

HEALTH AND RETIREMENT SURVEY (HRS)

The University of Michigan Health and Retirement Study surveys more than 22,000 Americans over the age of 50 every two years. The study paints an emerging portrait of an aging America's physical and mental health, insurance coverage, financial status, family support systems, labor market status, and retirement planning.

Listing of study variables & measurement of variables

Health and Retirement Study:

Questionnaire Topics:

- health and cognitive conditions and status
- retirement plans and perspectives
- attitudes, preferences, expectations, and subjective probabilities
- family structure and transfers
- employment status and job history
- job demands and requirements
- disability
- demographic background
- housing
- income and net worth
- health insurance and pension plans
- experimental modules

Links with Administrative Data:

- Employer Pension Study (1993, 1999)
- National Death Index
- Social Security Administration earnings and projected benefits data; W-2 self-employment data
- Medicare files (pending)

Asset and Health Dynamics among the Oldest Old:

Questionnaire Topics:

- cognitive performance
- physical and functional health
- economic status (assets and income)
- claims on transfer programs and contingent claims
- Medicaid eligibility
- family structure, caregiving, and financial transfers
- demographic characteristics
- housing (including access to services)
- service use (community and nursing home)
- out-of-pocket costs for all services
- experimental modules

Links with Administrative Data:

- Medicare files
- National Death Index
- Social Security Administration earnings and projected benefits files