

What is the Transition into Adulthood Supplement?

The Transition into Adulthood (TA) study, implemented since 2005, captures individuals 18 and older who participated in the [Child Developmental Supplement \(CDS\)](#) but are not yet household heads in the core [Panel Study of Income Dynamics \(PSID\)](#). Data are collected on a biennial schedule and collection is expected until at least 2015. The TA study fills a gap between information collected in the CDS and information on adulthood collected from panel members in the core PSID; in other words, the TA study provides information about early adulthood transitions. This period of early adulthood is critical for life course development. Many of these life course events, such as educational attainment, family formation, and career initiation, take place while young adults are still dependent on their parents. The TA study was motivated by the recognition that these years of early adulthood are marked by significant choices and transitions that impact future life course outcomes.

What is the composition of the TA 2009 sample?

The original TA 2005 sample includes 860 individuals with a follow-up response rate of 87%. The TA 2009 sample includes 1,599 completed interviews (but only 1,554 interview data were released) for a 92% wave-specific response rate and an 81% cumulative response rate).

Four basic components define the TA 2009 sample:

1. Age (18 years and older);
2. No longer attending high school;
3. Participation in the CDS baseline interview (1997, 2002/2003, or 2007); and
4. Participation of main family in PSID 2009 interview.

What data are collected in the TA 2009 study, and what does it offer family scholars?

The TA questionnaire is divided into 12 sections and provides information for research on the following: time use; responsibilities; the self; marriage, family, and relationships; employment; income and wealth; education and career goals; social environment; religiosity and race/ethnicity; and outlook on life. The section on marriage and family relationships includes data on living arrangements, general satisfaction, time spent with partner, future expectations and the likelihood of marriage and divorce; past, present, and future pregnancies and fertility expectations, gender roles, child rearing/family values, and parenting skills and experiences; and the relationship between the individual and his or her own parents.

How do I use the TA 2009 data?

The [questionnaires and supporting documentation](#) page of the [Panel Study of Income Dynamics](#) website provides users with public access to the TA 2009 Questionnaire as well as documents containing important information pertaining to the questionnaire. A User Guide, found on the same page, provides researchers with key information on the sample design, file structure, survey content, sample weights, and other data collection procedures.

How do I access the TA 2009 data?

Public-use data are available in ASCII, SAS, SPSS, and STATA formats and can be obtained from the PSID website's [Data Center](#) where users can create customized extracts. In addition, the Data Center provides

The Data Source: Panel Study of Income Dynamics, Supplemental: Transition into Adulthood, 2009

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options for automatic merging of data across waves, and between PSID and CDS data files. To protect the confidentiality of respondents, some data collected by the 2009 PSID are only made available to researchers who agree to a restricted use contract with the University of Michigan. Restricted use data can only be requested by researchers who hold a full-time, permanent, doctoral-level faculty appointment. In addition, their research must be approved by a human subjects institutional review board. More detail regarding information on how to obtain restricted data can be found [here](#).

Sneak peak: TA 2011

The [preliminary 2011 TA data file](#) is currently available in a zip file that includes a SAS data set, text files, and a box and arrow questionnaire. This file represents the 4th wave of the TA study. The data are not available via the PSID Data Center as files are preliminary and values may change before final scheduled release.

Further Questions...

Specific questions regarding the TA 2009 and preliminary TA 2011 data can be submitted through the website's [help desk](#).

Suggested Citation

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