

Personality and Psychological Functioning Measures in the PSID Main Interview: 1968-2023

Domain	Question	Family member and waves available: RP=Reference Person*, SP=Spouse/Partner*, R=Respondent	Index
Index Legend	Index of Achievement Motivation	1972	IAM
	Ambition and Aspiration	1968-1972	AA
	Efficacy and Planning	1968-1972	EP
	Horizons Planning - Expressed	1968-1972	HPE
	Horizons Planning - Self-Reported	1968	HPSR
	Trust-Hostility	1968-1972	TH
Child	Which would you like your child to do most, be popular with his classmates, or be a leader?	RP: 1972	IAM
	Would you rather have your child be a leader or do the work his teacher expects?	RP: 1972	IAM
Future	Do you think a lot about things that might happen in the future, or do you usually just take things as they come?	RP: 1968-1972, 1975, SP: 1976	EP, HPSR
	Would you rather spend your money and enjoy life today or save more for the future?	RP: 1968-1972, SP: 1976	EP, HPSR
	When you make plans ahead, do you usually get to carry out things the way you expected, or do things usually come up to make you change your plans?	RP: 1968-1972, 1975, SP: 1976	EP, HPSR
General Outlook	Are there a lot of people who have good things they don't deserve?	RP: 1968-1972	TH
	Do you think the life of the average man is getting better or is it getting worse?	RP: 1968-1972	TH
Job Preference	What kind of job would you want the most, a job where you had to think for yourself, or a job where the people you work with are a nice group?	RP: 1972	IAM
	Which of these would come closer to describing why you might quit a job, the job was too difficult after all, or the job was not challenging anymore?	RP: 1972	IAM
	Would you rather have a job that you like even if the chances for a raise were small, or a job you don't like which offers a good chance for making more money?	RP: 1968-1972	AA
	Would you want a job where you had a lot to say in what's going on or a job where you had to think for yourself?	RP: 1972	IAM
Others Perspective	Which would you most like to hear about yourself: (his/her) opinion carries a lot of weight among people who know (him/her) or people like to live next door to (him/her)?	RP: 1972	IAM

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	Now these two. Which would you rather hear about yourself - (He/She) is fun to have at a party, or people like to go to (him/her) for advice on important matters?	RP: 1972	IAM
	Now these two. Which would you rather hear about yourself - other people like (him/her) very much or (he/she) can do anything (he/she) sets (his/her) mind on doing?	RP: 1972	IAM
Personality Type	Are you the kind of person that plans his life ahead all the time, or do you live more from day to day?	RP: 1968-1972, 1975, SP: 1976	EP, HPSR
	Which of these is truer for you, would you like to have more friends or would you like to do better at what you try?	RP: 1972	IAM
	Would you like to have more people pay attention to your point of view or would you like to do better at what you try?	RP: 1972	IAM
Self-Perception	Do you get angry fairly easily, or does it take a lot to get you angry?	RP: 1968-1972	TH
	Are you more often satisfied or dissatisfied with yourself?	RP: 1968-1972	
	Do you have some limitations that keep you from getting ahead as far as you would like?	RP: 1968-1971	
	Do you spend much time figuring out ways to get more money?	RP: 1968-1972	
	Do you trust most other people, some, or very few?	RP: 1968-1972	TH
	Have you usually felt pretty sure your life would work out the way you want it to, or have there been times when you haven't been very sure about it?	RP: 1968-1972, 1975, SP: 1976	
	How much do you like to do things that are difficult and challenging?	RP: 1968-1971	AA
	How much does it matter what other people think about you?	RP: 1968-1972	TH
	Which of these two statements comes closer to the way you think? a. Sometimes I feel that I don't have enough control over my life, or b. What happens to me is my own doing	RP: 1972, 1975	
	Would you say you nearly always finish things once you start them, or do you sometimes have to give up before they are finished?	RP: 1968-1972, 1975, SP: 1976	EP, HPSR

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Test Concern	Now think back to when you were in school, or to some other time when you had to take tests like applying for a job or a driver's license. Try to remember how you felt at that time. When taking tests some people have an uneasy, upset feeling. When you took a test, would you say you were very upset, somewhat upset, or not upset at all?	RP: 1972	IAM
	Suppose you were in the middle of some important tests and someone told you that you were doing very well. Would you mostly feel good about what you had done so far or would you think mostly about the tests yet to come?	RP: 1972	IAM
	Suppose you'd just taken some hard tests, and someone told you you'd done very well on them. Would you want to know more about the tests, or would you feel good about that?	RP: 1972	IAM
	When working on important tests, how fast did your heart beat -- very fast, faster than normal, or about normal?	RP: 1972	IAM
	When you were taking an important test, how much did you perspire -- a great deal, more than usual, or not at all?	RP: 1972	IAM
	During tests, how much did you worry about what it would mean to fail?	RP: 1972	IAM
Health Diagnosis	Do you have any physical or nervous condition that limits the type of work or the amount of work [you/ he/she] can do?	RP, SP: 1968-2023	
	Has a doctor ever told you that you have or had any emotional, nervous, or psychiatric problems?	RP, SP: 1999-2023	
	How old were you when you were first diagnosed?	RP, SP: 2005-2023	
	How much does this condition limit your normal daily activities?	RP, SP: 1999-2023	
	How long have you had this condition (days, weeks, months, years)?	RP, SP: 1999-2003	
	Are you/is Head/Response Person or Wife/Spouse receiving treatment or taking medication for this/these condition/s?	RP, SP: 2011-2023	
	What was the diagnosis? What is the emotional/psychiatric disorder? (3 mentions)	RP, SP: 1999-2023	
	Did this condition get much worse for a month or longer (in the past 12 months /since you were first diagnosed)?	RP, SP: 2005-2009	
	Has a doctor ever told you that you have or had a learning disorder?	RP, SP: 1999-2023	
	How old were you when you were first diagnosed?	RP, SP: 2005-2023	
How much does this condition limit your normal daily activities?	RP, SP: 1999-2023		
How long have you had this condition (days, weeks, months, years)?	RP, SP: 1999-2003		

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	Are you/is Head/Response Person or Wife/Spouse receiving treatment or taking medication to help with (your/his/her) learning disorder?	RP, SP: 2011-2023	
	Did this condition get much worse for a month or longer (in the past 12 months /since you were first diagnosed)?	RP, SP: 2005-2009	
	Has a doctor ever told you that you have or had permanent loss of memory or mental ability?	RP, SP: 1999-2023	
	How old were you when you were first diagnosed?	RP, SP: 2005-2023	
	How much does this condition limit your normal daily activities?	RP, SP: 1999-2023	
	How long have you had this condition (days, weeks, months, years)?	RP, SP: 1999-2003	
	Are you/is Head/Response Person or Wife/Spouse now taking medication prescribed by a doctor to help with (your/his/her) memory problems?	RP, SP: 2011-2023	
	Did this condition get much worse for a month or longer (in the past 12 months /since you were first diagnosed)?	RP, SP: 2005-2009	
Time Pressure	How often do you feel rushed or pressed for time? Would you say almost always, often, sometimes, rarely, or never?	RP, SP: 2003	
Health Behaviors	(Do you / does (he/she)) ever drink any alcoholic beverages such as beer, wine, or liquor?	RP, SP: 1999-2023	
	In the last year, on average, how often did (your/his/her) have any alcohol to drink?	RP, SP: 2005-2023	
	In the last year, on the days (you/he/she) drank, about how many drinks did [you / he / she] have?	RP, SP: 1999-2023	
	In the last year, on how many days (have you/has (he/she)) had [male: five / female: four] or more drinks on one occasion?	RP, SP: 2005-2023	
Dementia Screener (AD8)	Next, we'd like to know about changes that [you / [reference person] / [spouse-partner]] may have had in the last several years. In the last several years, please indicate whether there has been a change in each of the following:		
	Problems [you / he / she] may have with judgment, for example, problems making decisions, making bad financial decisions, or with thinking.	RP, SP: 2017-2023	
	The amount of interest [you / he / she] may have in hobbies or activities.	RP, SP: 2017-2023	
	[Your / His / Her] repeating the same things over and over, such as questions, stories, or statements.	RP, SP: 2017-2023	

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Dementia Screener (AD8)	The trouble [you / he / she] may have learning how to use a tool, appliance or gadget like a TV remote.	RP, SP: 2017-2023	
	[Your / His / Her] forgetting the correct month or year.	RP, SP: 2017-2023	
	The trouble [you / he / she] may have handling complicated money matters, like balancing a checkbook or paying bills.	RP, SP: 2017-2023	
	The trouble [you / he / she] may have remembering appointments.	RP, SP: 2017-2023	
	Daily problems [you / he / she] may have with thinking and/or memory.	RP, SP: 2017-2023	
Composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI) Depression Screener	Now thinking about the past 12 months, have you had 2 weeks or longer when nearly every day you felt sad, empty or depressed for most of the day?	RP, SP: 2003	
	Have you had 2 weeks or longer when you lost interest in most things like work, hobbies, and other things you usually enjoyed	RP, SP: 2003	
Non-specific Psychological Distress (Kessler K6 Scale)	During the PAST 30 DAYS, how often did you feel each of the following?		
	Nervous	R: 2001-03, 2007-2023	
	Hopeless	R: 2001-03, 2007-2023	
	Restless or fidgety	R: 2001-03, 2007-2023	
	That everything was an effort	R: 2001-03, 2007-2023	
	So sad nothing could cheer you up	R: 2001-03, 2007-2023	
	Worthless	R: 2001-03, 2007-2023	
	Thinking about the feelings I just asked you about, altogether, did these feelings occur more often in the past 30 days than is usual for you, less often than is usual, or about the same as usual?	R: 2001-03, 2007-2023	
	How much do these feelings usually interfere with your life or activities?	R: 2001-03, 2007-2023	
	During the past 30 days, how many days out of 30 were you totally unable to work or carry out your normal activities because of these feelings?	R: 2001-03, 2007-2011	
Aside from that number, how many of the remaining days out of the past 30 were you able to work but had to cut down on what you did because of these feelings.	R: 2001-03, 2007-2011		

*Prior to 2017, Reference Person was referred to as Head and prior to 2015 Spouse or Partner was referred to as Wife or "Wife