HEALTH AND RETIREMENT STUDY

Restricted Data

**2019 Spring Life History Mail Survey (LHMS)
Educational History Data**

Data Description

Version 1, July 2024

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.

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

The Life History Mail Survey 2019 Spring (LHMS 2019 Spring) contains questions about residential, education, employment and health history, and other important childhood and family events.

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 2019 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).

2. 2019 Spring LHMS Sample Design

In June 2019, questionnaires were mailed to a subsample of HRS respondents (n= 1748). The sample for the 2019 Spring LHMS consisted of HRS respondents who are part of the CAMS sample and who had not previously completed the LHMS in 2017. This includes persons who were asked but did not respond to the 2017 CAMS survey and participants from the late-Baby Boomer (LBB) birth cohort who entered HRS in 2016 but were not assigned to the LHMS in 2017.

The survey was conducted in English and Spanish.

The field period for the 2019 Spring LHMS was June 2019 through December 2019.

The data file contains 593 variables and data for 1748 respondents.

3. About the LHMS SPRING 2019 Educational History Data

3a. Variable Names and Labels

Variable names begin with the letters LH to designate the Life History Mail Survey, followed by _19SPRING to indicate the wave in which the data were collected. The variables available in the data file are listed in the table below.

Variable Name	Description
HHID	HOUSEHOLD IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
PN	RESPONDENT PERSON IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
LH22_ORDER_19SPRING	ROW NUMBER OF DATA ENTERED BY R ON PAGE 14 & 15
LH22_A_19 SPRING	SCHOOL START GRADE
LH22_B_19 SPRING	SCHOOL END GRADE
LH22_CITY_19 SPRING	SCHOOL CITY
LH22_STATE_19 SPRING	SCHOOL STATE
LH22_D_19 SPRING	SCHOOL START AGE
LH22_E_19 SPRING	SCHOOL END AGE
LH22_F_19 SPRING	SCHOOL PUBLIC OR PRIVATE
LH22_G_19 SPRING	SCHOOL RACE ETHNICITY
VERSION	VERSION NUMBER

Unlike LHMS 2019 Spring public data, these restricted records are stacked. Use the values in the variable LH22_ORDER_19 SPRING to determine which row of Question 22 (see example below) the respondent recorded values.

Your Educational History

The next section asks you for some details about your school and educational experiences before age 50.

Q22 In the table below, please list all of the names of the PRIMARY, ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, JUNIOR HIGH, AND HIGH SCHOOLS that you attended. Write "0" as the Grade for Kindergarten. Use one line for each school. If you attended the same school from Kindergarten to Grade 12, complete only the top line (#1).

TABLE COLUMNS SPAN ACROSS BOTH PAGES. ▶

#	Start Grade	End Grade	Name of School	City/Town	State (or Country)
1					
2	02	04			
3	05	06			
4	07	08			
5	09	12			

3b. 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.

For the variables included in this restricted subset of LHMS data for the LH22 series of questions, respondents were instructed to write the start grade, end grade, city where school was located, state where school was located, start age, end age, whether the school was public or private, and the racial composition for each school they attended from Kindergarten through high school. School names are not included in the full public, full restricted, or in this subset of restricted data.

4. File Structure

The HRS 2019 Spring LHMS Educational History Data (Version 1) data are at the respondent level. Respondent-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). This data file contains 4990 records (one or more records per respondent) for those reporting any K-12 schooling in the 2019 Spring LHMS questionnaire.

The data file is called LHMS19Spring_EduHistory, translated as: Life History Mail Survey 2019 Spring Educational History.

The primary Identification variables (IDs) are:

HHID   HOUSEHOLD IDENTIFIER
PN   PERSON NUMBER

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 file are stored in character format. For further information about HRS identification variables and merging data, see the [Data Description for the HRS 2002 Core](#).

5. Distribution Files

The following extensions are used for the six different types of distribution files:

.DA for data files,
.SAS for SAS program statements and .sas7bdat for SAS "ready-to-use" files,
.SPS for SPSS program statements and .sav for SPSS "ready-to-use" files,
.DO for Stata DO statements and .dta for Stata "ready-to-use" files,
.DCT for Stata dictionary statements, and
.TXT for codebook files.

For example,

LHMS19SPRING_EDUHISTORY.DA contains ASCII data
LHMS19SPRING_EDUHISTORY.SAS contains corresponding SAS program
statements
LHMS19SPRING_EDUHISTORY.SAS7BDAT contains SAS data in "ready-to-use"
format
LHMS19SPRING_EDUHISTORY.SPS contains corresponding SPSS program
statements
LHMS19SPRING_EDUHISTORY.SAV contains SPSS data in "ready-to-use" format
LHMS19SPRING_EDUHISTORY.DO contains corresponding Stata DO statements
LHMS19SPRING_EDUHISTORY.DTA contains Stata data in "ready-to-use" format
LHMS19SPRING_EDUHISTORY.DCT contains corresponding Stata dictionary statements
LHMS19SPRING_EDUHISTORY.TXT contains the ASCII codebook

The 2019 Spring LHMS Educational History (Version 1) data are provided as SAS (.sas7bdat), SPSS (.sav) and Stata (.dta) "ready-to-use" files and in ASCII format with fixed-length records. Use the associated SAS, SPSS or Stata program statements to read the data into the analysis package of your choice or use the available "ready-to-use" files. In addition, you may also download the codebook file (LHMS19Spring_EduHistory.TXT) and the data description (this document).

6. Program Statements

6a. Using the SAS Program Statements

To create a SAS system file for a particular dataset, two file types must be present for that dataset -- .SAS program statement files and .DA data files.

To create a SAS system file, load the *.SAS file into the SAS Program Editor.

If the *.SAS file is located in "c:\lhms2019spring\sas" and the data file is located in "c:\lhms19spring\data", you can run the file as is. A SAS system file (*.SD2 or *.SAS7BDAT) will be saved to directory "c:\lhms2019spring\sas".

If the files are not located in the specified directories, you will need to edit the *.SAS file to reflect the proper path names prior to running the file.

6b. Using the SPSS Program Statements

To create an SPSS system file for a particular dataset, two file types must be present for that dataset -- .SPS program statement files and .DA data files.

To create an SPSS system file, open the *.SPS file in SPSS as an SPSS Syntax File.

If the *.SPS file is located in "c:\lhms2019spring\spss" and the data file is located in "c:\lhms2019spring\data", you can run the file as is. An SPSS system file (*.SAV) will be saved to directory "c:\lhms2019spring\spss".

If the files are not located in the specified directories, you will need to edit the *.SPS file to reflect the proper path names prior to running the file.

6c. Using the Stata Program Statements

To use Stata with a particular dataset, the following three file types must be present for that dataset -- .DCT files, .DO files, and .DA data files.

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:\lhms2019spring\stata" and the data file is located in "c:\lhms2019spring\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 before you run the files.

Note that the variable names provided in the .DCT files are uppercase. If you prefer lower case variable names, you may wish to convert the .DCT files to lower case prior to use. You may do this by reading the .DCT file into a text or word processing program and changing the case. For instance in Microsoft Word, Edit, Select All, Format, Change Case, lowercase.

7. Linking Respondents across Time

Respondent records in the 2019 Spring LHMS Educational History (Version 1) can be linked to respondent records from 2018 and 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.

8. Registration and Downloading the Data

8a. 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.

8b. Conditions of Use

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

8c. 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 any publications you produce based on HRS data, with a bibliographical reference, if appropriate, to the address below.

Health and Retirement Study
Attn: Papers and Publications
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.

9. If You Need to Know More

This document is intended to serve as a brief overview and to provide guidelines to using the 2019 Spring LHMS Educational History data. 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.

9a. 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

9b. 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

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

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