PSID SAMPLE: AMERICA'S FAMILY TREE ↗

The original PSID sample of roughly 18,000 people in 5,000 households consisted of a nationally representative sample and an oversample of low-income families. The oversample was included to facilitate investigations of poverty-related issues. PSID data include economic, social, and health information collected using in-person, telephone, and computer-assisted interviewing methods. PSID families are followed regardless of where they live. The sample grows naturally as children and grandchildren from these families form their own households and are invited to join the PSID. Samples of immigrants have been added to the PSID in 1997/1999 and 2017/2019 so that the sample continues to closely resemble the national population, making PSID America's Family Tree.

CONTENT OF CURRENT QUESTIONNAIRE ↗

Employment

Wages & Income

Expenditures

Wealth

Mortgage Distress & Foreclosures

Pensions

Philanthropy

Time Use

Education

Marriage & Fertility

Health Status

Health Behaviors

Health Insurance

Program Participation

Computer Use & Technology

Housing Characteristics

STUDY DIRECTION AND OVERSIGHT ↗

PSID is directed by **faculty** at the University of Michigan, with data collection conducted by the Survey Research Operations group within the Survey Research Center at the U-M Institute for Social Research. An external Board of Overseers, comprised of leading scientists from various disciplines, provides scientific input to the project.

SPONSORSHIP ↗

Major sponsorship of the PSID is provided by: the National Science Foundation, the National Institute on Aging, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute on Child Health and Human Development, the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

DATA ACCESS: PSID.org ↗

All waves of the PSID and study supplements are accessible via the PSID Data Center, which provides:

- Automatic merges of all waves of data from the PSID and its major supplements
- Customized codebooks and data extracts in a variety of formats including SAS, Stata, SPSS, Excel, and text
- Instructional web tutorials, bibliographies, technical papers, and user documentation

Some types of PSID data are available only under a restricted contract. These include but are not limited to: geospatial data below the level of state; mortality data; assisted housing data from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Medicare claims; and educational characteristics from the National Center for Education Statistics.

DATA ON FAMILIES SINCE 1968

PANEL STUDY OF INCOME DYNAMICS

PSID

PSID OVERVIEW ⧉

The PSID is the world's longest running nationally representative household panel survey. With over 50 years of data on the same families and their descendants, the PSID is a cornerstone of the data infrastructure for empirically based social science research in the U.S. PSID gathers data on the family as a whole and on individuals residing within the family, emphasizing the dynamic and interactive aspects of family economics, demography, and health. PSID data were collected annually from 1968-1997 and biennially after 1997.

With low attrition and high success in following young adults as they form their own families, the sample size has grown from roughly 5,000 families in 1968 to more than 9,200 families and 24,000 individuals by 2021. The PSID has distributed data on more than 84,000 individuals over the course of the study, collected through 2023.
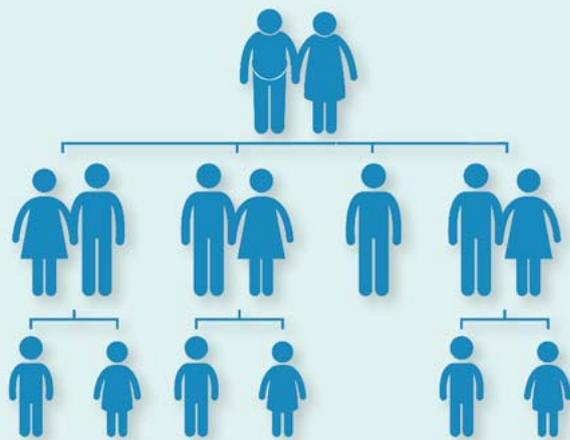
DATA ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

The Child Development Supplement (CDS) collects extensive data on children and adolescents and their primary caregivers in PSID families. The first cohort of the CDS was launched in 1997 and observed children every five years across three waves from 1997 to 2007 in order to study the dynamic process of early human life and social capital acquisition.

Since 2014, CDS began following a new group of children, conducting interviews with all eligible children in PSID families born or adopted since 1997 and their primary caregivers. The study design and questionnaire content are consistent with earlier waves of the CDS to permit cross-cohort analysis of children's development. New study features include:

- Coverage of all eligible children in PSID families in the full age range (birth to 17 years)

- Collection of saliva samples from primary caregivers and children for genetic relatedness and Variant Call Format (VCF) data, which is now available
- Collection of expanded information on children, including their time use, access to and use of media and technology, interaction with pets, and prosocial behavior

- COVID-19 related child wellbeing, health and family circumstances data in CDS-2020, including stimulus payments and child tax-credits

Once children from CDS reach age 18 they are followed in the Transition into Adulthood Supplement (TAS), which started in 2005 and collects data biennially. The study captures data on developmental pathways and outcomes during the transition from childhood through young adulthood. As of 2017, all young adults age 18-28 are eligible for TAS, regardless of their participation in CDS.

DATA ON HEALTH AND AGING

The PSID has gathered rich information in the domains of health, wealth, and pensions. These data can be used in combination with panel data on employment, income, race, and education, which in some cases is available over almost the entire life course.

Data collected on health includes health status, onset and recency of health conditions, health behaviors such as alcohol use, smoking, and exercise, BMI, health insurance, and expenditures. Information about personality and mental health has been collected since 1968. A COVID-19 module that collected information about health outcomes across the life course was included in PSID-2021.

DISABILITY AND USE OF TIME

Supplemental data collections (DUST) were conducted in 2009 and 2013 to investigate the connections among disability, time use, and well-being of older adults.

Information was obtained about:

- What respondents did and with whom
- Where they were during activities
- How they felt
- For whom the activities were carried out (household and care-related activities)

GENERATIONAL AND LIFE COURSE DATA

The long panel, genealogic design, and broad content of PSID data offer unique opportunities to conduct generational and life course research. The PSID now contains thousands of inter- and intragenerational relationships with over 50 years of data, including:

- "Paired" generational relationships, with each family in the pair providing independent interviews (as of 2021 wave)
- Parent-Adult Child pairs: ~4,300
- Sibling pairs: ~5,200
- Cousin pairs: 5400+
- "Tripled" generational relationships, with all three generations providing independent interviews

Grandparent-Parent-Adult Child triplets: ~1,000

The Family Identification Mapping System (FIMS) tool facilitates genealogical analysis by automatically creating a customized file containing identification variables of PSID sample members' relatives including biological and adoptive children, parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and siblings.