HEALTH AND RETIREMENT STUDY

Restricted Data

Respondent Supplemental Security Income

Data Description

Updated through Consents/Matches as of the HRS 2020 Wave
Released Date: March 2024

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1. Overview and Acknowledgments

The Health and Retirement Study (HRS) is a national longitudinal study of the economic, health, marital, and family status, as well as public and private support systems, of older Americans. The HRS is a rich source of longitudinal, cross-sectional data for researchers and policymakers who study aging. Funding for the Health and Retirement Study is provided by the National Institute on Aging at NIH (U01 AG009740), with supplemental support from the Social Security Administration. The study is conducted by the Institute for Social Research (ISR) at the University of Michigan.

The HRS gratefully acknowledges the special assistance of the Social Security Administration's Office of Research and Statistics for their assistance in retrieving the administrative records of HRS respondents who gave consent for those records to be used for research purposes.

2. Obtaining the Data

2a. Access to Restricted Data

Although most HRS data sets are available to the public without restriction, certain HRS data sets contain sensitive respondent information and are only available under terms of a formal agreement negotiated between the researcher and HRS. Prospective users of HRS restricted geocode data have two access options:
- Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (recommended)
- Traditional Licensing Agreement (deprecated)

For instructions on how to proceed, visit the HRS Restricted Data page or contact the HRS Restricted Data Applications Processing Team (*hrsrdaapplication@umich.edu*) by email.

2b. Restricted Data Agreement

This restricted data set is intended for exclusive use by you and the persons specified in the *Confidentiality Agreement for Use of Restricted Data from the Health and Retirement Study.* Traditional licensing agreements that include multiple users are also bound by the *Supplemental Agreement with Research Staff for Use of Restricted Data from the Health and Retirement Study*.

2c. Publications Based on Restricted Data

Your restricted data agreement specifies that you will inform HRS of any papers, publications, or presentations based on this restricted data set. Please send a copy of such publications in PDF format via e-mail to *hrsquestions@umich.edu* with "Attn: Papers and Publications" in the subject line. If you wish, you may include a bibliographical reference.

As an alternative, you may transmit publications in paper format by postal mail:

```
Health and Retirement Study
Attn: Papers and Publications
The Institute for Social Research, Room 3450
P.O. Box 1248
Ann Arbor, Michigan  48106-1248
```

3. Data Set Content

The *Supplemental Security Income* data set contains information on the SSI benefits for eligible HRS respondents. Information is available for 4,200 respondents.

The primary keys for the component tables are `HHID and PN`. Section A contains eligibility information. Section B contains monthly data for January 1974 through December 2020. The following table summarizes the content of each section.

Section	Category	Description
A	LEVEL 1	SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME
B	CMTH-RD	MONTH OF COMPUTATION
	EINCM	CHARGEABLE EARNED INCOME AMOUNT
	FEDAMT	FEDERAL ASSISTANCE AMOUNT
	FEDPMT	FEDERAL MONEY AMOUNT
	LIVF	LIVING ARRANGEMENT CODE
	MEDTEST	MEDICAL/SOCIAL SERVICE INCOME TEST
	PSTAT	PAYMENT STATUS CODE
	PAY-STATBC-IND	STATUTORY BENEFIT CONTINUATION PAYMENT INDICATOR
	STATPMT	STATE SUPPLEMENTATION AMOUNT
	STCONCATM	STATE CONCURRENT ELIGIBILITY INDICATOR
	SUPAMT	CURRENT AMOUNT OF STATE SUPPLEMENT
	TKT-STAT-IND	TICKET TO WORK STATUS INDICATOR
	UINCM	CHARGEABLE UNEARNED INCOME AMOUNT
	CUR-COMP	CURRENT COMPOSITION CODE

Rounding Rules. Payment field monetary amounts are rounded as follows:
- If the payment amount equals 0 then the rounded amount is set to 0;
- If the payment amount is greater than 0 and less than or equal to 10.0 then the rounded amount is set to 10;
- If the payment amount is greater than 10 then the rounded amount is set to the nearest 10.

4. If You Need to Know More

This document is intended to serve as a brief overview of the *Respondent Cross-Year Summary Earnings* data set. If you have questions or concerns that are not adequately covered here or on our Web site, or if you have any comments, please contact us. We will do our best to provide answers.

4a. HRS Internet Site

Health and Retirement Study public release data and additional information about the study are available on the Internet. To access public data or to find out more about restricted data products and procedures, visit the HRS Web site.

4b. Contact Information

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

```
Internet: Help Desk at the HRS Web site (https://hrs.isr.umich.edu/help)

E-mail: hrsquestions@umich.edu

Postal Service:
     Health and Retirement Study
     The Institute for Social Research
     426 Thompson Street, 3450 ISR
     Ann Arbor, Michigan  48104
```

Appendix A: Installation (Traditional License Only)

A1. Distribution Set

This data set is packaged for distribution in a .ZIP file, SSI2020.zip. In order to keep the contents secure, the .ZIP file has been encrypted using WinZIP 256 bit AES encryption. Extract the data file(s), the program statement file(s) matching your analysis environment, the data description (this file), and the codebook file. If you require a special file format or experience system problems, please contact the HRS Help Desk. If all files are decompressed, they will require approximately 90MB of free space on your storage device.

A1-1. Windows Environment
Copy the ZIP file to the Windows folder where you plan to do your work. Do not use the built-in Windows decompression utility; instead you should use a third-party tool such as **7-ZIP** or **WinZIP** to extract the ZIP folder contents. [1] When you are prompted for the pass-phrase, respond with the character string that you received via e-mail. The output will be the files listed in Table A1.

A1-2. UNIX/Linux Environment

Copy the ZIP file to the folder where you plan to do your work. Use the ZIP file decompression software installed on your system, (e.g. **7-zip, gunzip**) to decrypt and decompress the ZIP folder contents. When you are prompted for the pass-phrase, respond with the character string that you received via e-mail. The output will be the files listed in Table A1.

A1-3. Macintosh OS X Environment (10.4.x and above)

Copy the ZIP file to the folder where you plan to do your work and use **stuffit** to decrypt and decompress the ZIP folder contents. When you are prompted for the pass-phrase, respond with the character string that you received via e-mail. The output will be the files listed in Table A1

> Note: MiCDA Enclave Virtual Desktop Environment users are given access to pre-built SAS, Stata and SPSS versions of this dataset; therefore the information in this section does not apply to such users.

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[1] The built-in Windows decompression utility will not process AES-256bit encrypted zip files; it halts with "an unexpected error is keeping you from copying the file".

Table A1: Contents of Distribution Package

Directory[2]	File	Type
`c:\ssi2020`	`SSI2020.zip`	`distribution file`

`c:\ssi2020\doc\`	`SSI2020.txt`
	`SSI2020A_R.txt`
	`SSI2020B_R.txt`
		`Codebook files (ASCII text)`

`c:\ssi2020\data\`	`SSI2020A_R.da` `SSI2020B_R.da`	`Data files (ASCII text)`
`c:\ssi2020\sas\`	`SSI2020A_R.sas` `SSI2020B_R.sas`	`SAS program statements`
`c:\ssi2020\spss\`	`SSI2020A_R.sps` `SSI2020B_R.sps`	`SPSS program statements`
`c:\ssi2020\stata\`	`SSI2020A_R.dct/.do` `SSI2020B_R.dct/.do`	`Stata dictionary and "do" files`

A2. Program Statements

Each data file comes with associated SPSS, SAS or Stata program statements to read the data. Files containing SPSS statements are named with an .sps extension, those with SAS statements with an .sas extension, and those with Stata statements with .do and .dct extensions.

A2-1. Using the Files with SAS

To create a SAS system file, two file types must be present: a program statement file (.sas) and an ASCII data file (.da).Create the system file by loading the statement file into the SAS Program Editor. If the statement file is located in "C:\ssi2020\sas" and the data file is located in "C:\ssi2020\data", you can run the file as is. A SAS system file will be saved to directory "C:\ssi2020\sas". If the files are not located in the specified directories, you will need to edit the program statement file to reflect the proper path names.

A2-2. Using the Files with SPSS

To create an SPSS system file, two file types must be present: a syntax file (.sps) and an ASCII data file (.da). Create an SPSS system file by opening the syntax file in the SPSS editor window. If the syntax file is located in "C:\ssi2020\spss" and the data file is located in "C:\ssi2020\data", you can run the file as is. An SPSS system file will be saved to directory "C:\ssi2020\spss". If the files are not located in the specified directories, you will need to edit the syntax file to reflect the proper path names.

A2-3. Using the Files with Stata

To create a Stata system file, three file types must be present: a variable definition file (.dct), a Stata.do file, and an ASCII data file (.da). Files with the suffix ".da" contain the raw data for Stata to read. Files with the suffix ".dct" are Stata dictionaries used by Stata to describe the data. Files with the suffix ".do" are short Stata programs ("do files") which you may use to read in the data. Load the .do file into Stata and then submit it. If the *.do and .dct files are located in "C:\ssi2020\stata" and the data file is located in "C:\ssi2020\data", you can run the .do file as is. If the files are not located in these directories, you must edit the *.do and *.dct files to reflect the proper path names.

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[2] While a specific folder arrangement is not required for using HRS files, we have traditionally suggested a directory structure for the Windows environment. By using this directory structure, you will not have to change the path name references in your data descriptor files. If you do not use Windows, or if you use a different directory structure, just change the directory references in the program files.

A3. Non-Windows Environments

Non-Microsoft users should modify the default Windows file structure syntax to match that of their own operating system. The following examples should work for both Macintosh OS X and any Unix/Linux distribution. Open the SAS program file(s), SPSS syntax file(s) or the Stata do/dct files in an ASCII editor and make the changes indicated below.

SPSS in an OSX environment

In this example, we assume that:
- The username is "user1"
- The encrypted zip file containing the data set has been copied to the user's desktop.
- The user has decrypted/decompressed the zip file (use Stuffit for OS X) into a **Desktop** folder named **ssi2020**
- The ASCII data file is stored in sub-folder **data** and the syntax file in sub-folder **spss**
- The target file is SSI2020A_R.da.

The commands in the syntax file should be modified to look like this:

```
FILE HANDLE ssi2020 /name='Desktop/ssi2020/data/SSI2020A_R.da' RECL=nnn.
DATA LIST FILE= ssi2020/
HHID 1-6(A)
[rest of syntax file goes here]
.
execute.
SAVE /outfile 'Desktop/ssi2020/spss/SSI2020A_R.sav'.
Execute.
```

STATA in an OS X Environment

In the following example we assume that:
- The username is "user1"
- The encrypted zip file containing the data set has been copied to the user's desktop.
- The user has decrypted /decompressed the zip file (use Stuffit for OS X) into a desktop folder named **ssi2020**
- The ASCII data file is stored in sub-folder **data** and the .do/.dct files in sub-folder **stata**.

File `SSI2020A_R.do` should be modified as follows:
Change…
```
infile using c:\ssi2020\stata\SSI2020A_R.dct
```
To…
```
infile using /Users/user1/Desktop/ssi2020/stata/SSI2020A_R.dct
```

Change…
```
save c:\ssi2020\stata\SSI2020A_R.dta
```
To…
```
save /Users/user1/Desktop/ssi2020/stata/SSI2020A_R.dta
```

File `SSI2020A_R.dct` should be modified as follows:

Change…
```
dictionary using c:\ssi2020\data\SSI2020A_R.da {…}
```
To…
```
dictionary using /Users/user1/Desktop/ssi2020/data/SSI2020A_R.da {…}
```

Appendix B: Cohort Permission Status

Source Information

The *SSI Records* dataset is based on prospective permissions received:

- In 2006 for respondents interviewed enhanced face-to-face
- In 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, or 2020 for enhanced face-to-face interview respondents who were not asked previously or refused or were non-response.

Each new record set obtained from SSA reflects the most recent information available; therefore the latest version of *SSI Records* will always be the most accurate. Going forward, if current information for a given respondent is missing, the most recent data elements from past datasets will be used.

Information Received from SSA in Spring 2022

Consent Wave	Summary Earnings	Detail Earnings	Benefits (MBR and PHUS)	Form 831 SSI
2006	No	No	Yes, through 2018	Yes, through 2018
2008	No	No	Yes, through 2020	Yes, through 2020
2010	No	No	Yes, through 2020	Yes, through 2020
2012	No	No	Yes, through 2020	Yes, through 2020
2014	Yes, through 2020	Yes, through 2020	Yes, through 2020	Yes, through 2020
2016	Yes, through 2020	Yes, through 2020	Yes, through 2020	Yes, through 2020
2018	Yes, through 2020	Yes, through 2020	Yes, through 2020	Yes, through 2020
2020	Yes, through 2020	Yes, through 2020	Yes, through 2020	Yes, through 2020

Limits for Information Obtained Through Respondent Consent Forms

1. Prior to 2006, respondent permissions were based on separate agreements between HRS and SSA. This meant that information was obtained only for the time period and respondent cohort(s) covered by the agreement.
2. In 2006 the terms of the consent form were altered, allowing HRS to obtain updates of earnings and benefits data for all years up to and including the current year. The term of these consents was defined as year of signing through 2030.
3. In 2018 the respondent consent form[3] MOA terms were revised, limiting earnings permissions to year of signing through Survey Year + 6, and earnings permissions to year of signing through Survey Year + 12.
4. In future years, post-2004 respondents will need new earnings/benefits data consents once their Survey Year + 6/+12 anniversary has been reached.

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[3] In 1998 through 2014, HRS-SSA agreements included provisions for obtaining benefits and earnings information for deceased spouses. The deceased spouse option was dropped in 2016.