

# HRS LIFE HISTORY SURVEY

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**HRS** | HEALTH AND  
RETIREMENT  
STUDY

# LIFE HISTORIES IN HRS

- High priority following SHARE and ELSA
- HRS had more life history content already in core than they did
- No way to devote time or money to a standalone interview
- → self-administered mail survey
- Jacqui Smith, PI of R01 to design and harmonize to ELSA and SHARE
- Two elements
- Some retrospective questions about experiences
- Grids for
  - Residential history
  - Education history
  - Job history

# RESIDENCE: GRID AND QUESTIONS

INSTRUCTION AND TABLE COLUMNS SPAN ACROSS PAGES ►

**Q5** On the next pages please fill in as much information as you can about **all the places that you have lived for one year or more** from when you were born until age 50. **To begin, next to #1 please write your year of birth as the "start year" on the top row.** If you can't remember the exact year(s) for each time you moved, please write either your age or the decade (e.g., late 1950s). If you lived outside the U.S., write the country name instead of the state.

**you have lived for one year or more** from when you were born until age 50. If you can't remember the exact year(s) for each time you moved, please write either your age or the state.

#	Start Year	End Year	Street	City/Town	State	Zip	Did you or your family own or rent this residence? [Check one]
1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>				<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Rent <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>				<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Rent <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>				<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Rent <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>				<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Rent <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
5	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>				<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Rent <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know

**Q6** Who lived with you when you were 10? [Check all that apply]

- Biological mother
- Biological father
- Adoptive, step, or foster mother
- Adoptive, step, or foster father
- Biological brother(s) or sister(s)
- Adopted, step, foster, or half brother(s) or sister(s)
- Grandparent(s)
- Other relative(s)
- Other non-relative(s)

**Q14** Who lived with you when you started your first full-time job? [Check all that apply]

- Spouse or partner
- Biological children
- Adopted, foster, or step children
- Brother(s) / sister(s)
- Parent(s)
- Grandparent(s)
- Parent(s)-in-law
- Other relative(s)
- Other non-relative(s)
- I lived alone
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Q11** When you were 10 years old, approximately how many books were in the place you lived? Do not count magazines, newspapers, or your school books. [Check one box]

- None or very few (0-10 books)
- Enough to fill one shelf (11-25 books)
- Enough to fill one book case (26-100 books)
- Enough to fill two bookcases (101-200 books)
- Enough to fill more than two bookcases (more than 200 books)

**Q18** Who lived with you when you were 40? [Check all that apply]

- Spouse or partner
- Biological children
- Adopted, foster, or step children
- Brother(s) / sister(s)
- Parent(s)
- Grandparent(s)
- Parent(s)-in-law
- Other relative(s)
- Other non-relative(s)
- I lived alone
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Q10** When you were 10, how much did you feel part of your local area? (That is, the area within a 20 minute walk or about a mile of your home.) [Check one box] The closer your mark is to a statement, the more strongly you agree with it.

I felt that I didn't belong in this area        I really felt part of this area  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

## FIELDWORK

- Complicated by working around the longitudinal Consumption and Activities Mail Survey in the fall

For cohorts through MBB (birthyears<1960)

- 2015 Fall non-CAMS early/partial design
- 2017 Spring CAMS full design
- 2017 Fall non-CAMS second partial or full design
- 2019 Spring CAMS sample LHMS non-response
- 2019 Fall non-CAMS sample LHMS non-response

For LBB cohort (1960-65)

- 2019 Spring CAMS sample full design
- 2019 Fall non-CAMS sample full design

No LHMS in 2021 as we did the COVID mail survey for everyone

2023 non-response followups

# RESPONSE RATES BY COHORT ALIVE AND IN SAMPLE IN 2020

Cohort	Complete	In sample	RR
<b>AHEAD</b>	162	246	65.9%
<b>CODA</b>	310	427	72.6%
<b>HRS</b>	3,863	5,112	75.6%
<b>WB</b>	1,379	1,820	75.8%
<b>EBB</b>	2,769	3,992	69.4%
<b>MBB</b>	2,947	4,841	60.9%
<b>LBB</b>	2,004	4,837	41.4%
<b>ALL</b>	13,434	21,275	63.1%
<b>excl LBB</b>	11,430	16,438	69.5%

# DATA: FROM HRS CORE SURVEYS 1992-2018: CHILDHOOD FAMILY CONTEXT AND CHILDHOOD HEALTH

Cross-wave Aggregated data (1992-2016) released April 2020

<https://hrsdata.isr.umich.edu/data-products/cross-wave-childhood-health-and-family-aggregated-data>

**N = 38,354**

## Family SES and Context

Rate family financial situation - SES  
Move due to financial difficulty  
Family get financial help in childhood  
Father unemployed during childhood  
Father usual occupation-masked  
Live with grandparents during childhood  
Father education- highest grade  
Mother education- highest grade  
Mother work during childhood  
A year of school over again before 18  
Family problems caused by parents' drinking and drugs  
Physical abused by parents before age 18

## Childhood Health

Rate health as child  
Parents/guardians smoke  
Asthma before 16  
Diabetes before 16  
Respiratory disorder before 16  
Speech impairment before 16  
Allergic condition before 16  
Heart trouble before 16  
Ear problems before 16  
Epilepsy or seizures before 16  
Headaches or migraines before 16  
Stomach problems before 16  
High BP before 16  
Depression before 16  
Drugs/alcohol before 16  
Other psych problems before 16  
Childhood-concussion or severe head injury

Smith JP. Reconstructing childhood health histories.  
*Demography*. 2009 May;46(2):387–403

# DATA FROM LHMS

- 2015 and 2017 in combined file
- 2019 in process of adding
- Questionnaire data publicly available
- Address/school/employer data confidential
- Ongoing work to clean address and name data
- Work ahead to link to historical-contextual data

# LHMS CONTENT OVERVIEW

## Geographical and Residential History

Housing contexts before and after age 16  
Age when left parental home  
Residences from birth to present  
Household composition at age 10  
Household composition at first job  
Household composition at age 40

## Partnership History

Grids of marriages and partnerships

## Caregiving History

Start/stop spells of unpaid caregiving

## Physical activity

Frequency of vigorous & moderate activities  
Age 18-29  
Age 30-39  
Age 40-49

## Education History

K-12 schools  
Issues in elementary or primary school  
Extracurricular and sport activities  
Colleges and professional training

## Work History

Family-work arrangements  
Industry/job title history  
Self-defined most important job at age 30-40  
Job quality of important job age 30-40

## Health

Health conditions and gynecological illnesses  
Major surgeries before age 50  
Therapy for drug/alcohol use  
Injuries in major accidents before age 50  
Spells of ill health/disability after age 16

## Important achievements

16 Themes



## PLANS

- Continue non-response followup of LBB and earlier cohorts in 2023
- Develop web alternative to mail
- Add 2022 new cohort (EGENX) and minority older cohort starting 2025
  - With some enhanced content for understanding lives of minoritized

# THANK YOU!

<http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/>

And now on Twitter: @hrsir



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