

# HEALTH AND RETIREMENT STUDY

## **Cross-Wave Geographic Information (State) All Cohorts, 1992-2022**

### **Restricted Data**

#### Data Description

Version 10, September 2025

**To the Restricted Data Investigator:** Use of this data product is limited to researcher(s) who have obtained authorization from the Health and Retirement Study and the University of Michigan.

If there are any questions about this data set and its use, refer to the HRS Restricted Data Web Site (<https://hrs.isr.umich.edu/data-products/restricted-data>) 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. Procedures

### 2a. Applying for Access

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 may obtain access through the Michigan Center on the Demography of Aging (MiCDA) [Virtual Desktop Infrastructure](#). For instructions on how to proceed, visit the [HRS Restricted Data Web](#) site. If you have questions, contact the HRS Restricted Data Applications Processing Team ([hrrsdaapplication@umich.edu](mailto:hrrsdaapplication@umich.edu)) by email.

**Note: Use of restricted data products is limited to researchers whose application for access has been approved by the Health and Retirement Study and the University of Michigan.**

### 2b. Audits

To help ensure the security of the restricted data and to prevent breaches of respondent confidentiality, HRS may conduct an audit. The audit process involves an unannounced site inspection of the work site(s) by an independent investigator, who will seek to verify compliance with the user's restricted data security plan. Violations will be the subject of further investigation and may result in withdrawal of data access, among other possible penalties.

### 2c. Publications Based on Restricted Data

All restricted data agreements require researcher to inform HRS of any papers, publications, or presentations based on restricted data sets. Researchers should send a bibliographical reference (including a URL link whenever possible) for each item to [hrrsdaapplication@umich.edu](mailto:hrrsdaapplication@umich.edu) with "Attn: Papers and Publications" in the subject line. Whenever possible a PDF-formatted copy of the publication should be included. As an alternative, publications may be transmitted 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

### 2d. Modifications to Restricted Data Agreements

To make changes to an existing Restricted Data Agreement (RDA), or to make changes to a submitted RDA Application researchers must submit a [Modify an Agreement form](#). The requirements, information, and documentation required for each type of modification are detailed on the [Post-Application Activities Page](#). Typical modifications include annual renewal, research plan additions/updates, team member changes, and data protection plan modifications.

## **2e. Disclosure Limitation Review**

A contractual obligation of researchers who qualify for access to restricted data from the Health and Retirement Study is to maintain respondent anonymity. Disclosure limitation review is the method by which HRS can prevent disclosure of confidential information, reduce the likelihood of respondent re-identification, provide useful data to researchers, and ensure the results of the review process are acceptable to both the researcher and the provider(s) of the restricted data. All materials proposed for import into and export from the Enclave are subject to disclosure review. For details on the review process, visit the [Disclosure Limitation Review](#) page.

### 3. Data File Contents

The *Cross-Wave Geographic Information (State)* data set replaces all previously released HRS state-level geographic information products. The new file matches the current version of the tracker file<sup>1</sup>. It has 46,850 records, which are uniquely identified by Household Identifier (HHID) and Person Number (PN).

This data set is released in conjunction with four other data sets:

- *Cross-Wave Geographic Information (Detail)* [restricted]
- *Child ZIP Codes* [restricted]
- *Parent State Code* [restricted]
- *Cross-Wave Geographic Information: Respondent Region and Mobility* [public]

These files contain all geographic information (public and restricted) currently available for HRS respondents. See Table 1 for a comparison of the region, state, and detail file contents.

#### 3a. Data Sources

In the earlier waves of the study (1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996) geographical data were obtained from a variety of sources:

- HRS address/control files
- AHEAD address/control files
- The original HRS sample screen file
- Interview Content

Geographic information detail information was generated using these classification tools:

- the TIGER/Census Street Index
- the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Web site
- the Census Bureau Tract Street Locator
- CDUSA 9-Digit ZIP Code/Street Address listings

From 1998 onward, inputs to the geographical data coding process were obtained from one source, the Survey Research Operations (SRO) field control system. A respondent address table was created prior to each wave and was updated by interviewers during the data collection phase of the study. The table contained street address, city, state and ZIP code fields which served as inputs to address lookup and matching software.

Beginning with the 2014 file, each version of the cross-wave state data file is based on the Cross-Wave Geographic Information Detail dataset. The detail dataset is in turn based on the respondent information in the SRO control files. See *Cross-Wave Geographic Information (Detail) Data Description and Usage -- Appendix*, for detailed information about the processes used to obtain geographic information in each wave.

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<sup>1</sup> The HRS tracker file is created to facilitate the use of HRS data within and across waves. It contains one record for every person who was ever eligible to be interviewed in any wave. The tracker file version used in preparation of this dataset (Tracker 2022) covers all types of interviews (core, exit, and post-exit) for 1992 through the 2022 interviewing year.

Table 1: File Content Comparison<sup>2</sup>

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Detail (Section)</b>
HHID	Household Identifier	✓	✓	A, B
PN	Person Number	✓	✓	A, B
YEAR	Wave year numeric			B
WAVE	Wave year alphabetic			B
STUDY	Study Membership	✓	✓	A
FIRSTIW	Baseline Wave	✓	✓	A
AIWTYPE – PIWTYPE	Interview Type	✓	✓	
IWTYPE	Interview Type (by wave)			B
BornUS	Born US?	✓	✓	A
RegLiv10	Region Live When in School	✓		
RegionB	Census Division Where Born	✓		
REGIONyy	Region/Division of Residence	✓		
Beale1993_yy Beale2003_yy Beale2013_yy Beale2023_yy	HRS-Beale Rural Urban codes by wave using 1993, 2003, 2013, and 2033 coding	✓		
CHANGEwww	Location change distance from previous to current wave	✓		
RESCODEyy	Centroid match information	✓		
StaBorn	State Born		✓	A
CountryB92	Country Born (1992-2000 code frame)		✓	A
CountryB02	Country Born (2002-2022 code frame)		✓	A
WhrLiv10	Where Live When in School		✓	A
STATEUSPSyy	State USPS code (from address file)		✓	
STFIPSy	State FIPS Codes (2010 Census)		✓	
YEAR	Interview year (wave) designator			B
STATEUSPS	State USPS code (from address file)		✓	B
ZIPCODE	ZIP Code (from address file)			B
STCTYFIPS90	State FIPS + County FIPS (1990 Census)			B
STATEFIPS90	State FIPS Code (1990 Census)			B
CTYFIPS90	County FIPS Code (1990 Census)			B
TRACT90	Census Tract (2000 Census)			B
STCTYFIPS00	State FIPS + County FIPS (2000 Census)			B
STATEFIPS00	State FIPS Code (2000 Census)			B
CTYFIPS00	County FIPS Code (2000 Census)			B
TRACT00	Census Tract (2000 Census)			B
STCTYFIPS10	State FIPS + County FIPS (2010 Census)			B
STATEFIPS10	State FIPS Code (2010 Census)			B
CTYFIPS10	County FIPS Code (2010 Census)			B
TRACT10	Census Tract (2010 Census)			B
STCTYFIPS20	State FIPS + County FIPS (2020 Census)			B
STATEFIPS20	State FIPS Code (2020 Census)			B
CTYFIPS20	County FIPS Code (2020 Census)			B

<sup>2</sup> See *Restricted/Redacted Geographic Variable Cross-Reference* (RedactedGeocodeXref\_v1.pdf) for country and state code-frame information.

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Detail (Section)</b>
TRACT20	Census Tract (2020 Census)			B
STCTYFIPS22	State FIPS + County FIPS (2022 Update)			B
STATEFIPS22	State FIPS Code (2022 Update)			B
CTYFIPS22	County FIPS Code (2022 Update)			B
TRACT22	Census Tract (2022 Update)			B
LINKCEN2022	State FIPS + County FIPS + Tract (2022 Update)			B
LINKCEN2020	State FIPS + County FIPS + Tract (2020 Census)			B
LINKCEN2010	State FIPS + County FIPS + Tract (2010 Census)			B
LINKCEN2000	State FIPS + County FIPS + Tract (2000 Census)			B
LINKCEN1990	State FIPS + County FIPS + Tract (1990 Census)			B
COUNTYNAME	County Name (PROC GEOCODE)			B
CHANGE_TRACT	Change Since Last Wave - Tract			B
CHANGE_COUNTY	Change Since Last Wave - County			B
CHANGE_CITY	Change Since Last Wave - City			B
CHANGE_STATE	Change Since Last Wave - State			B
CHANGE_STREET	Change Since Last Wave - Street			B
CHANGE_ZIP	Change Since Last Wave - Zip			B
UrbRur2023 UrbRur2013 UrbRur2003 UrbRur1992	Beale Rural Urban codes for 2023, 2013, 2003, and 1993			B
HRRID	Hospital Referral Region			B
HRRLOCATION	HRR Location			B
HSAID	Hospital Service Area			B
HSALOCATION	HSA Location			B
HRRID2019	Hospital Referral Region 2019			B
HRRLOCATION 2019	HRR Location 2019			B
HSAID 2019	Hospital Service Area 2019			B
HSALOCATION 2019	HSA Location 2019			B
RUCA1990	Primary And Secondary RUCA Codes - 1990 Census			B
RUCAPRIME2000	Primary RUCA Code - 2000 Census			B
RUCASEC2000	Secondary RUCA Code - 2000 Census			B
RUCAPRIME2010	Primary RUCA Code - 2010 Census			B
RUCASEC2010	Secondary RUCA Code - 2010 Census			B
RESCODE	PROC GEOCODE match results (_NOTES_)			B
VERSION	Latest Version	✓	✓	A

### 3b. Variable Description

#### 3b-1. Variables from the Tracker File

The variables `STUDY`, `FIRSTIWI`, `GENDER` and `BORNUS` are taken directly from the Tracker file. Also included are Interview Type (`xIWTTYPE`) variables for each year, which indicate whether an interview was attempted and what type (core, exit, post-exit) of interview was obtained.

### 3b-2. One-time Variables

Background variables that contain geographic information are asked at the time of the respondent's first interview:

- StaBorn: The state where the respondent was born.
- CountryB92: The country where the respondent was born (1992-2000).
- CountryB02: The country where the respondent was born (2002 or thereafter).<sup>3</sup>
- WhrLiv10: The state or country where the respondent lived when 10 years old or in school.

See *Restricted/Redacted Geographic Variable Cross-Reference* (RedactedGeocodeXref\_v1.pdf) for country and state code-frame information.

### 3b-3. Other Geographic Identifiers

As noted in Table 1, this file contains the following state-level geographic identifiers:

- State U.S. Postal Service Code
- State FIPS Code

## 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 using 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

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<sup>3</sup> The code frame for CountryB02 is a super-set of the CountryB92 code frame.