Health and Retirement Study

2017 Spring Life History Mail Survey (LHMS)

Residential History State Level Data

Version 1.0, March 2022

Data Description

Conditions of Use

By registering for access to HRS Public Release data, the User agrees to all of the following:

- Make no attempts to identify study participants.
- Not to transfer HRS Public Release data to any third party other than staff or students for whom you are directly responsible except as indicated below.
- Not to allow others to use your username and password to access this site.
- To certify the destruction of any downloaded Public Release data file as well as any data files derived from the downloaded file when requested to do so by the Health and Retirement Study.
- To include the following citation in any research reports, papers, or publications based on Public Release data:

In text:
"The HRS (Health and Retirement Study) is sponsored by the National Institute on Aging (grant number NIA U01AG009740) and is conducted by the University of Michigan."
In references:
"Health and Retirement Study, ([insert Product Name]) public use dataset. Produced and distributed by the University of Michigan with funding from the National Institute on Aging (grant number NIA U01AG009740). Ann Arbor, MI, (year)."

- To include the following citation in any research reports, papers, or publications based on any Public Release data file tagged as "Early" or "Preliminary":

"This analysis uses Early Release data from the Health and Retirement Study, ([insert Product Name]), sponsored by the National Institute on Aging (grant number NIA U01AG009740) and conducted by the University of Michigan. These data have not been cleaned and may contain errors that will be corrected in the Final Public Release version of the dataset."

- Please note that although it is necessary to include the above citations to the HRS in any publications, it is not necessary to associate your publications with the HRS grant in PubMed.

- Provide information regarding any research product (dissertation, thesis, journal article, book, book chapter, report, etc.) based on data obtained from the Health and Retirement Study by sending an electronic copy to hrspublications@umich.edu.

- Report immediately to the Health and Retirement Study at hrsquestions@umich.edu any disclosure of study participant identity as well as any discovery of flaws or errors in the data or documentation files.

Notify the Health and Retirement Study through use of the update function provided at this site or by electronic mail directed to hrsquestions@umich.edu of changes in your electronic mail address, postal address, telephone number, organizational affiliation or organizational status.

1. Introduction

The Life History Mail Survey 2017 Spring (LHMS 2017 Spring) contains questions about residential, education, employment and health history, and other important childhood and family events. The LHMS 2017 Spring follows the Life History Mail Survey 2015 previously administered by HRS and released in June 2017.

The LHMS is part of the Health and Retirement Study (HRS), which is funded under a cooperative agreement between the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan. The HRS is designed to study labor force, health, and family transitions of the U.S. population aged 51 and older, and the impact of those transitions on economic resources, claims on structured programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, and informal assistance and transfers to and from family members.

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) provided funding (R01 AG051142) for the LHMS 2017 Spring, which was conducted by the Survey Research Center (SRC), at the Institute for Social Research (ISR), at the University of Michigan.

By receiving the dataset, you agree to use it for research and statistical purposes only and make no effort to identify respondents. In addition, you agree to send us a copy of publications you produce based on the data. See Registration and Downloading the Data (at the end of this document) for additional details.

The questions in the LHMS are based on several similar studies around the world, including: the English Longitudinal Study of Aging (ELSA, England), the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARELIFE), and the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS).

The restricted data include the actual state indicators for the residential histories whereas the public release LHMS 2017 Spring state data includes an enumeration of state residence.

2. The Sample Interviewed in the 2017 LHMS

In June 2017, questionnaires were mailed to a subsample of HRS respondents (n= 5,174). The sample for the 2017 LHMS was drawn from the 2015 Consumption and Activities Mail Survey (CAMS) sample. It included 2015 CAMS sample members who were still alive in 2017 and whose household was considered finalized on their 2016 core interview(s) by early March 2017.

(Members of finalized households had either completed core interviews or were considered final refusals for the core that wave.) A small number of respondents who were in the sample for the 2016 Harmonized Cognitive Assessment Protocol (HCAP) and who had not completed their assessment by early March, 2017 were excluded. New spouses of eligible panel respondents were also included in the 2017 LHMS sample.

The field period for the LHMS 2017 Spring was June through December 2017.

The data file contains 7 variables, and data for 3,619 respondents. The response rate is 74% percent.

About the LHMS Geographic Data

3. Variable Names and Labels

Variable names begin with the letters LH to designate the Life History Mail Survey, followed by the question number and_17S to indicate the study wave. The variables available in the data file are listed in the table below.

VarNum	Name	TYPE	Label
1	HHID	CHAR	HOUSEHOLD IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
2	PN	CHAR	RESPONDENT PERSON IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
3	LH5_ENTRYNUM_17S	CHAR	ROW NUMBER OF DATA ENTERED BY R ON Q5
4	LH5_STARTYR_17S	NUM	RESIDENCE START YEAR
5	LH5_ENDYR_17S	NUM	RESIDENCE END YEAR
6	LH5_STATE_17S	CHAR	RESIDENCE STATE
7	LH5_STATEFIPS_17S	NUM	NUMERIC U.S. FEDERAL INFORMATION PROCESSING STANDARDS (FIPS) CODE

LH5_EntryNum_17S - ROW NUMBER OF DATA ENTERED BY R Q5

As shown in the example, the variable label contains the question number found in the 2017 Spring LHMS questionnaire. Unlike LHMS 2017 Spring public data, these records are stacked. Use the values in LH5_EntryNum_17S to determine which row of Table 5 (see below) the respondent recorded values.

3a. Data Quality

Due to the skip patterns in this questionnaire, all missing answers are treated the same in the dataset and coded as simply "Answer not given/Missing." This is true whether the respondent was "expected" to answer the question or not, based on earlier responses. In cases where the respondent recorded ditto marks, and provided a start year, the last observation was carried forward.

While cleaning the data, when extreme, unlikely or conflicting values were encountered, electronic images of the questionnaires were checked directly to determine if errors were introduced during the data entry/scanning process. This includes instances where a start year is greater than an end year, or a start age is greater than an end age. If the respondent reported the extreme or conflicting value, the value appears unchanged in the data.

State FIPS is included to assist researchers, it was not entered by the respondents.

3b. LH5 Series, Residential History - Start and End Years

For this question, respondents were instructed to write the start year for each of their residences before age 50, and to write their age or the decade if they could not remember the exact year. The data for the LH5_StartYr_17S – Residence Start Year and LH5_EndYr_17S – Residence End Year series therefore contains a mix of ages and years on some lines, as seen in the example above. Some respondents recorded consecutive years on each line and the same residence i.e., city and state names, the values appear unchanged in the data.

3c. LH5 Series, Residential History - State

Missing state values were imputed following a correction scheme:

1. A valid zip code was provided
2. Review other fields in tables for state information
3. Examine scanned questionnaire

State code 'ZZ' denotes a foreign country and/or such responses as "Pacific theatre WWII" and "Overseas".

3d. Data Quality

Due to the skip patterns in this questionnaire, all missing answers are treated the same in the dataset and coded as simply "Answer not given/Missing." This is true whether the respondent was "expected" to answer the question or not, based on earlier responses.

While cleaning the data, when extreme, unlikely or conflicting values were encountered, electronic images of the questionnaires were checked directly to determine if errors were introduced during the data entry/scanning process. This includes instances where a start year is greater than an end year, or a start age is greater than an end age. If the respondent reported the extreme or conflicting value, the value appears unchanged in the data.

Records in the data files are sorted in order by the identifying variables from the HRS core study, HHID (household ID) and PN (person number). The variable PN refers to the respondent to whom the questionnaire was mailed. Identification variables in the 2017 Spring LHMS Residential History State Level Data (Version 1.0) are stored in character format. For further information about HRS identification variables and merging data, see the [Data Description for the HRS 2002 Core](#).

4. File Structure

The 2017 Spring LHMS Residential History State Level Data (Version 1.0) data are at the state level. State-level files contain questions that were asked of all respondents about themselves (or were answered by a proxy for the respondent if the respondent was not able to fill out the questionnaire). The data file contains multiples records for each respondent or proxy (n= 3,844) who filled out and returned a 2017 Spring LHMS questionnaire. These data only present those respondents who provided valid residential history values, n=3,619 (94.1%).

The data file is called LHMS17S_STATE_RESHIST, loosely translated as: Life History Mail Survey 2017 Spring, State Residential History.

The primary identification variables (IDs) are:

HHID   HOUSEHOLD IDENTIFIER
PN   PERSON NUMBER

These data will need to be transposed before merging these data with and publicly available HRS product. To align these data with LHMS17 records, use LH5_EntryNum_17S to guide the reshaping from long to wide.

Records in the data files are sorted in order by HHID and PN and LH5_EntryNum_17S. The variable PN refers to the respondent to whom the questionnaire was mailed. Identification variables in the HRS 2017 Spring LHMS Geographic State Level (Version 1.0) are stored in character format. For further information about HRS identification variables and merging data, see the Tracker Data Description and the Data Descriptions for each HRS Core wave.

Unlike 2015, respondents were not asked to record an end date (year). A LH5_EndYear_17S is the start year of the following entry. This was done for sake of continuity between waves.

5. Linking Respondents Across Time

Respondent records in the 2017 Spring LHMS Residential History State Level Data (Version 1.0) can be linked to respondent records from prior waves by HHID and PN. The core sub-household identifiers can be used to link household data with the cross-sectional respondent level data.

6.   Registration and Downloading the Data

6a. Registration
HRS data are available for free to researchers and analysts at the HRS Web site. In order to obtain public release data, you must first register at our Web site. Once you have completed the registration process, your username and password will be sent to you via e-mail. Your username and password are required to download data files.

Registered users receive user support, information related to errors in the data, future releases, workshops, and publication lists. The information you provide will not be used for any commercial use, and will not be redistributed to third parties.

6b. Conditions of Use

By registering, you agree to the Conditions of Use governing access to Health and Retirement public release data.

6c. Publications Based on Data
As part of the data registration process, you agree to include specified citations and to inform HRS of any papers, publications, or presentations based on HRS data. Please send a copy of such publications in PDF format via e-mail to hrspublications@umich.edu with "Attn: Papers and Publications" in the subject line. If you wish, you may include a bibliographical reference.

    Health and Retirement Study
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    The Institute for Social Research
    P.O. Box 1248
    Ann Arbor, MI (USA) 48106-1248

Alternately, you may contact us by e-mail at hrsquestions@umich.edu with "Attn: Papers and Publications" in the subject line.

7.   If You Need to Know More

This document is intended to serve as a brief overview and to provide guidelines to using the 2017 Spring LHMS Geographic – State Information (Version 1.0) dataset. Additional information about the HRS can be obtained from the HRS Web site. If you have questions or concerns that are not

adequately covered here or on our Web site, please contact us. We will do our best to provide answers.

8a. HRS Internet Site

Health and Retirement Study public release data and additional information about the study are available on the Internet. To access the data and other relevant information, point your Web browser to the HRS Web site.

 http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/

8b. Contact Information

If you need to contact us, you may do so by one of the methods listed below.

Internet: Help Desk at our Web site

E-mail: hrsquestions@umich.edu

Postal service:
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