# **UnderStandingAmerica**Study

UAS 11: END OF YEAR SURVEY



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Fielded December 23, 2014 - February 2, 2015

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

This UAS panel, titled "UAS11: End of Year Survey" asked respondents about their experiences in the panel in 2014. This survey is no longer in the field. Respondents were paid \$7 to complete the survey.

Note: data files for this survey were adjusted on January 29, 2019 to remove 2 unqualified respondents who were inadvertently included in the initial data files. Please contact uas-l@usc.edu with any questions.

# 1.1 Topics

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

# 1.2 Experiments

This survey did not include any experiments. 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 1843 UAS participants. Of those 1843 participants, 1230 completed the survey and are counted as respondents. Of those who are not counted as respondents, 9 started the survey without completing and 604 did not start the survey. The overall response rate was 66.74%.

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.%.

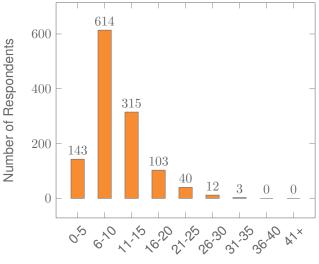
The detailed survey response rate is as follows:

UAS11 - Response Overview	
Size of selected sample	1843
Completed the survey	1230
Started but did not complete the survey	9
Did not start the survey	604
Response rate	66.74%

# 2.2 Timings

The survey took respondents an average of 11 minutes, and the full distribution of survey response times is available in the figure below. Times per question are available upon request.

# Distribution of Respondents' Survey Response Times



Minutes to Complete Survey

# 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.
- o 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
- o **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.
- o 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.
- o **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.
- o age: indicates the age of the respondent at the start of the survey.
- o **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'.
- o citizenus: indicates whether the respondent is a U.S. citizen.
- o **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.
- o 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.
- o maritalstatus: indicates the marital status of the respondent.
- **livewithpartner**: indicates whether the respondent lives with a partner.
- o 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.
- o 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: 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.
- o 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.
- o retired: indicates whether the respondent is retired.

- o 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.
- If\_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.
- o 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.
- o 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.j/li¿
- o 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 parttime or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.

- o **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

#### Start of section Yearend

intro (intro in section Yearend)

Welcome to our end of the year survey! As 2014 draws to a close, you may find yourself taking stock of your own life; what you accomplished and experienced this year and what you hope to change or keep the same for 2015.

All of us at the Understanding America Study office would like to sincerely thank you for taking part in our study this year. This survey should be an easy one. We will ask some questions about your experience taking surveys, about your experience communicating with us, about your payments, and finally end with a few questions about a few other subjects. We wish you a very happy New Year!

#### End of section Yearend

#### Start of section Helpdesk

intro\_helpdesk (intro helpdesk in section Helpdesk)

To start, we'd like to ask you a few questions about your interactions with our Help Desk. Please think about interactions you might have had with us through our toll free number, our email addresses, or the messages you might leave us on the study website.

hd\_01 (contacted help desk in section Helpdesk)

Have you ever contacted our Help Desk?

1 Yes

2 No

#### IF $hd_01 = 1$ THEN

# GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

hd\_01why (why help desk in section Helpdesk)

Why did you contact the Help Desk?

- 1 Needed login information
- 2 Needed help with the device/computer I take surveys on
- 3 Had trouble with a survey
- 4 Had issues with the prepaid card
- 5 To ask about a payment owed
- 6 To change a mailing address or email address
- 7 To add a family member
- 8 Other (please explain):

hd\_01why\_other (why help desk other reason in section Helpdesk) Why did you contact the Help Desk? STRING

#### **END OF GROUP**

hd\_02 (rate help desk in section Helpdesk)

How would you rate our Help Desk?

- 1 Extremely Poor
- 2 Below Average
- 3 Average
- 4 Above Average
- 5 Excellent

#### IF hd\_02 < 4 THEN

hd\_02average (help desk average or poor in section Helpdesk)

Thank you for this feedback. We would very much appreciate if you could tell us how we can improve in the box below.

STRING

#### **END OF IF**

#### ELSEIF hd\_01 = 2 THEN

hd\_01no (help desk never in section Helpdesk)

Wow! Just so you know we are here 9am to 5pm Pacific Time, at this number: 1-855-872-8673 (9am - 5pm PST) or by email: uashelp@usc.edu. We often answer emails after hours. Though three of us answer the phone during these hours (Emma, Maribel, and Tania) sometimes you may still get our voicemail. We will try our best to return your call you as soon as we can that same day.

# END OF IF

#### End of section Helpdesk

# Start of section Surveys

s\_01 (hardware or device for surveys in section Surveys)

On what kind of device do you usually take our surveys?

- 1 work laptop
- 2 personal laptop
- 3 work desktop
- 4 personal desktop
- 5 tablet
- 6 cell phone
- 7 someone else's computer (library, friend, relative)

#### GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

# **s\_02** (internet in section Surveys)

What kind of internet connection do you use when you take our surveys?

- 1 wireless (such as a hotspot outside of your home, or a home router)
- 2 ethernet cable
- 3 satellite
- 4 3G/4G card (such as what your cell phone uses)
- 5 other:

#### **s\_02\_other** (other internet in section Surveys)

What other kind of internet connection do you use when you take our surveys? STRING

#### **END OF GROUP**

#### **s\_03** (number of surveys in section Surveys)

Around how many surveys do you think you have taken with the Understanding America Study?

- 11
- 2 2-4
- 3 5-7
- 48 or more

#### **s\_04** (other survey companies in section Surveys)

Do you take surveys for any other companies or organizations?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

#### $IF s_04 = 1 THEN$

**s\_04yes** (are surveys from other companies paid in section Surveys)

Are you paid for taking these surveys?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

#### **END OF IF**

#### **s\_05** (favorite surveys in section Surveys)

We try to give you a variety of surveys. Which survey topic is your favorite?

- 1 Surveys about health topics
- 2 Surveys about financial matters
- 3 Surveys about current events
- 4 Surveys with special tasks (phone interviews, devices, etc.)
- 5 Surveys where the reward depends on what you choose and on chance
- 6 Surveys that feel like quizzes
- 7 I can't decide, I like all of them
- 8 I can't decide, I didn't like any of them
- 9 I have no opinion

#### End of section Surveys

#### Start of section Payments

**paymentintro** (payment intro in section Payments)

When we first started our study, we promised to pay everyone on a quarterly basis.

We received a lot of feedback that more frequent payments would be preferred, so now we have switched to a monthly payment. We work with other departments at USC to reload and reissue the ClinCards.

Every time we replace your card and every time we load your card we are charged a fee, so please try to keep them safe so we can give you more surveys.

**p\_01** (have clincard in section Payments)

Do you currently have the prepaid blue ClinCard that we sent you for your rewards?

1 Yes

2 No

#### IF $p_01 = 2$ THEN

**p\_01no** (no to have clincard in section Payments)

Good to know! We will send you a replacement card as soon as possible. We will try to contact you to confirm your mailing address and your balance when we review this survey, but if you have changed your address, phone or email address it would be great if you could contact us immediately.

#### **END OF IF**

**p\_02** (used ClinCard in section Payments)

Have you used your ClinCard?

1 Yes

2 No

#### IF $p_02 = 1$ THEN

**p\_03** (ClinCard rating in section Payments)

In general, how easy do you find it to use your ClinCard and check things like your balance?

- 1 Very difficult
- 2 Difficult
- 3 Neither difficult nor easy
- 4 Easv
- 5 Very easy

#### **END OF IF**

#### GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

#### **p\_04** (other forms of payment in section Payments)

We chose the ClinCard because it allowed us to send cards without giving the company information other than your name. Most other reloadable prepaid cards require a Social Security number. In an ideal world, how would you prefer your rewards be given to you?

- 1 Amazon gift card
- 2 Starbucks gift card
- 3 Other retail gift card
- 4 Cash
- 5 Check
- 6 I am not interested in the rewards
- 7 Other:

p\_04\_other (other forms of payment in section Payments)

What other form would you prefer?

STRING

#### **END OF GROUP**

#### End of section Payments

#### Start of section 2014

#### year\_01 (polar vortex in section 2014)

2014 began with a few very cold months which the news media dubbed the "polar vortex." Were you affected by this weather where you live?

1 Yes

2 No

# year\_02 (frozen in section 2014)

Another cold experience was presented in the Disney movie *Frozen*. If you were anywhere near small children this year you most likely heard its theme song. Was it:

- 1 Let it snow
- 2 Walking in a Winter Wonderland
- 3 Let it go
- 4 Under the Sea
- 5 When You Wish Upon a Star

#### vear\_03 (ALS in section 2014)

Apparently over 100 million dollars was raised for the ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) or Lou Gehrig's Disease Society to support research as a result of their Ice Bucket Challenge. This fundraiser involved people challenging friends to donate to the research and/or post photos or videos of themselves experiencing buckets of ice cold water dumped on their heads. Did you participate in the Ice Bucket Challenge?

- 1 Yes I took the challenge!
- 2 No
- 3 I donated something to the ALS Society instead of getting water dumped on my head
- 4 I never heard of this event

#### year\_04 (world cup in section 2014)

Do you remember that the World Cup was held this summer? Without doing an internet search, can you remember which country hosted the Cup?

- 1 Holland
- 2 United States
- 3 Argentina
- 4 United Kingdom
- 5 Germany
- 6 Brazil

#### year\_05 (sochi in section 2014)

A number of cities in the United States are currently competing to host the Summer Olympics in 2016 including Los Angeles, Boston, San Francisco, and Washington D.C. (as of the time we are writing this survey). Do you remember where the 2014 Winter Olympics were held? (try not to cheat)

- 1 Sochi, Russia
- 2 Davos, Switzerland
- 3 Cortina, Italy
- 4 Vancouver, Canada

#### year\_06 (immigration in section 2014)

Via an executive order, new immigration policy will soon be taking effect allowing some 5 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States an opportunity to apply for a permit to stay temporarily. In most cases this is because these immigrants have children who are United States citizens. How do you feel about this new policy? You may choose more than one answer.

- 1 Undocumented people in this country with good standing should be allowed to remain with their families in the US
- 2 Many thousands of people are still going to be left out from the new policy and stay undocumented so this policy is not enough of a solution
- 3 Even undocumented people who aren't criminals and have family here are still going to be deported by the thousands
- 4 Nobody who came here illegally should be allowed to stay in the US under any circumstances
- 5 The executive action taken by the president is illegal and will be overturned
- 6 Don't have an opinion
- 7 Don't know about this policy change

#### **year\_07** (police confidence in section 2014)

Please select a point on the scale below which best summarizes your feeling toward your

local police, with 0 being very afraid, and 100 being very confident in their abilities.

#### year\_08 (confidence in police in section 2014)

Have the recent police homicides made you feel less confident in the police?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know

#### year\_09 (police incidents in last year in section 2014)

Over the last 12 months, do you know of any incidents in your county when a person was fatally wounded by the police? If so, how many?

- 1 1-2
- 2 3-5
- 3 5-8
- 4 8-10
- 5 10-15
- 6 There were no such incidents in my county
- 7 Don't know/don't remember

#### **year**<sub>-</sub>**10** (cuba relations in section 2014)

President Obama has announced that the United States and Cuba will restore full diplomatic relations. What is your opinion about this?

- 1 A good idea
- 2 A bad idea
- 3 Don't know

#### vear\_11 (cuban travel in section 2014)

It will soon become easier to travel to Cuba for American citizens. Are you interested in visiting Cuba on vacation in the near future?

- 1 Yes, I am interested in traveling to Cuba for a vacation within the next five years
- 2 No, I have no interest in visiting Cuba at all
- 3 Perhaps in the distant future (more than five years from now)

#### GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

#### year\_12 (business in cuba in section 2014)

Many American companies are considering to start doing business in Cuba. Do you think this will help the U.S. economy?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

#### year\_13 (help cuban economy in section 2014)

And will it help the Cuban economy?

1 Yes

#### 2 No

year\_14 (benefit which economy in section 2014)

Which economy will benefit most?

- 1 The U.S. economy
- 2 The Cuban economy

#### **END OF GROUP**

#### year<sub>-</sub>15 (pope involvement in section 2014)

Pope Francis appears to have an important role in bringing Cuban and American negotiators together. In general, do you think it is a good thing that the pope gets involved in international politics?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

# year\_16 (better off this year in section 2014)

Generally speaking, do you feel you are now better off, worse off, or about the same compared to this time last year?

- 1 Better off
- 2 Worse off
- 3 About the same

#### End of section 2014

#### Start of section Closing

#### **CS\_thanks** (thanks in section Closing)

Thank you for the great year! Here's to more surveys in 2015!

# 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

/\* 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. \*/

End of section **Closing**