



UAS Update

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State of Affairs



- About 13,000 panel members
 - Includes CA and LA County oversample
 - About 10,000 nationally representative
- Core surveys every two years
- Many additional types of data collection
- Frequent experiments to improve response, recruiting, and retention rates.

The core surveys in the UAS



- We field 17 core surveys to all panel members every two years
 - Most of these surveys have been fielded in the UAS since its inception in 2014
- Results in rich longitudinal data on a wide range of topics
- Includes content that is unique to the UAS
 - E.g. Social Security programs
- And content that is useful as background for research
 - E.g., personality measures, financial literacy, etc.



Currently, we field 15 core surveys every two years

- 1 miscellaneous survey (the “first” survey)
- +
- 3 Social Security Surveys
- +
- 2 Financial services and financial wellbeing surveys
- +
- 6 HRS surveys
- +
- 5 Cognitive surveys



The “first” survey

14-item financial literacy test

Satisfaction with life domains

Big 5 Personality traits

Understanding probabilities

Currently in the fourth round (UAS 458), ~ 20 minutes of survey time.



Three surveys on Social Security

- Knowledge tests of Social Security program rules (4 rounds, ~15 min)
- Questions about channels used to obtain information on SS (4 rounds, ~15 min)
- Knowledge about, and experiences with SSA's disability programs (SSI and SSDI) (2 rounds, ~15 min)

Two surveys on financial services and wellbeing



- One survey on financial service use (4 rounds, ~20 min)
 - Types of financial accounts
 - Debt types
 - Banking (retail vs online)
 - Financial fragility (ability to weather unexpected payments)
- One survey on Consumer Financial wellbeing (3 rounds, ~1 min)
 - 10 item CFPB's Financial wellbeing score



The complete HRS instrument is fielded across six surveys

Four rounds finished. Fifth round in the field

HRS Sections	HRS Topic	UAS survey (most recent)	~ Minutes.
A-D	Health history, cog abilities	UAS 396	24
E-H	Family,, health	UAS 397	17
J-M	Job status, job history	UAS 398	16
N-P	Health insurance and healthcare usage	UAS 399	14
Q,R	Income and assets	UAS 400	11
S,T,W	Widowhood..trusts	UAS 401	2



Other Data Types

- Atmotube wearable air quality monitors
 - 500+, expanding to 1,000
 - Links to EPA ground stations not established yet, except for simple county averages.
 - For now, unlimited duration
- Fitbits as digital biomarkers
 - About 1,000 used for a year now
 - Currently also inviting respondents who already own a Fitbit
- Ecological Momentary Assessments (EMAs)
 - About 1300 one-week bursts

More Data Types



- End-of-day recordings
 - Currently about 1000 observations
 - Used for text analysis, concentrating on mood and social interactions
 - Analysis of sound files in progress
- To facilitate participation of respondents without a smartphone, we are starting a pilot where 100 respondents receive an Iphone with a two-year data plan
- About a thousand respondents have agreed to sharing electronic payments information via an aggregator



Future Plans

We just received the NOA for a five-year renewal



- Grow panel to 20,000 national (~23,000 total)
- Investigate the causes of differences in life courses and how these culminate in observed inequality.
 - It motivates a broad data collection program.
 - It requires the combination of life history data, prospective data collection, contextual information, big data and sensor and other passive data.



More plans

- Plan to add a wealth of contextual data
- Received an award with University of Michigan to give Fitbits to caregivers
- Hope to be able to genotype the panel
- Preparing competing revision to give Fitbits to 10,000 panel members
- Started experiments with avatars and ChatGPT



And whatever else we can think of