

HEALTH AND RETIREMENT STUDY
2009 Internet Survey
Final, Version 1.0
May 2010

Data Description

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Data Description and Usage

1. Introduction

A sub-sample of the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) participated in the 2009 Internet based survey developed jointly by the HRS, Survey Research Center (SRC), and the Institute for Social Research (ISR), at the University of Michigan and the RAND Corporation. The National Institute on Aging at NIH (R01 AG020638) provided funding for the 2009 Internet Survey. The 2009 Internet Survey Final Release (Version 1.0) questionnaire covered numerous topics including health (physical and mental; health behaviors), psychosocial questions, economics (income, assets, expectations, and consumption), and retirement. The 2009 Internet Survey is the fourth in a series of surveys conducted on the internet. Completed interviews were obtained from 4,433 HRS respondents.

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

2. The Sample Interviewed in the 2009 Internet Survey

Contact letters were sent to 5,742 HRS respondents, inviting them to participate in the 2009 Internet Survey. Each respondent was offered \$25.00 to participate in the Internet study. The 2009 Internet field period was from March 2009 through August 2009. The 2009 Internet sample was drawn from respondents who reported Internet access in the HRS 2008 Core survey, plus those who did not respond to the 2008 Core survey but had been selected for the 2003, 2006, or 2007 Internet surveys. As was the case in prior HRS Internet surveys, roughly 20% of the eligible pool was reserved for a control group. A total of 4,433 respondents completed the 2009 Internet Survey, for a simple response rate of 77.2%.

3. Documentation

3A. 2009 Internet Survey Codebook and Data

The codebook file for the 2009 Internet Survey is called net09_r.txt. The 2009 Internet Survey data are at the respondent level. Respondent level files contain questions that were asked of all respondents about themselves and/or their household. The data file contains one record for each respondent who completed the 2009 Internet Survey. The 2009 Internet Survey data file is called net09_r.

The net09_r data file contains 4,433 cases and 501 variables. The primary Identification variables (IDs) are:

HHID	HOUSEHOLD IDENTIFIER
PN	PERSON NUMBER

Records in the data file are sorted in order by HHID and PN. The variable PN refers to the respondent who answered the Internet survey. Identification variables are stored in character format.

Codebook Conventions and Variable Names:

The format of the 2009 Internet Survey codebook is similar to other HRS codebooks. The metadata (e.g., question text and codeframes are derived from the data collection instrument. The variable names generally end with the designation of _09 to indicate 2009 (the data collection year). Exceptions to the _09 designation will be found with preload variables and fill variables.

Preload variable names take the following form with each variable name beginning with the letters P and R:

```
=====
PR_001                PR_001 - SAMPLE REPLICATE
Section: I   Level: RESPONDENT   Type: Numeric   Width: 1   Decimals: 0
Ref: PR_001

    PR_001 - Sample replicate

.....
          4430                1-5. Actual Value
              3                Blank. INAP (Inapplicable); Missing
=====
```

Preload variables contain information from prior waves of HRS data collections, or as in the case above, about the sample.

Fill variable names take the following form with each variable name beginning with the letters F and L:

```
=====
FL_D027_ANDSPPP      FILL PARTNERS AND SPOUSES
Section: I   Level: RESPONDENT   Type: Numeric   Width: 1   Decimals: 0
Ref: FL_D027_ANDSPPP

    User Note: This variable is used in the question text fill in
D027_09.

.....
          151                1. and your partner's
          3269               2. and your spouse's
          1013               Blank. Empty Fill
=====
```

Fill variables are used within the data collection instrument to provide respondents with a date, or to refer to the respondents spouse or partner, or other phrases/conditions unique to a particular question or respondent(s). Notes indicating where fill variables are used are provided.

Calculated variables take the following form with each variable name beginning with the letters C and A:

```
=====
CA_RS_AGE                RESPONDENT AGE
Section: I   Level: RESPONDENT   Type: Numeric   Width: 2   Decimals: 0
              Ref: CA_RS_AGE

              Rs AGE
.....
              4433                32-96.  Actual Value
              52                  Blank.  Missing
=====
```

3B. Internet Questions Source

Questions in the 2009 Internet Survey were often derived from other HRS Surveys (e.g., core survey, Consumption and Activities Mail Survey [CAMS]) and from other extant sources (American Life Panel: http://www.rand.org/labor/roybalfd/american_life.html; National Health Interview Survey). A table indicating the source of the questions in the 2009 Internet Survey is included in the Appendix of this document.

4. Data Quality

Questions skipped: When respondents were shown a question but did not answer it, they were coded as 9 or 99 = QUESTION SKIPPED. The Blank/INAP category is reserved for questions that the respondent did not receive.

5. Distribution Files

The following extensions are used for the six different types of distribution files:

- .DA for data files,
- .SAS for SAS program statements,
- .SPS for SPSS program statements,
- .DO for Stata DO statements,
- .DCT for Stata dictionary statements, and
- .TXT for codebook files.

For example,

```
NET09_R.DA contains ASCII data.
NET09_R.SAS contains corresponding SAS program statements,
NET09_R.SPS contains corresponding SPSS program statements,
NET09_R.DO contains corresponding Stata DO statements,
NET09_R.DCT contains corresponding Stata dictionary statements, and
NET09_R.TXT contains the ASCII codebook.
```

The 2009 Internet Survey Final Release data are provided in ASCII format, with fixed-length records. Use the associated SAS, SPSS or Stata program statements to read the data into the analysis package of your choice. In addition, you will probably want to download the codebook file (NET09_R.TXT) and the data description (this document).

6. Program Statements

6A. Using the Files with SAS

To create a SAS system file for a particular dataset, two file types must be present for that dataset -- .SAS program statement files and .DA data files.

To create a SAS system file, load the *.SAS file into the SAS Program Editor.

If the *.SAS file is located in "c:\net09\sas" and the data file is located in "c:\net09\data", you can run the file as is. A SAS system file (*.SAS7BDAT) will be saved to directory "c:\net09\sas".

If the files are not located in the specified directories, you will need to edit the *.SAS file to reflect the proper path names prior to running the file.

6B. Using the Files with SPSS

To create an SPSS system file for a particular dataset, two file types must be present for that dataset -- .SPS program statement files and .DA data files.

To create an SPSS system file, open the *.SPS file in SPSS as an SPSS Syntax File.

If the *.SPS file is located in "c:\net09\spss" and the data file is located in "c:\net09\data", you can run the file as is. An SPSS system file (*.SAV) will be saved to directory "c:\net09\spss".

If the files are not located in the specified directories, you will need to edit the *.SPS file to reflect the proper path names 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 that 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 by Stata to describe the data. Files with the suffix .DO are short Stata programs ("do files") which you may use to read in the data. Load the .DO file into Stata and then submit it.

If the *.DO and *.DCT files are located in "c:\net09\Stata" and the data file is located in "c:\net09\data", you can run the .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.

Note that the variable names provided in the .DCT files are uppercase. If you prefer lower case variable names, you may wish to convert the .DCT files to lower case prior to use. You may do this by reading the .DCT file into a text or word processing program and changing the case. For instance in Microsoft Word, Edit, Select All, Format, Change Case, lowercase.

7. Obtaining the Data

7A. Registration 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 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, Room 3050
P.O. Box 1248
Ann Arbor, MI (USA) 48106-1248

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

8. If You Need to Know More

This document is intended to serve as a brief overview and to provide guidelines to using the Internet 2009 Final Release (Version 1.0) data. If you have questions or concerns that are not adequately covered here or on our Web site, 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.

<http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/>

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: hqsquest@isr.umich.edu

Postal service:
Health and Retirement Study
The Institute for Social Research, Room 3050
The University of Michigan
P.O. Box 1248
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248

FAX: (734) 647-1186

Appendix

Table of 2009 Internet Variables, Their Source, and Original Name

2009 Internet Varname	Source	Original Varname
A001_09	2006 HRS Internet survey	I2_CONNECT
A002_09	2006 HRS Internet survey	I2_EMAIL
A003_09	2006 HRS Internet survey	I2_CONNECT
A004_09	2006 HRS Internet survey	I2_CONNECT
A005_09	2006 HRS Internet survey	I2_CONNECT
A006_09	2006 HRS Internet survey	I2_CONNECT
A007_09	2006 HRS Internet survey	I2_CONNECT
A008_09	2006 HRS Internet survey	I2_CONNECT
A009M1_09-A009M15_09	2008 HRS	LJ005M7
A011_09	2008 HRS	LB082
B001_09	2008 HRS	LC001
B003_09	2007 DVS	A04_07
B004_09	2007 DVS	A02_07
B006_09	2008 HRS	LC065
B007_09	2008 HRS	LC104
B008_09	2008 HRS	LC105
B009_09	2008 HRS	LC106
B010_09	2008 HRS	LC117
B013_09	2008 HRS	LC128
B014_09	2008 HRS	LC129
B015_09	2008 HRS	LC130
B016_09	2008 HRS	LC131
C001_09	2008 HRS Psychosocial Questionnaire (SAQ)	LLB039a
C002_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB039b
C003_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB039c
C004_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB039d
C005_09	American Life Panel (ALP)	MS6
C006_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB039e
C007_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB039f
C008_09	2008 ALP	VS301
C009_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB039g
C010_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB019a
C011_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB019b
C012_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB019c
C013_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB019d

C014_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB019e
C015_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB019f
C016_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB019g
C017_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB019h
C018_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB019i
C019_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB019j
C020_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB022a
C021_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB022b
C022_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB022c
C023_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB022d
C024_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB022e
C025_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB023a
C026_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB023b
C027_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB023c
C028_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB023d
C029_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB023e
C030_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB024
C031_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB026
C033_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027a
C034_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027b
C035_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027c
C036_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027d
C037_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027e
C038_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027f
C039_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027g
C040_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027h
C041_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027i
C042_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027j
C043_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027k
C044_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027l
C045_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027m
C046_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027n
C047_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027o
C048_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027p
C049_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027q
C050_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027r
C051_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027s
C052_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027t
C053_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027u
C054_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027v
C055_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027w

C056_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027x
C057_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB027y
C058_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB040
C059_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB043
C060_09	2008 HRS-SAQ	LLB044
C061_09	2008 HRS	LD110
C062_09	2008 HRS	LD111
C063_09	2008 HRS	LD112
C064_09	2008 HRS	LD113
C065_09	2008 HRS	LD114
C066_09	2008 HRS	LD115
C067_09	2008 HRS	LD116
C068_09	2008 HRS	LD117
C069_09	2008 HRS	LD118
D002_09	2008 ALP	F003
D003_09-D110_09	2008 ALP	F004
D004_09	2008 HRS	LJ007
D005_09	2008 HRS	LJ008
D006_09	2008 HRS	LP020
D007_09	2008 HRS	LJ010
D008_09	2008 HRS	LJ011
D009_09	2008 HRS	LJ012
D010_09	2008 HRS	LJ014
D011_09	2008 HRS	LJ015
D012_09	2008 HRS	LJ017
D013_09	2008 HRS	LJ018
D014_09	2008 ALP	F006
D015_09-D111_09	2008 ALP	F007
D016_09-D112_09	2008 HRS	LP016
D017_09	2008 HRS	LP017
D018_09	2008 HRS	LP123
D019_09	2008 HRS	LP018
D020_09	2008 ALP	PP002_a
D021_09	2008 ALP	HU001
D022_09	2008 ALP	HU001_a
D023_09	2008 ALP	HU001_a_NR_DK
D024_09	2008 ALP	HU003
D025_09	2008 ALP	HU003_a
D026_09	2008 ALP	HU003_a_NR_DK
D027_09	2008 ALP	HU003_b
D028_09	2008 ALP	HU003_b_NR_DK

D029_09	2008 ALP	HU003_c
D030_09	2008 ALP	HU003_d
D031_09	2008 ALP	HU003_d1_inc_amount
D032_09	2008 ALP	HU003_d1_inc_percentage
D033_09	2008 ALP	HU003_d1_inc_NR_DK
D034_09	2008 ALP	HU003_d2_inc_ex
D035_09	2008 ALP	HU003_d1_dec_amount
D036_09	2008 ALP	HU003_d1_dec_percentage
D037_09	2008 ALP	HU003_d1_dec_NR_DK
D038_09	2008 ALP	HU003_d2_dec_ex
D039_09	2008 HRS	LH319
D040_09	2008 HRS	LH320
D041M1_09-D041M4_09	2008 HRS	LH321
D042_09	2008 HRS	LH323
D043M1_09-D043M4_09	2008 HRS	LH324
D044_09	2008 ALP	HU002
D045_09	2008 ALP	HU002_c_year
D046_09	2008 ALP	HU002_c_month
D048_09	2008 ALP	HU002_a_amount
D049_09	2008 ALP	HU002_a_percent
D050_09	2008 ALP	HU002_a_NR_DK
D051_09	2008 ALP	HU002_b_amount
D052_09	2008 ALP	HU002_b_percent
D053_09	2008 ALP	HU002_b_NR_DK
D064_09	2008 HRS	LW352
D065_09	2008 HRS	LW351
D066_09	2008 HRS	LW353
D067_09	2008 HRS	LW354
D068_09	2008 HRS	LW355
D069_09	2008 ALP	W356_a
D070_09	2008 HRS	LW357
D071m1_09-D071M4_09	2008 HRS	LW358M5
D073_09	2008 HRS	LW360
D074m1_09-D074M4_09	2008 HRS	LW361M1
D075_09	2008 HRS	LW362
D076m1_09-D076M4_09	2008 HRS	LW363M2
D077_09	2008 HRS	LW364
D078_09	2008 ALP	W365_b
D079_09	2008 HRS	LW366
D080m1_09-D080M4_09	2008 HRS	LW367M4
D113_09	2008 HRS	LJ583

D114_09	2008 HRS	LJ584
D115_09	2008 HRS	LJ586
D116_09	2008 HRS	LJ586
D117_09	2008 HRS	LJ586
D118_09	2008 HRS	LJ586
E028b_09	2008 HRS	LP005
E029_09	2008 HRS	LP006
E030_09	2008 HRS	LP059
E031_09	2008 HRS	LP007
F001_09	Short Test of Functional Health Literacy in Adults (STOFHLA)	pg. 25 #1
F003_09	Test of Functional Health Literacy in Adults (TOFHLA)	pg. 25 #1
F004_09	TOFHLA	pg. 25 #1
F005_09	TOFHLA	pg. 33 #5
F006_09	TOFHLA	pg. 33 #5
F007_09	TOFHLA	pg. 33 #5
F008_09	TOFHLA	pg. 29 #8
F009_09	TOFHLA	pg. 29 #8
F010_09	Short Test of Functional Health Literacy in Adults (STOFHLA)	Pg. 5
F011_09	STOFHLA-Reading Comprehension Passage A	Pg. 5
F012_09	STOFHLA-Reading Comprehension Passage A	Pg. 5
F013_09	STOFHLA-Reading Comprehension Passage A	Pg. 5
F014_09	STOFHLA-Reading Comprehension Passage A	Pg. 5
F015_09	STOFHLA-Reading Comprehension Passage A	Pg. 7
F016_09	STOFHLA-Reading Comprehension Passage A	Pg. 7
F018_09	National Survey of Medical Decisions (NSMD, Couper)	CC18a_ CCKnowDeaths
F019_09	NSMD	CC18b_ CCKnowDiagnosed
F020_09	NSMD	CC18c_ CCKnowReduceRisk
F023_09	NSMD	CC18f_1_ CCKnowTestingFrequency1
F026_09	1985 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)	Section S, Q4a
F027_09	1985 NHIS	Section S, Q4b
F028_09	1985 NHIS	Section S, Q4c
F029_09	1985 NHIS	Section S, Q4d

F030_09	1985 NHIS	Section S, Q4e
F031_09	1985 NHIS	Section S, Q4f
F032_09	1985 NHIS	Section S, Q4g
F033_09	1985 NHIS	Section S, Q4h
F034_09	1985 NHIS	Section T, Q9a
F035_09	1985 NHIS	Section T, Q9b
F036_09	1985 NHIS	Section T, Q9c
F037_09	1985 NHIS	Section T, Q9d
F038_09	1985 NHIS	Section T, Q9e
F039_09	1985 NHIS	Section T, Q9f
F041_09	1985 NHIS	Section R, Q7a
F042_09	1985 NHIS	Section R, Q7b
F043_09	1985 NHIS	Section R, Q7c
G067_09	2008 HRS	LP047
G068_09	2008 HRS	LP113
G069_09	2008 HRS	LP150
G070_09	2008 HRS	LP150
G071_09	ALP	ST014
G072_09	ALP	ST014_a
G073_09	ALP	ST015
G074_09	ALP	ST016
G075_09	2008 HRS	LP097
G076_09	ALP	ALP ST018
H001_09	ALP	SC001
H003_09	ALP	SC002_percentage
H005_09	ALP	SC002_brackets
H020a_09	ALP	SC004
H021_09	ALP	SC005a
H022_09	ALP	SC005b
H024_09	ALP	SC005b
H025_09	ALP	SC005b
H026_09	ALP	SC005b
H027_09	ALP	SC005b
H028_09	ALP	SC005c
H029_09	ALP	SC005a
H031_09	CAMS	B1_07
H032_09	CAMS	B2_07
H033_09	CAMS	B3_07
H034_09	CAMS	B4_07
H035_09	CAMS	B5_07
H036_09	CAMS	B6_07

H037_09	CAMS	B1a_07-B1c_07
H038_09	CAMS	B2a_07
H039_09	CAMS	B3a_07
H040_09	CAMS	B4a_07
H041_09	CAMS	B5a_07
H042_09	CAMS	B6a_07
H043a_09	CAMS	B9_07
H044a_09	CAMS	B10_07
H045a_09	CAMS	B11_07
H046a_09	CAMS	B23a_07-B23c_07
H047a_09	CAMS	B29a_07-B29c_07
H048a_09	CAMS	B31a_07-B31c_07
H049a_09	CAMS	B32a_07-B32c_07
H050a_09	CAMS	B37a_07-B27d_07
H051a_09	CAMS	B38a_07-B38d_07
H052a_09	CAMS	B39a_07-B39d_07
H054_09	2008 HRS	LQ518
H055_09	2008 HRS	LQ519
H056_09	2008 HRS	LQ520-LQ522
H058_09	ALP	SC010
H059_09	ALP	SC010_NR_DK
I001_09	SCA	A2
I002_09	SCA	A3
I003_09	SCA	A4
I004_09	SCA	A8
I005_09	SCA	A18