HEALTH AND RETIREMENT STUDY
2020 HRS Post-Exit
Final, Version 1.0
September 2023

Data Description and Usage

Conditions of Use

By registering for access to HRS Public Release data, the User agrees to all of the following:

- Make no attempts to identify study participants.

- Not to transfer HRS Public Release data to any third party other than staff or students for whom you are directly responsible except as indicated below.

- Not to allow others to use your username and password to access this site.

- To certify the destruction of any downloaded Public Release data file as well as any data files derived from the downloaded file when requested to do so by the Health and Retirement Study.

- To include the following citation in any research reports, papers, or publications based on Public Release data:

In text:
"The HRS (Health and Retirement Study) is sponsored by the National Institute on Aging (grant number NIA U01AG009740) and is conducted by the University of Michigan."

In references:
"Health and Retirement Study, 2020 HRS Post-Exit Final (Version 1.0) Final public use dataset. Produced and distributed by the University of Michigan with funding from the National Institute on Aging (grant number NIA U01AG009740). Ann Arbor, MI, (2023)."

- To include the following citation in any research reports, papers, or publications based on any Public Release data file tagged as "Early" or "Preliminary":

  "This analysis uses data from the Health and Retirement Study, [INSERT DATASET NAME], sponsored by the National Institute on Aging (grant number NIA U01AG009740) and conducted by the University of Michigan. These data have not been cleaned and may contain errors that will be corrected in the Final Public Release version of the dataset."

- Please note that although it is necessary to include the above citations to the HRS in any publications, it is not necessary to associate your publications with the HRS grant in PubMed.

- Provide information regarding any research product (dissertation, thesis, journal article, book, book chapter, report, etc.) based on data obtained from the Health and Retirement Study by sending an electronic copy to hrspublications@umich.edu.

- Report immediately to the Health and Retirement Study at hrsquestions@umich.edu any disclosure of study participant identity as well as any discovery of flaws or errors in the data or documentation files.

- Notify the Health and Retirement Study through use of the update function provided at this site or by electronic mail directed to hrsquestions@umich.edu of changes in your electronic mail address, postal address, telephone number, organizational affiliation or organizational status.

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Data Description and Usage

1. Overview

The 2020 HRS Post Exit (Final, Version 1.0) data release consists of data obtained as part of the Health and Retirement Study (HRS), a national longitudinal study of the economic, health, marital, and family status, as well as public and private support systems, of older Americans. The National Institute on Aging provided funding (NIA U01AG009740), with supplemental support from the Social Security Administration. The Institute for Social Research (ISR) Survey Research Center (SRC) at the University of Michigan conducted the survey.

The 2020 Post-Exit data were obtained by doing telephone interviews with proxy respondents for respondents who were interviewed in prior Exit waves and who had unresolved financial situations (Wills and Trusts, and Estate). The 2020 Post-Exit Proxy (Final, Version 1.0) has 116 respondents and 216 variables.

To the extent possible, the proxy informants are knowledgeable about the financial situation of the deceased (often the proxy is a widow, widower, or some other family member). The content of the 2020 Post-Exit Proxy interview is designed to augment information on a given deceased respondent who had a proxy report in a prior Exit interview. However, the proxy informants in the Post-Exit may, or may not be, the same person who provided information in a prior Exit interview.

By receiving the data files, you agree to use them for research and statistical purposes only and to make no effort to identify respondents. In addition, you agree to send the HRS a copy of any publications you produce based on the data. See Obtaining the Data (at the end of this document) for additional details.

Data alerts, new file notifications, and updates concerning the HRS 2020 Post-Exit Proxy Final Release will be placed on the HRS Web page at:
   http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/index.php?p=alertlist&jumpfrom=DD

We recommend that users check this location regularly.

If you have any questions concerning our Final releases, or wish to notify us of errors, please email the HRS Help Desk at hrsquestions@umich.edu.

1A. The Sample Interviewed in 2020

The 1998 data collection combined for the first time the AHEAD and the HRS sub-samples and added two additional sub-samples. The AHEAD sub-sample was interviewed previously in 1993 and 1995. The HRS sub-sample was interviewed previously in 1992, 1994, and 1996. In 1998, and every 2 years thereafter, the HRS, AHEAD, Children Of The Depression Age (CODA), War Baby (WB), Early Baby Boomer (EBB), Mid Baby Boomer (MBB) and Late Baby Boomer (LBB) were interviewed. The data collection period for the 2020 interview was March 2020 through May 2021.

The sample for the 2020 Post-Exit was drawn from the 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 2014, 2018 and 2020 HRS exit proxy respondents based on the following criteria:

A. If the deceased respondent owned a home at their last interview and if
      the home had not been disposed of at the time of the exit interview.

   B. If the deceased respondent left a will, and it had not yet been
      probated at the time of the exit interview.

   C. If the deceased respondent's other assets and possessions had not yet
      been distributed at the time of the exit interview.

In addition, if a Respondent was in a prior wave Post-Exit sample and any or
all of the above were not settled, then they also became part of the 2020
Post-Exit sample. The above conditions determined which questions were asked
of the 2020 Post-Exit Proxy respondents, as documented in the variable
XPRZ146 in the PX20PR_R data file.

The variable XPREXITIW refers to an exit interview wave and indicates the
year in which an Exit Proxy interview was conducted (prior to the 2020
interview).

1B. 2020 Questionnaire Sections
The 2020 HRS Post-Exit data collection instrument or questionnaire contains
the following sections:

```
2020 Section      Content
============      ========================
PR                Preload
A                 Cover Screen
T                 Wills and Life Insurance
```

1C. Levels of Files
In the 2020 HRS Post-Exit data collection instrument, the proxy respondent
served as the financial respondent. Only financial questions are asked in
this data collection. Relevant family data are preloaded from their Exit
interview and cannot be updated. The 2020 HRS Post-Exit data (Final, Version
1.0) contains files at two different levels: respondent, and household-
member-and-child.

1C1. Respondent-Level Files
Respondent-level files contain questions that were asked of all Post-Exit
proxy respondents on behalf of deceased respondents. Respondent level files
contain one record for each proxy who gave an interview in the 2020 HRS Post-
Exit.

1C2. Household-Member-and-Child-Level Files
These files contain information about each household member, child of the
deceased respondent, the child's spouse, or child of the deceased
respondent's spouse or partner. The files contain one record for each
household member and/or child.

2. File Naming Conventions
Files are named beginning with "PX20" Post-Exit 2020. The next one or two
letters designate the questionnaire section ("PX20PR"), and a separator ("_")
followed by one or two letters indicates the level of each file. For example,

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PX20PR_MC refers to The 2020 HRS Post- Exit Preload file at the Household-Member-and-Child level. The abbreviations for the file levels are as follows:

    R Respondent
    MC Household-Member-and-Child

The following extensions are used for the 2020 Post-Exit Final release files:

    .da for data files,
    .sas for SAS program statements,
    .sas7bdat for "ready-to-use" SAS files,
    .sps for SPSS program statements,
    .sav for "ready-to-use" SPSS files,
    .do for Stata DO statements,
    .dct for Stata dictionary statements,
    .dta for "ready-to-use" Stata files, and
    .txt for codebook files.

3. Data Files

The 2020 HRS Post-Exit (Final, Version 1.0) data release contains 4 files. The files are listed below along with the name of the file, number of cases (N), and number of variables (NV). The 2020 HRS Post-Exit data are provided in ASCII format, with fixed-length records. The records in the data files are sorted in order by the primary identifiers. You'll want to use associated SAS, SPSS, or STATA program statements to read the data into the analysis package of your choice.

Sec.	Description	File Name	N	NV
====	=========================	=========	====	===
PR	Preload (Respondent)	PX20PR_R	116	32
PR	Preload (HHMemberChild)	PX20PR_MC	679	21
A	Coverscreen (Respondent)	PX20A_R	116	13
T	Estate (Respondent)	PX20T_R	116	150

4. Identification Variables

Identification variables are stored in character format and are used to link files within and across waves of data.

4A. Primary identification variables

Primary identification variables include HHID, ZPSUBHH, PN, and OPN. The HHID, or Household Identifier, is six digits, and is stable across waves of data collection. The HHID uniquely identifies an original household and any household derived from the original household in subsequent waves of data collection. HHID is included on each data file in the 2020 Post Exit release.

The XPRSUBHH, or 2020 HRS Post-Exit Sub-household Identifier, identifies sub-households within an HHID at the time of the 2020 Post-Exit interview. XPRSUBHH will match the sub-household identifier from the 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2018 and 2020 exit (NSUBHH, PSUBHH, QSUBHH, RSUBHH, SSUBHH, TSUBHH, USUBHH, VSUBHH, WSUBHH, XPSUBHH, YPSUBHH, ZPSUBHH, and XPRSUBHH)in which the respondent gave an exit interview. The XPRSUBHH ID in the 2020 HRS Post-Exit data has a value of 3 or 4. XPRSUBHH is included on each data file in the 2020 Post Exit release.

The PN, or Person Number, is three digits, and uniquely identifies a respondent within an original household (HHID). The PN does not change across waves. PN is included on each data file in the 2020 Post Exit release.

The OPN, or Other Person Number, is used in the PX20PR_MC dataset to identify household residents (not including the respondents) and children. OPN is unique within a sub-household (ZQSUBHH in the 2020 Post-Exit). Each record in the PX20PR_MC dataset is uniquely identified by using three variables: HHID, ZQSUBHH, and OPN.

Additional information about ID variables can be found in the data description associated with the Tracker file HRS Core Final releases.

4B. Secondary identification variables

The secondary identification variables included in the 2020 Post-Exit data are XPRPN_SP and XPREXITIW. XPRPN_SP can be used to link a deceased respondent with data from their surviving spouse or partner in 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2018 or 2020. In order to merge the Post-Exit data to the data of the surviving spouse or partner in waves 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2018 or 2020 rename PN in those waves to XPRPN_SP. XPRPN_SP is included in sections PX20PR_R, PX20A_R, and PX20T_R.

The XPREXITIW variable indicates what year the respondent's Exit interview was conducted, ranging from 2010 to 2020. XPREXITIW is located in sections PX20PR_R, PX20A_R, and PX20T_R.

5. Distribution Files and Directory Structure

5A. Distribution Files

The distribution files are packaged for download from our Web site in a series of .zip files.

The individual files for separate download are:

    ASCII data files
        PX20da.zip contains data files

    Program statement and "ready-to-use" files
        PX20sas.zip contains SAS program statements (.sas) and "ready-to-use" files (.sas7bdat)
        PX20sps.zip contains SPSS program statements (.sps) and "ready-to-use" files (.sav)
        PX20sta.zip contains Stata program statements (.do), dictionary statements (.dct) and "ready-to-use" files (.dta)

    Documentation files
        PX20cb.zip contains the codebook
        PX20qn.zip contains the questionnaire
        PX20dd.pdf this document

5B. Directory Structure

While a particular setup is not required for using the 2020 HRS Post Exit files, if the following directory structure is used, then no changes to the path name in the data descriptor files is necessary. If you use a different structure, change the directory references in the distribution files.

Directory	Contents
===================	====================================
c:\PX2020\	Files downloaded from HRS Web site
c:\PX2020\codebook\	Unzipped files from PX20cb.zip
c:\PX2020\data\	Unzipped files from PX20da.zip
c:\PX2020\sas\	Unzipped files from PX20sas.zip
c:\PX2020\spss\	Unzipped files from PX20sps.zip
c:\PX2020\stata\	Unzipped files from PX20sta.zip
c:\PX2020\qnaire\	Unzipped files from H20qn.zip

6. Program Statements

Each data file comes with associated SPSS, SAS, or STATA program statements to read the data. Files containing SPSS statements are named with a .sps extension, those with SAS statements with a .sas extension, and those with STATA statements with .do and .dct extensions. The statement files are named beginning with the same prefix as the corresponding data file. For example, SAS statements in the file PX20T_R.sas correspond with the PX20T_R.da data file.

6A. Using the Files with SAS

To build a SAS file for a particular dataset, two file types must be present for that dataset: SAS program statement files and .da data files. Files with the suffix "da" contain the raw ASCII data for SAS to read.

A SAS system file can be created by the *.sas file into the SAS Program Editor. If the data file is located in "c:\PX2020\data", you can run the downloaded *.sas file as is. A SAS system file (*.sas7bdat or *.sd2) will be saved to directory "c:\PX2020\sas". If the files are not located in the specified directories, you will need to edit the *.sas file to reflect the proper locations prior to running the file.

6B. Using the Files with SPSS

To build an SPSS file for a particular dataset, two file types must be present for that dataset: .sps program statement files and .da data files. Files with the suffix "da" contain the raw data for SPSS to read.

To create an SPSS system file, open the *.sps file in SPSS as an SPSS Syntax File. If the data file is located in "C:\PX2020\data", you can run the downloaded *.sps file as is. An SPSS system file (*.sav) will be saved to directory "C:\PX2020\spss". If the files are not located in the specified directories, you will need to edit the *.sps file to reflect the proper locations prior to running the file.

6C. Using the Files with Stata

To use Stata with a particular dataset, the following three file types must be present for the Stata dataset: .dct files, .do files and .da data files. Files with the suffix "da" contain the raw data for Stata to read. Files with the suffix "dct" are Stata dictionaries used to describe the data. Files with

the suffix "do" are short Stata programs ("do files") which you may use to read in the data.

To create a Stata system file, load the .do file into Stata and then submit it. If the *.dct files are located in "C:\PX2020\stata" and the data file is located in "C:\PX2020\data", you can run the downloaded .do file as is. If the files are not located in these directories, you must edit the *.do and *.dct files to reflect the proper path names before you run the files.

7. Documentation

7A. Masked Variables

In order to protect the confidentiality of respondents, some variables are either masked or not included in public release data sets. Some of these variables, in their original form, may be made available to analysts as restricted data. See the HRS Web site for details about gaining access to restricted data. Respondent names, addresses, days of birth, information on geographical relocation, and similar variables are not included in publicly released files. For public releases, geographical locations are recoded to a level no more detailed than U.S. Census Region and Division.

The following variables are masked in the 2020 Post Exit (Final, Version 1.0):

```
XPRX026M    1ST ADDRESS STATE - MASKED
XPRX030M    2ND ADDRESS STATE - MASKED
XPRT158M    WHICH STATE WILL PROBATED – MASKED
```

7B. Other Specify Questions, Comments and Open Ends

"Other Specify" and "Open End", or questions that are answered with text (e.g., vocabulary words, industry and occupation) are included in final data releases. Similarly, the Final release data also include comments made by respondents in the course of the interview. For the Final release, HRS staff reviewed these comments for selected questions, and the coded answer was changed if it was determined that the comment changed the substance of the recorded answer.

8. Additional Notes

During the field period, changes to the instrument were made in order to correct errors in programming, improve the quality of the data, modify the question wording/content or to add new questions. Changes made that impact Post-Exit data are listed below.

Data Model	Section	Field Name	Change
5	T	T259	Problem: There is no apostrophe ('s) after the R's name (e.g. [RName]'s) Fix: Added apostrophes after name fill.

9. Obtaining the Data

9A. Registering and Downloading the Data

HRS data are available for free to researchers and analysts at the HRS Web site. In order to obtain public release data, you must first register at our Web site. Once you have completed the registration process, your username and password will be sent to you via e-mail. Your username and password are required to download any data files.

By registering all users, we are able to document for our sponsors the size and diversity of our user community allowing us to continue to collect these important data. Registered users receive user support, information related to errors in the data, future releases, workshops, and publication lists. The information you provide will not be used for any commercial use, and will not be redistributed to third parties.

9B. Conditions of Use

By registering, you agree to the Conditions of Use governing access to Health and Retirement public release data.

9C. Publications Based on Data

As part of the data registration process, you agree to include specified citations and to inform HRS of any papers, publications, or presentations based on HRS data. Please send a copy of any publications you produce based on HRS data, with a bibliographical reference, if appropriate, to the address below.

        Health and Retirement Study
        Attn: Papers and Publications
        The Institute for Social Research
        P.O. Box 1248
        Ann Arbor, MI (USA) 48106-1248

Alternately, you may contact us by e-mail at hrsquestions@umich.edu with "Attn: Papers and Publications" in the subject line.

10. If You Need to Know More

This document is intended to serve as a brief overview and to provide guidelines to using the 2020 HRS Post Exit (Final, Version 1.0) data. If you have questions or concerns that are not adequately covered here or on our Web site, or if you have any comments, please contact us at hrsquestions@umich.edu. We will do our best to provide answers.

10A. HRS Internet Site

Health and Retirement Study public release data and additional information about the study are available on the Internet. To access the data and other relevant information, point your Web browser to the HRS Web site.

        https://hrs.isr.umich.edu/about

10B. Contact Information

If you need to contact us, you may do so by one of the methods listed below:

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Internet: Help Desk at our Web site

E-mail: hrsquestions@umich.edu

Postal service:
    Health and Retirement Study
    The Institute for Social Research
    The University of Michigan
    P.O. Box 1248
    Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248

FAX: (734) 647-1186

APPENDIX

11. Appendix: Merge Examples

This section of the documentation provides examples of how the 2008 Post-Exit data might be merged with other HRS data files.

SAS Example of R to R Merge – 2008 Post-Exit to 2006 Exit (for only those in the 2008 Post-Exit data file - HRS Sample)

```
/* create sas libraries;change paths to match local file locations */

       libname px0 8 "c:\px2008\sas" ;
       libname x06 "c:\x2006\sas" ;

/*Primary identifiers for cross wave, respondent merging are HHID and PN;
Sort data by these variables */

       proc sort data = px08.px0 8t_r out=px08t_r;
       by hhid pn;
       run;

       proc sort data = x06.x0 6cs_r out=x06cs_r;
       by hhid pn;
       run;

/*perform the merge, creating the new data set called "cs" -"in" statement on
data set for which you want to keep all records*/

       data cs;
       merge px0 8t_r(in=y) x06cs_r;
       by hhid pn;
       if y;
       run;
```

STATA Example of R to R Merge – 2008 Post-Exit to 2002 Exit (for only those in the 2008 Post-Exit data file - HRS Sample)

```
       use HHID PN R520 R522 using c:\ x2002\stata\x02cs_r
       sort HHID PN
       save tmp1, replace
       use HHID PN VPT155 VPT156 using c:\ px2008\stata\px08t_r
       sort HHID PN
       merge HHID PN using tmp1
       tab _m
       drop if _m==2
       drop _m
       sort hhid pn
       save rdata, replace
```

SPSS Example of R to R Merge – 2008 Post-Exit to 2002 Exit (for only those in the 2006 Post-Exit data file - HRS Sample)

```
       GET
         FILE='C:\px2008\spss\px0 8t_r.sav'.
       SORT CASES BY
```

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```
  hhid (A) pn (A) .
SAVE OUTFILE='C:\px2008\spss\t_r.sav'.

GET
  FILE='c:\x2002\spss\x02cs_ r.sav'.
SORT CASES BY
  hhid (A) pn (A) .
SAVE OUTFILE='c:\x2002\spss\cs_ r.sav'.

MATCH FILES /FILE='c:\x2002\spss\cs_ r.sav'
  /FILE='c:\px2008\spss\t_r.sav'
  /IN=source01
  /BY hhid pn.
VARIABLE LABELS source01
  'Case source is c:\px2008\spss\t_r.sav'.
SELECT IF( source01 = 1).
EXECUTE.
```