

## **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



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#### 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.



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#### **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)



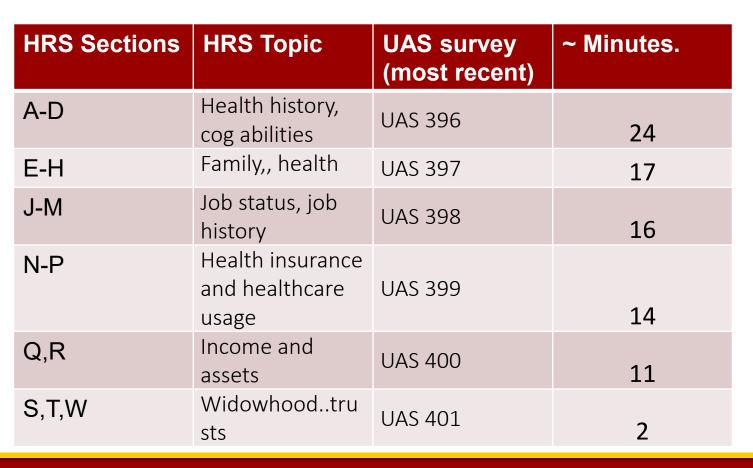
### Two surveys on financial services and wellbeing



- 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







#### **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**



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## 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



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