

Harmonized Life History Data

An increasing number of HRS Family Surveys are conducting retrospective life history interviews, in which participants provide retrospective information about their lives before entering the study, including detailed information of histories for five key domains. Life history data provides remarkable opportunities for studying previous life courses and examining their impact on later life. To facilitate the use of life history data, we have developed internationally comparable versions of the five histories and released them in a user-friendly sequence data format with annual information for each year of age from age 15 to age 80. This format directly allows users to describe life circumstances at a specific age and is the standard format for an in-depth study of histories based on sequence analysis. Users can download Harmonized Life History files by following the links from the Gateway (www.g2aging.org) or by downloading a single Stata program from the Gateway which will generate the Harmonized Life History dataset from the study's data files.

Work situation by age for men and women from age 15 to age 65



Harmonized Life History Data provide annual information from age 15 to age 80 in the following five domains:

- **Work:** whether in paid work or not working - distinguishing eight different work states
- **Partnership:** whether respondent lived with a partner
- **Children:** total number of children, number of children below age 18
- **Health:** whether had period of ill health or disability at each age
- **Housing:** type of housing (owner, tenant, non-private housing, living abroad, parental home)

LIFE HISTORY INTERVIEWS

collect richly
detailed information
on respondents'
lives before entering
the study, providing
histories for five key
domains: children,
partnership,
housing, work, and
health.

**GATEWAY TO
GLOBAL AGING
DATA**

www.g2aging.org

The [Gateway to Global Aging Data](#), sponsored by the National Institute on Aging, facilitates cross-national comparative studies on aging using the entire family of Health and Retirement Surveys around the world.

The features include:

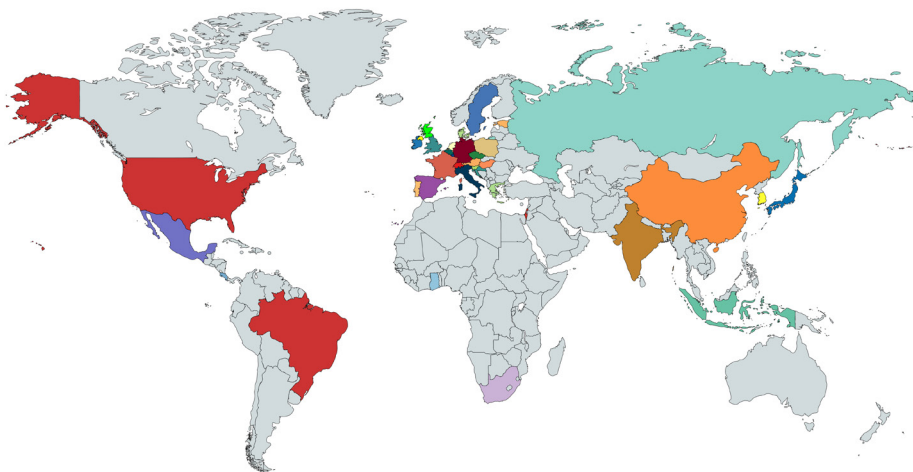
- **HRS Family Surveys:** view all survey questionnaires, see flowcharts illustrating survey logic and skip patterns, find relevant survey items using a keyword search or by selecting common research topics
- **Cross-study Concordance:** identify comparable measures across different surveys or across waves within a survey
- **Documentation:** read our working paper series detailing cross-country comparability for many research domains.
- **Interactive Graphs and Tables:** produce informative graphs and detailed tables of key harmonized measures across countries without downloading the micro data
- **Publications:** search publications based on the family of HRS surveys around the world
- **Downloads:** locate and download survey micro data, Harmonized data, Harmonized codebooks, and Stata programs

Harmonized Life History files:

- are released as a single data file per study
- are sequenced by age
- include all respondents with a completed Life History Interview
- are created with variables as comparable as possible between all HRS Family Surveys
- are easily merged with study's core Harmonized dataset

Core **Harmonized Data** files for cross-country analysis:

- **RAND HRS & Harmonized HRS** (United States)
- **Harmonized MHAS** (Mexico)
- **Harmonized ELSA** (England)
- **Harmonized SHARE** (20+ European countries & Israel)
- **Harmonized CRELES** (Costa Rica)
- **Harmonized KLoSA** (South Korea)
- **Harmonized JSTAR** (Japan)
- **Harmonized TILDA** (Ireland)
- **Harmonized CHARLS** (China)
- **Harmonized LASI** (India)



For more information please visit us at www.g2aging.org or send an email to help@g2aging.org.

This project is funded by the National Institute of Aging (R01 AG030153, RC2 AG036619, and R03 AG043052).