

HEALTH AND RETIREMENT STUDY

HRS 2020 Core Module 10: Substance Use Problems

Sensitive Health Data

Final, Version 1.0
September 2022

Data Description and Usage

To the researcher: This data set is intended for exclusive use by you under the terms specified in the *Sensitive Health Data Use Agreement*. If there are any questions about this data set and its use, please contact the HRS Help Desk (hqsquestions@umich.edu).

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DATA DESCRIPTION AND USAGE

1. Overview

The Health and Retirement Study (HRS) is a national longitudinal study of the economic, health, marital, and family status, as well as public and private support systems, of older Americans. The HRS is a rich source of longitudinal, cross-sectional data for researchers and policymakers who study aging. Funding for the Health and Retirement Study is provided by the National Institute on Aging at NIH (U01 AG009740), with supplemental support from the Social Security Administration. The study is conducted by the Institute for Social Research (ISR) at the University of Michigan.

2. Obtaining the Data

Although most HRS data sets are available to the public without restriction, certain HRS data sets contain sensitive respondent information and are only available under terms of a formal agreement negotiated between the researcher and HRS. To apply for access, submit the [Sensitive Health Data Order Form](#). A completed and signed [Sensitive Data Access Use Agreement](#) is required.

3. Data Set Content

This data set contains variables removed from the *HRS 2020 Module 10: Substance Use Problems* in the 2020 Core release due to the sensitive nature of the information. It contains a record for each of the 15,723 respondents in the 2020 Core public data that were assigned to Module 10 (Note: not all respondents assigned to the module went on to complete it).

4. Primary 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 and PN. 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. 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.

5. Distribution Files and Directory Structure

5A. Distribution Files

The distribution files are packaged for download from our Web site in one large .zip file, H20MOD10.zip, which contains six smaller .zip files and this data description document, in .pdf format, H20MOD10dd.pdf.

The individual .zip files for separate download are:

 Data file

 H20MOD10da.zip contains the data file.

 Statistical software files

H20MOD10sas.zip contains a SAS program statement (.sas) and "ready-to-use" file (.sas7bdat).
H20MOD10sps.zip contains a SPSS program statement (.sps) and "ready-to-use" file (.sav).
H20MOD10sta.zip contains a STATA program statement (.do/.dct) and "ready-to-use" files (.dta).

Documentation files

H20MOD10cb.zip contains the codebook.
H20MOD10qn.zip contains the questionnaire.
H20MOD10dd.pdf - this document.

5B. Directory Structure

While a particular setup is not required for using the 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:\H2020MOD10	Files downloaded from website
c:\H2020MOD10\codebook	Unzipped files from H20cb.zip
c:\H2020MOD10\data	Unzipped files from H20da.zip
c:\H2020MOD10\qnaire	Unzipped files from H20qn.zip
c:\H2020MOD10\sas	Unzipped files from H20sas.zip
c:\H2020MOD10\spss	Unzipped files from H20sps.zip
c:\H2020MOD10\stata	Unzipped files from H20sta.zip

6. Program Statements

The data file comes with associated SPSS, SAS, or STATA program statements to read the data. The file containing the SPSS statement is named with a .sps extension, the SAS statement with a .sas extension, and the STATA statement 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 H20MOD10_R.sas correspond with the H20MOD10_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: the SAS program statement files and .da data file. The file with the suffix "da" contains the raw ASCII data for SAS to read.

To create a SAS system file, load the *.sas file into the SAS Program Editor. If the data file is located in "c:\H2020MOD10\data", you can run the downloaded *.sas file as is. A SAS system file (*.sas7bdat) will be saved to directory "c:\H2020MOD10\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, two file types must be present for that dataset: the .sps program statement file and .da data file. The file with the suffix "da" contains 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:\H2020MOD10\data", you can run the downloaded *.sps file as is. An SPSS system file (*.sav) will be saved to directory

"C:\H2020MOD10\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 the dataset, the following three file types must be present for the Stata dataset: a .dct file, .do file and .da data file. The file with the suffix "da" contain the raw data for Stata to read. The file with the suffix "dct" are Stata dictionaries used to describe the data. The file with the suffix "do" is a short Stata program ("do file") 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 file is located in "C:\H2020MOD10\stata" and the data file is located in "C:\H2020MOD10\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. Obtaining the Data

7A. 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.

7B. Conditions of Use

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

- not attempt to identify respondents
- not transfer data to third parties except as specified
- not share your username and password
- include specified citations in work based on HRS data
- provide information to us about publications based on HRS data
- report apparent errors in the HRS data or documentation files
- notify us of changes in your contact information

For more information concerning privacy issues and conditions of use, please read [Conditions of Use](#) for Public Data Files and [Privacy and Security Notice](#) at the Public File Download Area of the HRS Web site.

7C. 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 such publications in PDF format via e-mail to hqsquestions@umich.edu with "Attn: Papers and Publications" in the subject line. If you wish, you may include a bibliographical reference.

As an alternative, you may transmit publications in paper format by postal mail:

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

8. If You Need to Know More

This document is intended to serve as a brief overview and to provide guidelines to using the 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. We will do our best to provide answers.

8A. 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](#).

8B. Contact Information

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

Internet: Help Desk at our Web site

E-mail: hqsquestions@umich.edu

FAX: (734) 647-1186

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