

What is the Integrated Fertility Survey Series?

The Integrated Fertility Survey Series (IFSS) is a unique harmonized dataset that contains information from a set of cross-sectional, national U.S. family and fertility surveys. Harmonization involves the development of a single data source with comparable variables from different surveys. The IFSS contains 10 datasets with over 71,000 respondents: the 1955 and 1960 Growth of American Families (GAF); the 1965 and 1970 National Fertility Surveys (NFS); and the 1973, 1976, 1982, 1988, 1995, and 2002 National Surveys of Family Growth (NSFG). Survey years for the IFSS range from 1955 to 2002. The IFSS is funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and is maintained by the Population Studies Center and the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan. The main goal of the IFSS is to provide a longitudinal, integrated dataset that allows researchers the ability to examine family and fertility issues across five decades.

What does the Integrated Fertility Survey Series offer family scholars?

The datasets used to create the IFSS focus on family and childbearing. Therefore, the IFSS contains a variety of family-related variables. Specifically, the IFSS contains information on union status and histories, cohabitation, pregnancy, reproductive health, fertility assistance, infertility, childbearing histories, fertility intentions, family planning, number of children, adoption, adoptive children, and non-biological children. The IFSS also contains information on general demographics and information pertaining to religion, nativity, income, education, employment, supplemental income, geographic location, health, medical diagnoses, and HIV testing. Additional variables regarding pregnancy outcomes and wantedness and contraceptive use will be released in 2012.

How do I use the Integrated Fertility Survey Series data?

Related literature, file manifest, and codebooks can be accessed through the Integrated Fertility Survey Series [website](#). Data users should begin by reading the IFSS [User Guide](#) for an explanation of how to use the data as well as the complex sample weights. Users should note that many of the harmonized variables are only available for a specific sample population and/or specific time frame across the five decades covered by the IFSS datasets. For instance, because the 1955 GAF survey sample is limited to married White women, the IFSS cannot provide fertility histories for Black or unmarried women across all datasets and time points. Therefore, users interested in fertility trends from 1955-2002 will have to limit their research to married White women. Similarly, some questions are included only later in the series. For example, cohabitation histories can be analyzed only in the 1988, 1995, and 2002 data. For more information concerning subsets of population, see the [User Guide](#).

How do I access the data?

Users can access the data from the [Data and Documentation](#) page on the IFSS website. Users may choose from ten individual national studies' files or a single data file that contain the harmonized data from the combined surveys. Data can be downloaded as SAS, Stata, SPSS, or ASCII files. Users may also choose to complete analyses through the [online analysis](#) tools provided by ICPSR. Users may search and download key variables in all of the surveys, including the harmonized variables. Information on extracting variables can be found on the [data extraction](#) page.

Where can I learn more about the Integrated Fertility Survey Series data?

Users can learn more about the Integrated Fertility Survey Series by visiting the IFSS [website](#) and can find contact information concerning the dataset on the [Contact Us page](#).

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