

# **Data Description**

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*Health and Retirement Study*

*Cross-wave 2015-2019*

*Life History Mail Survey (LHMS)*

*Population Weights*

May 2026

## **Health and Retirement Study, Cross-wave 2015-2019 Life History Mail Survey (LHMS): Harmonized and Aggregated Public Data Resource**

There is one respondent weight (variable name: LHMS1519WGTR) for the aggregated 2015–2019 LHMS dataset. For additional information on the LHMS data resource, see:

<https://doi.org/10.7826/XUFS7190>

The LHMS respondent weight is constructed as the product of an HRS core wave respondent weight (including both community-dwelling and nursing home respondents) and a non-response adjustment factor. The resulting weight is post-stratified to match the 2016 HRS core weighted respondent sample size and composition by age, race/ethnicity, and gender, again including both community-dwelling and nursing home respondents. The weighted sample includes individuals born in 1965 or earlier who completed at least one HRS core interview between 2010 and 2020 while cohort-eligible.

The base HRS core weight is selected from available HRS waves by taking the first positive weight from the following sequence: 2016, 2014, 2018, 2012, 2020, or 2010.

The non-response adjustment factor is derived from a propensity model estimating the probability of completing the LHMS questionnaire among those selected and eligible to participate. Details of the analytic sample are provided in the [LHMS aggregate file data description](#).

The propensity model is estimated using logistic regression and is weighted by the selected base respondent weight. Predictor variables include age, education, race, ethnicity, gender, partnership status, employment status, self-rated health, number of health conditions, CES-D score, cognition, vision, life satisfaction, language spoken, activities of daily living (ADLs), total assets, total income, and membership in the HRS late baby boomer (LBB) cohort.

All predictor variables are drawn from the 2016 HRS core wave or, if missing, from the closest available non-missing core wave. The inverse of the predicted probability of LHMS completion is used as the non-response adjustment factor. As a final step, the weights are post-stratified to align with the 2016 HRS core weighted respondent sample size and distribution by age, gender, and race/ethnicity.