

GSS on the Web

Data and documentation on the GSS exist several places on the Internet.

For a guide to these sites go to:

www.gss.norc.org

2008 Data

The GSS is in transition from a replicating, cross-sectional design to a design using rolling panels. In 2008 the new 2008 panel had 2,023 cases and the reinterview of the 2,000 2006 GSS respondents yielded 1,536 cases for a total of 3,559. The 2008 data are available from the GSS website in three forms. First, the 2008 cross-sectional data are combined with all previous years in the traditional, 1972-2008 cumulative file. This file has 2,023 respondents from 2008 and 53,043 cases overall. Second, the 2008 cross-sectional sample and the 2008 reinterviews from the 2006 cross-section are merged together in a combined 2008 sample of 3,559 cases. Finally, the 2006 cross-section and their 2008 reinterviews are organized as a panel file. There were 2,000 cases in 2006 and 1,536 were reinterviewed in 2008.

2010 Data

The GSS is switching from a repeating, cross-section design to a combined repeating cross-section and panel-component design. The 2006 GSS is the base year for the first panel. A sub-sample of 2,000 GSS cases from 2006 was selected for reinterview in 2008 and again in 2010 as part of the GSSs in those years. The 2008 GSS consists of a new cross-section plus the reinterviews from 2006. The 2010 GSS will consist of another new cross-section of about 2,000, the second reinterview wave of the 1,536 2006 panel cases and the first reinterview wave of the 2,023 2008 panel cases. The 2010 GSS will be the first one to fully implement the new, combined design. In 2012 and later GSSs, there will likewise be a fresh cross-section, wave two panel cases from the immediately preceding GSS and wave three panel cases from the next earlier GSS.

The 2010 topical modules are on 1) aging, 2) the Internet, 3) shared capitalism 4) gender roles, 5) intergroup relations, 6) immigration, 7) meeting spouse, 8) knowledge about and attitudes towards science, 8) religious identity, 9) religious trends, repeating a number of previous GSS items, 10) genetics, 11) veterans, 12) crime and victimization, 12) social network and group membership, and 13) sexual behavior (continuing the series started in 1988).

The International Social Survey Program (ISSP) modules are on social inequality and the environment. The social inequality module is the fourth administration of this topic having been previously fielded in 1987, 1992, and 1999. The environment module is the third administration having previously appeared in 1993-94 and 2000.

In addition to the continued support of the National Science Foundation (NSF) the 2010 GSS received funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the University of Notre Dame, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and Rutgers University.

The latest GSS data, 1972-2008, are available from 1) the Roper Center, Box 440, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, 06268. Phone (860) 486-4882 Fax: (860) 486-4882, EMAIL: lois@ropercenter.uconn.edu; 2) the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), Box 1248, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, 48106. Phone (313) 763-5010. EMAIL: netmail@icpsr.umich.edu; 3) the Survey Documentation Archive at the University of California, Berkeley at <http://sda.berkeley.edu/archive.htm>; and 4) at GSS's own site at www.gss.norc.org.

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ISSP Data Available

The Zentralarchiv fuer Empirische Sozialforschung at the University of Cologne has released merged files for the 2006 Role of Government IV module and the 2007 Sports and Leisure module. The 2008 Religion module should be available in the second half of 2010. See <http://www.gesis.org/issp> ■

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At the annual meeting of the ISSP held in Lisbon on May 2-5, 2010 the group finalized the content of the 2011 module on the Health Policy. For 2012 the topic will be the fourth administration on Family, Work, and Gender. For 2013 the module will be the third fielding of National Identity. Israel is chairing the Health Policy drafting group. Sweden and Germany will co-chair the Family, Work, and Gender drafting group, and the United States will chair the National Identity drafting

group. Israel chaired its first meeting as the new ISSP Secretariat. The 2011 ISSP meeting will be in Guadalajara, Mexico.

For the 2008 module on Religion, support from the Templeton Foundation allowed the study to be carried out in five non-ISSP countries: India, Indonesia, Kenya, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania.

The ISSP now has 46 countries as members:

Argentina	Croatia	France	Japan	Russia	The Netherlands
Australia	Cyprus	Germany	Korea (South)	Slovakia	The Philippines
Austria	Czech Republic	Great Britain	Latvia	Slovenia	The United States
Belgium	Denmark	Hungary	Mexico	South Africa	Turkey
Bulgaria	Dominican Republic	Iceland	New Zealand	Spain	Ukraine
Canada	Estonia	Ireland	Norway	Sweden	Uruguay
Chile	Finland	Israel	Poland	Switzerland	Venezuela
China		Italy	Portugal	Taiwan	

About 4,200 research uses have been documented using ISSP data. A copy of the bibliography is available by contacting the ISSP secretariat or from the ISSP Web site (see below). Among the latest publications are an edited volume celebrating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the ISSP (Max Haller, Roger Jowell, and Tom W. Smith, eds., *The International Social Survey Programme, 1984-2009: Charting the Globe*. London: Routledge, 2009) and a collection on the citizenship module (Annamari Konttinen, ed., *Civic Mind and Good Citizenship: Comparative Perspectives*. Tampere: Tampere University Press, 2009).

ISSP documentation and information can be obtained at the following Web sites:

<http://www.gesis.org/issp/>

<http://www.issp.org/>

Computer Audio Recorded Interviewing (CARI)

The 2008 and 2010 GSSs had segments of the interview captured using an internal audio recorder in the laptops. This is being used to a) help validate interviews, b) check and improve the quality of open-end information being collected (e.g. contact data and reports on occupation and industry), and c) study the details of discourse. General information on CARI can be found in Tom W. Smith and John Sokolowski,

“Using Audio-Visuals in Surveys,” in *The Handbook of Emergent Technologies in Social Research*, edited by Sharlene Hesse-Biber. Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming. Analysis of the 2008 results are reported in Tom W. Smith, “An Analysis of Computer Audio Recorded Interviews (CARI) on the 2008 General Social Survey,” GSS Methodological Report No. 117. Chicago: NORC, 2009.

Voting for Blacks and Women for President

The GSS had had items asking about willingness to vote for a black or woman for president, but had discontinued both series due to the high, skewed level of support for such hypothetical candidates. The black (RACPRES) series was ended in 1996 and the women (FEPRES) series in 1998. In 2008, the chief candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination were of course a Black (Obama) and a woman (Clinton). Support for a black and women candidate was high in 2008 (respectively 92% and 93%). In general support for such candidates has been higher for liberals and Democrats than for conservative and Republicans. The general partisan pattern is often altered when there is a prominent, actual black or female candidate. The largest example of this effect occurred in 1996 when the possibility of Colin-Powell candidacy for the Republican nomination led Republicans to express more support than Democrats did for a black candidate for president. This was the only year in which the usual partisan relationship reversed. See Tom W. Smith, "Trends in Willingness to Vote for a Black and Woman for President, 1972-2008," GSS Social Change Report No. 55. Chicago: NORC, 2009.



The Shape of Societal Change

To assess non-linearity in social change relationships, 135 dependent variables are run against Age, Period (Year), Birth Cohort, and Education in the NORC General Social Survey 1972-2006. Raw score OLS regressions are compared with dummy variable (non-linear) versions of the four predictors. The main conclusions: while few relationships are perfectly linear, the majority are reasonably monotonic. However, for each of the four predictors subsets of variables have distinctive shapes of substantive importance. See James A. Davis, "On the Shapes of Social Change," GSS Social Change Report No. 56. Chicago: NORC, 2009.



Abortion Rights Across Cohorts

Support for legal abortion rose across cohorts (average increase of 10.3 percentage points) to a peak for the 1944-53 cohort, then declined to a record low among those born in 1984 or later (average decline of 11.5 percentage points). This inverted v-shaped trend is rare among gender and sexual attitudes which generally become more liberal across cohorts. See Tom W. Smith, "An Analysis of Cohort Differences on Abortion Attitudes, 1972-2006," GSS Social Change Report No. 57. Chicago: NORC, 2009.

New Vocabulary Words

On the 2008 GSS four additional words were added to the 10-item vocabulary scale. They were chosen to be of moderate difficulty and thus fill in a gap between easy and hard items in the original scale. They performed as designed. See Tom W. Smith, "An Analysis of the New Vocabulary Items on the 2008 General Social Survey," GSS Methodological Report No. 115. Chicago: NORC, 2009.

Development of GSS Modules and Core Content

The GSS is led by Tom W. Smith (Principal Investigator), Peter V. Marsden and Michael Hout (co-PIs), and James A. Davis (PI emeritus) and a Board of Overseers. The Board is chaired by Mark Chaves and the other members are Deborah Carr, Camille Z. Charles, William Darity, Claude Fischer, Jeremy Freese, Claudine Gay, Andrew Gelman, Kathleen Mullan Harris, Leslie McCall, Stephen Morgan, and Robert Sampson. When deciding on the content of the GSS, the PIs and Board enlist a wide range of scholars to develop modules, review core content, plan methodological experiments, and advise on the survey's design. Below are the principal researchers who proposed and helped to develop various content for the 2010 GSS:

Aging and Intergenerational Relations – Deborah Carr, Rutgers University, Suzanne Bianchi, University of Maryland, Kenneth Ferraro, Purdue University, Ellen Idler, Rutgers University, Merrill Silverstein, University of Southern California, Angela O'Rand, Duke University, Judith Seltzer, University of California-Los Angeles, Linda Waite, University of Chicago, David Weir, University of Michigan

Crime and Punishment – Jeff Manza, New York University, Robert Sampson, Harvard University, Bruce Western, Harvard University, James Wright, Central Florida University

Education – Megan Andrew, University of Wisconsin, Robert Hauser, University of Wisconsin, Robert D. Mare, UCLA, Sinyi Cheung, Birmingham University, Regina Diel-Amen, University of Arizona, Robert Warren, University of Minnesota

Gender – David A. Cotter, Union College, Joan M. Hermsen, University of Missouri-Columbia, Jeffrey W. Lucas, University of Maryland, Melissa A. Milkie, University of Maryland, Reeve Vanneman, University of Maryland

Genetics – Jennifer Hochschild, Harvard University, Gail Henderson, University of North Carolina, Eleanor Singer, University of Michigan

Immigration – Neeraj Kaushal and Francisco L. Rivera-Batiz, Columbia University

Intergroup Relations – Camille Charles, University of Pennsylvania, Paul Croll, Augustana College, Tyrone Forman, Emory University, Matt Hunt, Northeastern University, Maria Krysan, University of Illinois at Chicago, Amanda Lewis, Emory University, Monica McDermott, Stanford University, Marylee Taylor, Pennsylvania State University, David Wilson, University of Delaware

Internet – John Robinson, University of Maryland, Paul DiMaggio, Princeton University

Meeting Spouse – Robert D. Mare, UCLA, Christine Schwartz, University of Wisconsin

Networks and Group Memberships – Lynn Smith-Lovin, Duke University, Miller McPherson, University of Arizona, Pamela Paxton, Ohio State University, Claude Fischer, University of California, Berkeley

Politics and government – Claudine Gay, Harvard University, Robert Shapiro, Columbia University, James Stimson, University of North Carolina, Jennifer Hochschild, Harvard University, Mark Ramirez, Texas A & M University, Ismail White, Ohio State University, Ted Brader, University of Michigan, Kathleen Tobin-Flusser, Marist College, Josh Klein, Sacred Heart University, David Rohall, Western Illinois University, Arthur Stinchcombe, Northwestern University

Social Inequality – Leslie McCall, Northwestern University

Veterans – Andrew S. London and Janet M. Wilmoth, Syracuse University

Peter V. Marsden and James D. Wright are editors of the 2nd Edition of the Handbook of Survey Research (Bingley: Emerald, 2010). The book has 28 chapters and many cover the GSS and/or ISSP. These include contributions on applied sampling by Rachel Harter et al., the psychology of survey response by Roger Tourangeau and Norman M. Bradburn, nonresponse by John Dixon and Clyde Tucker, cross-national surveys by Tom W. Smith, and analyzing repeated surveys by Glenn Firebaugh.

Acquiring Sensitive Data

The GSS can provide restricted data that includes state, primary sampling unit, county, and Census tract information. However, the GSS requires that all information that might identify respondents to the survey be kept secure, and thus the GSS requires a formal application process be followed to obtain sensitive data. Any request for GSS information must include a research plan, Curriculum Vitae for all members of the project, a human subjects review clearance, and a Sensitive Data Protection Plan which will describe how the data will be handled. This includes identifying all persons who will have access to information and how they will be able to access the information. A description of where the data will be physically located (including where removable drives will be kept) must be included as well as the exact ways in which the system the data will be processed on is secured. A plan for how duplication of data, including automatic backing up of files, will be prevented as well as how printing out the data will be restricted. The GSS also requires that all results derived from the data it provides be treated with the same level of security as that which applies to the data given by the GSS in first place. Once all application materials are approved, a contract for the use of sensitive data will be established for all relevant parties. For further details on GSS requirements regarding this issue, including necessary fees, please see the following:

<http://www.norc.org/NR/rdonlyres/21C53AAC-1267-43B6-A915A38857DC9D63/1643/ObtainingGSSSensitiveDataFiles1.pdf>

General Social Survey

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