

# HEALTH AND RETIREMENT STUDY

## **Respondent Religion/Denomination**

### **Restricted Data**

Baseline Core Interviews 1992-2022

Data Description and Usage

January 2026 Version

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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 (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 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](#).<sup>1</sup>

### 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

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<sup>1</sup> **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

The 2022 version of the *Respondent Religion/Denomination* data set contains detail information on religion collected in Core baseline/first interview waves (through 2022), with the exception of the 1993 wave, for which no detail information is available. The data set matches the 2022 Tracker File<sup>2</sup> and is keyed on HHID and PN.

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<sup>2</sup> **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.

Special considerations:

- Detailed religion/denomination information is not available for AHEAD Wave 1 (1993)
- Information collected in the 2002 and 2004 Exit interviews is included in this data set

Table 1: Contents of Distribution Package

| Directory         | File                 | Type                        |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| .\rd\docs\        | RDXWAVE2022.txt      | Codebook files (ASCII text) |
|                   | RDXWAVE2022.pdf      | Data Description            |
| .\rd\built\sas\   | RDXWAVE2022.sas7bdat | SAS system file             |
| .\rd\built\spss\  | RDXWAVE2022.sav      | SPSS system file            |
| .\rd\built\stata\ | RDXWAVE2022.dta      | Stata system file           |

## 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 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](#).

### 4b. Contact Information

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

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

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