

PSID SAMPLE: AMERICA'S FAMILY TREE [↗](#)

The original PSID sample of roughly 18,000 people in 5,000 households consisted of a nationally representative sample and an oversample of low-income families. The oversample was included to facilitate investigations of poverty-related issues. PSID data include economic, social, and health information collected using in-person, telephone, and computer-assisted interviewing methods. PSID families are followed regardless of where they live. The sample grows naturally as children and grandchildren from these families form their own households and are invited to join the PSID. Samples of immigrants have been added to the PSID in 1997/1999 and 2017/2019 so that the sample continues to closely resemble the national population, making PSID America's Family Tree.

CONTENT OF CURRENT QUESTIONNAIRE [↗](#)

Employment	Education
Wages & Income	Marriage & Fertility
Expenditures	Health Status
Wealth	Health Behaviors
Mortgage Distress & Foreclosures	Health Insurance
Pensions	Program Participation
Philanthropy	Computer Use & Technology
Time Use	Housing Characteristics



STUDY DIRECTION AND OVERSIGHT [↗](#)

PSID is directed by faculty at the University of Michigan, with data collection conducted by the Survey Research Operations group within the Survey Research Center at the U-M Institute for Social Research. An external Board of Overseers, comprised of leading scientists from various disciplines, provides scientific input to the project.

SPONSORSHIP [↗](#)

Major sponsorship of the PSID is provided by: the National Science Foundation, the National Institute on Aging, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute on Child Health and Human Development, the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

DATA ACCESS: PSID.org [↗](#)

All waves of the PSID and study supplements are accessible via the PSID Data Center, which provides:

- Automatic merges of all waves of data from the PSID and its major supplements
- Customized codebooks and data extracts in a variety of formats including SAS, Stata, SPSS, Excel, and text
- Instructional web [tutorials](#), [bibliographies](#), [technical papers](#), and [user documentation](#)

Some types of PSID data are available only under a [restricted contract](#). These include but are not limited to: geospatial data below the level of state; mortality data; assisted housing data from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Medicare claims; and educational characteristics from the National Center for Education Statistics.

DATA ON PHILANTHROPY

M PANEL STUDY OF INCOME DYNAMICS



PSID.org [↗](#)

PSID

PSID OVERVIEW

The PSID is the world's longest running nationally representative household panel survey. With over 50 years of data on the same families and their descendants, the PSID is a cornerstone of the data infrastructure for empirically based social science research in the U.S. The PSID gathers data on the family as a whole and on individuals residing within the family, emphasizing the dynamic and interactive aspects of family economics, demography, and health. PSID data were collected annually from 1968-1997 and biennially after 1997.

With low attrition and high success in following young adults as they form their own families, the sample size has grown from roughly 5,000 families in 1968 to more than 9,200 families and 24,000 individuals by 2021. The PSID has distributed data on more than 84,000 individuals over the course of the study, collected through 2023.

PHILANTHROPY OVERVIEW

A series of questions on philanthropic giving and volunteer time was added to the PSID in 2001 and versions of this series have been collected in every wave since. The PSID is the only social science panel survey collecting data on the combination of charitable giving, volunteering, and religious attendance. The charitable giving data describe the giving done by the family unit as a whole, while volunteering data are separately available for both the reference person and spouse/partner in married and cohabiting families.

The charitable giving data include religious giving. These data, along with the religious affiliation data, make the data well-suited for the study of religious giving, and volunteering, within the PSID's rich context of families' economic, social, health, and demographic circumstances. The available waves of data can be linked to each other, providing the nation's only detailed giving data collected in a major panel survey.

CHARITABLE GIVING

Starting in 2001, respondents reported information on charitable giving in the domains of purpose for giving, which family member was involved in the decision about giving and to what extent, and charitable type, including:

- Religious - church, synagogue, mosque, TV or radio ministry
- Health care and medical research - hospitals, heart associations, or telethons
- Educational - colleges, grade schools, PTAs, or scholarship funds
- Youth or family services - scouting, sports leagues, or foster care
- The arts, culture, or ethnic awareness - museum or public broadcasting
- Improving neighborhoods - community associations or service clubs
- Preserving the environment - conservation efforts, animal protection, or parks
- International aid or world peace - children's funds, disaster relief, or human rights
- Organizations that help people in need of food, shelter, or other basic necessities
- Organizations that serve a combination of purposes, such as the United Way
- In 2021, a series was added asking about donations made during the COVID-19 pandemic.

VOLUNTEERING

A short module on volunteering was also added in 2001 asking for information on time spent volunteering. This module was expanded in subsequent waves to include



detailed information for the reference person and spouse/partner on hours spent, and through which of the following types of organizations: religious, for children and youth, for senior citizens, for people in poor health, for people in need of basic necessities, for social change, and any other type of organization.

RELIGIOSITY

In addition to the religious giving and religious volunteering questions described above, respondents reported their religious affiliation (if any) and the affiliation of their spouse/partner.

HELP RECEIVED

Starting in 1999, respondents reported whether they received help from a community group, church, or other place of worship, as well as from family and friends or the government. The types of help include: transportation; housing; child care; health care; finding a job; job training; food; clothing; and covering other expenses.

POTENTIAL RESEARCH AREAS

- Inter- generational connections, including between parents and adult children, and siblings
- Life course modeling: Baby boomers can be followed from childhood to adulthood and into retirement
- Policy panel analysis: Modeling philanthropic behavior before and after policy changes
- The association between labor market behavior and volunteering to study the human capital of workers
- Neighborhood and other geocode data can be used under confidential contract to examine issues such as government support of local nonprofit organizations
- Aging and health: The relationship between volunteering and health
- The association between religiosity and a variety of economic behaviors can be studied, including labor market behavior, savings behavior, risky behavior, and philanthropic behavior

