	17
PISTOL	6	73-82	5.45	1			21	14
POLABUSE	6	73-83	1.99	3	82		22	16
POLATTAK	6	73-83	3.31	4	95		22	15
POLESCAP	6	73-83	3.52	1	81		22	16
POLHITOK	6	73-83	4.01	4	77		22	21
POLMURDR	6	73-83	43.47	1	92		22	18
POLVIEWS	8	74-83	9.22	3				77
PORNINF	6	73-83	4.77	4			23	9
PORNLAW	6	73-83	2.68	1				27
PORNMORL	6	73-83	2.95	3			23	15
PORNOUT	6	73-83	3.96	3			23	11
PORNRAPE	6	73-83	4.96	3			23	13
POSTLIFE	6	73-83	3.23	2	77			23
PRAYER	5	74-83	2.42	3		4		9
PREMARSX	7	72-83	1.74	3			15	61
PRESTIGE	10	72-83	9.15	4				153
PRES80	2	82-83	131.90					1
PRETEEN	10	72-83	3.96	3				34
QUITSMK	3	78-83	1.58					1
RACCHURH	3	78-83	1.37					3
RACCLOS	10	72-83	8.48				24	7
RACDIN	7	72-82	3.57	3			26	54
RACDIS	10	72-83	5.39				24	7

SUMMARY (CONINUED)

MNEMONIC	NUMBER OF SURVEYS	RANGE OF YEARS	TRIVIALITY INDEX	BEST MODEL	SKEWNESS	ANY PROBLEMS	SCALE	NUMBER OF USAGES
RACE	10	72-83	3.68	2				349
RACFEW	7	72-83	6.94	4	94		25	30
RACHAF	7	72-83	3.61	4			25	40
RACHOME	6	73-82	3.82	3	75			14
RACINTEG	10	72-83	2.82				24	8
RACLIVE	10	72-83	1.29	2			24	20
RACMAR	8	72-82	2.48	2			26	79
RACMOST	7	72-83	3.87	4			25	30
RACOPEN	6	73-83	2.41	3				38
RACPRES	7	72-83	1.31	2	82			41
RACPUSH	7	72-82	1.14	2			26	53
RACSCHOL	5	72-82	3.05	2	88		26	51
RACSEG	5	72-82	1.20	2			26	43
RADIOHRS	3	78-83	2.45					4
REGION	10	72-83	24.56	1				153
REG16	10	72-83	20.81	1				34
RELIG	10	72-83	13.98	1				213
RELIG16	9	73-83	13.80	1				32
RELITEN	8	74-83	3.67	1				31
RESPONSI	6	73-83	6.70	1			2	14
RES16	10	72-83	10.07	4		7		45
RICHWORK	6	73-82	1.65	2				28
RIFLE	6	73-82	20.41				21	7
RINCOME	8	74-83	0.42	2				40
RINCOM77	5	77-83	0.45					1
RINCOM82	2	82-83	1.54					0
ROBBRY	6	73-82	5.09	4	98			24
ROLE	6	73-83	1.84	1			2	18
ROWNGUN	2	80-82	5.34				21	1
RUSSIA	5	74-83	0.17	2			5	9
SATCITY	9	73-83	4.04	4			27	69
SATFAM	9	73-83	5.65	1			27	81
SATFIN	10	72-83	6.98	2				80
SATFRND	9	73-83	6.00	4			27	76
SATHEALT	9	73-83	4.25	1			27	52
SATHOBBY	9	73-83	5.84	4			27	71
SATJOB	10	72-83	6.89	1				102
SEX	10	72-83	6.98	3				347
SEXEDUC	5	74-83	1.71	2	82			19
SHOTGUN	6	73-82	5.63				21	7
SIBDEATH	3	78-83	125.80					0
SIBS	10	72-83	13.42	4				46
SIZE	10	72-83	4.25	2				21
SMOKE	4	77-83	4.62	1				7
SMOKECIG	4	77-83	2.09	1				1
SOCBAR	6	74-83	6.12	4			28	16
SOCFREND	6	74-83	6.46	2			28	30
SOCOMMUN	6	74-83	6.13	3			28	24
SOCPARS	3	78-83	1.89				28	2
SOCREL	6	74-83	7.22	1			28	27
SOCSIBS	3	78-83	4.35				28	3
SPDEATH	3	78-83	42.62					2

SUMMARY (CONINUED)

MNEMONIC	NUMBER OF SURVEYS	RANGE OF YEARS	TRIVIALITY INDEX	BEST MODEL	SKEWNESS	ANY PROBLEMS	SCALE	NUMBER OF USAGES
SPDEG	10	72-83	3.59	3				3
SPDEN	9	73-83	4.59					6
SPDEN16	9	73-83	6.45					1
SPDOTDAT	10	72-83	7.66					0
SPDOTGED	10	72-83	11.36					0
SPDOTPEO	10	72-83	12.50					0
SPDOTPRE	10	72-83	7.09					0
SPDOTSVP	10	72-83	7.89					0
SPDOTTHN	10	72-83	7.47					0
SPEDUC	10	72-83	4.61	3				22
SPEVWORK	10	72-83	5.51					1
SPHRS1	9	73-83	2.51	1				4
SPHRS2	9	73-83	0.34					0
SPIND	10	72-83	9.48	1				2
SPKATH	7	72-82	13.42	1			6	74
SPKCOM	7	72-82	5.70	4			6	77
SPKHOMO	6	73-82	7.81	3			6	41
SPKMIL	4	76-82	3.71	4			6	24
SPKRAC	4	76-82	12.43	1			6	22
SPKSOC	3	72-74	18.85	1			6	43
SPOCC	10	72-83	4.96	1				19
SPPRES	10	72-83	5.23	5				25
SPREL	9	73-83	9.91	1				15
SPREL16	9	73-83	8.41	1				7
SPWRKSLF	10	72-83	30.12	1				2
SPWRKSTA	10	72-83	6.09	1				23
SRCBELT	10	72-83	3.54	2				39
STUDIOUS	6	73-83	16.48	1			2	17
SUCCESS	6	73-83	4.77	5			2	16
SUICIDE1	4	77-83	0.89	3			29	17
SUICIDE2	4	77-83	4.58	2	93		29	13
SUICIDE3	4	77-83	7.09	1	93		29	14
SUICIDE4	4	77-83	6.78	1	86		29	13
TAX	4	76-82	0.75	2				13
TEENPILL	5	74-83	1.62	3	84		20	(20)
TEENS	10	72-83	2.60	3				33
TICKET	6	73-82	2.63	2				7
TRAREL1	3	78-83	2.04					0
TRAREL5	3	78-83	14.08					0
TRATOT1	3	78-83	2.97					5
TRATOT5	3	78-83	13.20					4
TRAUMA1	3	78-83	7.25					1
TRAUMA5	3	78-83	10.73					0
TRUST	7	72-83	4.22	4			11	54
TVHOURS	6	75-83	3.21	4				25
UNEMP	8	73-83	6.00	1				23
UNEMP5	3	78-83	2.68					3
UNION	6	73-83	5.20	3				21
UNRELAT	10	72-83	11.55	1				3
UNREL1	3	78-83	0.34					2
UNREL4	3	78-83	0.11					0
USINTL	6	73-83	6.93	4		5		19

SUMMARY (CONINUED)

MNEMONIC	NUMBER OF SURVEYS	RANGE OF YEARS	TRIVIALITY INDEX	BEST MODEL	SKEWNESS	ANY PROBLEMS	SCALE	NUMBER OF USAGES
USUN	6	73-83	2.58	4	83			12
USWAR	6	73-83	0.67	2				9
VETKIND	6	74-83	2.53					0
VETYEARS	6	74-83	4.17	3				3
VOTE80	2	82-83	10.30					2
WIRTAP	6	74-83	11.88	1	81			15
WKSUB	7	72-82	9.26	1				25
WKSUBS	7	72-82	8.77	4				13
WKSUP	7	72-82	4.56	3				24
WKSUPS	7	72-82	5.49	1				15
WORDSUM	4	74-82	15.29	1				12
WRKSLF	10	72-83	11.03	3				10
WRKSTAT	10	72-83	6.56	2				126
XMARSEX	6	73-82	6.74	4			15	47
XMOVIE	6	73-83	1.54	2	81			11
XNORCSIZ	9	73-83	5.12	2				80

Notes:

1
Of the 635 GSS variables 380 were retained for analysis. 222 were omitted since they appeared only once. These are listed in Appendix 2. The other excluded 33 variables are BIRTHDAY, BIRTHMO, CAPPUN2, FORM, ID, IF72WHO, IF76WHO, IF80WHO, OTHER, OTH16, OVERSAMP, PRES72, PRES76, PRES80, SAMPCODE, SAMPLE, SPOTHER, SPOTH16, VOTE72, VOTE76, VOTE80, WORDA to WORDJ, YEAR, and ZODIAC.

2
This count covers the years 1972 through 1983. There were no surveys in 1979 or 1981.

3
The years listed are the first and the most recent appearance of the item on the GSS.

4
The Davis Triviality Index is calculated for the years 1972 through 1982. The formula is given below:

$$\text{TRIVIALITY INDEX} = \frac{\left[\text{CRITERION VALUE OF CHI SQUARE, S.R.S.}\right] * \left[\text{1.5 ADJUSTMENT FOR CLUSTERING}\right]}{\text{OBSERVED VALUE OF CHI SQUARE}} * \frac{N}{1500}$$

where N is the total sample size.

Notes to Appendix 1 (Continued)

5
This represents the best trend model to fit the series. It excludes 100 variables that were asked less than four times, involved subpopulations or were covered by other series. This includes the years 1972-1982. The codes represent the following:

1. Constant
2. Linear Component
3. Linear Trend
4. Not Constant, Not Linear
5. Can't Decide Model

6
This lists items that can not be recoded into a dichotomy with a cut less extreme than 75-25. This is based on the pooled marginals for the years 1972-1983 with No Opinion excluded from the analysis.

7
Includes variables that have been criticized for defects in wording, response categories, conceptual clarity, factuality, or related technical matters. This covers the years 1972 through 1983. The codes represent the following:

1. Includes Military Service
2. Alledgedly underreports
3. Counter Factual
4. Confusing Wording
5. Vague Wording
6. Dropped As Too Vague
7. Categories Not Complete

8
The entries refer to the scale or set to which the variable belongs. A blank indicates a variable is not a members of a set or scale. The codes are as follows:

1. Abortion
2. Child Values
3. Srole's Anomia
4. Immigrant Generation
5. Countries
6. Stouffer Civil Liberties
7. Institutional Confidence
8. Draft
9. Drinking
10. Era
11. Misanthrophy
12. Women's Rights
13. Government Help
14. Hitting
15. Sexual Conduct
16. Job Values
17. Euthanasia
18. Voluntary Group Membership
19. Spending Priorities
20. Birth Control
21. Gun Ownership
22. Police Hitting
23. Pornography
24. Neighbor's Race
25. School Integration
26. Treiman
27. Satisfaction
28. Socialization
29. Suicide

9
The count is based on the 4th edition of the Annotated Bibliography.

APPENDIX 2 : VARIABLES WITH SINGLE APPEARANCE

ABCON1	ABCON2	ABCON3	ABFIRM	ABHAVE1	ABHAVE2	ABHAVE3
ABIMP	ABINFO	ABLEGAL	ABORCT	ABPRO1	ABPRO2	ABPRO3
ABSPNO	ALIENAT1	ALIENAT2	ALIENAT3	ALIENAT4	ALIENAT5	ALIENAT6
AMICABLY	AMICABLZ	ANTIWAR	BLNUMOKY	BORED	BRASS	BUSING10
CHLDSEX	CIGWEEK	CIVIC	CIVRIGHT	CLASSY	CLEANY	CLEANZ
COLOR	COMMUN10	CONSIDEY	CONSIDEZ	CONTROLY	CONTROLZ	COOP2
CREATOR	CUTSPDFG	CUTSPDR	DEFSPDFG	DEFSPDR	DIVLAWY	DRAFTCO
DRAFTCOL	DRAFTDEF	DRAFTGAY	DRAFTMAR	DRAFTPAR	EQWLTHY	ERAFIRM
ERAIMP	ERAINFO	ERATELL	ERAWHY1	ERAWHY2	ERAWHY3	FATHER
FEARHOME	FEBEAR	FEBRASS	FECARE	FECHLD	FEDIRTY	FEFAM
FEFIRM	FEFIGHT	FEGIVE	FEHELP	FEHLPMIL	FEINFO	FEIMP
FEJOIN	FEPRESCH	FESERVE	FETHINK	FEWORKIF	FEWRITE	FIGHTAIR
FIGHTLND	FIGHTSEA	FRIEND	GRACE	GRASSY	GUNNER	HEALER
HINUMOKY	HLPMINFG	HLPMINR	HONESTY	HONESTZ	IMPCHURH	IMPFAM
IMPFREND	IMPKIN	IMPPOL	IMPRELAX	IMPWORK	INCNEED	INCOME72
INTERESY	INTERESZ	JOBACCMP	JOBHELP	JOBHONOR	JOBINDEP	JOBINTER
JOBKEEP	JOBOFF	JOBPAY	JOBPEOP	JOBRESP	JOBRISE	JOBSAFE
JOBSOC	JUDGE	JUDGMENY	JUDGMENZ	KING	LIBERATR	LOVER
MAATTEND	MANNERSY	MANNERSZ	MASTER	MECHANIC	MESERVE	MILVOLOK
MOTHER	NEARGOD	NURSE	OBEYSY	OBEYSZ	PAATTEND	POLLGOOD
POLLTRUE	POLVIEWX	POLVIEWY	POSTLF1	POSTLF2	POSTLF3	POSTLF4
POSTLF5	POSTLF6	POSTLF7	POSTLF8	POSTLF9	POSTLF10	PRAY
PRAYERY	PRIVACY	PROWAR	RACAVOID	RACCARE	RACCHNG	RACDIF1
RACDIF2	RACDIF3	RACDIF4	RACFIRM	RACGIVE	RACHISCH	RACINC
RACINFO	RACIMP	RACJOB	RACJOIN	RACMAR10	RACMAREL	RACMARPR
RACMIX	RACNAME	RACNEIGH	RACNOBUY	RACOBJCT	RACOCC	RACOPNOW
RACOPWIL	RACPARTY	RACQUIT	RACSUBGV	RACSUBS	RACSUPS	RACTEACH

SINGLE APPEARANCE (CONTINUED)

RACTHINK	RACTRUST	RACWRITE	RANK	REDEEMER	RESPONSY	RESPONSZ
ROLEY	ROLEZ	RUSHED	SALABORT	SALFERGT	SALLABOR	SALSATFN
SALSCI	SCHOOL	SPDAYS	SPHOUR	SPOUSE	STRIKE	STUDIOUY
STUDIOUZ	SUCCESSY	SUCCESSZ	TAXSERVE	TRANSAIR	TRUSTY	TYPIST
USWARY	VETFAM	WORKDY	WORKHR	YOUNGEN		