

HEALTH AND RETIREMENT STUDY

Cross-Wave Race and Ethnicity

Restricted Data

All Cohorts, 1992-2022

Data Description and Usage

December 2025

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To the Restricted Data Investigator:

Use of this data product is limited to researchers 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 Website](#) or contact the [HRS Help Desk](#).

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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 (U01AG009740), 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 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 Website](#). If you have questions, contact the [HRS Restricted Data Applications Processing Team](#).¹

2b. Restricted Data Agreement

This restricted data set is intended for exclusive use by you and the persons (if any) specified in your restricted data agreement. Access to this data set is

¹ **Note:** This data set is also available in the NIA LINKAGE enclave. Consult the [HRS Restricted Data Website](#) for further information.

limited to users who have been approved for the MiCDA VDI by the Health and Retirement Study and the University of Michigan.

2c. Publications Based on Restricted Data

Your restricted data agreement requires you to inform HRS of any papers, publications, or presentations based on the data set. Send a bibliographical reference (including a URL link whenever possible) for each published item to the [HRS Restricted Data Applications Processing Team](#) 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, MI 48106-1248

3. Data Set Content

This version of the **Cross-Wave Race and Ethnicity 1992-2022** data set contains detailed race and ethnicity information provided by HRS respondents. These data should be used with caution, since HRS does not make any attempts to verify racial or ethnic self-identification by respondents.

Prior to 2006, the race/ethnicity and Hispanic identification questions were coded as single response variables. In 2006 both were changed to allow multiple mentions. The data set contains the single-mention variables collected prior to 2006 (RACEPRE and HISPANICPRE) as well as the multiple mention variables collected in 2006 and beyond. See the Codebook for additional information on additional variables.

The data set matches the current version of the tracker file (Tracker 2022).² The file has 46,766 records, which are uniquely identified by Household Identifier (HHID) and Person Number (PN).

TABLE 1: CONTENTS OF DISTRIBUTION PACKAGE

Directory	File	Type
.\re\docs\ 	RE2022.txt	Codebook file (ASCII text)
.\re\docs\ 	RE2022DD.pdf	Data Description (this file)
.\re\built\sas\ 	RE2022.sas7bdat	SAS system file
.\re\built\spss\ 	RE2022.sav	SPSS system file
.\re\built\stata\ 	RE2022.dta	Stata system file

4. If You Need to Know More

This document is intended to serve as a brief overview of the **Cross-Wave Race and Ethnicity 1992-2022** data set. If you have questions or concerns that are not adequately covered here or on our Website, or if you have any comments, please contact us. We will do our best to provide answers.

4a. HRS Website

To access public release data, find additional information about the Health and Retirement Study, or learn more about restricted data products, visit the [HRS Website](#).

² **Note:** 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 data set (Tracker 2022) covers all types of interviews (Core, Exit, and Post-Exit) for 1992 through the 2022 interviewing year.

4b. Contact Information

If you need to contact us, you may do so by:

1. [HRS Help Desk Website](#)
2. hqsquestions@umich.edu
3. Postal Service:

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