

CODEBOOK: GSS 1972-2014 Cumulative Subset (gsscum_codebook.sav)

A subset of the National Opinion Center's General Social Survey. Source: [GSS 1972-2014 Cross-Sectional Cumulative Data; GSS Panel 2010-Sample Wave 3](#).

General Notes:

1. To facilitate analysis for the exercises in the “Longitudinal Analysis” topic, all attitudinal and behavioral variables in this subset have been recoded to form dichotomies, with valid values of 0 and 100. Except for Party ID, variables were recoded to divide respondents into groups that are roughly equal in size.
2. Due to an insufficient number of cases (fewer than 100), the GI Generation cohort (those born 1927 or earlier) has been excluded for surveys after 2006; for the same reason, the Generation X cohort (those born from 1965 through 1981) has been excluded for surveys prior to 1987 and the Millennium Generation cohort (those born after 1981) has been excluded for surveys prior to 2004.
3. Except for *weight*, *cohort*, and *ethnic*, variable names and variable labels are taken from the full GSS cumulative file.

NAME	LABEL
<u><i>weight</i></u> :	SAMPLE WEIGHT
<u><i>year</i></u> :	YEAR SURVEYED
<u><i>age</i></u> :	AGE OF RESPONDENT
<u><i>cohort</i></u> :	AGE COHORT
<u><i>degree</i></u> :	RESPONDENT'S HIGHEST DEGREE
<u><i>educ</i></u> :	HIGHEST YEAR OF SCHOOL COMPLETED
<u><i>sex</i></u> :	RESPONDENT'S SEX
<u><i>ethnic</i></u> :	RACE/ETHNICITY OF RESPONDENT
<u><i>marital</i></u> :	MARITAL STATUS
<u><i>class</i></u> :	SUBJECTIVE CLASS IDENTIFICATION
<u><i>region</i></u> :	REGION OF INTERVIEW
<u><i>relig</i></u> :	RESPONDENT'S RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE
<u><i>attend</i></u> :	HOW OFTEN RESPONDENT ATTENDS RELIGIOUS SERVICES
<u><i>polviews</i></u> :	THINK OF SELF AS LIBERAL OR CONSERVATIVE
<u><i>partyid</i></u> :	POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION
<u><i>news</i></u> :	HOW OFTEN DOES R READ NEWSPAPER
<u><i>tvhours</i></u> :	HOURS PER DAY WATCHING TV
<u><i>eqwlth</i></u> :	SHOULD GOVT REDUCE INCOME DIFFERENCES
<u><i>natspac</i></u> :	SPACE EXPLORATION PROGRAM
<u><i>natenvir</i></u> :	IMPROVING & PROTECTING ENVIRONMENT
<u><i>natheal</i></u> :	IMPROVING & PROTECTING NATIONS HEALTH
<u><i>natcity</i></u> :	SOLVING PROBLEMS OF BIG CITIES
<u><i>natcrime</i></u> :	HALTING RISING CRIME RATE
<u><i>natdrug</i></u> :	DEALING WITH DRUG ADDICTION
<u><i>nateduc</i></u> :	IMPROVING NATION'S EDUCATION SYSTEM
<u><i>natrace</i></u> :	IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF BLACKS

NAME	LABEL
<u><i>natarms:</i></u>	MILITARY, ARMAMENTS, AND DEFENSE
<u><i>nataid:</i></u>	FOREIGN AID
<u><i>natfare:</i></u>	WELFARE
<u><i>abany:</i></u>	ABORTION IF WOMAN WANTS FOR ANY REASON
<u><i>cappun:</i></u>	FAVOR OR OPPOSE DEATH PENALTY FOR MURDER
<u><i>colhomo:</i></u>	ALLOW HOMOSEXUAL TO TEACH
<u><i>fepol:</i></u>	WOMEN NOT SUITED FOR POLITICS
<u><i>grass:</i></u>	SHOULD MARIJUANA BE MADE LEGAL
<u><i>gunlaw:</i></u>	FAVOR OR OPPOSE GUN PERMITS
<u><i>racmar:</i></u>	FAVOR LAW AGAINST RACIAL INTERMARRIAGE
<u><i>marhomo:</i></u>	HOMOSEXUALS SHOULD HAVE RIGHT TO MARRY
<u><i>conpress:</i></u>	CONFIDENCE IN PRESS
<u><i>contv:</i></u>	CONFIDENCE IN TELEVISION
<u><i>conjudge:</i></u>	CONFID. IN UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT
<u><i>confed:</i></u>	CONFID. IN EXEC BRANCH OF FED GOVT
<u><i>conlegis:</i></u>	CONFIDENCE IN CONGRESS
<u><i>helpful:</i></u>	PEOPLE HELPFUL OR LOOKING OUT FOR SELVES
<u><i>fair:</i></u>	PEOPLE FAIR OR TRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE
<u><i>trust:</i></u>	CAN PEOPLE BE TRUSTED
<u><i>voted:</i></u>	RESPONDENT VOTED IN MOST RECENT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

weight: SAMPLE WEIGHT

This variable is used to correct for known or estimated sampling biases, including those resulting from household size. The weight variable used here is a composite of "formwt," "oversamp" and "wtssall" in the original data. For more information, see [Appendix A of the GSS codebook](#).

year: YEAR SURVEYED

age: AGE OF RESPONDENT

89 89 OR OLDER
98 DK
99 NA

cohort: AGE COHORT

- 1 GI Generation (born 1927 or earlier)
- 2 Silent Generation (born 1928-1945 Baby Boomers(born 1946-1964)
- 3 Generation X (born 1965-1981)
- 4 Millennium Generation(born 1982 or later)
- 5 GI Generation, but surveyed after 2006, or Generation X, but surveyed prior to 1987, or Millennium Generation, but surveyed prior to 2004

Note: Respondents whose age was coded as 89 or older are assumed to have been 89 years old. In a few cases, this may have resulted in respondents being assigned to a later cohort than was actually the case.

degree: RESPONDENT'S HIGHEST DEGREE

- 0 LT HIGH SCHOOL
 - 1 HIGH SCHOOL
 - 2 JUNIOR COLLEGE
 - 3 BACHELOR|
 - 4 GRADUATE
 - 7 IAP
 - 8 DK
 - 9 NA
-

educ: HIGHEST YEAR OF SCHOOL COMPLETED

- 97 IAP
 - 98 DK
 - 99 NA
-

sex: RESPONDENT'S SEX

- 1 MALE
 - 2 FEMALE
-

ethnic: RACE/ETHNICITY OF RESPONDENT

- 1 WHITE
 - 2 AFRICAN AMERICAN
 - 3 HISPANIC
 - 4 OTHER
-

marital: MARITAL STATUS

- 1 MARRIED
 - 2 WIDOWED
 - 3 DIVORCED
 - 4 SEPARATED
 - 5 NEVER MARRIED
 - 9 NA
-

class: SUBJECTIVE CLASS IDENTIFICATION

- 0 IAP
 - 1 LOWER CLASS
 - 2 WORKING CLASS
 - 3 MIDDLE CLASS
 - 4 UPPER CLASS
 - 5 NO CLASS
 - 8 DK
 - 9 NA
-

region: REGION OF INTERVIEW

- 0 NOT ASSIGNED
 - 1 NEW ENGLAND
 - 2 MIDDLE ATLANTIC
 - 3 E. NOR. CENTRAL
 - 4 W. NOR. CENTRAL
 - 5 SOUTH ATLANTIC
 - 6 E. SOU. CENTRAL
 - 7 W. SOU. CENTRAL
 - 8 MOUNTAIN
 - 9 PACIFIC
-

relig: RESPONDENT'S RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE

- 1 PROTESTANT
 - 2 CATHOLIC
 - 3 JEWISH
 - 4 NONE
 - 5 OTHER
 - 6 BUDDHISM
 - 7 HINDUISM
 - 8 OTHER EASTERN
 - 9 MOSLEM/ISLAM
 - 10 ORTHODOX-CHRISTIAN
 - 11 CHRISTIAN
 - 12 NATIVE AMERICAN
 - 13 INTER-NONDENOMINATIONAL
 - 0 IAP
 - 98 DK
 - 99 NA
-

attend: HOW OFTEN RESPONDENT ATTENDS RELIGIOUS SERVICES

- 0 NEVER
 - 1 LT ONCE A YEAR
 - 2 ONCE A YEAR
 - 3 SEVRL TIMES A YR
 - 4 ONCE A MONTH
 - 5 2-3X A MONTH
 - 6 NRLY EVERY WEEK
 - 7 EVERY WEEK
 - 8 MORE THN ONCE WK
 - 9 DK, NA
-

polviews: THINK OF SELF AS LIBERAL OR CONSERVATIVE

We hear a lot of talk these days about liberals and conservatives. I'm going to show you a seven-point scale on which the political views that people might hold are arranged from extremely liberal--point 1--to extremely conservative-- point 7. Where would you place yourself on this scale?

- 0 Liberal or Moderate
- 100 Conservative

partyid: POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or what?

0 Republican (including "leaners")
100 Democrat ("including "leaners")
sysmis Independent or other

news: DOES R READ NEWSPAPER DAILY

0 No
100 Yes

tvhours: DOES R WATCH TV > 2 HRS/DAY?

0 No
100 Yes

eqwlth: SHOULD GOVT REDUCE INCOME DIFFERENCES

Some people think that the government in Washington ought to reduce the income differences between the rich and the poor, perhaps by raising the taxes of wealthy families or by giving income assistance to the poor. Others think that the government should not concern itself with reducing this income difference between the rich and the poor. Here is a card with a scale from 1 to 7. Think of a score of 1 as meaning that the government ought to reduce the income differences between rich and poor, and a score of 7 meaning that the government should not concern itself with reducing income differences. What score between 1 and 7 comes closest to the way you feel? (CIRCLE ONE):

0 No (originally coded 4-7)
100 Yes (originally coded 1-3)

natspac: SPACE EXPLORATION PROGRAM

We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. First (READ ITEM A) . . . are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (ITEM)? A. Space exploration program

0 Too much
100 About right or too little

natenvir: IMPROVING & PROTECTING ENVIRONMENT

We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. First (READ ITEM A) . . . are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (ITEM)? B. Improving and protecting the environment

0 Too much or about right
100 Too little

natheal: IMPROVING & PROTECTING NATIONS HEALTH

We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. First (READ ITEM A) . . . are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (ITEM)? C. Improving and protecting the nation's health

0 Too much or about right
100 Too little

natcity: SOLVING PROBLEMS OF BIG CITIES

We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. First (READ ITEM A) . . . are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (ITEM)? D. Solving the problems of the big cities

0 Too much or about right
100 Too little

natcrime: HALTING RISING CRIME RATE

We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. First (READ ITEM A) . . . are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (ITEM)? E. Halting the rising crime rate

0 Too much or about right
100 Too little

natdrug: DEALING WITH DRUG ADDICTION

We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. First (READ ITEM A) . . . are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (ITEM)? F. Dealing with drug addiction

0 Too much or about right
100 Too little

nateduc: IMPROVING NATION'S EDUCATION SYSTEM

We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. First (READ ITEM A) . . . are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (ITEM)? G. Improving the nation's education system

0 Too much or about right
100 Too little

natrace: IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF BLACKS

We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. First (READ ITEM A) . . . are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (ITEM)? H. Improving the conditions of Blacks

0 Too much or about right
100 Too little

natarms: MILITARY, ARMAMENTS, AND DEFENSE

We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. First (READ ITEM A) . . . are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (ITEM)? I. The military, armaments and defense

0 Too much
100 About right or too little

nataid: FOREIGN AID

We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. First (READ ITEM A) . . . are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (ITEM)? J. Foreign aid

0 Too much
100 About right or too little

natfare: WELFARE

We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. First (READ ITEM A) . . . are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (ITEM)? K. Welfare

0 Too much
100 About right or too little

abany: ABORTION IF WOMAN WANTS FOR ANY REASON

Please tell me whether or not you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion if . . . the woman wants it for any reason?

0 No
100 Yes

cappun: FAVOR OR OPPOSE DEATH PENALTY FOR MURDER

Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

0 Oppose
100 Favor

colhomo: ALLOW HOMOSEXUAL TO TEACH

And what about a man who admits that he is a homosexual? Should such a person be allowed to teach in a college or university, or not?

0 No
100 Yes

fepol: WOMEN NOT SUITED FOR POLITICS

Tell me if you agree or disagree with this statement: Most men are better suited emotionally for politics than are most women.

0 Disagree
100 Agree

grass: SHOULD MARIJUANA BE MADE LEGAL

Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal or not?

0 No
100 Yes

gunlaw: FAVOR OR OPPOSE GUN PERMITS

Would you favor or oppose a law which would require a person to obtain a police permit before he or she could buy a gun?

0 Oppose
100 Favor

racmar: FAVOR LAW AGAINST RACIAL INTERMARRIAGE

Do you think there should be laws against marriages between (Negroes/Blacks/African-Americans) and whites?

0 No
100 Yes

marhomo: HOMOSEXUALS SHOULD HAVE RIGHT TO MARRY

Do you agree or disagree ... homosexual couples should have the right to marry one another?

0 Disagree
100 Agree or neither agree nor disagree

conpress: CONFIDENCE IN PRESS

I am going to name some institutions in this country. As far as the people running these institutions are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them? . . . G. Press

0 Hardly any
100 A great deal or only some

contv: CONFIDENCE IN TELEVISION

I am going to name some institutions in this country. As far as the people running these institutions are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them? . . . I. TV

0 Hardly any
100 A great deal or only some

conjudge: CONFIDENCE IN UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

I am going to name some institutions in this country. As far as the people running these institutions are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them? . . . J. U.S. Supreme Court

0 Only come or hardly any
100 A great deal

confed: CONFIDENCE IN EXEC BRANCH OF FED GOVT

I am going to name some institutions in this country. As far as the people running these institutions are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them? . . . E. Executive branch of the federal government

0 Hardly any
100 A great deal or only some

conlegis: CONFIDENCE IN CONGRESS

I am going to name some institutions in this country. As far as the people running these institutions are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them? . . . L. Congress

0 Hardly any
100 A great deal or only some

helpful: ARE MOST PEOPLE NOT HELPFUL?

Would you say that most of the time people try to be helpful, or that they are mostly just looking out for themselves?

0 Look out for self or depends
100 Helpful

fair: ARE MOST PEOPLE FAIR?

Do you think most people would try to take advantage of you if they got a chance, or would they try to be fair?

0 Take advantage or depends
100 Helpful

trust: ARE MOST PEOPLE TRUSTWORTHY?

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in life.

0 Not trustworthy
100 Trustworthy or depends

voted: RESPONDENT VOTED IN MOST RECENT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

0 No
100 Yes

Last updated October 18, 2016.

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