

UnderStandingAmericaStudy

THE UAS MONTHLY PANEL SURVEY DATASET: DATA DESCRIPTION



USC Dornsife Center for Economic and Social Research

Andrew Becker

Orla Hayden

Pey-Juan Lee

Michael Moldoff

Francisco Perez-Arce

Document Updated: April 1, 2026

Contents

1. Introduction	2
2. Overview of the Monthly Panel Survey Dataset	3
2.1 Input Files and Panel Dataset Structure	3
2.2 Missing Values	4
2.3 Obtaining the Monthly Panel Survey Dataset.....	5
2.4 Merging with other UAS Datasets	5
3. Variables	7
3.1 UAS Standard Variables	7
3.1.1 Default Survey Variables (survey metadata)	8
3.1.2 Demographic Variables.....	8
3.2 Monthly Life Events and Life Issues Variables	8
3.2.1 Monthly Event Questions	8
3.2.2 Auxiliary Randomization Experiments	10
3.3 Derived Variables	14
3.3.1 Metadata and Demographic.....	15
4. Updates and Data Issues in each Survey Wave	17
5. Sample Weights	17
Appendix A. Monthly Panel Survey Dataset Variables	18
Table A.1 Metadata and Demographic Variables	18
Table A.2 Monthly Life Events and Life Issues Variables	21

1. INTRODUCTION

This document describes the UAS Monthly Panel Survey Dataset, which was created at the University of Southern California's Center for Economic and Social Research (CESR) with data collected in the Understanding America Study (UAS). Support for this dataset is provided by the Social Security Administration and the National Institute on Aging.

The UAS is a nationally representative panel of American households randomly recruited through address-based sampling. Respondents are aged 18 and up, and they complete surveys, on average, once or twice monthly via an online interface that is technologically powerful, user-friendly, and quick to deliver results.

Starting in October 2023, the UAS has been fielding a survey at the start of each month to all active respondents. Each Monthly Survey asks respondents whether they experienced various life events since the last Monthly Survey they answered (or in the preceding month). It asks questions on topics including health, pain levels, and subjective well-being. Other content is added for a subset of months that includes questions on food insecurity, aspects of affect such as anger, positive affect, cognition, meaning and purpose.

The Monthly Panel Survey Dataset aggregates data from all waves of the UAS's Monthly Survey project. The Monthly Panel Survey Dataset merges and organizes a subset of the data collected in these surveys and derives additional variables. It includes all of the "core" data in the monthly surveys, that is, the content that is repeated across months and other content intended for longitudinal analyses. It is updated monthly, with each new update adding the data collected in the most recently concluded Monthly Survey. The month of the most recent survey included is referenced in the updated dataset's name (e.g., "monthly_panel_1124.dta" when the most recently concluded survey was fielded in November 2024).

Please send all questions about the Monthly Panel Survey Dataset or this data description to uas-l@maillists.usc.edu.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE MONTHLY PANEL SURVEY DATASET

2.1 Input Files and Panel Dataset Structure

The first Monthly Survey included (UAS 581) was fielded in October of 2023 and asked about issues and events that took place since September 1st, 2023. This survey was Wave 1. The second survey, Wave 2, was fielded in November of 2023 and asked about issues and events since October 1st (for first time respondents) or since the date of completion of the September 2023 survey. Subsequent waves follow the same pattern, asking about events since the most recent completed survey or, for new respondents, since the first day of the preceding calendar month. Table 1 displays the months fielded and months of inquiry for the surveys contained in the current version of the Monthly Panel Survey Dataset, as well as each survey's sample size, number of completes, number of partial completes, and response rate.

Table 1. UAS Surveys in the Monthly Panel Survey Dataset and their Response Rates

Wave	UAS Survey	Month Fielded	Typical Month of Inquiry	Size of Sample	Number of Completes	Number of Partial Completes	Response Rate
1	UAS 581	Oct 2023	Sep 2023	13185	9386	41	71.19%
2	UAS 580	Nov 2023	Oct 2023	13302	9100	43	68.41%
3	UAS 590	Dec 2023	Nov 2023	13314	8960	80	67.30%
4	UAS 592	Jan 2024	Dec 2023	13300	9591	52	72.11%
5	UAS 598	Feb 2024	Jan 2024	14047	9809	46	69.83%
6	UAS 599	Mar 2024	Feb 2024	14501	9827	86	67.77%
7	UAS 615	Apr 2024	Mar 2024	14586	10152	57	69.60%
8	UAS 618	May 2024	Apr 2024	14588	9883	81	67.75%
9	UAS 622	Jun 2024	May 2024	14519	9969	75	68.66%
10	UAS 625	Jul 2024	Jun 2024	14405	9859	87	68.44%
11	UAS 636	Aug 2024	Jul 2024	14908	9818	88	65.86%
12	UAS 641	Sep 2024	Aug 2024	14851	10068	89	67.79%
13	UAS 654	Oct 2024	Sep 2024	14765	9999	93	67.72%
14	UAS 663	Nov 2024	Oct 2024	14657	9420	99	64.27%
15	UAS 670	Dec 2024	Nov 2024	14569	9558	96	65.61%
16	UAS 681	Jan 2025	Dec 2024	14477	9614	83	66.41%
17	UAS 685	Feb 2025	Jan 2025	14242	9537	125	66.96%
18	UAS 701	Mar 2025	Feb 2025	14075	9639	82	68.48%
19	UAS 706	Apr 2025	Mar 2025	14047	9610	77	68.41%

20	UAS 711	May 2025	Apr 2025	13945	9574	134	68.66%
21	UAS 718	June 2025	May 2025	13984	9589	111	68.57%
22	UAS 728	July 2025	June 2025	13799	9617	109	69.69%
23	UAS 734	August 2025	July 2025	13453	9393	75	69.82%
24	UAS 745	September 2025	August 2025	13370	9289	76	69.48%
25	UAS 749	October 2025	September 2025	13485	9154	81	67.88%
26	UAS 752	November 2025	October 2025	13409	8994	121	67.07%
27	UAS 764	December 2025	November 2025	13371	8983	108	67.18%
28	UAS 769	January 2026	December 2025	13342	9119	75	68.35%
29	UAS 774	February 2026	January 2026	13305	9089	58	68.31%
30	UAS 782	March 2026	February 2026	13621	9660	200	70.92%

The dataset is structured as a panel where each row represents the responses of an individual (cross-sectional dimension) in a given wave (time dimension). Survey wave is uniquely identified by the variable *wave*, and individual respondents by their UAS identification code, *uasid*, as depicted in Table 2.

Table 2. Structure of the Monthly Panel Survey Dataset (values are for example only)

uasid	wave	final_weight	start_month	start_day	uas_surv_num	le_hrs_p1 (often troubled by pain)	empl_when_month (date of employment change)	d110 (cesd-felt depressed in past week)
000001	1	1.5001	6	3	581	2 No		2 No
000001	2	1.5001	7	2	580	2 No		1 Yes
000001	3	1.5001	8	1	590	1 Yes	2019-06-08	1 Yes
000001	4	1.5001	9	4	592	2 No		2 No
000001	5	1.5001	10	7	598	2 No		1 Yes
000002	1	2.1203	6	8	581	2 No		2 No
000002	2	2.1203	7	2	580	2 No		2 No
000002	3	2.1203	8	1	590	2 No		2 No
000002	4	2.1203	9	3	592	2 No		1 Yes
000002	5	2.1203	10	3	598	2 No		2 No

2.2 Missing Values

Many variables contain the missing value codes of *.z*, *.a*, *.e*, or *.c*. The *.z* code indicates that the pertinent variable was not fielded during the given record's survey wave. These are questions/variables that were added to the Monthly Events survey at some point after Wave 1.

The *.a* code indicates either [1] that a variable's question was displayed but not applicable because inconsistent with a response made on the same screen (e.g., for variables *clim002s1* (extreme heat) and *empl1* (change in employment status)) or, more typically, [2] that a variable's question was never displayed to the respondent due to questionnaire skip pattern logic or because the survey was not fully completed. The *.c* code also indicates that the survey was not completed but is only found in the end of survey date variables. (e.g., *end_date* *end_hour*)

The *.e* indicates that the respondent refused to answer a question, did not know the answer, or found the question or response option.

2.3 Obtaining the Monthly Panel Survey Dataset

The dataset is available for download in Stata format from the [UAS Monthly Panel Survey Dataset](#) page at the UAS website. If you would like the data in a different format, such as SAS or csv, please email your request to uas-l@maillists.usc.edu. All data in the dataset have their origin in UAS public use files, which are accessible through the [UAS All Surveys page](#).

Before accessing the Monthly Panel Survey Dataset or other UAS data, one must first obtain permission by [registering on the UAS site](#) to download the UAS public release files. Registering with UAS is considered agreeing to the “conditions of use” governing access and usage of the data.

2.4 Merging with other UAS Datasets

The dataset can be linked with data from more than 600 UAS surveys (a listing of all available UAS surveys is found on the [UAS All Surveys page](#)). The Monthly Panel Survey Dataset can also be linked with UAS special datasets such as the [UAS Comprehensive File](#) (the Comprehensive Files contains data from all UAS-core surveys, which are fielded bi-annually to all active UAS panelists).

Each UAS file can be merged with other UAS files using the unique person identifier *uasid*, which is discussed in [Section 3.1.1](#) in more detail. Most other UAS data files, including the raw datasets for each separate Monthly Events survey available on the [UAS All Surveys page](#), are respondent-level with one record (row) per respondent. The Monthly Panel Survey Dataset, however, is respondent*wave-level, with one record for each cross of respondent and wave. In other words, there is a separate row for each survey that each respondent in the panel completed. Consequently, joining the Monthly Panel Survey Dataset with most other UAS files must be performed as a many-to-one merge.

Please send any questions about the data merging process or any other item related to the Monthly Panel Survey Dataset to uas-l@maillists.usc.edu.

3. VARIABLES

The variables in the Monthly Panel Survey Dataset cover the following topics:

- Food security
- Life Satisfaction
- Overall health
- Depression and Anxiety
- Pain
- Stress
- Employment Shocks
- Health Shocks
- Financial Shocks
- Loneliness
- Anger
- Positive Affect
- Cognition
- Meaning and Purpose
- Climate

They are distinguished and organized in this document along two dimensions: source (whether the variable was downloaded or derived) and content.

The downloaded variables are a subset of raw variables downloaded from the Monthly Events datasets found on the [UAS All Surveys page](#) and are either directly collected from the respondent or calculated by the survey software. Derived variables are calculated during the construction of the Monthly Panel Survey Dataset and are discussed in [Section 3.3](#).

The two content groups are [1] metadata and demographics variables (listed in [Appendix A.1](#) and described in [Section 3.1](#) and [Section 3.3.1](#)), and [2] monthly life events and issues variables (listed in [Appendix A.2](#) and described in [Section 3.2](#) and [Section 3.3.2](#)).

3.1 UAS Standard Variables

Each UAS survey dataset contains a set of [a] default survey variables and [b] demographics variables that together are termed the UAS standard variables (see the [UAS standard variables page](#) for more).

3.1.1 Default Survey Variables (survey metadata)

Most default survey variables represent when and how the survey was administered. Examples are times/dates when respondents began and completed the survey, whether the survey was administered in English or Spanish, sample weights, and whether a tablet was ever provided to the respondent.

Of particular note are three identifier variables. Each respondent is uniquely identified with *uasid*. This variable, assigned to a respondent at recruitment into the UAS panel, stays fixed across surveys and is the key for linking this dataset to any other UAS file. Households are identified with *uashhid* (original household identifier), which also stays fixed, and *survhhid* (survey-specific identifier), which uniquely identifies the household a panel member belongs to at the time of a given survey, and so can change for respondents when they move between different households.

Finally, two metadata variables (*wave*, and *survey_source*) were derived specifically for the Monthly Panel Survey Dataset and are described in more detail in [Section 3.3.1](#) below.

3.1.2 Demographic Variables

The demographic variables found in the Monthly Panel Survey Dataset include respondents' age, gender, ethnicity, marital status, family structure, state of residence, education, marital status, employment characteristics, and household composition, among other attributes. All demographic variables were collected in the My Household survey, which is administered quarterly to every respondent in the UAS panel, ensuring that these variables are regularly updated. The demographic variables are associated with each distinct Monthly Events survey according to the following rule: variable values collected in the My Household survey completed closest in time before a given Monthly Events survey is begun by a respondent are associated with that Monthly Events survey and added to its data.

3.2 Monthly Life Events and Health and wellbeing

The focal content of the Monthly Events surveys and Monthly Panel Survey Dataset can be divided into two groups: monthly event question blocks, and other monthly issues.

3.2.1 Monthly Event Questions

The Monthly Surveys ask respondents to evaluate and describe life circumstances using questions that can be grouped into the following sections (the variables for each issue are listed in the

subsequent parentheses). For more on question order, please refer to a Monthly Event survey's documentation, accessible from the [UAS All Surveys page](#).

- Life Satisfaction: *le_hrs_s1 esteem001*
- Self-reported health: *_srh1*
- Loneliness: *brfss_lonely*
- Depression and anxiety –PHQ-4 measures-4: *phq4a, phq4b, phq4c, phq4d*
- Pain level: *le_hrs_p1, le_hrs_p2*
- Stress: *pss4_1, pss4_2, pss4_3, pss4_4*
- Food insecurity: *fs001, fs002, fs003, fs003b, fs004, fs005, fs020a, fs023 ei005f, and ei005h*
- Health: *he001 – he004, hh001* – hh004*
- Climate: *clim002s1 - clim004s17, clim_when, clim_recent, clim_last30days*

3.2.2 Life event questions

The Monthly Surveys ask respondents whether they have experienced a life event since the last survey answered in the following domains: employment, health (illness or accidents), death and financial events.

The variables included indicate whether the respondent experienced the event since the date of the last monthly survey they answered. For respondents answering their first monthly survey, the questions ask about the first day of the prior calendar month.

For respondents who report the relevant event, follow-up questions ask about the nature of the event (i.e. type of illness, or type of employment change), and the date when the event occurred.

- Shocks:
 - Employment Status: *empl1, empl2, empl_f2, empl3, empl2s1- empl2s9, empl3s1 - empl3s11, empl_when_before, empl_when_befores1, empl_when_day, empl_when_month, empl_when_year*
 - Serious Illness: *le_hrs001a, le_hrs001as1- le_hrs001as20, le_hrs001_when_before, le_hrs001_when_day, le_hrs001_when_month, le_hrs001_when_year*

- Death: *death death_when_before death_when_befores1 death_when_day death_when_month death_when_year death_who*
- Financial Situation: *fin1, fin2, fin3, fin4, fin3s1-fin3s15, fin4s1-fin4s12, fin1_when_before, fin1_when_befores1, fin1_when_day, fin1_when_month, and fin1_when_year*

3.2.3 Anger, Positive Affect, Cognition, and Meaning and Purpose.

The Monthly Surveys include a set of questions designed to measure Anger, Positive Affect, and Meaning. The scores derived from these questions are:

- *meaningthetas_3_, meaningthetas_se_3_, meaningthetas_se_tscore_3_, meaningthetas_tscore_3_, positivethetas_3_, positivethetas_se_3_, positivethetas_se_tscore_3_, positivethetas_tscore_3_, angerthetas_3_, angerthetas_se_3_, angerthetas_se_tscore_3_, angerthetas_tscore_3_, cognitivethetas_final, cognitivethetas_se_final, cognitivethetas_tscore_final, cognitivethetas_se_tscore_final*

The NIH Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) initiative has developed publicly available self-report instruments for various health-related constructs, including mental health domains (see <https://www.healthmeasures.net/explore-measurement-systems/promis>). PROMIS instruments were developed using item response theory (IRT) methods and are organized as item banks. An item bank is a repository of items that all measure the same construct and that were all calibrated on the same metric, which enables item administration using computer adaptive testing (CAT). Rather than administering the same fixed set of items to each respondent, CAT uses a respondent's prior item responses to determine which item from the larger item bank to administer next, which helps improve measurement precision.

The PROMIS item banks for the four domains administered in this survey (anger, positive affect, meaning and purpose, perceived cognitive functioning) consist of 22 (anger), 34 (positive affect), 37 (meaning and purpose) items, and 32 (perceived cognitive functioning) items, respectively. Each item bank has been calibrated to a normative sample representing the general US population with a 2-parameter logistic (2-PL) model for ordered categorical data (a graded response model). Scores are given as "theta" and "T-score" values. Theta values have an approximate mean of 0 and SD of 1 in the general population. T-scores have an approximate mean of 50 and SD of 10 in the general population.

For each respondent and domain, the CAT was initialized (i.e., the first item selected) using a starting theta value of 0. Following the respondents' answer to the first item, the theta value was updated (estimated using expected a posteriori [EAP] scoring) and subsequent items were adaptively selected using the maximum posterior weighted information (MPWI) criterion. CAT item administration stopped after 3 items were administered per domain and respondent.

The dataset contains the final theta values and final T-scores per respondent and domain, together with their standard errors. The final scores resulting from the CAT administration are *domainthetas_3_* and *domainthetas_tscore_3_*. Higher scores on these variables represent higher levels of anger, of positive affect, and of meaning and purpose, respectively. Variables representing the standard errors of the estimated theta values and T-scores (*domainthetas_se_3_* and *domainthetas_tscore_se_3_*) are provided, as well.

The specific questions that are asked of each respondent are selected via CAT from the following item banks:

1. Anger:

- 1: In the past 7 days: When I was frustrated, I let it show
- 2: In the past 7 days: I was irritated more than people knew
- 3: In the past 7 days: I felt envious of others
- 4: In the past 7 days: I disagreed with people
- 5: In the past 7 days: I felt angry
- 6: In the past 7 days: When I was mad at someone, I gave them the silent treatment
- 7: In the past 7 days: I felt like breaking things
- 8: In the past 7 days: I felt like I was ready to explode
- 9: In the past 7 days: When I was angry, I sulked
- 10: In the past 7 days: I felt resentful when I didn't get my way
- 11: In the past 7 days: I felt guilty about my anger
- 12: In the past 7 days: I felt bitter about things
- 13: In the past 7 days: I felt that people were trying to anger me
- 14: In the past 7 days: I held grudges towards others
- 15: In the past 7 days: I was grouchy
- 16: In the past 7 days: I was stubborn with others
- 17: In the past 7 days: I felt annoyed
- 18: In the past 7 days: I had a bad temper
- 19: In the past 7 days: I had trouble controlling my temper
- 20: In the past 7 days: I felt like I needed help for my anger
- 21: In the past 7 days: I felt like yelling at someone
- 22: In the past 7 days: Just being around people irritated me

2. Positive affect:

- 1: In the past 7 days: I felt cheerful.
- 2: In the past 7 days: I felt proud.
- 3: In the past 7 days: I felt lively.
- 4: In the past 7 days: I felt at ease.
- 5: In the past 7 days: I felt enthusiastic.
- 6: In the past 7 days: I felt determined.
- 7: In the past 7 days: I felt interested.
- 8: In the past 7 days: I felt confident.
- 9: In the past 7 days: I felt able to concentrate.
- 10: In the past 7 days: I was thinking creatively.
- 11: In the past 7 days: I liked myself.
- 12: In the past 7 days: I felt attentive.
- 13: In the past 7 days: My future looked good.
- 14: In the past 7 days: I smiled and laughed a lot.
- 15: In the past 7 days: I felt peaceful.
- 16: In the past 7 days: I was able to reach down deep into myself for comfort.
- 17: In the past 7 days: I felt a sense of harmony within myself.
- 18: In the past 7 days: I generally enjoyed the things I did.
- 19: In the past 7 days: I felt lighthearted.
- 20: In the past 7 days: I felt satisfied.
- 21: In the past 7 days: I felt good-natured.
- 22: In the past 7 days: I felt useful.
- 23: In the past 7 days: I felt relaxed.
- 24: In the past 7 days: I felt optimistic.
- 25: In the past 7 days: I felt interested in other people.
- 26: In the past 7 days: I felt understood.
- 27: In the past 7 days: I felt grateful.
- 28: In the past 7 days: I felt content.
- 29: In the past 7 days: I felt delighted.
- 30: In the past 7 days: I felt inspired.
- 31: In the past 7 days: I felt fearless.
- 32: In the past 7 days: I felt happy.
- 33: In the past 7 days: I felt joyful.
- 34: In the past 7 days: I felt excited.

3. Meaning and purpose:

- 1: I understand my life's meaning.
- 2: My life has a clear sense of purpose.
- 3: I have a good sense of what makes my life meaningful.
- 4: I have discovered a satisfying life purpose.
- 5: I generally feel that what I do in my life is valuable and worthwhile.
- 6: My daily life is full of things that are interesting to me.
- 7: To me, the things I do are all worthwhile.

- 8: I value my activities a lot.
- 9: I have lots of reasons for living.
- 10: I have very clear goals and aims for my life.
- 11: I understand the world around me.
- 12: I realize my life has a great deal of personal meaning to me.
- 13: My life as a whole has meaning.
- 14: My life makes sense to me.
- 15: I have a reason for living.
- 16: My life has been productive.
- 17: I feel a sense of purpose in my life.
- 18: I can make sense of my existence.
- 19: My life has value.
- 20: I understand that there is a reason for my life.
- 21: My life has meaning.
- 22: The things I do in my life are of significance.
- 23: I can make sense of my life.
- 24: My life has significance.
- 25: The things I do in my life are of value.
- 26: I have a clear understanding of what life is about.
- 27: I have a clear sense of direction in life.
- 28: I feel that my life has meaning.
- 29: My life is fulfilling.
- 30: My life matters.
- 31: I can understand my life.
- 32: I experience deep fulfillment in my life.
- 33: Thinking about my life, I am positive about my future.
- 34: Thinking about my life, I know where I am going in life.
- 35: Thinking about my life, I can reach my goals in life.
- 36: Thinking about my life, my life is filled with meaning.
- 37: Thinking about my life, my life has purpose.

4.Cognitive Functioning:

- 1: In the past 7 days: I have had trouble forming thoughts
- 2: In the past 7 days: My thinking has been slow
- 3: In the past 7 days: My thinking has been foggy
- 4: In the past 7 days: I have had trouble adding or subtracting numbers in my head
- 5: In the past 7 days: I have made mistakes when writing down phone numbers
- 6: In the past 7 days: I have had trouble concentrating
- 7: In the past 7 days: I have had trouble finding my way to a familiar place
- 8: In the past 7 days: I have had trouble remembering where I put things, like my keys or my wallet
- 9: In the past 7 days: I have had trouble remembering whether I did things I was supposed to do, like taking a medicine or buying something I needed
- 10: In the past 7 days: I have had trouble remembering new information, like phone numbers or simple instructions

- 11: In the past 7 days: I have had trouble recalling the name of an object while talking to someone
- 12: In the past 7 days: I have had trouble speaking fluently
- 13: In the past 7 days: I have walked into a room and forgotten what I meant to get or do there
- 14: In the past 7 days: I have needed medical instructions repeated because I could not keep them straight
- 15: In the past 7 days: I have had to work really hard to pay attention or I would make a mistake
- 16: In the past 7 days: I have forgotten names of people soon after being introduced
- 17: In the past 7 days: My reactions in everyday situations have been slow
- 18: In the past 7 days: Other people have told me I seemed to have trouble remembering information
- 19: In the past 7 days: It has seemed like my brain was not working as well as usual
- 20: In the past 7 days: I have had to work harder than usual to keep track of what I was doing
- 21: In the past 7 days: My thinking has been slower than usual
- 22: In the past 7 days: I have had to work harder than usual to express myself clearly
- 23: In the past 7 days: I have had to use written lists more often than usual so I would not forget things
- 24: In the past 7 days: I have had trouble keeping track of what I was doing when interrupted
- 25: In the past 7 days: I have had trouble shifting back and forth between different activities that require thinking
- 26: In the past 7 days: I have hidden my problems with memory, concentration, or making mental mistakes so that others would not notice
- 27: In the past 7 days: I have been upset about my problems with memory, concentration, or making mental mistakes
- 28: In the past 7 days: My problems with memory, concentration, or making mental mistakes have interfered with my ability to work
- 29: In the past 7 days: My problems with memory, concentration, or making mental mistakes have interfered with my ability to do things I enjoy
- 30: In the past 7 days: My problems with memory, concentration, or making mental mistakes have interfered with the quality of my life
- 31: In the past 7 days: I have had difficulty multi-tasking
- 32: In the past 7 days: I have had more problems conversing with others

3.3 Derived Variables

Most variables contained in the Monthly Panel Survey Dataset are exactly the same as they appear in the raw datasets (referred to as the downloaded group in this document). This section describes the derived variables that were constructed specifically for the Monthly Panel Survey Dataset. They can be grouped along the variable content distinction used to separate Section 3.1 from

Section 3.2: demographic/metadata variables vs. monthly life events/issues variables. Or to be more specific, all derived variables are either metadata or within the other monthly issues group.

3.3.1 Metadata and Demographic

Short descriptions of the metadata and demographic variables derived for the Monthly Panel Survey Dataset are the following:

- *wave*: Sequential index for each distinct Monthly Events survey. Wave 1 corresponds to the first Monthly Events survey, UAS 102, which was fielded in June of 2019 and asks about issues and events happening in May of 2019. Wave 2 corresponds to the survey fielded the following month in July of 2019, Wave 3 to the survey fielded in August 2019, and so on.
- *uas_surv_num*: Identifier for each distinct survey in the UAS, it indexes where each wave of the Monthly Events survey can be found within the [All Surveys page](#) on the UAS website. It is the number of the UAS survey under which a given wave's documentation and raw data are located.
- *final_weight*: Respondent-level weight calculated to make the Monthly Panel Survey Dataset representative of the national population above aged 50 and up (see [Section 5](#) below).

3.3.2 Constructed Variables

Descriptions of constructed variables derived for the Monthly Panel Survey Dataset are the following:

- *lifesat*: created life satisfaction to be 5-le_hrs_s1 (uas581_vl176 : overall life satisfaction) , so that a higher value indicates higher satisfaction
- *selfhealth*: created self-reported health to be 5-le_hrs_srh (uas581_vl177 : overall health) , so that a higher value indicates better health.
- *pain*: created pain level to be le_hrs_p2 (uas581_vl183 : how bad was pain most of time) when le_hrs_p1=1 (uas581_vl182 : often troubled by pain) . This variable equals 0 if the respondent experienced no pain, and higher numbers for higher levels of pain.
- *healthevent*: created an indicator for "Had a health event shock since prior survey" from 1-le_hrs001as20 (uas590_vl349 I did not suffer the ONSET of a serious illness or injury from last survey)

- posfinshock: created an indicator for "Had a positive financial shock since prior survey" from fin2=1 (uas590_vl352 positive change or a negative change) and fin1=2 (uas590_vl351 experienced a major change in financial situation)
- negfinshock: created an indicator for "Had a negative financial shock since prior survey" from fin2=2 (uas590_vl352 positive change or a negative change) and fin1=1 (uas590_vl351 experienced a major change in financial situation)
- deathshock: created an indicator for "Had a death shock since prior survey" from death=1 (uas590_vl351 the death of a close family member or friend)
- retire: created an indicator for "Retired or made a plan to retire" from empl1=1 (uas580_vl178 change in employment status)

In some cases, respondents erroneously report having experienced an event in the reference period. We identify these cases using the reported dates for the relevant event. When the date reported for the event is prior to the date of the most recent answered survey, the following variables set the event as not having occurred. Likewise, when the respondent indicates that they had made a mistake and they have not experienced the relevant event in the reference periods, the following variables set the events as not having occurred.

- bec_unempl: created an indicator for "Became unemployed since prior survey" from empl1=3 (uas580_vl178 change in employment status)
- emplchange: created an indicator for "Had a change in their employment situation since prior survey" from empl1=8 (uas580_vl178 change in employment status)
- corretire: corrected version of retire (Retired or made a plan to retire) using the corrections when respondents are provided the option to change the dates.
- coremplchange: "Had a change in employment situation since prior survey -corrected for likely misreporting" is a corrected version of emplchange using the corrections when respondents are provided the option to change the dates etc.
- corbec_unempl: "Became unemployed since prior survey -corrected for likely misreporting" is a corrected version of bec_unempl using the corrections when respondents are provided the option to change the dates etc.
- corposfinshock: "Had a positive financial shock since prior survey -corrected for likely misreporting" is a corrected version of posfinshock using the corrections when respondents are provided the option to change the dates etc.

- `corneginshock`: "Had a negative financial shock since prior survey -corrected for likely misreporting" is a corrected version of `negfinshock` using the corrections when respondents are provided the option to change the dates etc.
- `deathshock`: "Experienced the death of a close family member or friend" is a corrected version of `deathshock` using the corrections when respondents are provided the option to change the dates etc.
- `Corhealthevent`: "Had a health event shock since prior survey -corrected for likely misreporting" is a corrected version of `healthevent` using the corrections when respondents are provided the option to change the dates etc.

4. UPDATES AND DATA ISSUES IN EACH SURVEY WAVE

Monthly updates to the dataset and monthly data quality issues will be listed here as they arise.

5. SAMPLE WEIGHTS

The Monthly Panel Survey Dataset includes a weight variable *final_weight* to correct for differential nonresponse rates across demographic groups and align the sample to the U.S. adult population along key demographic variables: gender, race/ethnicity, age, education and census region. This variable is constant by respondent across waves. A complete description of the UAS weighting procedure can be found [here](#).

Values used to generate the sample weights are taken from the demographic variables collected in the My Household survey and associated with each wave of the Monthly Events survey (see [Section 3.1.2](#) for more details). More specifically, the most recently collected, non-missing values for each pertinent demographic variable are used.

APPENDIX A. MONTHLY PANEL SURVEY DATASET VARIABLES

Table A.1 Metadata and Demographic Variables

Variable Name	Variable Label
uasid	Individual identifier
uashhid	Original household identifier
survhhid	Survey-specific household composition identifier
wave	Wave of data collection
survey_source	UAS survey number
uasmembers	Number of household UAS members besides the respondent
final_weight	Relative post-stratification weight
sampleframe	Sample frame of recruitment batches
batch	Recruiting Batch
primary_respondent	Primary respondent or not
hardware	Hardware provided
language	Survey language
start_date	Survey start date
start_year	Survey start year
start_month	Survey start month
start_day	Survey start day
start_hour	Survey start hour
start_min	Survey start minute
start_sec	Survey start second
end_date	Survey end date
end_year	Survey end year
end_month	Survey end month
end_day	Survey end day
end_hour	Survey end hour
end_min	Survey end minute
end_sec	Survey end second
lastmyhh_date	Date of last MyHH
sex	Gender - Male
genderid	Current gender
sexualorientation	Sexual orientation
dateofbirth_year	Year of birth

age	Age
agerange	Age range for missing age
citizenus	US citizen
bornus	Born in the US
stateborn	State born - FIPS coding
countryborn	Country born
immigrant_status	Immigrant status
statereside	State residence - FIPS coding
urbanicity	2010 Census Tract Rural-Urban Commuter Area (RUCA)
maritalstatus	Marital status
livewithpartner	Living with partner
education	Highest level of education
hisplatinio	Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
white	White
black	Black
nativeamer	American Indian or Alaska Native
asian	Asian
pacific	Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
race	Race
working	Currently working
sick_leave	On sick or other leave
unemp_layoff	Unemployed - on layoff
unemp_look	Unemployed - looking
retired	Retired
disabled	Disabled
workemployer	Working for an employer
workself	Self-employed
homemaker	Homemaker
student	Student
notworking	Not working - not looking for work
lf_other	Other Labor Force Status
laborstatus	Labor Force status
hourswork	Hours of work per week
hhincome	Household income
anyhhmember	Whether any other HH member

hhmembernumber	Number of household members besides R
hhcomp_male_0_4	# of male children ages 0 through 4
hhcomp_female_0_4	# of female children ages 0 through 4
hhcomp_other_0_4	# of other-gendered children ages 0 through 4
hhcomp_male_5_12	# of male children ages 5 through 12
hhcomp_female_5_12	# of female children ages 5 through 12
hhcomp_other_5_12	# of other-gendered children ages 5 through 12
hhcomp_male_13_17	# of male children ages 13 through 17
hhcomp_female_13_17	# of female children ages 13 through 17
hhcomp_other_13_17	# of other-gendered children ages 13 through 17
hhcomp_child_0_4	# of children ages 0 through 4
hhcomp_child_5_12	# of children ages 5 through 12
hhcomp_child_13_17	# of children ages 13 through 17
hhcomp_female_18_64	# of females, age 18 to 64 years old
hhcomp_male_18_64	# of males, age 18 to 64 years old
hhcomp_other_18_64	# of other-gendered, age 18 to 64 years old
hhcomp_total_18_64	# of adults 18 to 64
hhcomp_female_65plus	# of females, age 65 or older
hhcomp_male_65plus	# of males, age 65 or older
hhcomp_other_65plus	# of other-gendered adults 65 or older
hhcomp_total_65plus	# of adults 65 plus
hhcomp_total_adults	# of adults
hhcomp_total_children	# of children
hhcomp_total	# of hh members
parent_guardian_a	parent guardian children ages 0 through 4
parent_guardian_b	parent guardian children ages 5 through 12
parent_guardian_c	parent guardian children ages 13 through 17
hh_version	My Household version

Table A.2 Monthly Life Events and Life Issues Variables

Variable Name	Variable Label
le_hrs_s1	overall life satisfaction
esteem001	I have high self esteem
le_hrs_srh1	overall health
le_hrs_p1	often troubled by pain
le_hrs_p2	how bad was pain most of time
phq4a	Feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge
phq4b	Not being able to stop or control worrying
phq4c	Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless
phq4d	Little interest or pleasure in doing things
fs001	food bought didn't last and no money to get more
fs002	I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals
fs003	ever cut size of meals or skip meals because not enough money for food
fs004	ever eat less because not enough money for food
fs005	ever hungry but didn't eat because not enough money for food
fs003b	how many days cut the size of meals or skip meals
fs003b_dks99	Don't know how many days cut the size of meals or skip meals
fs003_12months	last 12 months ever cut size of meals or skip meals because not enough money
fs020a	last 12 months worry food would hurt health and well being
fs023	live by self or with others
fd008e	past month food from food pantry
ei005f	Special Supplemental Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (V
ei005h	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
empl1	change in employment status
empl2s1	I started a business
empl2s2	I got promoted
empl2s3	I got a raise
empl2s4	I changed jobs (with the same employer)
empl2s5	I changed jobs (different employer)
empl2s6	I started an additional job

empl2s7	I am now on leave from work
empl2s8	Other, please specify: empl2_other
empl3s1	Business closed
empl3s2	I got fired /I was laid off
empl3s3	Have more time for family /caregiving obligations
empl3s4	Moved (to a different city, region, etc.)
empl3s5	Found a job where I could work from home more days per week
empl3s6	Found job with better pay / benefits.
empl3s7	Find a better job (other reasons)
empl3s8	Retired from prior job
empl3s9	Couldn't do prior job due to health reasons
empl3s10	Needed a change
empl3s11	Other, please specify: empl3_other
le_hrs001as1	I fell down or was injured in an accident
le_hrs001as2	I was assaulted
le_hrs001as3	I experienced a heart-related event: suffered a heart attack, or was diagnosed v
le_hrs001as4	I was diagnosed with cancer or a malignant tumor
le_hrs001as5	I was diagnosed with dementia, senility or another serious memory impairment
le_hrs001as6	I was diagnosed with diabetes
le_hrs001as7	I contracted influenza
le_hrs001as8	I contracted pneumonia
le_hrs001as9	I contracted COVID-19
le_hrs001as10	I was diagnosed with kidney disease
le_hrs001as11	I was diagnosed with a chronic lung disease, such as chronic bronchitis or emp
le_hrs001as12	I was diagnosed with arthritis, rheumatism
le_hrs001as13	I was diagnosed with osteoporosis
le_hrs001as14	I underwent surgery or joint replacement because of arthritis
le_hrs001as15	A doctor told me that I have high blood pressure or hypertension
le_hrs001as16	I contracted shingles
le_hrs001as17	A doctor told me that I have an emotional, nervous, or psychiatric problem
le_hrs001as18	A doctor or other health professional informed me of a sleep disorder

le_hrs001as19	I contracted or was diagnosed with an illness not listed above
le_hrs001as20	I did not suffer the ONSET of a serious illness or injury
empl2s9	I quit one of my jobs
empl_f2	what best describes change in employment situation
fin1	experienced a major change in financial situation
fin2	positive change or a negative change
fin3s1	I lost a job, or faced a reduction in work hours/income
fin3s2	A spouse, partner or other family member lost a job or faced reduction in work
fin3s3	Losses in financial investment(s) or business
fin3s4	Significant medical or dental care expenses for me or a family member
fin3s5	Home or automobile accident or repair
fin3s6	Big rent or mortgage payment increase
fin3s7	Unpaid taxes or problem with the IRS
fin3s8	Victim of financial fraud, or some other major financial transaction that was no
fin3s9	Penalties and/or higher-than-expected interest from a loan
fin3s10	Gambling losses
fin3s11	Other increases in expenditures, such as in child or adult care,
fin3s12	New education expenditures (for instance, I or a family member started colleg
fin3s13	Provided assistance to family members or friends outside the household
fin3s14	General increases in prices of goods and services
fin3s15	Other, please specify: fin3_other
fin4s1	I started working, increased my work hours, or received a raise
fin4s2	A spouse, partner, or some other family member started working, increased th
fin4s3	Higher than usual earnings from business or self-employment
fin4s4	Started receiving payments from a pension, Social Security benefits, or other g
fin4s5	Increase in benefits from Social Security or other government program
fin4s6	Finished paying off a debt (e.g., car loan, mortgage)
fin4s7	Student or other loan payments got reduced significantly, or debt was forgiven.
fin4s8	Reduction in expenses (medical, rent, child-related expenses, etc.)
fin4s9	Sold or rented-out property
fin4s10	Received financial assistance from friends, family, or someone else outside th

fin4s11	Was repaid a loan I had provided
fin4s12	Something else, please specify: fin4_other
pss4_1	unable to control important things
pss4_2	confident handling personal problems
pss4_3	felt things going your way
pss4_4	difficulties piling up
brfss_lonely	how often feel lonely
ast_completed_empl1	last completed survey change in employment status
le_hrs001_when_month	month of illness
le_hrs001_when_day	day of illness
le_hrs001_when_year	year of illness
empl_when_month	date of employment change
empl_when_day	day of employment change
empl_when_year	year of employment change
empl_when_befores1	This change happened before LastDate
fin1_when_month	date of financial change
fin1_when_befores1	This change in my financial situation happened before last date
fin1_when_day	day of financial change
fin1_when_year	year of financial change
death	Have you experienced the death of a close family member or friend
death_when_before	death happened before last date
death_when_before1	death happened before FLLastDateOnly
death_when_day	day of death
death_when_month	Month of death
death_when_year	Year of death
death_who	relationship with the deceased
lifesat	Life satisfaction
selfhealth	Self reported health
pain	Pain level
healthevent	Had a health event shock since prior survey
posfinshock	Had a positive financial shock since prior survey

negfinshock	Had a negative financial shock since prior survey
deathshock	Had a death shock since prior survey
retire	Retired or made a plan to retire
bec_unempl	Became unemployed since prior survey
emplchange	Had a change in their employment situation since prior survey
corretire	Retired or made a plan to retire
coremplchange	Had a change in employment situation since prior survey -corrected
corbec_unempl	Became unemployed since prior survey -corrected for likely misreporting
corposfinshock	Had a positive financial shock since prior survey -corrected
cornegfinshock	Had a negative financial shock since prior survey -corrected
cordeathshock	Had a death shock since prior survey -corrected
corhealthevent	Had a health event shock since prior survey -corrected for likely misreporting
le_hrs001a	suffered serious illness
fin3	primary reasons for negative change
fin4	primary reasons for positive change
le_hrs001_when_before	illness before last date
empl_when_before	employment change before last date
fin1_when_before	financial change before last date
meaningthetas_3_	Meaning in life: final theta value
meaningthetas_se_3_	Meaning in life: standard error of final theta
meaningthetas_tscore_3_	Meaning in life: final T-score
meaningthetas_se_tscore_3_	Meaning in life: standard error of final T-score
angerthetas_3_	Anger: final theta value
angerthetas_se_3_	Anger: standard error of final theta
angerthetas_se_tscore_3_	anger theta t score after question 3
angerthetas_se_tscore_3_	Anger: standard error of final T-score
positivethetas_3_	Positive: final theta value
positivethetas_se_3_	Positive: standard error of final theta
positivethetas_tscore_3_	Positive: final T-score
positivethetas_se_tscore_3_	Positive: standard error of final T-score
cognitivethetas_final	cognitive: final theta value

cognitivethetas_se_final	cognitive: standard error of final theta
cognitivethetas_tscore_final	cognitive: final T-score
cognitivethetas_se_tscore_final	cognitive: standard error of final T-score
He001	health symptoms in last month
He001s1	Fever
He001s2	Chills
He001s3	Cough
He001s4	Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
He001s5	Fatigue or feeling more tired than usual
He001s6	Muscle or body aches
He001s7	Headache
He001s8	New loss of taste or smell
He001s9	Sore throat
He001s10	Congestion or runny nose
He001s11	Nausea or vomiting
He001s12	Diarrhea
He001s13	Other, please specify: he001_other
He001s14	None of these
He002	when did symptom(s) begin
He003s1	COVID-19
He003	health symptoms receive diagnosis
He003s2	Influenza or "the flu"
He003s3	RSV, respiratory syncytial virus
He003s4	Norovirus, or "the stomach flu"
He003s5	Other, please specify: he003_other
He003s6	None of the above
He004	receive positive test for specific type of influenza
clim001	experience any extreme weather events
clim002	extreme weather events or natural disasters experience
clim002s1	Extreme heat
clim002s2	Extreme cold

clim002s3	Severe storm
clim002s4	Smoke from wildfire
clim002s5	Hurricane
clim002s6	Tornado
clim002s7	Tropical storm
clim002s8	Wildfire
clim002s9	Earthquake
clim002s10	Landslide or mudslide
clim002s11	Drought
clim002s12	Flood
clim002s13	Volcanic Eruption
clim002s14	Tsunami
clim002s15	Other, please specify:
clim003	any negative consequences extreme weather event(s) or natural disaster(s)
clim004	which negative consequences extreme weather event(s) or natural disaster(s)
clim004s1	Temporary evacuation
clim004s2	Unable to get to work because you could not find transportation
clim004s3	Loss of income due to inability to work
clim004s4	Loss or destruction of property
clim004s5	Loss or destruction of possessions
clim004s6	Health problem(s)
clim004s7	Unable to obtain medications when needed
clim004s8	Unable to obtain needed medical care from a doctor or hospital
clim004s9	Unable to spend time outdoors
clim004s10	Unable to meet essential expenses
clim004s11	Took on additional debt
clim004s12	Did not have adequate food for your family
clim004s13	Could not find adequate childcare
clim004s14	Person you know was injured or killed
clim004s15	Pets were injured, killed, or lost
clim004s16	Other, please specify:

clim002s16	Winter storm
clim004s17	Loss of power or other utilities
clim_when	when extreme weather event
clim_recent	indicates if climate experience was in prior month or not
clim_last30days	climate experience in last 30 days or not
fema	past month receive disaster-related individual assistance