



HEALTH AND RETIREMENT STUDY
A Longitudinal Study of Health, Retirement, and Aging
Sponsored by the National Institute on Aging

1 Sample Description

The University of Michigan Health and Retirement Study (HRS) surveys more than 22,000 Americans over the age of 50 every two years. Supported by the National Institute on Aging (NIA U01AG009740) and the Social Security Administration, the HRS is a large-scale longitudinal project that studies the labor force participation and health transitions that individuals undergo toward the end of their work lives and in the years that follow.

Since its launch in 1992, the study has collected information about income, work, assets, pension plans, health insurance, disability, physical health and functioning, cognitive functioning, and health care expenditures. Through its unique and in-depth interviews with a nationally representative sample of adults over the age of 50, the HRS provides an invaluable, growing body of multidisciplinary data to help researchers address the challenges and opportunities of aging.

2 Project Website

<http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/>

3 Years Covered

HRS 1998 (Wave 4) Core: Collected February 1998 - March 1999
HRS 2000 (Wave 5) Core: Collected February 2000 - January 2001
HRS 2002 (Wave 6) Core: Collected April 2002 - March 2003
HRS 2004 (Wave 7) Core: Collected March 2004 - February 2005
HRS 2006 (Wave 8) Core: Collected March 2006 - February 2007
HRS 2008 (Wave 9) Core: Collected February 2008 - February 2009

4 Longitudinal

Yes

5 Publicly Available

[Data are available for download from the Health and Retirement Study Website](#)

Raw data files are available with SAS, STATA, or SPSS programs for formatting

6 Restricted Access Data Available

A number of private-use data files (including some geographic information, pension estimation, health care information, industry/occupation, and other miscellaneous information) are not included in the public data files.

[View the restricted data products and apply for these data via restricted use contract.](#)

7 Web-accessible Analysis

No

8 Interuniversity

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/6854?q=health+and+retirement+study>

9 "Getting Started with the Health and Retirement Study" documentation

[Introductory guide to HRS data and resources](#)

10 User Guides

<http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/index.php?p=userg&jumpfrom=PP>

11 Data Descriptions

1998: <http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/modules/meta/1998/core/desc/hrs98dd.pdf>

2000: <http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/modules/meta/2000/core/desc/hrs00dd.pdf>

2002: <http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/modules/meta/2002/core/desc/h02dd.pdf>

2004: <http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/modules/meta/2004/core/desc/h04dd.pdf>

2006: <http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/modules/meta/2006/core/desc/h06dd.pdf>

2008: <http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/modules/meta/2008/core/desc/h08dd.pdf>

12 Resources for Analysis of Family Data

<http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/index.php?p=famdat>

13 Data Specific Bibliography

<http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/index.php?p=biblio>

14 Data Citation

Researchers should include the following citation in any research reports, papers, or publications based on Public Release data:

In text:

"The HRS (Health and Retirement Study) is sponsored by the National Institute on Aging (grant number NIA U01AG009740) and is conducted by the University of Michigan."

In references:

"Health and Retirement Study, ([insert product name]) public use dataset. Produced and distributed by the University of Michigan with funding from the National Institute on Aging (grant number NIA U01AG009740). Ann Arbor, MI, (year)."

15 List Serv/ User Group/ Helpline

<http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/index.php?p=helpdesk>

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