UnderStandingAmericaStudy

UAS 40: CURRENT EVENTS AND MAKING ENDS MEET

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Fielded March 18, 2016 - July 13, 2016

Contents

1 INTRODUCTION

This UAS panel survey, titled ”UAS 40: Current Events and Making Ends Meet”, asks respondents to rate the suitability of presidential candidates for the job of President of the United States, along with some questions about how easy it is to make ends meet, both for the respondent, their family and for some others. This survey is no longer in the field. Respondents were paid $5 to complete the survey.

1.1 Topics

This survey contains questions (among others) on the following topics: Income, Politics. A complete survey topic categorization for the UAS can be found here.

1.2 Experiments

This survey includes experiment(s) of the following type(s): Auxiliary Randomization, Vignettes With Randomly Determined Individual Characteristics. Please refer to explanatory comments in the Routing section for detailed information. A complete survey experiment categorization for the UAS can be found here.

1.3 Citation

Each publication, press release or other document that cites results from this survey must include an acknowledgment of UAS as the data source and a disclaimer such as, ‘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.’ For any questions or more information about the UAS, contact Tania Gutsche, Project and Panel Manager, Center for Economic and Social Research, University of Southern California, at tgutsche@usc.edu.

2 SURVEY RESPONSE AND DATA

2.1 Sample selection and response rate

The sample selection for this survey was:

All active respondents.

As such, this survey was made available to 3640 UAS participants. Of those 3640 participants, 3016 completed the survey and are counted as respondents. Of those who are not counted as respondents, 20 started the survey without completing and 604 did not start the survey. The overall response rate was 82.86%.

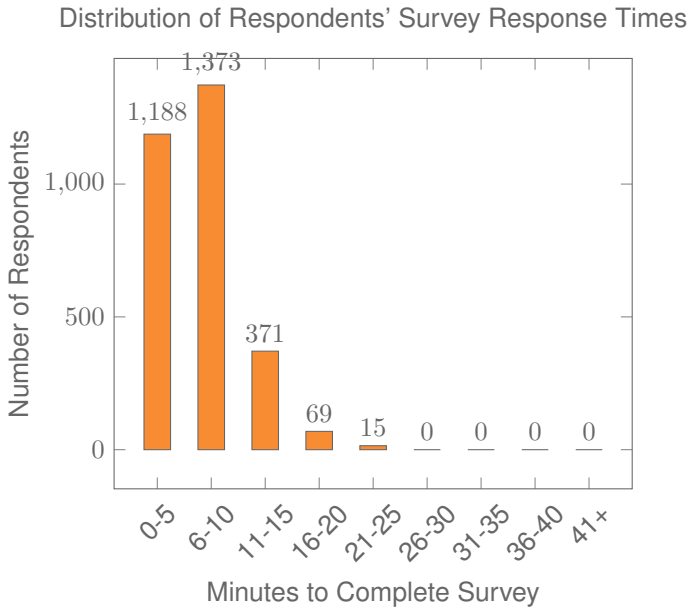
Note: We are unable to provide sample weights for a small number of UAS members (see the Sample and weighting section below for details). If they completed the survey, these members are included in the data set with a weight of zero, but accounted for in the computation of total sample size and survey response rate.%.

The detailed survey response rate is as follows:

UAS40 - Response Overview	
Size of selected sample	3640
Completed the survey	3016
Started but did not complete the survey	20
Did not start the survey	604
Response rate	82.86%

2.2 Timings

The survey took respondents an average of 8 minutes, and the full distribution of survey response times is available in the figure below. Times per question are available upon request.



2.3 Sample & Weighting

Weights are included in the data set for this survey. This survey dataset may contain respondents with a weight of zero. These respondents belong to a small group of UAS members for whom sample weights cannot be computed due to non-probability recruitment for special projects. Hence, while they are accounted for in the total number of survey respondents, they do not contribute to any statistics using sample weights. For more details on the UAS weighing procedures please refer to the UAS Weighting Procedures V1. Please contact UAS staff with any questions.

3 STANDARD VARIABLES

Each Understanding America Study data set contains a series of standard variables, consisting of individual, household and sample identifiers, language indicator, time stamps and a rating by the respondent of how much he or she liked the survey. These variables are based on the questions asked quarterly in the My Household survey after the application of a cleaning process (https://uasdata.usc.edu/page/Data+Cleaning+Process). They are the following:

- **uasid**: the identifier of the respondent. This identifier is assigned to a respondent at recruitment and stays with the respondent throughout each and every survey he/she participates in. When analyzing data from multiple surveys, the 'uasid' can be used to merge data sets.
- **uashhid**: the household identifier of the respondent. Every member is assigned a household identifier, stored in the variable ¡em¿uashhid¡/em¿. For the primary respondent this identifier is his or her 'uasid'. All other eligible members of the primary respondent's household (everyone who is 18 or older in the household) who become UAS respondents receive the uasid of the primary respondent as their household identifier. The uashhid remains constant over time for all respondents. Thus it is always possible to find the original UAS household of an UAS panel member (even after they, for example, have moved out to form another household).
- **uashhid_current**: the current household identifier of the respondent. Uniquely identifies the household a UAS panel member belongs to in a given survey INDEPENDENT of the exact composition of the household in terms of who else in the household are UAS members. Missing (.n) for respondents who are in a single-UAS member household. Available on request in data sets prior to September 3, 2025.
- **survhhid**: uniquely identifies the household a UAS panel member belongs to in a given survey DEPENDENT on the exact composition of the household in terms of who else in the household are UAS members. Is set to missing (.n) if no other household members are UAS panel members at the time of the survey. Is set to unknown (.u) for respondents who last participated in the My Household survey prior to January 21, 2015.
- **uasmembers**: is the number of other household members who are also UAS panel members at the time of the survey. Since individuals can answer the same survey at different points in time (which can be relatively far apart is the survey is kept in the field for a prolonged time), it may be possible that, within the same data set, the primary respondent of a household has a value of '0', whereas the second UAS household respondent has a value of '1'. Therefore 'uasmembers' should be interpreted as the number of household and UAS panel members at the time the respondent answers the survey. Note: in the My Household survey 'uasmembers' is set to unknown (.u) for respondents who last participated in the My Household survey prior to January 21, 2015.

- **sampleframe**: indicates the sampling frame from which the household of the respondent was recruited. All UAS recruitment is done through address based sampling (ABS) in which samples are acquired based on postal records. Currently, the variable 'sampleframe' takes on four values reflecting four distinct sample frames used by the UAS over the year (in future data sets the number of sample frames used for recruitment may increase if additional specific populations are targeted in future recruitment batches):

  1. U.S. National Territory: recruited through ABS within the entire U.S.
  2. Areas high concentration Nat Ame: recruited through ABS in areas with a high concentration of Native Americans in the zip-code. Within these batches, individuals who are not Native Americans are not invited to join the UAS.
  3. Los Angeles County: recruited through ABS within Los Angeles County.
  4. California: recruited through ABS within California.

  Note: prior to March 6, 2024 this variable was called sampletype and had the following value labels for the above list in UAS data sets:

  1. Nationally Representative Sample: recruited through ABS within the entire U.S.
  2. Native Americans: recruited through ABS in areas with a high concentration of Native Americans. Within these batches, individuals who are not Native Americans are not invited to join the UAS.
  3. LA County: recruited through ABS within Los Angeles County.
  4. California: recruited through ABS within California.

- **batch**: indicates the batch from which the respondent was recruited. Currently, this variable takes the following values (in future data sets the number of batches may increase as new recruitment batches are added to the UAS):

  1. ASDE 2014/01
  2. ASDE 2014/01
  3. ASDE 2014/01
  4. Public records 2015/05
  5. MSG 2015/07
  6. MSG 2016/01
  7. MSG 2016/01
  8. MSG 2016/01
  9. MSG 2016/02
  10. MSG 2016/03
  11. MSG 2016/04
  12. MSG 2016/05

13. MSG 2016/08
14. MSG 2017/03
15. MSG 2017/11
16. MSG 2018/02
17. MSG 2018/08
18. MSG 2019/04
19. MSG 2019/05
20. MSG 2019/11
21. MSG 2020/08
22. MSG 2020/10
23. MSG 2021/02
24. MSG 2021/08
25. MSG 2021/08
26. MSG 2022/02
27. MSG 2022/02
28. MSG 2022/08
29. MSG 2022/11
30. MSG 2022/11
31. MSG 2023/01
32. MSG 2023/06
33. MSG 2023/09
34. MSG 2023/10
35. MSG 2025/02
36. MSG 2025/09

Note: prior to March 6, 2024 this variable had the following value labels for the above list in UAS data sets:

1. ASDE 2014/01 Nat.Rep.
2. ASDE 2014/01 Native Am.
3. ASDE 2014/11 Native Am.
4. LA County 2015/05 List Sample
5. MSG 2015/07 Nat.Rep.
6. MSG 2016/01 Nat.Rep. Batch 2
7. MSG 2016/01 Nat.Rep. Batch 3
8. MSG 2016/01 Nat.Rep. Batch 4

9. MSG 2016/02 Nat.Rep. Batch 5
10. MSG 2016/03 Nat.Rep. Batch 6
11. MSG 2016/04 Nat.Rep. Batch 7
12. MSG 2016/05 Nat.Rep. Batch 8
13. MSG 2016/08 LA County Batch 2
14. MSG 2017/03 LA County Batch 3
15. MSG 2017/11 California Batch 1
16. MSG 2018/02 California Batch 2
17. MSG 2018/08 Nat.Rep. Batch 9
18. MSG 2019/04 LA County Batch 4
19. MSG 2019/05 LA County Batch 5
20. MSG 2019/11 Nat. Rep. Batch 10
21. MSG 2020/08 Nat. Rep. Batch 11
22. MSG 2020/10 Nat. Rep. Batch 12
23. MSG 2021/02 Nat. Rep. Batch 13
24. MSG 2021/08 Nat. Rep. Batch 15
25. MSG 2021/08 Nat. Rep. Batch 16
26. MSG 2022/02 Nat. Rep. Batch 17 (priority)
27. MSG 2022/02 Nat. Rep. Batch 17 (regular)
28. MSG 2022/08 Nat. Rep. Batch 18
29. MSG 2022/11 LA County Batch 6
30. MSG 2022/11 Nat. Rep. Batch 20
31. MSG 2023/01 Nat. Rep. Batch 21
32. MSG 2023/06 Nat. Rep. Batch 22
33. MSG 2023-09 Native Am. Batch 3
34. MSG 2023-10 Nat. Rep. Batch 23

- **primary_respondent**: indicates if the respondent was the first person within the household (i.e. to become a member or whether s/he was added as a subsequent member. A household in this regard is broadly defined as anyone living together with the primary respondent. That is, a household comprises individuals who live together, e.g. as part of a family relationship (like a spouse/child/parent) or in context of some other relationship (like a roommate or tenant).

- **hardware**: indicates whether the respondent ever received hardware or not. Note: this variable should not be used to determine whether a respondent received hardware at a given point in time and/or whether s/he used the hardware to participate in a survey. Rather, it indicates whether hardware was ever provided:

1. None
2. Tablet (includes Internet)

- **language**: the language in which the survey was conducted. This variable takes a value of 1 for English and a value of 2 for Spanish.
- **start_date (start_year, start_month, start_day, start_hour, start_min, start_sec)**: indicates the time at which the respondent started the survey.
- **end_date (end_year, end_month, end_day, end_hour, end_min, end_sec)**: indicates the time at which the respondent completed the survey.
- **cs_001**: indicates how interesting the respondent found the survey.

4 DEMOGRAPHICS

Every UAS survey data set also includes demographic variables, which provide background information about the respondent and their household. Demographic information such as age, ethnicity, education, marital status, work status, state of residence, family structure is elicited every quarter through the ‘‘My Household’’ survey. The demographic variables provided with each survey are taken from the most recent ‘MyHousehold’ survey answered by the respondent. If at the time of a survey, the information in ‘‘My Household’’ is more than three months old, a respondent is required to check and update his or her information before being able to take the survey.

The demographic variables are based on the questions taken from the My Household survey after the application of the cleaning process.

The following variables are available in survey data sets after October 8, 2025:

- **sex**: indicates the sex of the respondent as assigned at birth. Is set to gender if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **genderid**: indicates the current gender of the respondent. Is set to missing (”.v”) if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025. Available in data sets after October 8, 2025.
- **dateofbirth_year**: indicates the year of birth of the respondent.
- **age**: indicates the age of the respondent at the start of the survey.
- **agerange**: if the respondent’s age cannot be calculate due to missing information, ‘agerange’ indicates the approximate age. Should a value for both the ‘age’ and ‘agerange’ be present, then ‘age’ takes precedence over ‘agerange’.
- **citizenus**: indicates whether the respondent is a U.S. citizen.
- **bornus**: indicates whether the respondent was born in the U.S.
- **stateborn**: indicates the state in which the respondent was born. Is set to missing (.) if the respondent was not born in the U.S.
- **countryborn**: indicates the country in which the respondent was born. Is set to missing (.) if the respondent was born in the U.S.
- **statereside**: indicates the state in which the respondent is living.
- **immigration_status**: indicates whether the respondent is an immigrant. It takes one of the following values: 0 Non-immigrant, 1 First generation immigrant (immigrant who migrated to the U.S), 2 Second generation immigrant (U.S.-born children of at least one foreign-born parent), 3 Third generation immigrant (U.S.-born children of at least

one U.S.-born parent, where at least one grandparent is foreign-born), or 4 Unknown immigrant status.

- **maritalstatus**: indicates the marital status of the respondent.
- **livewithpartner**: indicates whether the respondent lives with a partner.
- **education**: indicates the highest level of education attained by the respondent.
- **white**: indicates whether the respondent identifies him or herself as white (Caucasian).
- **black**: indicates whether the respondent identifies him or herself as black (African-American).
- **nativeamer**: indicates whether the respondent identifies him or herself as Native American (American Indian or Alaska Native).
- **asian**: indicates whether the respondent identifies him or herself as Asian (Asian-American).
- **pacific**: indicates whether the respondent identifies him or herself as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.
- **race**: indicates the race of the respondent as singular (e.g., '1 White' or '2 Black') or as mixed (in case the respondent identifies with two or more races). The value '6 Mixed' that the respondent answered 'Yes' to at least two of the single race categories. This variable is generated based on the values of the different race variables (white, black, nativeamer, asian, pacific). This composite measure is not conditional on hisplatino, so an individual may identify as Hispanic or Latino, and also as a member of one or more racial groups.
- **race_identify**: indicates the race the respondent identifies with most (if mixed). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hisplatino**: indicates whether the respondent identifies him or herself as being Hispanic or Latino. This variable is asked separately from race.
- **mena**: indicates whether the respondent identifies as being of Middle Eastern or North African ancestry. Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **working**: indicates whether the respondent is working for pay.
- **sick_leave**: indicates whether the respondent is not working because sick or on leave.
- **unemp_layoff**: indicates whether the respondent is unemployed or on lay off.
- **unemp_look**: indicates whether the respondent is unemployed and looking for a job.

- **retired**: indicates whether the respondent is retired.
- **disabled**: indicates whether the respondent has a disability.
- **workemployer**: indicates whether the respondent works for an employer. Is set to missing (".e") if no answer for laborstatus was given by the respondent. Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **workself**: indicates whether the respondent is self-employed. Is set to missing (".e") if no answer for laborstatus was given by the respondent. Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **homemaker**: indicates whether the respondent is a homemaker. Is set to missing (".e") if no answer for laborstatus was given by the respondent. Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **student**: indicates whether the respondent is a student. Is set to missing (".e") if no answer for laborstatus was given by the respondent. Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **notworking**: indicates whether the respondent is not working and not looking for work. Is set to missing (".e") if no answer for laborstatus was given by the respondent. Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **lf_other**: indicates whether the respondent has another labor force status.
- **laborstatus**: indicates the labor force status of the respondent as singular (e.g., '1 Working for pay' or '2 On sick or other leave') or as mixed (in case the respondent selects two or more labor statuses). The value '8 Mixed' indicates that the respondent answered 'Yes' to at least two of the single labor force status variables. This variable is generated based on the values of the different labor status variables (working, sick_leave, unempl_layoff, unempl_look, retired, disabled, lf_other).
- **hourswork**: indicates the number of hours the respondent works per week. Is set to missing (.) if the respondent is not currently working or currently on sick or other leave.
- **hhincome**: indicates the total combined income of all members of the respondent's household (living in their household) during the past 12 months.
- **anyhhmember**: indicates whether there were any members in the respondent's household at the time he/she answered the survey as reported by the respondent. Based on the hhmemberin variables if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025. Based on hhcomp_total if the respondent has filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhmembernumber**: indicates the number of household members in the respondent's household at the time of the survey as reported by the respondent. It may

be that ‘anyhhmember’ is ‘Yes’, but ‘hhmembernumber’ is missing if the respondent did not provide the number of household members at the time of the survey. Based on the hhmemberin variables if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025. Based on hhcomp_total if the respondent has filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.

- **hhcomp_male_0_3**: indicates the number of male children ages 0 through 4 who are living in the respondent’s household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (”.v”) if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_female_0_3**: indicates the number of female children ages 0 through 4 who are living in the respondent’s household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (”.v”) if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_other_0_3**: indicates the number of other-gendered children ages 0 through 4 who are living in the respondent’s household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (”.v”) if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.¡/li¿
- **hhcomp_male_4_12**: indicates the number of male children ages 5 through 12 who are living in the respondent’s household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (”.v”) if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_female_4_12**: indicates the number of female children ages 5 through 12 who are living in the respondent’s household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (”.v”) if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_other_4_12**: indicates the number of other-gendered children ages 5 through 12 who are living in the respondent’s household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (”.v”) if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_male_13_17**: indicates the number of male children ages 13 through 17 who are living in the respondent’s household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (”.v”) if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_female_13_17**: indicates the number of female children ages 13 through 17 who are living in the respondent’s household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (”.v”) if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_other_13_17**: indicates the number of other-gendered children ages 13 through 17 who are living in the respondent’s household right now (even if they only

live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.

- **hhcomp_male_18_64**: indicates the number of male adults ages 18 through 64 who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_female_18_64**: indicates the number of female adults ages 18 through 64 who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_other_18_64**: indicates the number of other-gendered adults ages 18 through 64 who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_male_65plus**: indicates the number of male adults ages 65 or older who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_female_65plus**: indicates the number of female adults ages 65 or older who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_other_65plus**: indicates the number of other-gendered adults ages 65 or older who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_total_18_64**: indicates the total number of adults 18 through 64 who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_total_65plus**: indicates the total number of adults 65 or older who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_total_adults**: indicates the total number of adults who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.

- **hhcomp_total_children**: indicates the total number of children who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_total**: indicates the total number of people who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **parent_guardian_a**: indicates whether the respondent is the parent or guardian of one or more children ages 0 to 4. Is set to missing (".a") if hhcomp_total_children is not greater than 0. Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **parent_guardian_b**: indicates whether the respondent is the parent or guardian of one or more children ages 5 to 12. Is set to missing (".a") if hhcomp_total_children is not greater than 0. Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **parent_guardian_c**: indicates whether the respondent is the parent or guardian of one or more children ages 13 to 17. Is set to missing (".a") if hhcomp_total_children is not greater than 0. Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.

The following variables were provided up until October 8, 2025. Several remain available in data sets created after October 8, 2025 on request.

- **gender**: indicates the gender of the respondent. Available in data sets before October 9, 2025.
- **countryborn_other**: indicates the country of birth if that country is not on the drop down list of countries shown to the respondent'.
- **hisplatinogroup**: indicates which Hispanic or Latino group a respondent identifies him or herself with. Is set to missing (.) if the respondent does not identify him or herself as being Hispanic or Latino. Available in data sets after October 8, 2025 on request.
- **employmenttype**: indicates the employment type of the respondent (employed by the government, by a private company, a nonprofit organization, or self-employed). Is set to missing (.) if the respondent is not currently working or currently on sick or other leave. Available in data sets before October 9, 2025.
- **workfullpart**: indicates whether the respondent works full or part-time. Is set to missing (.) if the respondent is not currently working or currently on sick or other leave. Available in data sets before October 9, 2025.

- **hhmemberin_#**: indicates whether a household member is currently in the household as reported by the respondent. Household members are never removed from the stored household roster and their information is always included in survey data sets. The order of the roster is the same order in which household members were specified by the respondent in the 'MyHousehold' survey. The order is identified by the suffix _# (e.g., _1 indicates the first household member, _2 the second household member, etc.).

  As an example, if the first household member is in the household at the time of the survey, 'hhmemberin_1' is set to '1 HH Member 1 is in the HH'; if he/she has moved out, 'hhmemberin_1' is set to '0 HH member 1 is no longer in the HH'. Since information of other household members (stored in the variables listed below) is always included in survey data sets, information about 'hhmemberin_1' is available whether this person is still in the household or has moved out. Available in data sets before October 9, 2025. Available in data sets after October 8, 2025 on request.

- **hhmembergen_#**: indicates the gender of the household member as reported by the respondent. Available in data sets before October 9, 2025. Available in data sets after October 8, 2025 on request.

- **hhmemberage_#**: indicates the age of the household member. The age is derived from the month and year of birth of the household member as reported by the respondent. Available in data sets before October 9, 2025. Available in data sets after October 8, 2025 on request.

- **hhmemberrel_#**: indicates the relationship of the respondent to the household member as reported by the respondent. Available in data sets before October 9, 2025. Available in data sets after October 8, 2025 on request.

- **hhmemberuasid_#**: indicates the 'uasid' of the household member if this person is also a UAS panel member. It is set to missing (.) if this person is not a UAS panel member at the time of the survey. Since this identifier is directly reported by the respondent (chosen from a preloaded list), it may differ from the actual (correct) 'uasid' of the UAS member it refers to because of reporting error. Also, this variable should not be used to identify UAS members in a given household at the time of the survey. This is because the variables 'hhmemberuasid_#' are taken from the most recent 'My Household' and changes in household composition involving UAS members may have occurred between the time of the respondent answered 'My Household' and the time the respondent answers the survey. To follow UAS members of a given household, it is advised to use the identifiers 'uashhid' and 'survhhid'. Available in data sets before October 9, 2025. Available in data sets after October 8, 2025 on request.

Lastly, data sets created after May 8, 2025 include an urbanicity variable. It is based on panel members' current census tract of residence and the 2010 Rural-Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) codes released by the US Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service. To preserve confidentiality, the UAS collapses the 10 primary RUCA codes to 4

levels: Metropolitan, Micropolitan, Small/Rural, and Unknown. The Metropolitan level corresponds to primary RUCA codes 1-3, the Micropolitian level corresponds to RUCA codes 4-6, and the Small/Rural UAS classification corresponds to RUCA codes 7-10.

For detailed information and definitions of the 10 primary RUCA codes, please visit the USDA ERS Rural-Urban Commuting Area Codes site. Surveys conducted completely prior to May 8, 2025 will have an urbanicity data variable available on request.

5 MISSING DATA CONVENTIONS

Data files provide so-called clean data, that is, answers given to questions that are not applicable anymore at survey completion (for example because a respondent went back in the survey and skipped over a previously answered question) are treated as if the questions were never asked. In the data files all questions that were asked, but not answered by the respondent are marked with (.e). All questions never seen by the respondent (or any dirty data) are marked with (.a). The latter may mean that a respondent did not view the question because s/he skipped over it; or alternatively that s/he never reached that question due to a break off. If a respondent did not complete a survey, the variables representing survey end date and time are marked with (.c). Household member variables are marked with (.m) if the respondent has less household members (e.g. if the number of household members is 2, any variables for household member 3 and up are marked with (.m).

UAS provides data in STATA and CSV format. Stata data sets come with include variable labels that are not available in the CSV files. Value labels are provided for single-response answer option. In STATA these labels will include the labels 'Not asked' and 'Not answered' for (.a) and (.e), and will show in tabulations such as 'tab q1, missing'. For multiple-response questions a binary variable is created for each answer option indicating whether the option was selected or not. A summary variable is also provided in string format reflecting which options were selected and in which order. For example, if a question asked about favorite animals with options cat, dog, and horse, then if a respondent selected horse and then cat, the binary variables for horse and cat will be set to yes, while the overall variable would have a string value of '3-1'. If no answer was given, all binary variables and the summary variable will be marked with '.e'.

Questions that are asked multiple times are often implemented as so-called array questions. Supposing the name of such question was Q1 and it was asked in 6 different instances, your data set would contain the variables Q1_1_ to Q1_6_. To illustrate, if a survey asked the names of all children, then child_1_ would contain the name of the first child the respondent named and so on.

More information about the UAS data in general can be found on the UAS Data Pages web site.

6 ROUTING SYNTAX

The survey with routing presented in the next section includes all of the questions that make up this survey, the question answers when choices were provided, and the question routing. The routing includes descriptions of when questions are grouped, conditional logic that determines when questions are presented to the respondent, randomization of questions and answers, and fills of answers from one question to another.

If you are unfamiliar with conditional logic statements, they are typically formatted so that ***if*** the respondent fulfills some condition (e.g. they have a cellphone or a checking account), ***then*** they are presented with some other question or the value of some variable is changed. If the respondent does not fulfill the condition (e.g. they are not a cellphone adopter or they do not have a checking account), something ***else*** happens such as skipping the next question or changing the variable to some other value. Some of the logic involved in the randomization of questions or answers being presented to the respondent is quite complex, and in these instances there is documentation to clarify the process being represented by the routing.

Because logic syntax standards vary, here is a brief introduction to our syntax standards. The syntax used in the conditional statements is as follows: '=' is equal to, '$<$' is less than, '$>$' is greater than, and '!=' is used for does not equal. When a variable is set to some number N, the statement looks like 'variable := N'.

The formatting of the questions and routing are designed to make it easier to interpret what is occurring at any given point in the survey. Question ID is the bold text at the top of a question block, followed by the question text and the answer selections. When a question or variable has associated data, the name links to the appropriate data page, so you can easily get directly to the data. Text color is used to indicate the routing: red is conditional logic, gold is question grouping, green is looping, and orange is used to document randomization and other complex conditional logic processes. The routing is written for a computer to parse rather than a human to read, so when the routing diverges significantly from what is displayed to the respondent, a screenshot of what the respondent saw is included.

The name of the randomization variables are defined in proximity to where they are put into play, and like the question ID the names of the randomization variables can be used to link directly to the associated data page.

7 SURVEY WITH ROUTING

main_intro (Section Base)
In this short survey we will ask you a few questions about how you rate the suitability of the current Presidential candidates for the job of President of the United States. After that we will ask you some questions about how easy it is to make ends meet, both for you and your family and for some others.

Start of section **Election**

/* The first series of questions ask about the US presidential candidates. The order in which these candidates are presented is randomized in accordance with the variables el001_order_1 through el001_order_5. Note though that in the data no de-randomization is required. That is, for both el001 and el002 the values correspond as follows:

1. Hillary Clinton
2. Ted Cruz
3. John Kasich
4. Bernie Sanders
5. Donald Trump

Similarly, the series el003a through el003e asking about how candidates relate to the best and worst candidate selected in el001 and el002 is randomized in order, but the questions always correspond to the different candidates as follows:

- el003a: Hillary Clinton
- el003b: Ted Cruz
- el003c: John Kasich
- el003d: Bernie Sanders
- el003e: Donald Trump

*/

IF (sizeof(el001_order) = 0) THEN
  el001_order := shuffleArray(array(1 →"1", 2 →"2", 3 →"3", 4 →"4", 5 →"5"))
  el003_questions := array(1 →"el003a", 2 →"el003b", 3 →"el003c", 4 →"el003d", 5 →"el003e")
END OF IF

el001 (best president in section Election)
We would like to know who you think would make the best and worst president. We are not asking who you think is likely to be elected, but who would do a good job.

Who do you think would be the **best** President of the United States?
1 Hillary Clinton
2 Ted Cruz
3 John Kasich
4 Bernie Sanders
5 Donald Trump

el002_order := el001_order
el002_order(array_search(el001, el002_order)) := empty

el002 (worst president in section Election)
Who do you think would be the **worst** President of the United States?
1 Hillary Clinton
2 Ted Cruz
3 John Kasich
4 Bernie Sanders
5 Donald Trump

/* In the questions el003a through el003e the respondent is asked to rate the presidential candidates who were not selected in el001 and el002 on a scale on which the worst candidate is 0 and the best candidate is 100. How this scale is introduced depends on the value of **el003_randomizer**. If it takes value 1, then a short introduction is provided. Otherwise a longer introduction with examples is provided. Those examples are illustrated using a randomly selected candidate (other than the ones selected in el001 and el002), as captured in **el003_candidate**. NOTE: after completion of the survey by the first 500 respondents, all following respondents were assigned to receive the short introduction. */

```
IF (el003_randomizer = empty) THEN
  el003_temp := mt_rand(1,10)

  IF (el003_temp < 3) THEN
    el003_randomizer := 1
  ELSE
    el003_randomizer := 2
  END OF IF
END OF IF
```

Fill code of question FLLabel executed

IF (el003_randomizer = 2) THEN

IF el003_candidate = EMPTY OR inArray(el003_candidate, array(el001, el002)) THEN
  el003_candidate := generateRandomExcluding(el001, el002)
END OF IF
ELSE
  el003_candidate := empty
END OF IF

el001_dummy := el001
el002_dummy := el002

IF el003_randomizer = 2 THEN
  GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

el003_intro_long (Section Election)
Instructions

Now, we want you to rate the other candidates using a special scale, where [worst president[]] is a 0 and [best president[]] is a 100. Here's how to use the scale. The idea is to compare whether you would rather have, say, [randomly selected candidate[]] become president for sure or wake up on election day with an election between [best president[]] and [worst president[]] in which either has a real chance to win.

Here are two examples of how to use the scale to rate [randomly selected candidate[]]:

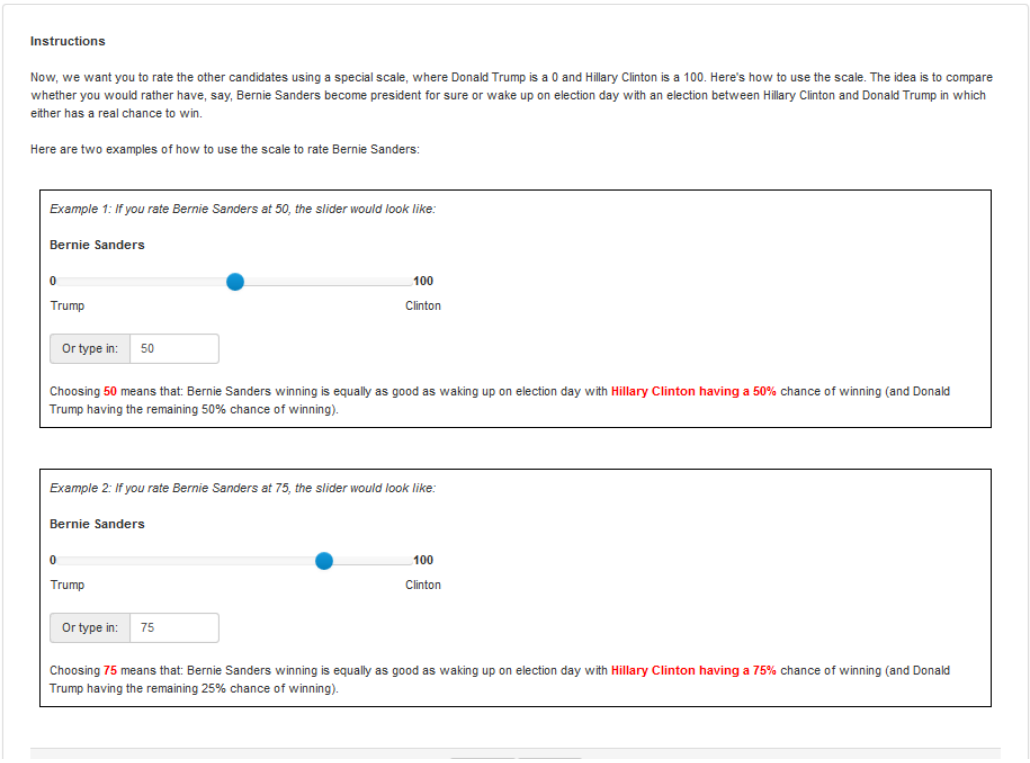
Example 1: If you rate [randomly selected candidate[]] at 50, the slider would look like:

Choosing 50 means that: [randomly selected candidate[]] winning is equally as good as waking up on election day with [best president[]] having a 50% chance of winning (and [worst president[]] having the remaining 50% chance of winning).

Example 2: If you rate [randomly selected candidate[]] at 75, the slider would look like:

Choosing 75 means that: [randomly selected candidate[]] winning is equally as good as waking up on election day with [best president[]] having a 75% chance of winning (and [worst president[]] having the remaining 25% chance of winning).

Figure 1: *Respondent instructions for long introduction*



END OF GROUP

END OF IF

GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

IF el003_randomizer = 1 THEN

el003_intro_short (Section Election)
Now, we want you to rate the other candidates using a special scale, where [worst president[]] is a 0 and [best president[]] is a 100. Please use this special scale to rate the following three candidates:

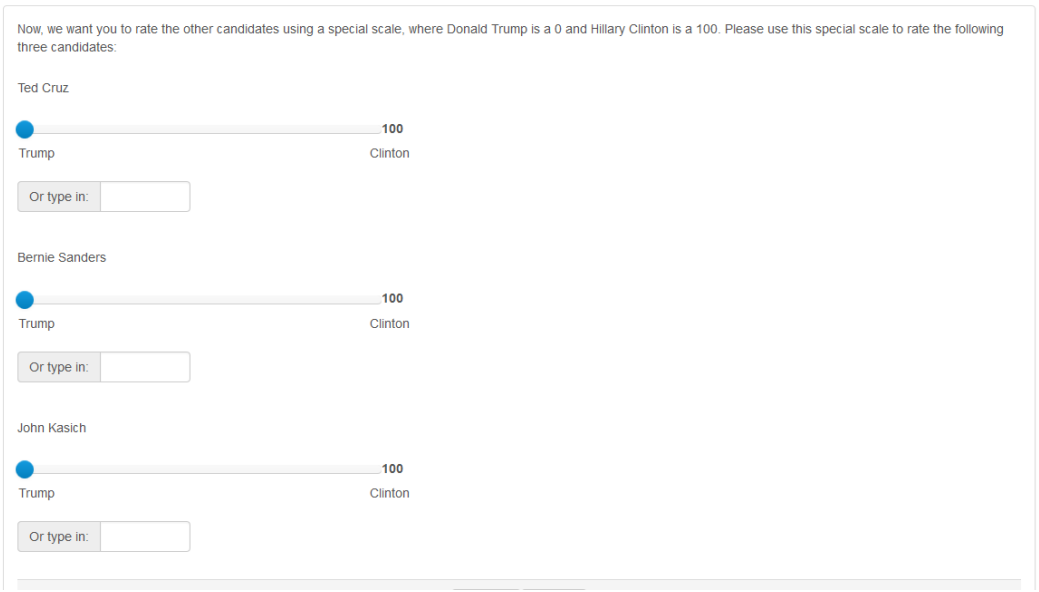
Ted Cruz
Trump ———— Clinton

Bernie Sanders
Trump ———— Clinton

John Kasich

Trump ———— Clinton

Figure 2: *Respondent screen for short introduction*



ELSE

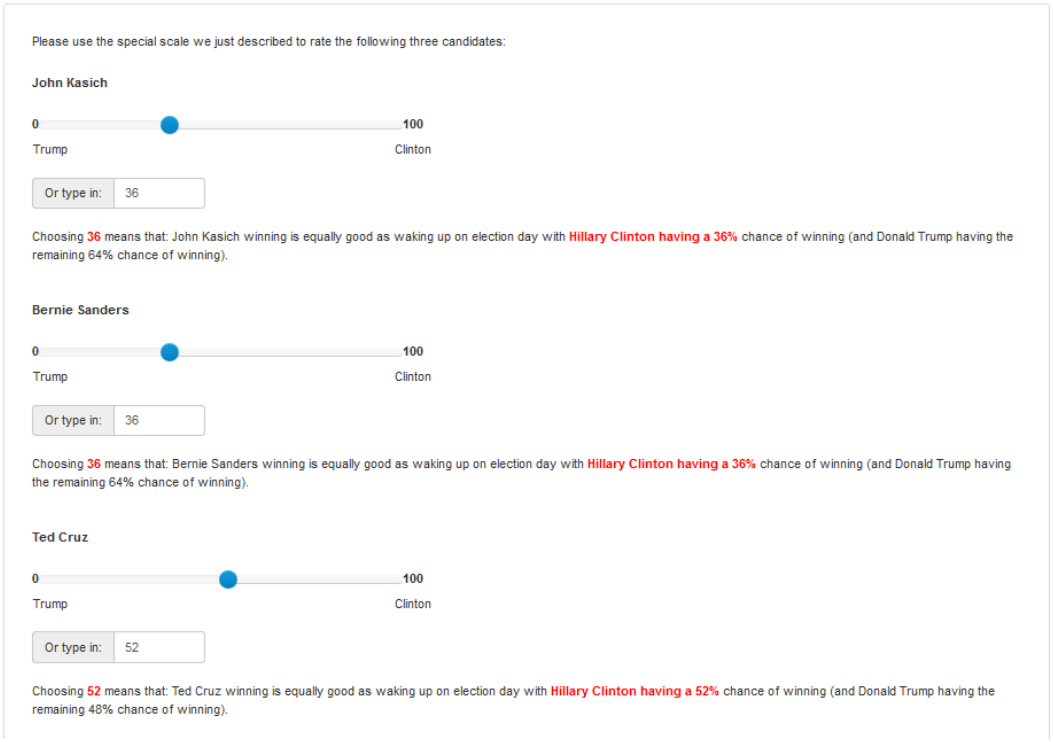
el003_intro_longshort (Section Election)
Please use the special scale we just described to rate the following three candidates:

John Kasich
Choosing 36 means that: John Kasich winning is equally as good as waking up on election day with Hillary Clinton having a 36% chance of winning (and Donald Trump having the remaining 64% chance of winning).

Bernie Sanders
Choosing 36 means that: Bernie Sanders winning is equally as good as waking up on election day with Hillary Clinton having a 36% chance of winning (and Donald Trump having the remaining 64% chance of winning).

Ted Cruz
Choosing 52 means that: Ted Cruz winning is equally as good as waking up on election day with Hillary Clinton having a 52% chance of winning (and Donald Trump having the remaining 4

Figure 3: *Respondent screen for long introduction*



END OF IF

SUBGROUP OF QUESTIONS

/* In the loop below the respondent is asked about the presidential candidates that s/he did not select as the best or worst president in el001 or el002 respectively. The order in which these candidates are presented is identical to the order in el001 and el002, as captured in the el001_order_1 to el001_order_5 variables. */

LOOP FROM 1 TO 5

IF el001_order(el_cnt) != el001 AND el001_order(el_cnt) != el002 THEN

Value of question el003_questions(el001_order(el_cnt)) asked as question

/* el003a: Hillary Clinton
el003b: Ted Cruz
el003c: John Kasich
el003d: Bernie Sanders
el003e: Donald Trump */

END OF IF

END OF LOOP

END OF SUBGROUP

END OF GROUP

End of section **Election**

Start of section **Poverty**

p_intro (Section Poverty)
Now we will ask you a number of questions about how easy it is to make ends meet nowadays. There are no good or bad answers. We just want to know your opinion. Many thanks for your help!

p001 (difficulty make ends meet in section Poverty)
Overall, how difficult is it for your household to make ends meet with your current household income?
1 Not difficult at all
2 Somewhat difficult
3 Moderately difficult
4 Very difficult
5 Extremely difficult

p002 (hh income in section Poverty)
What was the total income of your household in 2015? That is the sum of all incomes of everyone in your household?
RANGE 0.0..99999999.0

p003 (income needed make ends meet in section Poverty)
Living where you do now and meeting the expenses you consider necessary, what would be the very smallest income your household would need to make ends meet?
RANGE 0.0..99999999.0

/* The order in which the respondent is asked what a very bad to very good income would be is randomized based on the value of **p004_order** It takes a value of 1 for very bad to very good and 2 for very good to very bad. */

IF (p004_order = empty) THEN
p004_order := mt_rand(1,2)
END OF IF

GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

p004_intro (income needed make ends meet in section Poverty)
Which household income per year would you, in your circumstances, consider to be very bad? And bad? Insufficient? Sufficient? Good? Very good?

SUBGROUP OF QUESTIONS

IF p004_order = 1 THEN

p004a (Very bad in section Poverty)
Very bad
RANGE 0.0..99999999.0

p004b (bad in section Poverty)
Bad
RANGE 0.0..99999999.0

p004c (Insufficient in section Poverty)
Insufficient
RANGE 0.0..99999999.0

p004d (Sufficient in section Poverty)
Sufficient
RANGE 0.0..99999999.0

p004e (Good in section Poverty)
Good
RANGE 0.0..99999999.0

p004f (Very good in section Poverty)
Very good
RANGE 0.0..99999999

ELSE

p004f (Very good in section Poverty)
Very good
RANGE 0.0..99999999

p004e (Good in section Poverty) Good
RANGE 0.0..99999999.0

p004d (Sufficient in section Poverty)
Sufficient

RANGE 0.0..99999999.0

p004c (Insufficient in section Poverty)
Insufficient
RANGE 0.0..99999999.0

p004b (bad in section Poverty)
Bad
RANGE 0.0..99999999.0

p004a (Very bad in section Poverty)
Very bad
RANGE 0.0..99999999.0

END OF IF

END OF SUBGROUP

END OF GROUP

p005_intro (Section Poverty)
On the following screens we will show you 5 examples of families with varying household situations. Can you please tell us how difficult you think it is for these households to make ends meet? NOTE: it may take several moments for the next screen to appear. Please just wait until it has fully loaded. Thank you!

/* In the loop below each respondent is presented with five hypothetical situations (vignettes). Each vignette represents a variation on household size and socioeconomic status (e.g. number and ages of children, if they rent or own their home). Respondents were asked to indicate how difficult it would be for each described household to make ends meet financially. The vignettes consist of household information provided by these survey participants in three earlier surveys: household demographics are from the My Household survey; rent and mortgage information are from the HRS Household Wealth Module, UAS21; household income information is from the HRS Income Module, UAS 24. There are 917 respondents whose information was available across the three surveys at the time of fielding of the UAS40 survey. Thus we constructed 917 vignettes based on their 917 individual household configurations.

Each respondent is shown five vignettes drawn randomly from the set of 917 vignettes we construct. The exact texts presented to the respondent are stored in variables flvignettes_1_ through flvignettes_5_.The names used in the vignettes are stored in flnames_1_ through flnames_5_. Note the number sandwiched between "_" represents the vignette number. The vignettes vary along the following dimensions:

- gender (stored in variables vignette_gender_1_ through vignette_gender_5_)

- marital status (vignette_marital_1_ through vignette_marital_5_)
- household size (vignette_hhmembernumber_1_ through vignette_hhmembernumber_5_; Maximal household size is 4)
- number of children (vignette_children_a_1_ through vignette_children_a_5_)
- age of each child in the vignettes conditional on households having children (vignette_hhmemberage_1_1 through vignette_hhmemberage_4_5; The first digit refers to the rank of the household member in the vignette; the second digit indicates which vignette the age refers to)
- total household income of vignette households (vignette_hhtotincome_1_ through vignette_hhtotincome_5_)
- rent (vignette_h004_ownrent_1_ through vignette_h004_ownrent_5_)
- mortgage (vignette_totalmortgage_1_ through vignette_totalmortgage_5_)

Figure 4 provides a screen shot of one randomly chosen vignette. Answers to the questions about the vignettes are stored in p005_1_ through p005_5_.

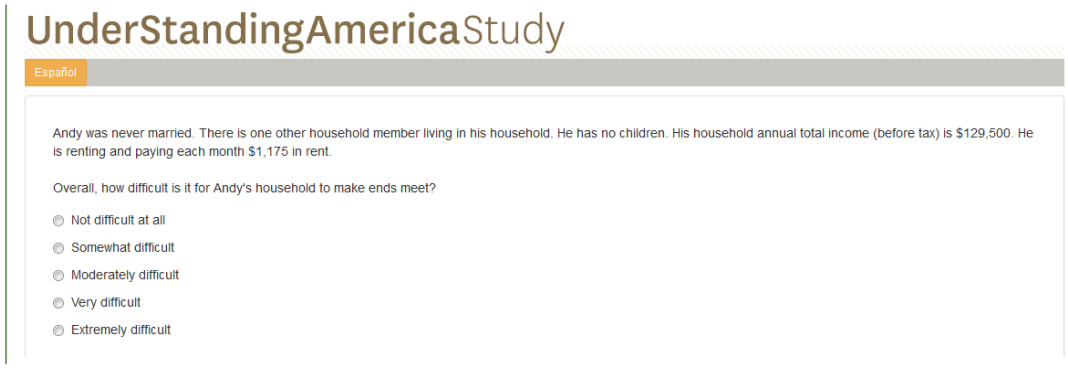
A subset of respondents got to evaluate their own household situations in vignette 5. If respondents evaluate their own household in vignette 5, ages of household members are modified by adding or subtracting any numbers between -2 and 2 to the actual ages to make it less obvious that they are evaluating their own household situation. The dummy variable – own_vignette – takes a value of 1 if respondents got to evaluate their own vignettes in vignette 5, and 0 otherwise. The altered ages are stored in p005_own_age_changed_1_ through p005_own_age_changed_4_. */

```
IF (sizeof(vignette_uasid) = 0) THEN
  dummy := getVignettes()
END OF IF

LOOP FROM 1 TO 4
```

p005 Overall, how difficult is it for NAME household to make ends meet?
1 Not difficult at all
2 Somewhat difficult
3 Moderately difficult
4 Very difficult
5 Extremely difficult

Figure 4: *Respondent screen for hypothetical question*



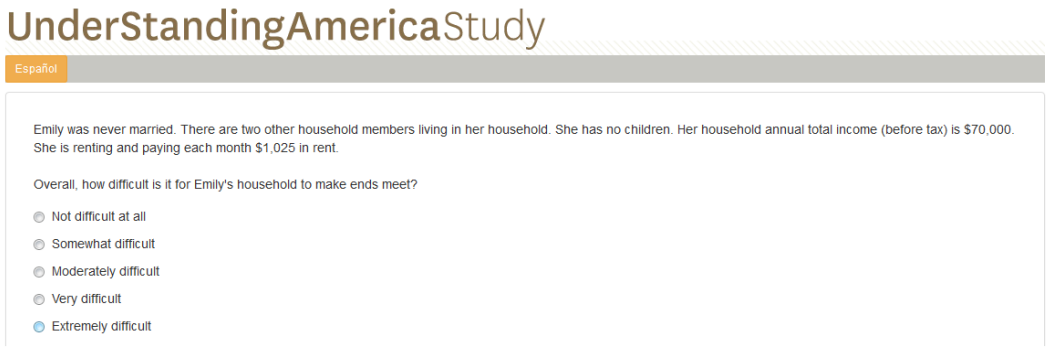
END OF LOOP

IF (vignette_uasid(5) = empty) THEN
  dummy := getOwnVignette()
END OF IF

cnt := 5

p005 Overall, how difficult is it for NAME household to make ends meet?
1 Not difficult at all
2 Somewhat difficult
3 Moderately difficult
4 Very difficult
5 Extremely difficult

Figure 5: *Respondent screen for own hypothetical question*



End of section **Poverty**

Start of section **Closing**

CS_001 (HOW PLEASANT INTERVIEW in section Closing)
Could you tell us how interesting or uninteresting you found the questions in this interview?
1 Very interesting
2 Interesting
3 Neither interesting nor uninteresting
4 Uninteresting
5 Very uninteresting

CS_003 (comments in section Closing)
Do you have any other comments on the interview? Please type these in the box below.(If you have no comments, please click next to complete this survey.)
STRING

End of section **Closing**

/* Please note that although question CS_003 is listed in the routing, the answers are not included in the microdata in the event identifiable information is captured. Cleaned responses are available by request. */