

RAND HRS 2018 Fat File

August 2025

1). Important Things to Note:

- a). The RAND HRS 2018 Fat File is based on HRS 2018 Core (Final V2.0, May 2022) data, and the HRS Tracker 2020 (Early V2.0, December 2022) file.
- b). The RAND HRS 2018 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). In 2020, one Respondent married another HRS Respondent. HHIDPN=541986010, married HHIDPN=541110010. In this file, we changed HHIDPN=541986010 to be HHIDPN=541110020. We also updated HHID and PN to reflect this change. We set the sub-household ID (QSUBHH) for HHIDPN=541110020 to 1 until they marry in 2020, at which point we set it to 0, to match their spouse. This ensures they are recorded as a separate household until they marry in 2020.
- d). The RAND HRS 2018 Fat File (V1C) corrects an issue for the Respondent data model and Section A ending mode variables QVDATE and QAMODE which were being overwritten by household module variables.
- 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). 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.
- g). For citation instructions, please see the [RAND HRS Citation Instructions webpage](#).

2). RAND HRS Data Distribution Files:

Distribution File Name	Included Files	Description
h18f2c_SAS.zip	h18f2c.sas7bdat	Dataset (SAS)
	h18f2c.cont	Contents listing (SAS)
	hrs18.fmt	Formats (SAS)
h18f2c_SPSS.zip	h18f2c.sav	Dataset (SPSS)
h18f2c_STATA.zip	h18f2c.dta	Dataset (STATA SE)

NOTE: All of the ZIP packages in the above table include this file as well (README_fat18.pdf).