

# RAND HRS 2020 Fat File

August 2025

## 1). Important Things to Note:

- a). The RAND HRS 2020 Fat File is based on HRS 2020 Core (Final V1.0, May 2023) data, and the HRS Tracker 2020 (Final V1.0, January 2024) file.
- b). The RAND HRS 2020 Fat File does not include the raw variables from the pension (PR\_P) or jobs (PR\_JB) preloads sections. The raw variables from the pension (J\_P) section, however, are included in the Fat Files, and have been transposed to the Respondent level.
- c). The RAND HRS 2020 Fat File (V1B) corrects an issue for Respondent preload RZ099, as well as the Respondent data model and Section A ending mode variables RVDATE and RAMODE, which were being overwritten by household module variables. This is corrected and the household preload variable has been added and renamed as RX099 following the naming convention established in the HRS 2022 Core data.
- d). RAND HRS Fat File documentation can be found on the [RAND Center for the Study of Aging](#) website. Please note, however, that these documents are unlike traditional codebooks in the sense that they do not contain information about specific variables from the survey (e.g., frequencies, question text, etc.). For this, we recommend that users examine the [HRS Codebooks](#) and [HRS Questionnaires](#) for the key variables under study.
- e). The Health and Retirement Study (HRS) is a longitudinal household survey conducted by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan with funding from the National Institute on Aging (grant number NIA U01AG009740) and the Social Security Administration. The HRS is extraordinarily rich and complex, and its multidisciplinary data provide researchers the opportunity to investigate many different aspects related to population aging in the United States. With the goal of making the data more accessible to researchers, the RAND Center for the Study of Aging, with funding and support from the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the Social Security Administration (SSA), has created the RAND HRS data products. This document describes the RAND HRS 2020 Fat File.
- f). For citation instructions, please see the [RAND HRS Citation Instructions webpage](#).

2). RAND HRS Data Distribution Files:

Distribution File Name	Included Files	Description
h20f1b_SAS.zip	h20f1b.sas7bdat	Dataset (SAS)
	h20f1b.cont	Contents listing (SAS)
	hrs20.fmt	Formats (SAS)
h20f1b_SPSS.zip	h20f1b.sav	Dataset (SPSS)
h20f1b_STATA.zip	h20f1b.dta	Dataset (STATA SE)

NOTE: All of the ZIP packages in the above table include this file as well (README\_fat20.pdf).