

GSS on the Web

Data and documentation on the GSS exists several places on the Internet. For a guide to these sites go to:

www.gss.norc.org

INSIDE

- 2 Into the Future: ISSP 2007+
- 3 Disability
- 6 Updated Publication List

2006 Data

The 2006 GSS has been completed and archived.

The topical modules are on 1) the quality of working life, replicating a module in 2002, 2) attitudes towards firearms, 3) shared capitalism, expanding on a module in 2002, 4) level of disability, 5) use of foreign languages, 6) mental health attitudes and experiences drawing on modules in the 1996-2000, 7) number of people known, 8) participation in congregations, 9) knowledge about and attitudes towards science, 10) religious trends, repeating a number of items from earlier GSSs, and 11) sexual behavior (continuing the series started in 1988).

The International Social Survey Program modules are on the role of government and work orientation. The role of government module builds on the ISSP studies on the same topic in 1980, 1985, 1990, and 1996 and it is the first ISSP topic to be fielded four times. As is usual, about two-thirds of the items are replications and one-third new content. Topics include social-welfare and economic regulation, civil liberties, spending priorities, and political efficacy. The work orientation module is the second replication with earlier rounds in 1989 and 1997. Besides the questions asked of all respondents there are special sections for the employed asking about their specific job and workplace and for the unemployed.

In addition, there is another cross-national collaboration on the 2006 GSS. The International Mental Health Stigma Study will be conducted in the US and 15 other countries.

In addition to the continued support of the National Science Foundation (NSF) the 2004 GSS received funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the University of Maryland, the Templeton Foundation, the National Bureau for Economic Research, Rutgers University, the University of Iowa, and the National Institutes of Health.

The 1972-2006 GSS data are available from 1) the Roper Center, Box 440, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, 06268. Phone (860) 486-4882 Fax: (860) 486-4882, EMAIL: lois@ropercenter.uconn.edu; 2) the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), Box 1248, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, 48106. Phone (313) 763-5010. EMAIL: netmail@icpsr.umich.edu; 3) the Survey Documentation Archive at the University of California, Berkeley at <http://sda.berkeley.edu/archive.htm>; and 4) at GSS's own site at www.gss.norc.org (see related article on page 2).

For other information contact Tom W. Smith, NORC, 1155 East 60th Street, Chicago, IL, 60637. EMAIL: smitht@norc.uchicago.edu ■

ISSP Data Available

The Zentralarchiv fuer Empirische Sozialforschung at the University of Cologne has released a merged file for the 2004 Citizenship module. The next modules will be the 2005/06 Work Orientation III module. It should be available in the second half of 2007. See <http://www.gesis.org/issp> ■

At the annual meeting of the ISSP held in Taipei on April 29-May 2, 2007, the group finalized the content of the 2008 module on Religion III, discussed the content of Social Inequality III as the topic for 2009, and selected the Environment III for 2010. The United States is leading the Religion III drafting group which builds on earlier rounds in 1991 and 1998. Other Religion drafting committee members are Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Korea, and Mexico. With additional support from the Templeton Foundation Religion III will be fielded in five additional countries representing religious traditions underrepresented in the ISSP. The Social Inequality drafting group is chaired by the Netherlands and has Australia, the

Czech Republic, Hungary, Taiwan, and the United States as members. The 2008 ISSP meeting will be in Chicago and the 2009 meeting in Vienna.

2880 research uses have been completed using ISSP data. A copy of the bibliography is available by contacting the ISSP secretariat or from the ISSP Web site (see below).

ISSP documentation and information can be obtained at the following Web sites:

<http://www.gesis.org/issp/>

<http://www.issp.org/>

The ISSP now has 43 countries as members:

Australia	Croatia	Germany	Latvia	Russia	Turkey
Austria	Cyprus	Great Britain	Mexico	Slovakia	The United States
Belgium	Czech Republic	Hungary	The Netherlands	Slovenia	Uruguay
Brazil	Denmark	Ireland	New Zealand	South Africa	Venezuela
Bulgaria	Dominican Republic	Israel	Norway	Spain	
Canada	Finland	Italy	The Philippines	Sweden	
Chile	France	Japan	Poland	Switzerland	
China		Korea (South)	Portugal	Taiwan	

GSS on the Web

The GSS has a new website (<http://gss.norc.org>) that contains data and documentation for the 1972-2006 GSS. The site allows on-line analysis powered by NESSTAR and the downloading of both the entire dataset and customized sub-sets. Besides the documentation traditionally provided in the appendices of the cumulative codebook, the site includes a bibliography of GSS uses, GSS Reports (Social Change, Methodological, Topical, Cross-National, and Project), and other information.



Please Send Us Your Research

We would greatly appreciate it if you would send us references to and, if possible, copies of your research using the GSS. We are interested in books, articles, conference papers, and reports. Also, we would like to hear about research by your students. We want to include master's theses and dissertations.

Tom W. Smith
 General Social Survey-National
 Opinion Research Center
 1155 East 60th St.,
 Chicago, IL 60637
 Fax: 773-753-7886

EMAIL: smitht@norc.uchicago.edu

Disability

29% of adult Americans suffer from some disability and 8% have three or more conditions that restrict their ability to function. The most common limitation is not being able to carry out basic physical activities like walking, lifting, or carrying which affects 16% of adults. This is followed by not being able to participate fully in regular daily activities and other physical disabilities (both 10%), having difficulty remembering things (9%), a serious hearing loss (6%), a serious vision problem (5%), and a mental-health disability (5%).

Disability increases with age. Only 17% of those 18-29 have a disability. This increases to 35% for those 50-59 and to 61% for those 80 or older. As the American population ages over the next several decades, the proportion of adults with a disability is likely to rise further.

Disability Questions:

1. Do you have a hearing problem that prevents you from hearing what is said in normal conversation even with a hearing aid?
2. Do you have a vision problem that prevents you from reading a newspaper even when wearing glasses or contacts?
3. Do you have any condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activity such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying?
4. Do you have any other physical disability?
5. Do you have any emotional or mental disability?
6. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting three months or longer, do you have difficulty doing any of the following:
 - a. Learning, remembering, or concentrating?
 - b. Participating fully in school, housework, or other daily activities.



Top/Bottom Occupations

Table 1 lists the top and bottom 12 occupations in terms of job satisfaction. The most satisfying jobs are mostly professions, especially those involving caring for, teaching, and protecting others and creative pursuits. Heading the list are members of the clergy with a mean score of 3.79 and 87.2% very satisfied.¹ Second are the first of two healing professions, physical therapists with 78.1% very satisfied. They are followed in 8th place by psychologists with 66.9% very satisfied. Third are firefighters with 80.1% very satisfied. Fourth, comes the first of three educational occupations: educational administrators (e.g. deans, principals, and superintendents) with 68.4% very satisfied, teachers in 6th place with 69.2% very satisfied, and special education teachers in 9th place with 70.1%. Fifth is the first of two creative professions, painters, sculptors, and related with 67.3% very satisfied and then authors in 7th place with 74.2% very satisfied. Next comes operating engineers in 10th place with 64.1% very satisfied, office supervisors in 11th position with 80.6% very satisfied, and in 12th place those in securities and financial sales positions such as stock brokers, bond sellers, and financial advisors.

The least satisfying dozen jobs are mostly low-skill, manual, and service occupations, especially involving customer service and food/beverage preparation and serving. Roofers have the least job satisfaction with only

¹ The mean score best reflects the overall position of an occupation since it takes into consideration all responses. The % very satisfied is a more limited measure and does not perfectly follow the overall mean score. However, the % very satisfied has more intuitive meaning and will be primarily used in this report. The same applies to the measure of general happiness.

Continued on pages 4 and 5

Top/Bottom Occupations *continued...*

25.3% very satisfied. Second comes the first of several food and beverage occupations, waiters and servers, with 27.0% very satisfied. Other food/drink occupations near the bottom include bartenders in 4th place with 26.4% very satisfied, food preparers at 9th with 23.6% very satisfied, and butchers and meat cutters in 11th position with 31.8% very satisfied. Third from the bottom is another manual trade, laborers outside of construction, with 21.4% very satisfied. In fifth and sixth position are handpackers/packagegers with 23.7% very satisfied and freight, stock, and material handlers with 23.9% very satisfied. Next in 7th and 8th place are apparel clothing salespersons and cashiers with respectively 23.9% and 25.0% very satisfied. At 10th place are expeditors which includes customer service clerks and complaint desk clerks with 37.0% very satisfied. In 12th position are furniture/home furnishing salespersons with 25.2% very satisfied.



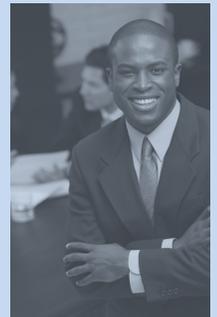
Table 2 shows the top and bottom 12 occupations in general happiness. Unlike job satisfaction, general happiness does not explicitly refer to work and occupations. Most of the occupations ranking high in general happiness are

professions involving helping others, technical and scientific expertise, or creativity. The occupation with the happiest people is the clergy with 67.2% very happy. Second are firefighters with 57.2% very happy. Third come transportation, ticket, and reservation agents such as travel agents with 56.5% very happy. Fourth are architects with 53.5% very happy. Fifth are special education teachers with 52.6% very happy. Other scientific and technical occupations scoring near the top are science technicians in 7th place with 51.0% very happy, industrial engineers in 9th place with 48.4% very happy, and airline pilots and navigators in 10th position with 49.1% very happy. Sixth come actors and directors with 51.0% very happy. In 8th position are those in miscellaneous mechanical and repairing occupations with 53.6% very happy. In 11th position are hardware and building supply salespersons with

55.9% very happy. 12th position is held by housekeepers and butlers with 57.7% very happy.



The occupations with the least happy people are mostly unskilled manual and service positions. At the bottom are garage and service station attendants with 13.2% very happy. Second are roofers with 14.2% very happy. Third are molding and casting machine operators with 11.1% very happy. Next, in fourth and fifth place are two lower-level, construction trades, construction laborers with 18.8% very happy and miscellaneous construction workers with 22.1% very happy. Sixth are welfare service aides with 18.4% very happy. Seventh are amusement and recreation attendants with 15.7% very happy. Eighth are maids and housemen with 22.8% very happy. Ninth come pressing machine operators with 23.5% very happy. Tenth are electronic repairers with 15.7% very happy. Eleventh are food-preparation, kitchen workers (not including cooks and chefs) with 20.8% very happy. In 12th position are miscellaneous machine operators with 17.3% very happy.



Three occupations finish in the top dozen on both job satisfaction and general happiness. The clergy distinguishes itself from all other occupations by ranking first in both job satisfaction and general happiness. Firefighters do almost as well being third on job satisfaction and second on general happiness. Special education teachers are the third doubly-top-ranked occupation, being 9th in job satisfaction and 5th in general happiness. Only one occupation, roofers, scores in the bottom on both scales, being lowest in job satisfaction and next to the bottom on general happiness.

For more information see, Tom W. Smith, "Job Satisfaction in America," NORC report, April, 2007.

TABLE 1.**Top Occupations in Job Satisfaction**

Rank	Occupations	Mean Score	% Very Satisfied
1	Clergy	3.79	87.2
2	Physical Therapists	3.72	78.1
3	Firefighters	3.67	80.1
4	Education Administrators	3.62	68.4
5	Painters, Sculptors, Related	3.62	67.3
6	Teachers	3.61	69.2
7	Authors	3.61	74.2
8	Psychologists	3.59	66.9
9	Special Education Teachers	3.59	70.1
10	Operating Engineers	3.56	64.1
11	Office Supervisors	3.55	60.8
12	Security & Financial Services Salespersons	3.55	65.4

Bottom Occupations in Job Satisfaction

Rank	Occupations	Mean Score	% Very Satisfied
1	Roofers	2.84	25.3
2	Waiters/Servers	2.85	27.0
3	Laborers, Except Construction	2.86	21.4
4	Bartenders	2.88	26.4
5	Hand Packers and Packagers	2.88	23.7
6	Freight, Stock, & Material Handlers	2.91	25.8
7	Apparel Clothing Salespersons	2.93	23.9
8	Cashiers	2.94	25.0
9	Food Preparers, Misc.	2.95	23.6
10	Expeditors	2.97	37.0
11	Butchers & Meat Cutters	2.97	31.8
12	Furniture/Home Furnishing Salespersons	2.99	25.2

Job Satisfaction: On the whole, how satisfied are you with the work you do—would you say you are very satisfied, moderately satisfied, a little dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

Mean Score runs from 1 for someone who is Very Dissatisfied to 4 for someone who is Very Satisfied.

TABLE 2.**Top Occupations in General Happiness**

Rank	Occupations	Mean Score	% Very Satisfied
1	Clergy	2.61	67.2
2	Firefighters	2.57	57.2
3	Transportation Ticket & Reservation Agents	2.55	56.5
4	Architects	2.52	53.5
5	Special Education Teachers	2.51	52.6
6	Actors & Directors	2.49	51.0
7	Science Technicians	2.47	51.0
8	Mechanics & Repairers, Misc.	2.47	53.6
9	Industrial Engineers	2.47	48.4
10	Airline Pilots & Navigators	2.45	49.1
11	Hardware/Building Supplies Salespersons	2.45	55.9
12	Housekeepers & Butlers	2.45	57.7

Bottom Occupations in General Happiness

Rank	Occupations	Mean Score	% Very Satisfied
1	Garage & Service Station Attendants	1.78	13.2
2	Roofers	1.88	14.2
3	Molding & Casting Machine Operators	1.92	11.1
4	Construction Laborers	1.94	18.8
5	Construction Trades, Misc.	1.97	22.1
6	Welfare Service Aides	1.98	18.4
7	Amusement & Recreation Attendants	1.98	15.7
8	Maids & Housemen	1.99	22.8
9	Pressing Machine Operators	1.99	23.5
10	Electronic Repairers	2.00	15.7
11	Kitchen Workers, Food Preparations	2.00	20.8
12	Machine Operators, Misc.	2.02	17.3

General Happiness: Taken all together, how would you say things are these days—would you say you are very happy, pretty happy, or not too happy?

Mean Score runs from 1 for someone who is Not Too Happy to 3 for someone who is Very Happy.

Updated Publication List

This lists additions to the GSS report series since the 20th GSSNews. A listing of previous GSS reports can be found in the 2006 edition of the GSS cumulative codebook or in the first 20 issues of GSSNews.

A. GSS Social Change Reports

51. James A. Davis, "Gradual Increases in Americans' Tolerance of Free Expression," Chicago: NORC, 2007.

B. GSS Methodological Reports

104. Tom W. Smith, "An Experimental Comparison of Measuring Ethnicity," Chicago: NORC, 2005. Forthcoming in Field Methods.
107. Tom W. Smith, "Wording Effects on National Spending Priority Items across Time, 1973-2004," Chicago: NORC, 2006.
108. Jibum Kim, Tom W. Smith, Jeong-han Kang, and John Sokolowski, "Community Context and Cooperation Rate," GSS Methodological Report No. 108. Chicago: NORC, 2006.
109. Tom W. Smith, "An Evaluation of Spanish Questions on the 2006 General Social Survey," Chicago: NORC, 2007.
110. Tom W. Smith and Seokho Kim, "Counting Religious Nones and Other Religious Measurement Issues: A Comparison of the Baylor Religion Survey and General Social Survey," Chicago: NORC, 2007.

C. GSS Topical Reports

41. Tom W. Smith, "Social Identity and Socio-Demographic Structure," Chicago: NORC, 2006. Forthcoming in the International Journal of Public Opinion Research.

D. GSS Cross-National Reports

24. Tom W. Smith, "Report on the 2005 ISSP Non-Response Survey," Chicago: NORC, 2005. Published in Survey Research Methodology, 1 (2007), 45-54.
29. Tom W. Smith, "A Report on the 2006 ISSP Non-Response Survey," Chicago: NORC, 2007.

Other Publications

James A. Davis and Tom W. Smith, The NORC General Social Survey: A User's Guide. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, 1992.

James A. Davis, Tom W. Smith, and Peter V. Marsden, General Social Surveys, 1972-2006: Cumulative Codebook. Chicago: NORC, 2007.

The Metanexus Institute at the University of Pennsylvania has awarded a grant to Tom W. Smith for a two-year study of Basic Theories and Models of Religious Change. It will use data from the GSS, ISSP, and other cross-national studies to examine religious change across countries, cohorts, and time. It will study religious change in a comparative perspective to see if similar models operate across different societies and religious traditions.

National Voluntary Associations Study (NVAS)

One of the most powerful features of the General Social Survey is the fact that it can be used to generate representative data on other social units like congregations, families or work establishments. The National Voluntary Association Study, funded by a grant from the Human and Social Dynamics Program at the National Science Foundation, is the most recent of these studies. Miller McPherson and Lynn Smith-Lovin, sociologists from Duke University, proposed the study to explore how social networks and voluntary groups co-evolve in a community system.

The NVAS study builds on the Voluntary Associations and Networks topical module collected in the 2004 GSS (funded by NSF and a CIRCLE grant to Tom W. Smith). The respondents were re-interviewed in 2006, to see if their networks or voluntary association memberships had changed. They also gave a life history calendar of all major life events – family changes, work and geographic moves, movement into or out of voluntary groups, and changes in close personal relationships – that had occurred since 9/11/2001 (an anchoring event that everyone can remember).

McPherson used his hypernetwork technique to generate a nationally representative sample of voluntary groups. The NVAS interviewed leaders or (for small groups) members about these associations. It asked questions about their membership composition, organizational structure, and connections to other parts of the community.

The NVAS interviews have now been completed by NORC, under the direction of Project Manager Michael Reynolds. More than 850 respondents participated in the re-interview, for a response rate of almost 60 percent. The response rate for the voluntary group part of the NVAS was even higher, collecting data on over 700 voluntary organizations with a response rate of almost 65 percent.

Eventually, the data will be available to the GSS user community as three types of files: (1) a panel data set that links the 2004 GSS respondent data to the re-interview from 2006, (2) an event history data set of memberships and network connections from the life history calendar, and (3) a data set of voluntary organizations that is representative of the national voluntary system. ■

National Congregations Study (NCS)

On the 2006 GSS information was collected on the congregations that people attend. This list has served as the sample frame for a hypernetwork sample of congregations which was completed in May, 2007. This is similar to the NCSs conducted in 1998 and 2000. As with the 1998 NCS, the PI is Mark Chaves of the University of Arizona (now moving to Duke University). ■

Panel Component

The GSS is switching from a repeating, cross-section design to a combined repeating cross-section and panel-component design. The 2006 GSS is the base year for the first panel. A sub-sample of 2006 GSS cases (most likely about 2000) will be selected for reinterview in 2008 and again in 2010 as part of the GSSs in those years. The 2008 GSS will consist of a new cross-section of about 2000 plus the 2006 reinterviews. The 2010 GSS will consist of another new cross-section of about 2000, the second reinterview wave of the 2006 panel cases and the first reinterview wave of the 2008 panel cases. The 2010 GSS will be the first one to fully implement the new, combined design. In 2012 and later GSSs, there will likewise be a fresh cross-section, wave two panel cases from the immediately preceding GSS and wave three panel cases from the next earlier GSS. ■

Spanish

The 2006 GSS was the first having a Spanish version and using bilingual interviewers. For 2006 only the core content funded by the basic NSF grant was fielded in Spanish. Starting in 2008, it is planned to have all sections translated and administrable in Spanish. For a discussion of the impact of adding Spanish language to the GSS see, Tom W. Smith, “An Evaluation of Spanish Questions on the 2006 General Social Survey,” GSS Methodological Report No. 109. Chicago: NORC, 2007. ■

General Social Survey

NORC, A Social Science Research Center
1155 East 60th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637

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