

# HEALTH AND RETIREMENT STUDY

## Restricted Data

### Open-ended Redacted Responses: COVID (Core 2020)

Data Description and Usage

May 2025 Final Version 1.0

**To the Restricted Data Investigator:** This restricted data set is intended for exclusive use by you and the persons specified in the *Agreement for Use of Restricted Data from the Health and Retirement Study* and/or the *Supplemental Agreement with Research Staff for Use of Restricted Data from the Health and Retirement Study*.

If there are any questions about this data set and its use, refer to the HRS Restricted Data Web Site (<http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/rda>) or contact the HRS Help Desk ([hrsquestions@umich.edu](mailto:hrsquestions@umich.edu)).

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## 1. Overview

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.

## 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 data have two access options:

- [MiCDA Enclave](#) Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (recommended)
- Traditional Licensing Agreement (deprecated)

For instructions on how to proceed, visit the [HRS Restricted Data Web](#) site or contact the HRS Restricted Data Applications Processing Team ([hrsdaapplication@umich.edu](mailto:hrsdaapplication@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. You may send a bibliographical reference (including a URL link whenever possible) for each item to [hrsdaapplication@umich.edu](mailto:hrsdaapplication@umich.edu) with "Attn: Papers and Publications" in the subject line. If possible, you should also include a PDF-formatted copy of the publication.

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

This data product contains redacted comments given by HRS respondents related to COVID-19 during the 2020 Core survey. The comments were collected at the variable W335, listed below.

W335\_Covi We already talked a bit about how the coronavirus pandemic has affected you. We know people  
dExperienc have been affected in many different ways, and we want to understand your experience. Are there  
e. other things about your experience since the coronavirus pandemic started that you would like to  
share with us?

## **4. If You Need to Know More**

This document is intended to serve as a brief overview that provides guidelines for using this data product. 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](mailto:hrsquestions@umich.edu)

Postal Service:

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