INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH • SURVEY RESEARCH CENTER
# PANEL STUDY OF INCOME DYNAMICS
## UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

# An Overview of Data Comparisons between PSID and Other US Household Surveys

Noura E. Insolera
Beth A. Simmert
David S. Johnson
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

September 2021

# 1. Introduction

The Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) is the world's longest running national household panel survey. Begun in 1968, the study has followed original sample members and their descendants for over 50 years. In order to assess data quality, PSID releases technical papers and other estimates to compare the panel's findings to those of other nationally representative surveys in the United States. The objective of this technical paper is to present a brief overview of these comparisons for the topics of income, expenditures, health, wealth, and time use.

We begin with an overview of the PSID. Next, we describe each associated study and the domain specific information they and PSID have collected. Finally, we include estimates of the relationship between the measures used in PSID and each study through the 2019 wave.

# 2. PSID Overview

The PSID is conducted by faculty at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research. It began in 1968 with a sample of over 18,000 individuals in around 4,800 households. The PSID sample design is unique in that it follows not only the original 1968 sample members but also their descendants as they leave home to form their own independent economic family units. The rules for following individuals were designed to maintain a representative sample of families at any point in time as well as across time. In single-headed households, in depth questions are asked about the Reference Person (Head before 2017); in couple-headed households information is gathered about both Spouses/Partners. One respondent per family unit is interviewed in each wave, typically by telephone with a relatively smaller number being interviewed in person. Questions are also asked about other members of the family unit

(McGonagle, Schoeni et al. 2012).

The initial focus of the PSID was on changes in employment, income, and other conditions related to poverty. Over the life of the survey, content has been added to include many other domains that may influence the life course. Due to the length of the panel, its genealogical design, and broad content area PSID is uniquely positioned to provide a wide variety of information on multiple generations of families across time. Over the last 50 years, PSID has collected data on more than 82,000 people, and as many as seven generations within sample families are represented.

**3.      Household Income: Comparisons to the Current Population Survey**

PSID income measures are compared to the March Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS includes about 60,000 households and is conducted by the US Census Bureau. Households are in the survey for four consecutive months, out for eight months, and then return for another 4 months, before exiting the study permanently. This scheme allows for the constant replenishment of the sample. The CPS is administered both in person and through telephone interviews.

The comparison of PSID and CPS data is not straightforward as the surveys use different definitions of "family." The sample following rules for PSID require adopting a broader definition of family that encompasses unmarried couples living together and sharing resources, as well as single-person "families." In order to obtain the most comparable estimates of income, we base our analysis on the CPS household unit definition instead of the PSID's definition of family unit. If you would like more information about the PSID and CPS income comparisons, please see Gouskova, Andreski, and Schoeni (2010).

Figure 1 presents the comparisons between PSID and CPS income data for 1967-2018, which were asked in 1968-2019 about the previous calendar year. As can be seen, at almost all points in the distribution before 2016 we find that the estimates based on the PSID are higher than the estimates based on the CPS. This is especially true for the top 20% of the distribution, where the gap between the estimates is more pronounced. In contrast, the magnitude of difference for 1967-2014 is fairly constant across the entire distribution. In 2016, though, we see a convergence of estimates, where from the 60th percentile and above CPS's estimates are higher than PSID's estimates, which can be linked to the redesign of the CPS instrument. Irrespective of this as yet fully explained difference, the close agreement in trends over time is remarkable given the substantial differences between the two surveys and the amount of change that both surveys have undergone.

**4.      Expenditures: Comparisons to the Consumer Expenditures Survey**

PSID expenditure measures are compared to the Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE). CE is collected by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) with the goal of informing estimates of the Consumer Price Index. The sample is drawn from the US Census Bureau and the interviews are conducted primarily in person, with some telephone interviewing. The family is re-interviewed every three months and expense diaries are collected for those three months. After their fourth consecutive interview, the family is dropped from the survey and replaced by another Census Bureau family. This rolling sample design means that about 25% of the sample is refreshed every quarter.

Although the expenditure categories are fairly similar between PSID and CE, the CE survey collects information at a more granular level. PSID estimates are released in nine broad

categories, some of which are further divided into subcategories, while the CE assigns each expense into one of several hundred Universal Classification Codes (UCC). CE UCC codes have been aggregated in order to match the categories in PSID. Please see Andreski, Li, Samancioglu, and Schoeni (2014) for more information on the detailed steps taken to map the CE survey data to PSID.

Table 1 presents the comparisons between PSID and CE data for 2005-2019. Note that all amounts are reported in nominal dollars, as we do not adjust for inflation. Using these comparable definitions, total expenditures align closely over time with an average ratio of PSID to CE equal to one. In addition, for nearly all of the nine broad categories measured, PSID and CE estimates align closely in amount and/or trend & pattern. For example, PSID and CE estimates for food, housing, transportation, and health care are very similar over time, with food (PSID=$9,172; CE=$8,915) and transportation (PSID=$9,021; CE=$8,624) estimates slightly higher in the PSID-2019, housing (PSID=$20,352; CE=20,355) almost equal, and health care (PSID=$4,103; CE=4,886) expenditures slightly higher in CE.

Expenditures in 2019 for education (PSID=$1,378; CE=$2,176) and recreation & entertainment (PSID=$846, CE=$1,522) follow the consistent trend of PSID estimates being lower than those in the CE. The gap between PSID and CE education expenditures began after 2007 and has widened since then, while the gap for recreation & entertainment has remained wide. Conversely, expenditures for clothing & apparel (PSID=$1,239; CE=$974) and trips & vacations (PSID=$2,097; CE=$1,614), show the opposite pattern as they are consistently lower in CE than PSID. The comparison between PSID and CE estimates for childcare is less straightforward, as CE estimates were slightly higher before they converged in 2009 and PSID

estimates higher after that time. PSID-2019 childcare estimates ($434) were higher than in the CE ($307), a gap that has remained fairly steady since 2015.

The differences between PSID and CE category expenditures most likely occur because of dissimilarities in survey methodology, specifically that the PSID asks only one question for each of these categories, while CE has many questions about specific product types. Further, detailed questions and quarterly recall periods may make it easier for CE respondents to report both regular and irregular expenditures while the longer span of time between purchases and interviews may make it harder for PSID respondents to accurately report irregular expenses.

**5.    Health: Comparisons to the National Health Interview Survey**

PSID health information is compared to the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), the primary source of information on US health. NHIS is conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), with the US Census Bureau collecting basic health and demographic information from a representative sample of adults in the United States. The NHIS methodology and instruments were revised in 2019. Before that time, the NHIS survey began with a brief household interview, with all adults at home at the time being asked about their general health status, work limitations, and access to health insurance. Proxy reports for adults not at home at the time of the interview were also collected. One adult in the household was then randomly selected for the detailed NHIS health interview. In 2019 and after, the sample adult is identified first and only they are asked to complete an interview, although proxy reports are still allowed for sample adults who are not able to participate on their own. Each survey is expected to include around 30,000 sample adults and all statistics are weighted to represent the US adult population in a given year.

For this comparison, we use ten PSID and NHIS health measures collected from 1999-2019: body mass index, work limitation, six chronic conditions (stroke, hypertension, diabetes, cancer, myocardial infarction, and asthma), self-rated general health (excellent, very good, good, fair, and poor), and smoking status (current smoker, ever smoked). The questions are similar across the two surveys for most measures. The differences in wording for the questions about height and weight, smoking, emotional distress, and chronic condition diagnosis are noteworthy. Please see Insolera and Freedman (2017) for more information on these methodological differences. The 2019 NHIS redesign also means that measures for general health status, work limitation, and access to health insurance are now collected from a different universe of respondents. Finally, NHIS has stopped asking the items for the K-6 Non-Specific Psychological Distress Scale in 2019, so we only report the PSID results for that wave.

Table 2 shows that NHIS estimates of obesity are consistently a percentage point or two higher than the PSID estimates, but the two track closely since 1999. The percentage currently smoking is nearly identical in the two surveys and has declined modestly over time. The percentage who those who ever smoked is consistently higher in PSID, with PSID estimates fluctuating from 18%-20% whereas the NHIS estimates are 11%-12%. The prevalence estimates for the various chronic conditions align closely. Hypertension, diabetes and stroke prevalence appear to be modestly higher in the PSID but generally changes over time in similar ways in both studies.

Although the share of those whose work is limited by health had been consistently higher in the PSID before 2019, the magnitude of difference had been nearly identical across those 10 waves (6%-8% difference).  In 2019, the PSID health limitations estimates stayed the same (19%), while increasing substantially in NHIS (12% in 2017; 22% in 2019). Health insurance

coverage has tracked closely over time in both surveys, with PSID and NHIS seeing similar sharp upticks in coverage after the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act in 2014. Since that time, the estimates have been level, although they fell slightly in NHIS and PSID between 2017 and 2019, matching what has been reported by the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Reports on Health Insurance Coverage in the United States (Keisler-Starkey and Bunch, (2020)). Although the uninsured rate is drastically lower than a decade ago, they have seen a slight increase in recent years.

The largest discrepancies between the two studies are reflected in general health status, see Figures 2a and 2b, where PSID consistently has a lower percentage of people reporting themselves in excellent health relative to NHIS, though this difference narrowed by four percentage points between 2017 (15% point difference) and 2019 (11% point difference). The percentage reporting excellent or very good health is also lower in PSID even though the pattern over the last 20 years is nearly the same (from 56% to 48% in PSID and 64% to 57% in NHIS). The movement in 2019 away from NHIS trends for general health status, health insurance access and, especially, work limitations may be due to the NHIS redesign, as these three items are now asked of only the sample adult and not all adults in the household (including potentially multiple proxy reports in a household) as they previously had been asked.

**6.      Wealth: Comparisons to the Survey of Consumer Finances**

PSID wealth measures are compared to the Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF), which is the standard for estimates of the wealth holdings of American families. Typically conducted by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago (NORC) every three years, the SCF is sponsored by the Federal Reserve Board and U.S. Department of Treasury. The

preferred method for collection is with in person interviews but the information may also be collected via telephone. The SCF instrument is extensive and features an oversample of households likely to hold very high levels of wealth. The sample is important because it provides information about a generally hard to reach population, as a large share of total wealth in the United States is held by a relatively small number of households.

Beginning in 1984 the PSID asked respondents a series of in depth questions about their wealth. This wealth module was repeated in 1989, 1994, 1999, and every wave since then. While accurate wealth measurement is an important goal for PSID, the survey must also allocate interview time to collect a wide array of economic, social, and health data for responding households. Therefore, the amount of interview time devoted to measuring wealth holdings is much smaller in the PSID than in the SCF. Moreover, the PSID is longitudinal in design, while the SCF is a cross-sectional survey. Please see Pfeffer, Schoeni, Kennickell, and Andreski (2016) for more information on PSID and SCF data collection methods.

Here, we compare the estimates of wealth holding of American families based on the 2019 waves of PSID and SCF[1]. We first detail various subcomponents of wealth to determine which components have the greatest discrepancy across the two data sources. Then we compare estimates of net worth distribution and wealth inequality.

Average wealth holdings are 73% higher based on the SCF than the PSID: $659,356 versus $387,625. This gap is explained to a large degree by the difference in estimates of business assets: $166,493 for the SCF and $48,479 for PSID (see Tables 3a and 3b). The difference between the two surveys accounts for 42% of the difference in total net worth. This

may simply be due to the PSID sample not including the wealthiest families that are be captured in the SCF. Further evidence of this may be found in Table 4, where more modest differences in median net wealth between the two surveys are reported: $96,800 in SCF and $76,000 in PSID, or a difference of 27% for the median instead of 73% for the mean. Another likely source for such a large difference between SCF and PSID average business asset estimates is the fact that the PSID does not explicitly ask about some types of businesses like S corporations and limited partnerships.

Tables 3a and 3b show the differences between the SCF and PSID for 8 categories of wealth and debt. Differences in mean estimates of five of the asset categories are less than for business assets, yet still substantial: value of stocks (18%), equity in real estate excluding primary residence (12%), equity in primary residence (10%), other assets (9%), and checking/savings (7%). In these cases SCF average wealth holding is between 57%-86% higher than PSID. Again, these differences are likely due to the fact that SCF features families with more overall wealth and the difference in specificity of the questions asked.

Various percentiles in the wealth distribution are reported in Table 4 for the PSID and SCF. At the very low end of the distribution (5th and 10th), the PSID has almost equal or larger levels of negative wealth holdings. Beginning at the 25th percentile all the way through to the 95th percentile, SCF has higher estimates of wealth holdings than PSID. As shown in Pfeffer et al. (2016), many of the differences at the top of the distribution are due to the oversample of high wealth households included in the SCF.

The bottom panel of Table 4 provides measures of inequality at different points in the wealth distribution, as documented by percentile ratios. The estimates of the 50/25 ratio are quite similar (13.5 for the PSID and 11.0 for the SCF) and even more so for the 90/50 ratio (11.8 for

the PSID and 10.2 for the SCF). It is at the very top percentile where a substantial difference arises, with the 90/20 ratio estimated at 159.3 in the PSID and 112.6 in the SCF.

**7.      Time Use: Comparisons to the American Time Use Survey**

PSID's stylized time use measures are compared to the American Time Use Survey (ATUS). ATUS is conducted by the US Census Bureau and is the first federally administered, continuous survey on time use in the country. The sample is cross-sectional and consists of one individual from around 26,000 households who are randomly selected from the universe of those who have completed their eighth and final month of interviews for the Current Population Study (CPS). Respondent activities for the previous day are recorded via telephone interviews. In order to insure uniform coverage of time, the sample is split evenly between weekdays and weekend days.

PSID and ATUS report work and non-work time differently. Since 1968, PSID has recorded the *average* weekly amount of time spent at work and engaging in housework. This language was revised in 2017 to *typical* week in order to match seven new categories of non-work added that year. Categories include: personal care, shopping, caring for children, caring for adults, volunteering, educational activities, and leisure activities. ATUS also includes these broad categories. Since ATUS time diaries record time use from the day before, they record *actual* time spent "yesterday". In addition to these textual differences, PSID does not ask respondents to distinguish between primary and secondary activities (activities that occur simultaneously with primary activities) and ATUS time diaries do not record them at all. Finally, PSID does not ask about travel time related to activities while ATUS does. For more information about time use comparisons please see Insolera, Johnson and Simmert (2019).

Housework hours have been collected in both PSID and ATUS for many years. Figure 3 shows the historical comparisons for the amount of time respondents spend on housework per week. The historical trend for amount of time spent on housework is similar in PSID and ATUS, and the levels for females are very close. There is a wider difference in housework levels for men of approximately one additional hour per week in ATUS, but if we restrict PSID data to include only self-reports, the estimates for men's hours are much closer. In both studies, men spend almost half as much time on housework as women (approximately 7.5-8 hours per week for men and 15-16 hours per week for women).

Tables 5a and 5b show that the time use measures in PSID align well with ATUS, detailed by comparable activities of time for men and women, by different age groups. Most categories for all ages are comparable. For example, time spent volunteering in both studies is approximately one hour per week, with time spent volunteering increasing over the life course. Time spent in household activities and shopping are not only similar in terms of values, but the trends by age and sex mirror each other as well. Given that the ATUS includes many more categories than the PSID does, these are remarkably close.

Child care estimates are notably higher in PSID than in ATUS (13.5 hours versus 3.2 hours respectively). This finding could be because a substantial amount of child care may be classified as a secondary activity and therefore not captured by the ATUS time diary. In contrast, leisure estimates are lower in PSID than in ATUS (17.4 hours versus 36.3 hours respectively). It is possible that the phrase "for enjoyment" included in the PSID question leads to under-reporting of leisure, since not all leisure activities are enjoyable. Moreover, the PSID question only explicitly mentions four leisure activities (watching TV, doing physical activities, going

online, or spending time with friends), while ATUS sums time over a much larger number of activities.

**8.    Conclusions**

This report examines the comparability of various estimates between the PSID and other national surveys. Over time, we are able to not only benchmark the PSID to other standard and more specific topical surveys, but we are able to adapt our instrument in accordance with the changes if our estimates do not capture the same information as the other projects. By comparing our data to studies with different methodologies or sampling procedures, we can test our ability to maintain national representation across a myriad of measures cross-sectionally and longitudinally. We conclude that despite differences in design and sample the PSID measures align well across the domains of income, expenditures, health, wealth, and time use.

**Figure 1. 10th-95th Percentiles of PSID Aggregated Family Income and CPS Household Income, 1967-2018**
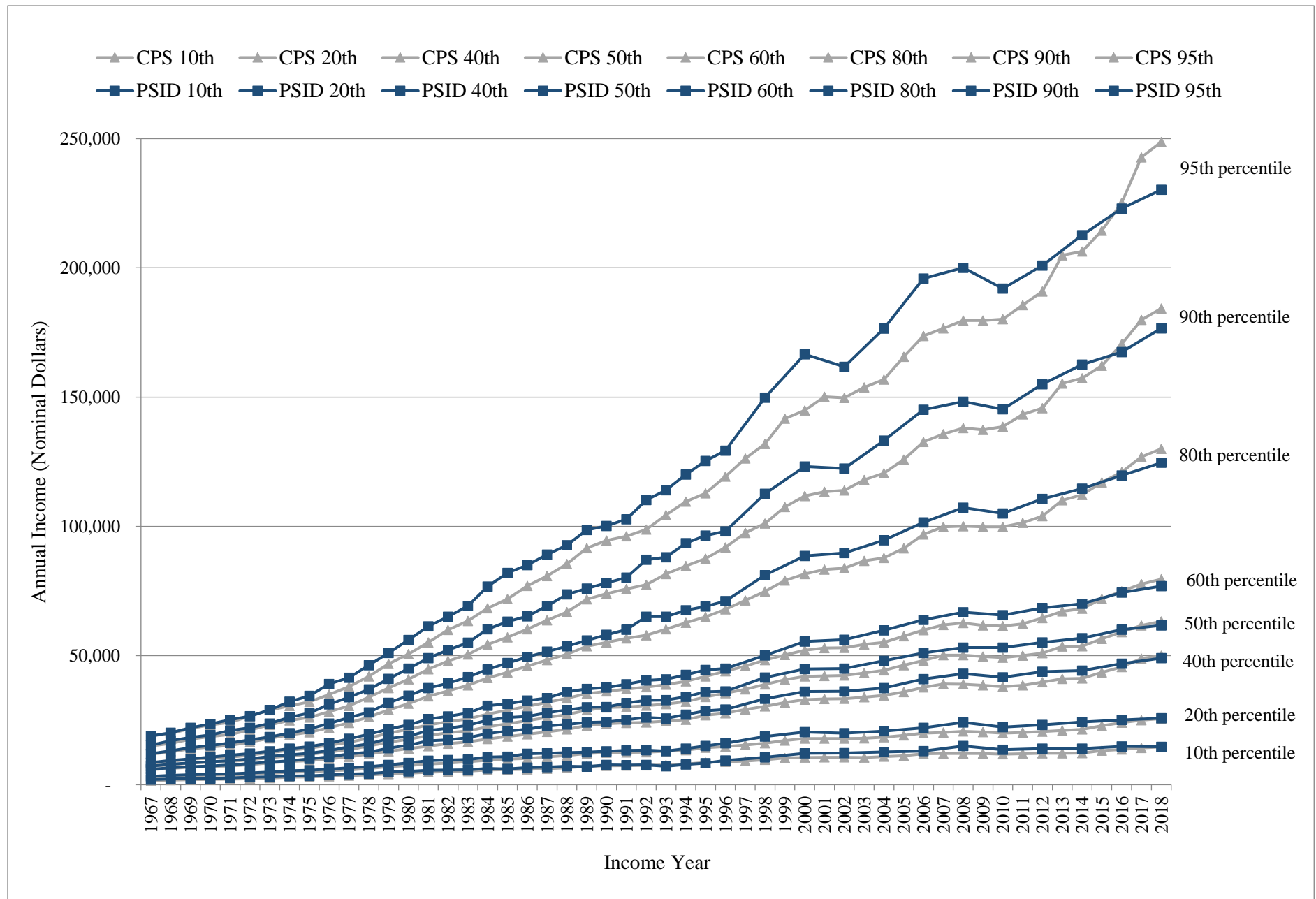
# Table 1. Average Spending by Expenditure Category, PSID and CE 2005-2019

| Expenditure category | 2005 PSID | 2005 CE | 2007 PSID | 2007 CE | 2009 PSID | 2009 CE | 2011 PSID | 2011 CE | 2013 PSID | 2013 CE | 2015 PSID | 2015 CE | 2017 PSID | 2017 CE | 2019 PSID | 2019 CE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Food | 6373 | 5899 | 6738 | 7229 | 6635 | 7026 | 6887 | 7182 | 7184 | 7391 | 7573 | 7936 | 8615 | 8309 | 9172 | 8915 |
| At home | 4256 | 4071 | 4511 | 4406 | 4609 | 4565 | 4771 | 4690 | 4992 | 4811 | 5192 | 4958 | 5928 | 5162 | 6253 | 5501 |
| Delivered | 124 | NA | 121 | NA | 92 | NA | 106 | NA | 99 | NA | 108 | NA | 132 | NA | 164 | NA |
| Away from home | 1994 | 1475 | 2105 | 2489 | 1934 | 2119 | 2010 | 2139 | 2092 | 2217 | 2274 | 2506 | 2555 | 2656 | 2754 | 2882 |
| Alcohol | NA | 353 | NA | 334 | NA | 341 | NA | 354 | NA | 363 | NA | 472 | NA | 491 | NA | 532 |
| Housing | 16097 | 15828 | 18027 | 17541 | 17652 | 17565 | 17439 | 17197 | 16934 | 17318 | 17443 | 18333 | 18824 | 19446 | 20352 | 20355 |
| Mortgage & loan payments | 5310 | 5444 | 5637 | 6238 | 5567 | 5924 | 4898 | 5252 | 4429 | 5002 | 4399 | 4703 | 4336 | 5235 | 4782 | 5098 |
| Rent | 2029 | 2311 | 2469 | 2561 | 2590 | 2812 | 2763 | 2988 | 2961 | 3272 | 3112 | 3693 | 3872 | 4071 | 4330 | 4332 |
| Property tax | 1473 | 1601 | 1634 | 1807 | 1715 | 1915 | 1728 | 1960 | 1746 | 1958 | 1776 | 2012 | 1781 | 2164 | 2017 | 2276 |
| Insurance | 498 | 335 | 564 | 355 | 557 | 352 | 574 | 362 | 595 | 359 | 632 | 433 | 656 | 456 | 724 | 502 |
| Utilities | 2097 | 2136 | 2326 | 2368 | 2503 | 2482 | 2591 | 2500 | 2587 | 2466 | 2640 | 2539 | 2609 | 2479 | 2764 | 2643 |
| Telecommunication | 1590 | 1570 | 1796 | 1679 | 1931 | 1775 | 2000 | 1887 | 2154 | 1969 | 2268 | 2123 | 2429 | 2010 | 2529 | 2076 |
| Home repairs & maintenance | 1922 | 969 | 2304 | 1051 | 1721 | 1040 | 1873 | 1006 | 1606 | 1087 | 1650 | 1365 | 1774 | 1449 | 1809 | 1689 |
| Household furnishings & equipment* | 1177 | 1462 | 1298 | 1482 | 1068 | 1264 | 1012 | 1242 | 858 | 1206 | 965 | 1465 | 1367 | 1583 | 1397 | 1740 |
| Transportation | 7449 | 7334 | 8008 | 7454 | 7281 | 6944 | 7713 | 7192 | 7710 | 7176 | 7458 | 7312 | 8504 | 7987 | 9021 | 8624 |
| Vehicle loan payment | 1290 | 1741 | 1258 | 1688 | 1110 | 1611 | 899 | 1431 | 1042 | 1389 | 1176 | 1647 | 1348 | 1856 | 1275 | 1953 |
| Vehicle down payment | 1149 | 1380 | 1212 | 1147 | 1102 | 1125 | 1151 | 942 | 1128 | 1110 | 1322 | 1316 | 1335 | 1282 | 1529 | 1457 |
| Vehicle lease payment | 190 | 237 | 231 | 245 | 220 | 200 | 174 | 167 | 189 | 254 | 337 | 315 | 387 | 355 | 392 | 405 |
| Insurance | 1400 | 913 | 1370 | 878 | 1284 | 884 | 1325 | 872 | 1332 | 863 | 1383 | 933 | 1636 | 1411 | 1710 | 1545 |
| Other vehicle expenditures | 133 | 293 | 100 | 299 | 98 | 276 | 111 | 227 | 82 | 200 | 71 | 213 | 1033 | 217 | 1180 | 249 |
| Repairs and maintenance | 1242 | 658 | 1321 | 704 | 1409 | 710 | 1409 | 747 | 1403 | 573 | 1057 | 565 | 750 | 613 | 745 | 1958 |
| Gasoline | 1750 | 1883 | 2176 | 2243 | 1756 | 1867 | 2343 | 2503 | 2296 | 2467 | 1792 | 1962 | 1741 | 1845 | 1837 | 638 |
| Parking and carpool | 44 | 26 | 39 | 29 | 50 | 33 | 46 | 32 | 49 | 37 | 55 | 40 | 61 | 44 | 75 | 47 |
| Bus fares and train fares | 67 | 52 | 80 | 55 | 80 | 65 | 92 | 75 | 83 | 76 | 86 | 92 | 84 | 81 | 102 | 84 |
| Taxicabs | 30 | 13 | 34 | 13 | 34 | 14 | 43 | 17 | 34 | 17 | 52 | 22 | 77 | 46 | 120 | 57 |
| Other transportation | 154 | 139 | 187 | 153 | 137 | 159 | 122 | 178 | 72 | 190 | 127 | 209 | 52 | 238 | 56 | 232 |
| Education | 1365 | 1395 | 1552 | 1427 | 1415 | 1637 | 1470 | 1681 | 1515 | 1732 | 1454 | 1816 | 1517 | 2056 | 1378 | 2176 |
| Child care | 316 | 299 | 288 | 354 | 322 | 338 | 391 | 330 | 426 | 236 | 388 | 286 | 422 | 277 | 434 | 307 |
| Health care | 2849 | 2497 | 3010 | 2694 | 3356 | 2959 | 3232 | 3129 | 3651 | 3357 | 3978 | 4110 | 3932 | 4000 | 4103 | 4886 |
| Hospital & nursing home | 405 | 128 | 432 | 127 | 542 | 122 | 499 | 139 | 460 | 155 | 550 | 158 | 466 | 159 | 600 | 214 |
| Doctor | 540 | 497 | 577 | 524 | 716 | 547 | 649 | 562 | 832 | 571 | 870 | 566 | 840 | 635 | 866 | 686 |
| Prescription drugs | 502 | 511 | 472 | 498 | 436 | 505 | 492 | 505 | 518 | 458 | 522 | 410 | 507 | 424 | 438 | 454 |
| Insurance | 1402 | 1361 | 1529 | 1544 | 1662 | 1784 | 1591 | 1921 | 1841 | 2173 | 2035 | 2977 | 2120 | 2782 | 2199 | 3532 |
| Clothing & apparel | 1550 | 1290 | 1551 | 1267 | 1378 | 1119 | 1236 | 1081 | 1266 | 886 | 1275 | 982 | 1208 | 993 | 1239 | 974 |
| Trips & vacations | 1606 | 973 | 1818 | 1135 | 1778 | 964 | 1623 | 1051 | 1704 | 1066 | 1874 | 1269 | 1930 | 1412 | 2097 | 1614 |
| Recreation & entertainment | 933 | 1476 | 1005 | 1538 | 947 | 1516 | 826 | 1382 | 801 | 1210 | 831 | 1386 | 870 | 1658 | 846 | 1522 |
| Total | 38537 | 36992 | 41997 | 40638 | 40764 | 40068 | 40817 | 40224 | 41191 | 40373 | 42273 | 43431 | 45822 | 46140 | 48186 | 49374 |

CE means calculated using CE data. PSID means calculated using PSID and weights. For more information see Andreski et al (http://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/aer.104.5.132)

* Beginning in 2017 computing expenses are included in 'Household furnishing & equipment'

**Table 2. Health Status, Health Behaviors, and Health Insurance Coverage (%) in the PSID and NHIS: 1999-2019**

| | 1999 | | 2001 | | 2003 | | 2005 | | 2007 | | 2009 | | 2011 | | 2013 | | 2015 | | 2017 | | 2019 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | PSID | NHIS | PSID | NHIS | PSID | NHIS | PSID | NHIS | PSID | NHIS | PSID | NHIS | PSID | NHIS | PSID | NHIS | PSID | NHIS | PSID | NHIS | PSID | NHIS |
| Smoking | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|   Currently smoke | 20 | 23 | 21 | 23 | 20 | 21 | 19 | 21 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 21 | 17 | 19 | 16 | 18 | 16 | 15 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 14 |
|   Never smoked | 52 | 53 | 53 | 55 | 53 | 56 | 53 | 57 | 53 | 58 | 54 | 58 | 54 | 59 | 55 | 60 | 56 | 63 | 56 | 64 | 58 | 62 |
| Has Health Insurance | 87 | 87 | 87 | 85 | 87 | 84 | 85 | 83 | 86 | 84 | 85 | 82 | 83 | 82 | 87 | 83 | 92 | 89 | 94 | 90 | 93 | 88 |
| Obese (BMI > 30) | 22 | 22 | 21 | 22 | 22 | 23 | 23 | 25 | 25 | 26 | 26 | 28 | 27 | 28 | 27 | 29 | 28 | 30 | 29 | 31 | 30 | 32 |
| 30-Day Distress (K6*) | -- | -- | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.9 | 3.1 | -- | -- | 3.3 | 2.7 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 3.2 | 2.6 | 3.3 | 2.7 | 3.3 | * |
| Health doesn't limit amount/kind of work | 82 | 88 | 81 | 89 | 82 | 89 | 82 | 89 | 81 | 89 | 81 | 88 | 81 | 88 | 80 | 88 | 81 | 88 | 81 | 88 | 81 | 78 |
| Health Conditions | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|   Asthma | 7.4 | 8.5 | 7.6 | 11.8 | 8.6 | 9.7 | 9.6 | 10.0 | 10.5 | 10.9 | 10.7 | 13.1 | 11.5 | 12.6 | 11.8 | 11.8 | 11.3 | 12.6 | 12.1 | 13.4 | 11.9 | 13.4 |
|   Cancer | 4.6 | 6.5 | 5.0 | 6.9 | 5.3 | 6.6 | 6.9 | 7.4 | 7.2 | 7.3 | 7.8 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 8.5 | 9.3 | 8.7 | 9.4 | 9.4 | 8.6 | 9.5 |
|   Diabetes | 7.1 | 5.4 | 7.7 | 6.5 | 8.3 | 6.6 | 9.1 | 7.5 | 9.3 | 7.7 | 10.2 | 9.0 | 11.2 | 8.9 | 11.8 | 9.3 | 12.7 | 9.6 | 12.9 | 9.6 | 12.5 | 9.3 |
|   Hypertension | 21.8 | 22.6 | 23.0 | 23.5 | 25.4 | 25.2 | 27.5 | 25.8 | 29.6 | 27.1 | 30.8 | 28.9 | 32.3 | 29.7 | 34 | 29.6 | 34.0 | 31.1 | 34.5 | 30.6 | 32.9 | 31.6 |
|   Myocardial Infarction | 3.7 | 2.9 | 3.7 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 4.3 | 3.3 | 4.2 | 3.2 | 4.0 | 3.4 | 4.7 | 3.2 | 4.6 | 3.2 | 4.8 | 3.1 | 4.7 | 3.1 | 4.0 | 3.1 |
|   Stroke | 2.8 | 2.1 | 3.1 | 2.4 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 3.7 | 2.4 | 3.6 | 2.4 | 3.8 | 2.6 | 3.8 | 2.7 | 3.9 | 2.8 | 4.0 | 2.7 | 3.8 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 3.1 |
| Self-Rated General Health | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|   Excellent | 23 | 32 | 22 | 31 | 22 | 29 | 19 | 29 | 20 | 29 | 17 | 29 | 16 | 28 | 16 | 29 | 15 | 29 | 13 | 28 | 13 | 24 |
|   Very Good | 33 | 32 | 35 | 32 | 35 | 32 | 33 | 32 | 34 | 31 | 35 | 32 | 36 | 32 | 35 | 32 | 35 | 31 | 35 | 33 | 35 | 33 |
|   Good | 29 | 25 | 28 | 25 | 28 | 26 | 30 | 27 | 29 | 27 | 31 | 27 | 31 | 27 | 31 | 26 | 32 | 27 | 32 | 27 | 32 | 27 |
|   Fair | 11 | 8 | 11 | 9 | 11 | 9 | 13 | 9 | 11 | 9 | 12 | 9 | 12 | 10 | 13 | 10 | 13 | 10 | 14 | 10 | 15 | 12 |
|   Poor | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 4 |

Note: The PSID sample consists of all reference persons and spouse/partners, and the NHIS sample consists of people 18 years or older. Weights are used for estimates from both surveys.

* The K-6 Non-Specific Psychological Distress Scale includes six items. The scores of the six items are summed; a score of 13 or higher indicates sensitivity around the threshold for the clinically significant range of the distribution of non-specific distress. For additional information see Kessler, et al 2002.

**Figure 2a. Self-Reported Health in the PSID: 1999-2019**
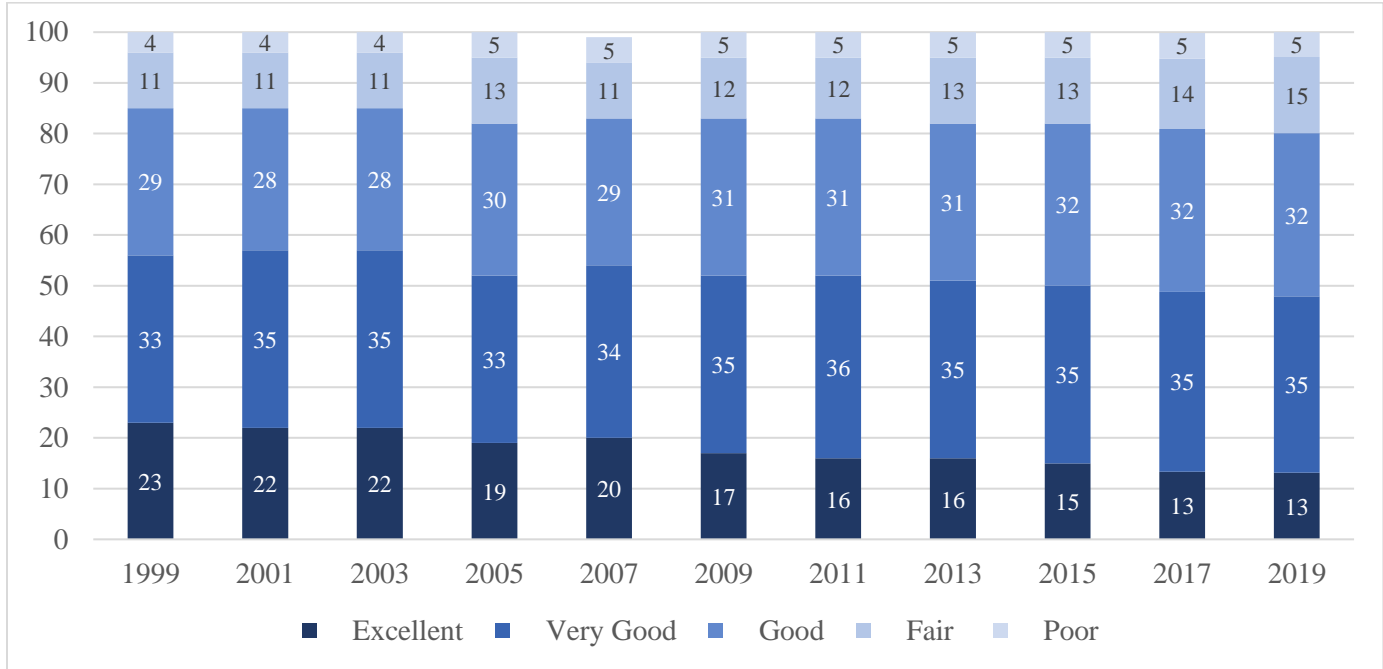


**Figure 2b. Self-Reported Health in the NHIS: 1999-2019**
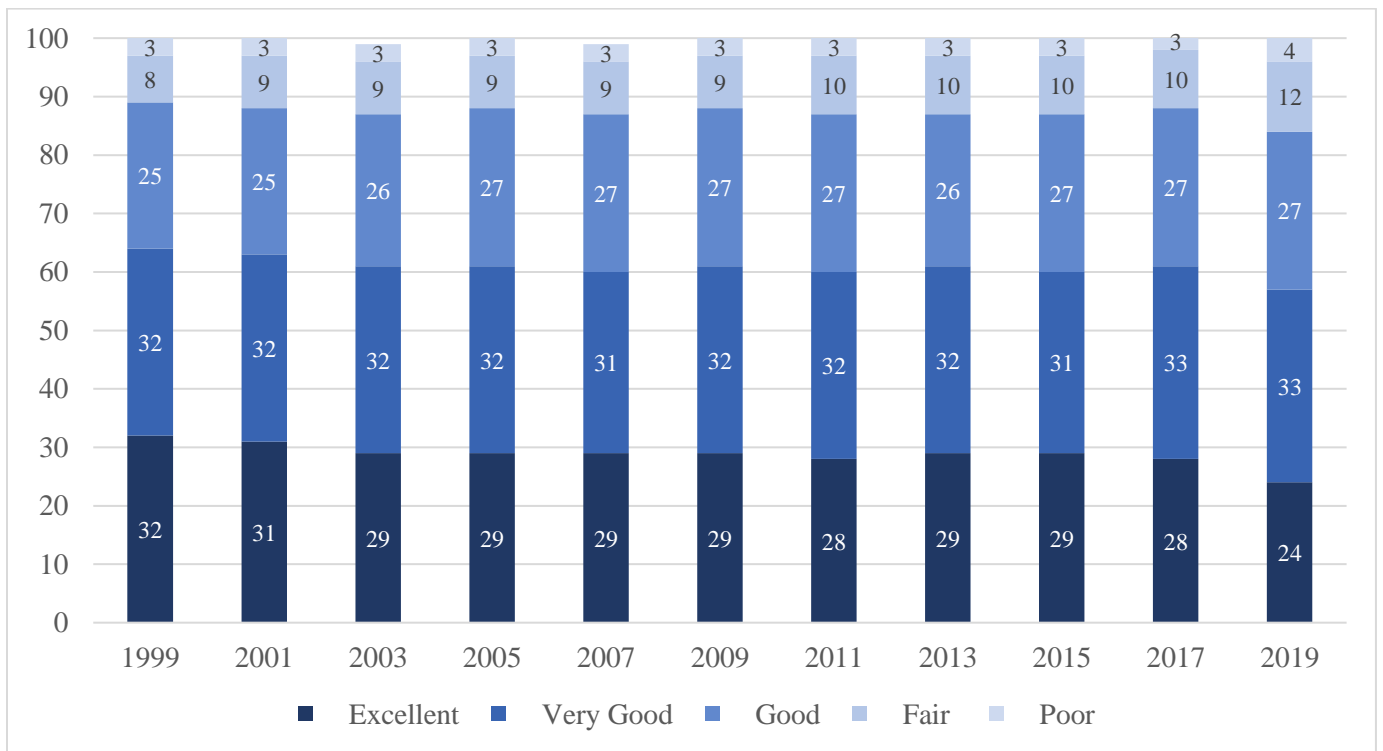
## Table 3a. PSID Wealth Levels 2013-2019

| | 2013 | | | 2015 | | | 2017 | | | 2019 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Mean | Median | % positive | Mean | Median | % positive | Mean | Median | % positive | Mean | Median | % positive |
| Total wealth | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Net worth | 316,258 | 54,000 | 73% | 364,323 | 60,500 | 74% | 352,502 | 65,020 | 7700% | 382,026 | 76,000 | 76% |
| Net worth, excluding home equity | 229,831 | 18,300 | 69% | 267,637 | 18,200 | 69% | 247,824 | 19,500 | 7100% | 263,956 | 20,000 | 71% |
| Wealth components | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Business assets | 48,372 | 0 | 7% | 61,556 | 0 | 6% | 49,552 | 0 | 6% | 48,479 | 0 | 5% |
| Checking/savings | 29,637 | 3,000 | 67% | 29,120 | 3,000 | 66% | 32,894 | 4,500 | 82% | 35,887 | 5,000 | 76% |
| Stocks | 56,759 | 0 | 12% | 66,937 | 0 | 11% | 58,260 | 0 | 11% | 59,267 | 0 | 10% |
| IRA/private annuities | 52,452 | 0 | 20% | 61,462 | 0 | 19% | 57,568 | 0 | 18% | 67,578 | 0 | 19% |
| Net worth of vehicles | 14,301 | 8,000 | 80% | 14,607 | 8,000 | 79% | 16,336 | 8,000 | 78% | 17,200 | 9,000 | 78% |
| Equity in primary residence | 86,427 | 15,000 | 47% | 96,686 | 25,000 | 48% | 104,677 | 28,000 | 49% | 118,070 | 35,000 | 49% |
| Equity in real estate excluding primary residence | 28,561 | 0 | 10% | 35,824 | 0 | 10% | 34,199 | 0 | 9% | 34,826 | 0 | 9% |
| Other assets | 10,335 | 0 | 10% | 9,821 | 0 | 11% | 10,525 | 0 | 9% | 13,186 | 0 | 9% |
| Other debts | 10,587 | 0 | 74% | 11,689 | 0 | 71% | 11,509 | 0 | 70% | 12,467 | 0 | 68% |

PSID percentiles calculated using PSID and weights. For more information see Pfeffer et al (https://psidonline.isr.umich.edu/Publications/Papers/tsp/2014-03_%20Measuring_Wealth_and_Wealth_Inequality.pdf)

## Table 3b. SCF Wealth Levels 2013 and 2019

| | 2013 | | 2019 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Mean | Median | Mean | Median |
| Wealth components | | | | |
| Business assets | 110,112 | 0 | 166,493 | 0 |
| Checking/savings | 47,530 | 3,802 | 56,217 | 5,500 |
| Stocks | 67,266 | 0 | 110,200 | 0 |
| IRA/private annuities | 60,015 | 0 | 71,654 | 0 |
| Net worth of vehicles | 14,999 | 9,406 | 16,179 | 9,000 |
| Equity in primary residence | 103,917 | 26,017 | 147,386 | 50,000 |
| Equity in real estate excluding primary residence | 52,976 | 0 | 68,682 | 0 |
| Other assets | 24,836 | 0 | 38,131 | 0 |
| Other debts | 11,228 | 300 | 15,590 | 810 |

**Table 4. Net Worth Distribution PSID and SCF, 2007-2019**

| | PSID | | | | | | | SCF | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2007 | 2009 | 2011 | 2013 | 2015 | 2017 | 2019 | 2007 | 2010 | 2013 | 2016 | 2019 |
| Percentiles | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5th | (11,500) | (25,500) | (32,000) | (33,000) | (29,100) | (24,500.00) | (23,000.00) | (6,800) | (21,200) | (23,600) | (22,935) | (24,770) |
| 10th | (946) | (6,300) | (9,500) | (9,500) | (7,000) | (3,497.00) | (3,000.00) | - | (3,400) | (4,600) | (4,343) | (2,849) |
| 25th | | 2,508 | 2,400 | 2,800 | 3,000 | 5,000.00 | 5,650.00 | 10,700 | 6,000 | 6,300 | 6,720 | 8,800 |
| 50th | 96,700 | 65,050 | 54,500 | 54,000 | 60,500 | 65,020.00 | 76,000.00 | 101,300 | 62,200 | 64,200 | 76,683 | 96,800 |
| 75th | | 278,200 | 260,000 | 270,000 | 285,200 | 290,000.00 | 317,000.00 | 316,100 | 261,700 | 262,000 | 300,942 | 341,130 |
| 90th | 860,000 | 755,000 | 761,000 | 790,000 | 880,000 | 840,000.00 | 900,000.00 | 800,100 | 820,200 | 794,900 | 1,004,672 | 990,500 |
| 95th | 1,468,000 | 1,308,000 | 1,331,000 | 1,360,000 | 1,590,800 | 1,465,000.00 | 1,660,000.00 | 1,608,900 | 1,684,400 | 1,676,300 | 2,138,348 | 2,203,600 |
| Percentile Ratios | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 50/25 | | 25.9 | 22.7 | 19.3 | 20.2 | 13.0 | 13.5 | 9.47 | 10.37 | 10.19 | 11.41 | 11.00 |
| 90/50 | 8.9 | 11.6 | 14.0 | 14.6 | 14.5 | 12.9 | 11.8 | 7.90 | 13.19 | 12.38 | 13.10 | 10.23 |
| 90/25 | | 301.0 | 317.1 | 282.1 | 293.3 | 168.0 | 159.3 | 74.78 | 136.70 | 126.17 | 149.51 | 112.56 |

SCF percentiles calculated using SCF public data and weights. PSID percentiles calculated using PSID and weights. For more information see Pfeffer et al (https://psidonline.isr.umich.edu/Publications/Papers/tsp/2014-03_%20Measuring_Wealth_and_Wealth_Inequality.pdf)

**Figure 3. Weekly Housework Time by Sex, PSID and ATUS**
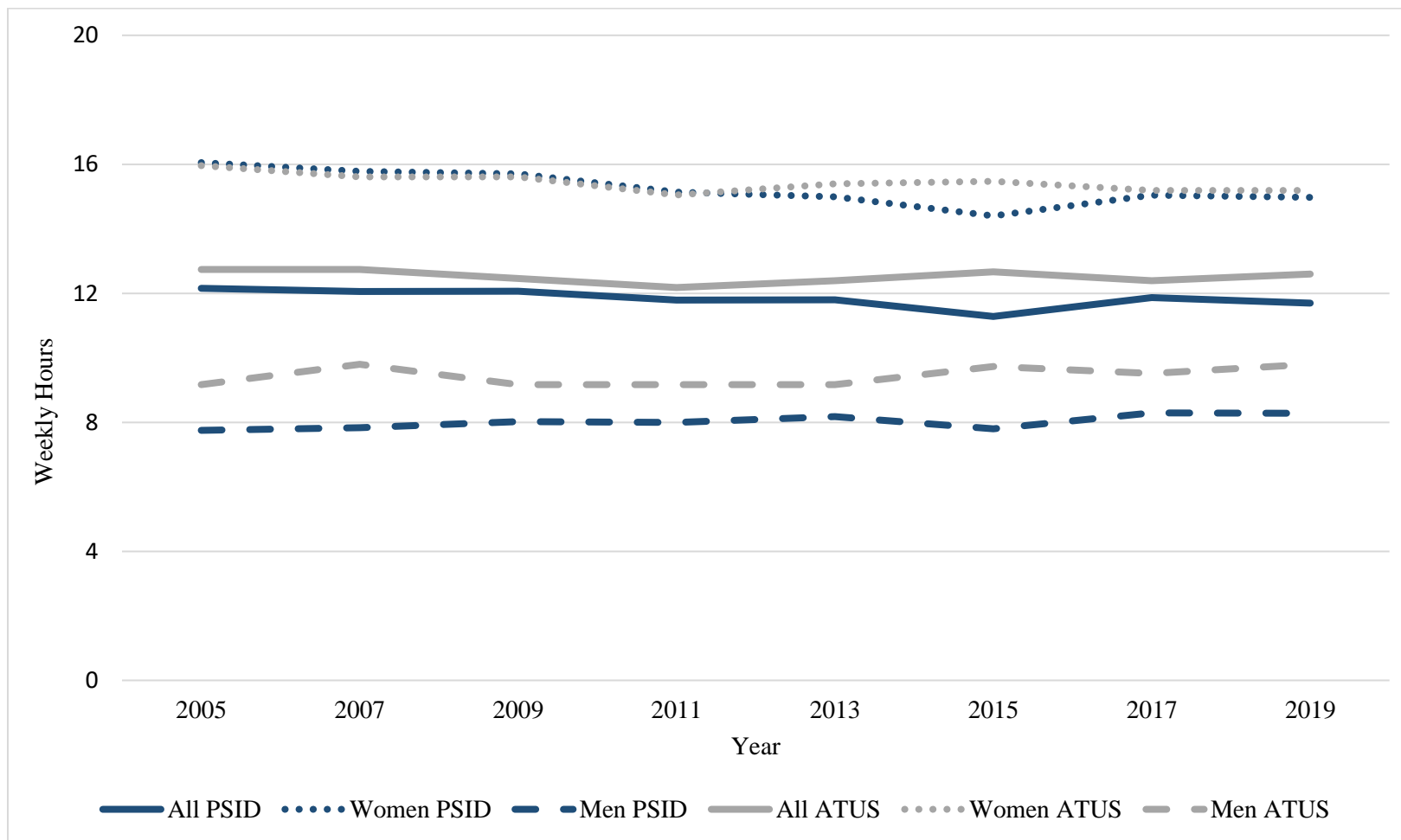
**Table 5a. Weekly time spent in various activities by age and sex: 2019 Panel Study of Income Dynamics (weekly time in hours)**

| | All | | | | | Men | | | | | Women | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 18+ | 18-24 | 25-54 | 55-64 | 65+ | 18+ | 18-24 | 25-54 | 55-64 | 65+ | 18+ | 18-24 | 25-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |
| Household activities[1] | 11.7 | 10.9 | 11.4 | 12.1 | 12.2 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 7.9 | 8.7 | 8.9 | 15.0 | 13.5 | 15.1 | 15.1 | 14.9 |
| Self care[2] | 8.0 | 9.0 | 7.6 | 8.2 | 8.5 | 6.8 | 7.8 | 6.3 | 6.9 | 7.7 | 9.1 | 10.2 | 8.9 | 9.3 | 9.3 |
| Purchasing goods and services[3] | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 2.8 | 3.4 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 4.7 | 3.7 | 4.4 | 5.0 | 5.1 |
| Child care[4] | 13.5 | 17.4 | 21.9 | 4.3 | 3.0 | 9.3 | 8.5 | 14.6 | 3.1 | 2.0 | 17.5 | 26.6 | 29.5 | 5.4 | 3.8 |
| Adult care[5] | 2.1 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 1.3 | 2.4 | 0.6 | 1.7 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 0.5 | 1.7 | 4.7 | 3.8 |
| Volunteer | 1.1 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 1.0 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 0.6 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.5 |
| Educational activities[7] | 1.2 | 4.5 | 1.5 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 4.5 | 1.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 1.2 | 4.5 | 1.7 | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| Leisure and sports[8] | 17.4 | 15.4 | 13.6 | 18.5 | 24.6 | 17.9 | 16.1 | 14.2 | 19.2 | 25.5 | 16.9 | 14.8 | 12.9 | 17.8 | 23.9 |
| Working and work related activities[9] | 25.5 | 30.8 | 34.4 | 25.8 | 6.5 | 30.4 | 34.5 | 39.6 | 30.3 | 8.8 | 20.8 | 27.1 | 29.0 | 21.9 | 4.7 |
| Total Time | 84.25 | 93.59 | 96.10 | 77.79 | 64.20 | 78.91 | 85.97 | 88.27 | 74.07 | 60.44 | 89.40 | 101.41 | 104.35 | 81.11 | 67.36 |

**Table 5b. Time spent in various activities by age and sex: 2019 American Time Use Survey (weekly time in hours)**

| | All | | | | Men | | | | Women | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 18+ | 25-54 | 55-64 | 65+ | 18+ | 25-54 | 55-64 | 65+ | 18+ | 25-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |
| Household activities[1] | 12.6 | 11.83 | 14.84 | 16.8 | 9.94 | 8.75 | 12.74 | 13.3 | 15.61 | 14.84 | 16.94 | 19.39 |
| Self care[2] | 5.46 | 5.39 | 5.46 | 5.67 | 4.48 | 4.62 | 4.55 | 4.34 | 6.37 | 6.09 | 6.44 | 6.86 |
| Purchasing goods and services[3] | 5.39 | 4.97 | 5.25 | 6.51 | 4.41 | 3.99 | 4.76 | 5.88 | 6.3 | 5.95 | 5.67 | 7 |
| Child care[4] | 3.15 | 5.04 | 1.54 | 1.19 | 2.03 | 3.22 | 0.91 | 0.98 | 4.27 | 6.86 | 2.03 | 1.4 |
| Adult care[5] | 0.77 | 0.56 | 1.26 | 1.05 | 0.63 | 0.49 | 1.19 | 0.91 | 0.84 | 0.63 | 1.33 | 1.26 |
| Household adults | 0.28 | 0.21 | 0.56 | 0.49 | 0.21 | 0.14 | 0.49 | 0.42 | 0.35 | 0.28 | 0.56 | 0.63 |
| Non-household adults | 0.49 | 0.35 | 0.70 | 0.56 | 0.42 | 0.35 | 0.70 | 0.49 | 0.49 | 0.35 | 0.77 | 0.63 |
| Volunteer | 0.91 | 0.63 | 0.91 | 1.68 | 0.77 | 0.63 | 0.7 | 1.68 | 0.98 | 0.7 | 1.12 | 1.68 |
| Educational activities[7] | 1.75 | 1.19 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 1.68 | 1.19 | 0 | 0 | 1.89 | 1.19 | 0 | 0.14 |
| Leisure and sports[8] | 36.26 | 29.54 | 38.15 | 51.31 | 38.64 | 31.64 | 39.34 | 55.23 | 34.09 | 27.51 | 37.03 | 48.16 |
| Working and work related activities[9] | 26.39 | 35.21 | 26.6 | 5.6 | 31.85 | 41.93 | 31.64 | 7.98 | 21.28 | 28.63 | 21.98 | 3.64 |
| Total | 93.45 | 94.92 | 95.34 | 90.93 | 95.06 | 96.95 | 97.02 | 91.21 | 92.47 | 93.03 | 93.87 | 90.79 |

Note: data were pulled using the ATUS on screen data search: https://data.bls.gov/PDQWeb/tu

References

Andreski, P, Li, G; Samancioglu, MZ; Schoeni R. (2014) Estimates of Annual Consumption Expenditures and Its Major Components in the PSID in Comparison to the CE." <u>American Economic Review</u>, 104(5): 132-135.

Gouskova, E; Andreski, P; Schoeni, R. (2010) Comparing Estimates of Family Income in the Panel Study of Income Dynamics and the March Current Population Survey, 1968-2007. (Panel Study of Income Dynamics Technical Paper Series, #10-01).

Insolera, NE, & Freedman, VA. (2017). Comparing Health Estimates in the PSID and NHIS, 2001-2015. (Panel Study of Income Dynamics Technical Paper Series, #17-01).

Insolera, NE; Johnson, DJ; Simmert, BA. (2019). Evaluation of Time Use data in PSID with comparisons to ATUS. (Panel Study of Income Dynamics Technical Paper Series, #19-02).

Keisler-Starkey, K & Bunch, LN (2020) U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Reports, P60-271, Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2019, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, DC.

McGonagle, KA, Schoeni, RF; Sastry, N; Freedman, VA. (2012). "The Panel Study of Income Dynamics: Overview, Recent Innovations, and Potential for Life Course Research." Longitudinal and Life Course Studies 3(2): 268-284.

Pfeffer, Fabian T., Schoeni, Robert F., Kennickell, Arthur, and Andreski, Patricia. Measuring Wealth and Wealth Inequality: Comparing two US Surveys. Journal of Economic and Social Measurement. 2016. 41, (2): 103-120.