

UnderStandingAmericaStudy

UNDERSTANDING AMERICA STUDY DATA USER NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first Center for Economic and Social Research quarterly data user newsletter.

Our goal is to keep you up to date on Understanding America Study (UAS) data news, solicit your feedback, feature interesting findings, and provide information on recent publications.

For more regular updates you can also follow us on  @UAS_CESR.

We have a survey link at the bottom of the newsletter which asks questions in more detail, or feel free to just write us back with your comments.

UAS Quarterly Omnibus Survey launches in April!

We are very pleased to announce the launch of a new and ongoing UAS data collection project: the quarterly UAS Omnibus Survey. The UAS Omnibus is a cost-effective way to collect fast and reliable data on any topic. This representative national survey is conducted in English and Spanish. Interested parties can suggest up to 12 simple questions. A price schedule can be found [here](#). To illustrate, the cost per question for a sample of 500 and three questions would be \$667. For 12 questions, the cost per question would fall to \$542. For a sample of 4000 respondents and three questions, the cost per question would be \$3,583. For the same sample size and 12 questions, the cost per question would fall to \$3,083. The UAS Omnibus is great for quick turnaround projects, feasibility studies, testing alternate question wording, or even conducting a prospective longitudinal analysis over time. You can combine your data with several hours' worth of background questions, including demographics, cognition, personality, political preferences, health, finances, labor market position, etc.

Price Schedule for the Quarterly UAS Omnibus Survey

This representative national survey is conducted in English and Spanish. Interested parties can suggest up to 12 simple questions. Because costs are shared, the UAS Omnibus is a price-effective way to collect data though the UAS panel. The UAS Omnibus is great for quick turnaround projects, feasibility studies, testing alternate question wording, or even conducting a prospective longitudinal analysis over time. You can combine your data with several hours' worth of background questions, including demographics, cognition, personality, political preferences, health, finances, labor market position, etc. We have provided an online [Omnibus price calculator](#) for your estimates, or [contact us](#).

COMING IN MARCH AND APRIL: New / Updated Presidential Election data and programs

Election data file location: <https://uasdata.usc.edu/data/election-data>

March 1: FINAL Daybreak Poll microdata files, documentation, and weights

VOTE DATA and CODEBOOK: We are on track to release all final data files from our pre-election LA Times / Dornsife Daybreak election poll by the end of February. This will include the full set of pre-weighted daily 7-day tracking

polldata files and the final version of the

fulldata longitudinal microdata file, which includes a correction in the calculation of a few variables. The original files referenced during the course of the election will also remain available. Changes are detailed in the documentation we will also post online at that time.

NEW "ELECTION TOPICS" DATA: While the Daybreak poll was running, we added a few questions on special topics every week. Often these topics were suggested by researchers outside of CESR. Our release will include the currently embargoed "special topics" questions that we asked each week during the election, directly after the vote questions. We will also release data from three additional polls we conducted in July, which focused on the party conventions. Measures included in these releases: ideology and party affiliation, voting habits of social contacts and friends, happiness if the candidates were elected, candidate and VP impressions, Trump and Clinton approval ratings, questions on immigration and trade, and questions specific to the three presidential debates. Later in the election season we also verified current registration, and asked questions about experiences with early voting.

WEIGHTING PROGRAMS. We will provide customizable weighting programs that can be used to add weights to the election data files, or to subsets of them.

April 1: Post-Election data

We fielded a post-election survey (UAS 71) immediately after the election, and asked election-related questions in the UAS's end of year survey (UAS 79). Measures included registration, presidential vote, generic party congressional vote, confidence in accuracy of vote count, observers at voting location, friends voting, happiness with Trump as president, party registration, party affiliation, 2012 vote, Embargo on these data ends March 31 2017.

Recently Fielded Surveys and new completed Datasets

Number	Title	Embargo ends
UAS47	Election baseline	no embargo
UAS52	(July 15-22) Approval of Mike Pence as GOP vice presidential nominee, choice of candidates being considered for Clinton's choice for Democratic VP nominee	no embargo
UAS54	(July 22-28) Following the news, convention impact, focus on Hillary Clinton vs. Donald Trump, approval of Pence as GOP VP choice, approval of Kane as Dem VP choice	no embargo
UAS55	(July 29-Aug 5) Following the news, Kane approval, convention impact, focus on Hillary Clinton vs. Donald Trump, impact on optimism	no embargo
UAS67	Risk Attitudes and Financial Anxiety	November 22, 2017

UAS71	Post-election Survey	April 1, 2017
UAS73	(Nov 3-7) Questions on the predictive power of asking questions about the voting intentions of the respondents' circle of friends. Final collection in a series.	November 3-7, 2017
UAS76	UAS End of Year Survey	March 31, 2017
UAS79	Employment and Work Schedule Preferences	January 31, 2018

User Friendly Standardized UAS Datasets

With support from the Social Security Administration, The National Institute on Aging, and the Society of Actuaries, UAS has undertaken a project to collect measures corresponding to the University of Michigan's Health and Retirement Study (HRS), and to provide a standardized public use data set (PUD) that includes HRS and other relevant UAS variables. We are also creating a web-based visualization tool that will allow users to interactively explore these datasets on a variety of key indicators through customizable animated charts and tables. We will provide more information in subsequent newsletters as this project unfolds.

Available now: income, housing and financial wealth: As a first step, we have standardized variables related to income and wealth from the UAS Health and Retirement UAS 21 and UAS 24 (corresponding to HRS 2014 modules H and Q) and added relevant variables from other UAS data sets focusing on financial information and cognition. The dataset and codebook and more information can be found here: <https://uasdata.usc.edu/content/Health-and-Retirement>

Later this year, we will add standardized HRS variables on topics such as health, employment, social security benefits, and retirement.

Recent UAS Publications Publications from 2016

The list of all UAS publications is here: <https://uasdata.usc.edu/content/Papers>.

What are we missing? Please send us all citations for your publications and presentations using UAS data (citation information below)! We will feature them here in future newsletters and add them to our list.

- * Zamarro, Gema, et al. "[Comparing and Validating Measures of Character Skills: Findings from a Nationally Representative Sample](#)." (2016)
- * Rappaport, Anna. M. "[SOA Partnership Produces New Research on the Finances of Older Americans](#)." Pension Section News, (2016): 12-14
- * Rabinovich, L., et al. "[Preparing for Retirement, Social Security Literacy and Information preferences among Hispanics: A Qualitative Study](#)." CESR-Schaeffer Working Paper Series (2016)
- * Huffman, David. Maurer, Raimond. Mitchell, Olivia S. "[Time Discounting and Economic Decision-making Among the Elderly](#)." NBER Working Paper No. 22438 (2016)
- * Cheng, Albert. Zamarro, Gema. Orriens, Bart. "[Personality as a Predictor of Unit Nonresponse in Panel Data: An Analysis of an Internet-based Survey](#)." EDRE Working Paper No. 2016-12.
- * Romley, John. Goutam, Prodyumna. Sood, Neeraj. "[National Survey Indicates that Individual Vaccination Decisions Respond Positively to Community Vaccination Rates](#)." PLoS ONE 11(11):

e0166858.

* Chard, Richard, David Rogofsky, Joanne Yoong. (Forthcoming). "Wealthy or Wise: How Knowledge Influences Retirement Savings Behavior". Journal of Behavioral and Social Sciences. 4:3

* Sinayev, Aleksandr. [Dual-System Theories of Decision Making: Analytic Approaches and Empirical Tests](#). Diss. The Ohio State University, 2016.

* Parise, Gianpaolo, and Kim Peijnenburg. "[Noncognitive Abilities and Financial Distress](#)." (2016).

Publication Tracking, and Required Acknowledgement Reminder

Please remember to send us the citations of your UAS-related publications. This is a funding requirement, and we want to promote your work on our website, and in this newsletter!

When you are using UAS data, please include the following text in your acknowledgements:

"The project described in this paper relies on data from survey(s) administered by the Understanding America Study, which is maintained by the Center for Economic and Social Research (CESR) at the University of Southern California. The content of this paper is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of USC or UAS."

Your Input Needed! We are finalizing a redesign of the UAS webpages to make them easier to use and more functional, and working on finalizing data codebooks and other documentation. We would greatly appreciate your feedback on what is working and where we might improve. Please fill out our very brief survey here: <http://survey.usc.edu/uasdata/start/index.php>. Thank you!

Questions? Feedback? Ideas for future newsletters?
Contact us at uas-l@mymaillists.usc.edu or visit <http://uasdata.uas.edu>

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To look at other survey data sets, visit
<https://uasdata.usc.edu>

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