

# UnderStandingAmericaStudy

UAS 319: FINANCIAL HEALTH NETWORKS INCARCERATION SURVEY



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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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This UAS panel survey, titled "UAS 319: Financial Health Networks Incarceration Survey" was asked of all respondents who responded to Financial Health Network's Pulse survey UAS233 that either they, a household member, or both, had served time in prison or in jail. In the development of this survey, CESR conducted some qualitative interviews to refine question wording and survey structure, as well as long form interviews of subjects to learn more about their experiences. Respondents were asked to focus on their own or their household member's longest period in prison or in jail if there was more than one period of incarceration. This survey is no longer in the field. Respondents were paid \$8 to complete the survey.

## 1.1 Topics

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This survey contains questions (among others) on the following topics: Crime, Employment And Labor Market, Financial Literacy, Income, Savings. A complete survey topic categorization for the UAS can be found [here](#).

## 1.2 Experiments

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This survey did not include any experiments. A complete survey experiment categorization for the UAS can be found [here](#).

## 1.3 Citation

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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](mailto:tgutsche@usc.edu).

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## 2 SURVEY RESPONSE AND DATA

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### 2.1 Sample selection and response rate

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The sample selection for this survey was:

Everyone who indicated they had experience with incarceration in UAS233.

As such, this survey was made available to 712 UAS participants. Of those 712 participants, 578 completed the survey and are counted as respondents. Of those who are not counted as respondents, 23 started the survey without completing and 111 did not start the survey. The overall response rate was 81.18%.

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:

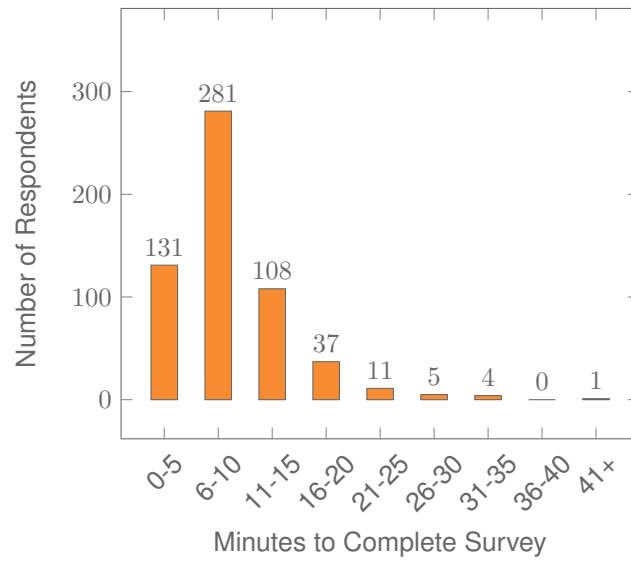
UAS319 - Response Overview	
Size of selected sample	712
Completed the survey	578
Started but did not complete the survey	23
Did not start the survey	111
Response rate	81.18%

### 2.2 Timings

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The survey took respondents an average of 10 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



## 2.3 Weighting

Weights are not (yet) available for this survey. Please contact UAS staff with any questions.

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### 3 STANDARD VARIABLES

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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 `jemuashhidi/emi`. 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.

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## 4 DEMOGRAPHICS

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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.
- **state reside**: 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 hisplatinio, 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.
- **hisplatinio**: 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.
- **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, If\_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.
- **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 Micropolitan 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.

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## 5 MISSING DATA CONVENTIONS

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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.

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## 6 ROUTING SYNTAX

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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.

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## 7 SURVEY WITH ROUTING

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Start of section **Preload**

uas233\_q137 := getUAS233Preload("q137")

IF uas233\_q137 = EMPTY THEN

**mainintro2** (Section Preload)

*We are interested in learning about your (or a household member's) longest experience of incarceration (time spent in jail, prison, or the combination of both) stemming from a single arrest or set of charges and any impact it may have had on your household's finances.*

**q137** (you or anyone in household spent time in jail or prison in section Preload)

Have you or has anyone in your household spent time in jail or prison?

1 Yes, I have

2 Yes, someone else in my household has

3 Yes, I have AND someone else in my household has

4 No

ELSE

q137 := uas233\_q137

END OF IF

IF q137 = EMPTY OR q137 = 4 THEN

**earlyexit** (Section Preload)

Thank you for your interest! Unfortunately you do not qualify for this survey at this time. Please click "Next" to return to your panel member pages.

Exit the survey

END OF IF

IF uas233\_q137 = RESPONSE THEN

Fill code of question FLMain executed

**mainintro** (Section Preload)

*In a previous survey this year, you indicated that (you/someone in your household/you and someone in your household/) spent time in jail or prison. We are interested in learning about your longest experience of incarceration (time spent in jail, prison, or the combination of both) stemming from a single arrest or set of charges and any impact it may have had on your household's finances.*

END OF IF

End of section **Preload**

Start of section **Section1**

**IF q137 IN (1,3) THEN**

**ric001** (how many times spent in jail in section Section1)

Have you spent time in jail or prison one time, or more than once?

- 1 One time
- 2 Two or more times

**ric\_intro** (Section Section1)

*While answering the following questions, please think of the longest time you spent incarcerated. This means time spent in jail, prison, or the combination of both based on a single set of charges brought against you.*

**ric002** (how long since been released from jail or prison in section Section1)

How long has it been since you were released from jail or prison?

- 1 Less than one year ago
- 2 Less than five years ago
- 3 Less than ten years ago
- 4 Ten or more years ago

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

**ric003** (description of being incarcerated in section Section1)

Which of the following most closely describes the time that you spent incarcerated?

If there has been more than one time, please refer to the longest experience of incarceration. Were you... (select all that apply)

- 1 Arrested and released before sentencing
- 2 Arrested and held in jail until sentencing
- 3 Sentenced only to probation or court supervised release
- 4 Sentenced to jail/prison or time served followed by release under criminal justice supervision
- 5 Sentenced to jail/prison or time served without any criminal justice supervision upon release
- 6 Other (please explain briefly):

**ric003\_other** (other description of being incarcerated in section Section1)

STRING

**END OF GROUP**

**ric004** (how much time spent in jail before sentence in section Section1)

Which of the following most closely represents how much time you spent in jail before your sentence?

- 1 None
- 2 3 days or less
- 3 4 - 7 days
- 4 2 - 3 weeks
- 5 1 - 3 months
- 6 4 - 6 months
- 7 7 - 12 months
- 8 Over one year
- 99 Not applicable

**IF 4 IN ric003 OR 5 IN ric003 OR 6 IN ric003 THEN**

**ric005** (how much time spent in jail/prison after sentence in section Section1)

Which of the following most closely represents how much time you spent in jail/prison after your sentence?

- 1 None
- 2 Less than one year (0 to 11 months)
- 3 1 - 3 years
- 4 4 - 6 years
- 5 Over 6 years
- 99 Not applicable

**END OF IF**

**IF 3 IN ric003 OR 4 IN ric003 OR 6 IN ric003 THEN**

**ric006** (how much time spent under court supervision in section Section1)

Which of the following most closely represents how much time you spent under court supervision after release?

- 1 Currently on probation
- 2 Currently on parole
- 3 Currently under some form of court supervision
- 4 1 - 3 months
- 5 4 - 6 months
- 6 7 - 12 months
- 7 1 - 3 years
- 8 4 - 6 years
- 9 Over 6 years
- 99 Not applicable

**END OF IF**

**ric\_intro2** (Section Section1)

*The next set of questions will focus on what happened to you before sentencing. If these events happened more than once, please refer to the experience used to answer the earlier questions (i.e. your longest period of incarceration).*

**ric007** (presented with bail option in section Section1)

Were you or a family member/friend presented with **the opportunity** to post bail to avoid your being jailed while awaiting trial?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No, did not have to post bail for release
- 3 No, not allowed to post bail
- 4 Released under non-monetary program

END OF IF

End of section **Section1**

Start of section **Section2**

IF q137 = 2 THEN

**hic\_intro** (Section Section2)

*This section asks about how time served in jail, prison, or the combination of the two may have impacted your household's finances. For all questions, please answer to the best of your ability, and if you are not sure about the answer to a question, just your best guess will do.*

*For this survey members of your "household" includes you, others living with you who contribute financially to your household expenses, or others who are living with you and are financially dependent on the household.*

**hic001** (how many members spent time in jail or prison in section Section2)

How many members of your household have spent time in jail or prison?

- 1 One
- 2 Two or more

**hic002** (anyone in household spent multiples times in jail or prison in section Section2)

Has anyone in your household spent time in jail or prison more than once?

- 1 Yes, at least one household member spent more than one time in jail or prison
- 2 No members of my household have spent more than one time in jail or prison

**hic\_intro2** (Section Section2)

*While answering the next set of questions, please think of the longest time a household member spent incarcerated. This means time spent in jail, prison, or the combination of both based on a single set of charges brought against them.*

**hic003** (how long since hh member been released from jail or prison in section Section2)

How long has it been since your household member was released from jail or prison?

- 1 A member of my household is in jail or prison now
- 2 Less than one year ago



- 3 Less than five years ago
- 4 Less than ten years ago
- 5 Ten or more years ago

IF hic003 = 1 THEN

|

ELSE

GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

**hic004** (description of hh member being incarcerated in section Section2)

Which of the following most closely describes your household member's time spent incarcerated? If there has been more than one time, please refer to the longest experience of incarceration. Was your household member... (select all that apply)

- 1 Arrested and released before sentencing
- 2 Arrested and held in jail until sentencing
- 3 Sentenced only to probation or court supervised release
- 4 Sentenced to jail/prison or time served followed by release under criminal justice supervision
- 5 Sentenced to jail/prison or time served without any criminal justice supervision upon release
- 6 Other (please explain briefly):

**hic004\_other** (other description of hh member being incarcerated in section Section2)

STRING

END OF GROUP

**hic005** (how much time hh member spent in jail before sentence in section Section2)

Which of the following most closely represents how much time your household member spent in jail before their sentence?

- 1 One day or less
- 2 2 - 3 days
- 3 2 - 3 weeks
- 4 1 - 3 months
- 5 4 - 6 months
- 6 7 - 12 months
- 7 Over one year
- 99 Not applicable

IF 4 IN hic004 OR 5 IN hic004 OR 6 IN hic004 THEN

**hic006** (how much time spent in jail/prison after sentence in section Section2)

Which of the following most closely represents how much time your household member spent in jail/prison after their sentence?

- 1 Less than one year (0 to 11 months)
- 2 1 - 3 years
- 3 4 - 6 years
- 4 Over 6 years
- 99 Not applicable

END OF IF

IF 3 IN hic004 OR 4 IN hic004 OR 6 IN hic004 THEN

**hic007** (how much time hh member spent under court supervision in section Section2)

Which of the following most closely represents how much time your household member spent under court supervision?

- 1 Currently on probation
- 2 Currently on parole
- 3 Currently under some form of court supervision
- 4 1 - 3 months
- 5 4 - 6 months
- 6 7 - 12 months
- 7 1 - 3 years
- 8 4 - 6 years
- 9 Over 6 years
- 99 Not applicable

END OF IF

**hic.intro3** (Section Section2)

*The next set of questions will focus on what happened to the person in your household before sentencing. Again, please think of the longest time your household member spent incarcerated. This means time spent in jail, prison, or the combination of both based on a single set of charges brought against your household member.*

**hic008** (hh member presented with bail option in section Section2)

Were you or a family member/friend presented with **the opportunity** to post bail to avoid your household member being jailed while awaiting trial?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No, did not have to post bail for release
- 3 No, not allowed to post bail
- 4 Released under non-monetary program

hic008\_asked := 1

END OF IF

END OF IF

End of section **Section2**

### Start of section **Section3**

Fill code of question FLYours executed  
Fill code of question FLYou executed  
Fill code of question FLThey executed  
Fill code of question FLTheir executed  
Fill code of question FLWere executed  
Fill code of question FLWereOnly executed  
Fill code of question FLWereOnlyCAPS executed  
Fill code of question FLHave executed  
Fill code of question FLHaveHH executed  
Fill code of question FLHaveHHMember executed  
Fill code of question FLDoes executed  
Fill code of question FLDoesCAPS executed

#### **IF q137 IN (1,2,3) THEN**

**ba003** (how much time spent on release in section Section3)

Which of the following most closely represents how much time (you/your household member) spent out on release?

- 1 None
- 2 1 week or less
- 3 2 - 3 weeks
- 4 1 - 3 months
- 5 4 - 6 months
- 6 7 - 12 months
- 7 Over one year
- 8 Not applicable

#### **END OF IF**

#### **IF (q137 IN (1,3) AND ric007 = 1) OR (q137 = 2 AND hic008\_asked = 1 AND hic008 = 1) THEN**

**ba001** (bail amount in section Section3)

As far as you remember, please select the range that most closely resembles the bail amount set for (your/your household member's) release.

- 1 Less than \$500
- 2 \$500 - \$1,000
- 3 \$1,001 - \$5,000
- 4 \$5,001 - \$10,000
- 5 \$10,001 - \$15,000
- 6 \$15,001 - \$25,000
- 7 Over \$25,000
- 8 Not sure

**ba002** (posted bail in section Section3)

Did you or a family member/friend post bail to secure (your/your household member's) release?

1 Yes

2 No

**IF ba002 = 1 THEN**

**ba004** (use bail bondsperson services in section Section3)

Did you or a family member/friend use the services of a bail bondsperson to arrange bail?

1 Yes

2 No

**IF ba004 = 1 THEN**

**ba005** (how much owed to bondsperson in section Section3)

Which of the following most closely approximates how much was owed to the bondsperson (in terms of bond payment and total interest charged)?

1 Less than \$100

2 \$100 - \$500

3 \$501 - \$1000

4 \$1001 - \$5000

5 Over \$5000

6 Not sure

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

**ba006** (which options used to assist with payment bondsperson in section Section3)

Did you or a family member/friend use any of the following options to assist with payment to the bail bondsperson? (please select all that apply)

1 Used personal savings or cash on hand

2 Sold personal assets (for example a car or jewelry)

3 Borrowed from friends or family

4 Borrowed money from a bank

5 Used a credit card

6 Borrowed money from a payday, pawn, or auto title lender

7 Borrowed money from an online lender

8 Committed a crime

9 Entered a payment plan with a bondsperson

10 Other (please explain):

11 None of the above

**ba006\_other** (other which options used to assist with payment bondsperson in section Section3)

STRING

END OF GROUP

IF 9 IN ba006 THEN

**ba008** (able to repay bail fee to bondsperson in section Section3)

Were you or a family member/friend able to repay the original bail fee to the bail bondsperson?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Currently paying

GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

**ba009** (bondsperson use any methods to ensure repayment in section Section3)

Did the bail bondsperson use any of the following methods to ensure repayment of the bond fee amount? (please select all that apply)

- 1 Wage garnishment
- 2 In-person contact
- 3 Phone calls
- 4 Text Messages
- 5 Social Media messages
- 6 Other, please explain:
- 7 Not applicable

**ba009\_other** (other bondsperson use any methods to ensure repayment in section Section3)

STRING

END OF GROUP

END OF IF

ELSE

GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

**ba007** (which options used to assist with payment bail in section Section3)

Did you or a family member/friend use any of the following options to assist with gathering bail money?(please select all that apply)

- 1 Used personal savings or cash on hand
- 2 Sold personal assets (for example a car or jewelry)
- 3 Borrowed from friends or family
- 4 Borrowed money from a bank
- 5 Used a credit card
- 6 Borrowed money from a payday, pawn, or auto title lender
- 7 Borrowed money from an online lender
- 8 Committed a crime
- 9 Entered a payment plan with a bondsperson
- 10 Other (please explain):

11 None of the above

**ba007\_other** (other which options used to assist with payment bail in section Section3)  
STRING

END OF GROUP

END OF IF

END OF IF

END OF IF

End of section **Section3**

Start of section **Section4**

IF q137 IN (1,2,3) THEN

**fi\_intro** (Section Section4)

*The next set of questions asks how (your/your household member's) time spent in jail or prison may have impacted you and your household's finances. Again, please think of the longest time (you/your household member) spent incarcerated. This means time spent in jail, prison, or the combination of both based on a single set of charges brought against (you/your household member).*

GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

**fi001** (identify theft while incarcerated in section Section4)

Did (you/your household member) experience identity theft - someone using your personal information to open accounts, file taxes, make purchases, etc. - while (you/your household member) (were/was) incarcerated?

- 1 Yes, identity theft by an unknown person
- 2 Yes, identify theft by a person (I/they) knew
- 3 No
- 4 Not sure

**fi001\_script** (Section Section4)

END OF GROUP

**fi002** (how much contributing to household income in section Section4)

(Were you/Was your household member) contributing to your household income immediately before serving time in jail, prison, or both? If so, please indicate which range most closely resembles the contribution.

- 1 No, did not contribute to household income at that time
- 2 Yes, responsible for less than 50% of household income

3 Yes, responsible for approximately 50% of household income

4 Yes, responsible for more than 50% of household income

Fill code of question FL\_fi003b executed

**IF q137 IN (1,3) THEN**

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

**fi003a** (experience consequences in section Section4)

Did your household experience any of the following consequences as a result of (you/your household member) spending time in jail, prison, or both (please select all that apply):

- 1 Bills or debt payments became delinquent or past-due
- 2 Increased amount of child support debt
- 3 Loss of housing (that is, had to move, or took in additional household members)
- 4 Loss of public benefits (for example, food assistance, childcare, subsidized health-care, etc.)
- 5 None of the above
- 6 Other (please explain):

**fi003a\_other** (other experience consequences in section Section4)

STRING

**END OF GROUP**

**ELSEIF q137 = 2 THEN**

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

**fi003b** (actions to cope with expenses or loss of income in section Section4)

Did you take any of the following actions to help cope with expenses or loss of income as a result of (you/your household member) spending time in jail, prison, or both? (please select all that apply):

- 1 Increased working hours for yourself or another household member
- 2 Cut back spending on essential items (for example, medical care or housing)
- 3 Cut back spending on non-essential items (for example, dining out or entertainment)
- 4 Borrowed money from a bank or credit union
- 5 Borrowed money from a payday, pawn, or auto title lender
- 6 None of the above
- 7 Other (please explain):

**fi003b\_other** (other actions to cope with expenses or loss of income in section Section4)

STRING

**END OF GROUP**

END OF IF

GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

**fi004** (pay for any costs in section Section4)

Did you or a family member/friend help pay for any the following costs or purchases during or after time of (your/your household member's) time spent in jail,prison, or both (please select all that apply):

- 1 Court fines from sentencing
- 2 Court fees or costs, including public defender fees, electronic monitoring fees, etc.
- 3 Jail or prison fees, including cost of stay, clothing, etc.
- 4 Commissary purchases for food, toiletries, entertainment, etc.
- 5 Use of communications or electronic devices while in jail or prison (phone calls, use of computers, etc.)
- 6 Mandatory probation requirements (for example, anger management classes or group therapy)
- 7 None of the above
- 8 Other (please explain):

**fi004\_other** (other pay for any costs in section Section4)

STRING

END OF GROUP

IF q137 = 2 AND 4 IN fi004 AND hic003 = 1 THEN

**fi005** (sending money since covid-19 for personal hygiene or health products in section Section4)

Have you or a family member or a member of your household been sending more money since the COVID-19 pandemic started for personal hygiene or health products?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

END OF IF

END OF IF

End of section **Section4**

Start of section **Section5**

IF q137 = 2 AND hic003 = 1 THEN

|

ELSE

**re\_intro** (Section Section5)

*This next set of questions asks about what happened after (you/your household member) (were/was) released after spending time in jail or prison. These questions are meant to look at challenges that come with being incarcerated and how that might affect life*



*after release. Please refer to the experience used to answer the earlier questions (i.e. your/your household member's) longest period of incarceration).*

**re001** (have bank account in section Section5)

Did (you/your household member) have a bank account prior to incarceration?

- 1 No
- 2 Yes, a savings account
- 3 Yes, a checking account
- 4 Yes, a checking and savings account
- 5 Unsure

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

**re002** (attempted to open account in section Section5)

(Have you/Has your household member) attempted to open a checking or savings account after release? Please select all that apply.

- 1 No, because accounts were still active
- 2 No, some other reason
- 3 Yes, a savings account
- 4 Yes, a checking account
- 5 Unsure
- 6 Other (please explain):

**re002\_other** (other attempted to open account in section Section5)

STRING

**re002\_script** (Section Section5)

#### END OF GROUP

#### IF 4 IN re002 THEN

**re003** (result attempted to open checking account in section Section5)

Was (your/your household member's) attempt to open a checking account successful?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Unsure

#### END OF IF

#### IF 3 IN re002 THEN

**re004** (result attempted to open savings account in section Section5)

Was (your/your household member's) attempt to open a savings account successful?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Unsure

END OF IF

IF 2 IN re002 THEN

GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

**re005** (why not attempted to open account in section Section5)

If (you/your household member) did not attempt to open a checking or savings account after release, what were the reasons? (select all that apply):

- 1 Unable to meet the ID requirements to open an account
- 2 Owing fees from previous bank accounts (for example overdraft fees)
- 3 Fear of garnishment for fines and fees charged by the court
- 4 Fear of garnishment due to other debts (for example child support)
- 5 Not enough money to keep in the account
- 6 Lack of trust in banks and other financial institutions
- 7 Inconvenient locations
- 8 High fees
- 9 Other (please explain):

**re005\_other** (other why not attempted to open account in section Section5)

STRING

END OF GROUP

END OF IF

IF (4 IN re002 AND re003 = 2) OR (3 IN re002 AND re004 = 2) THEN

GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

**re006** (why unable to open account in section Section5)

If (you/your household member) (were/was) not able to open a checking or savings account after release, what were the reasons? (select all that apply):

- 1 Unable to meet the ID requirements to open an account
- 2 Owing fees from previous bank accounts (for example overdraft fees)
- 3 Poor credit history
- 4 Unable to meet the minimum balance or fee requirements
- 5 Refusal from bank or other financial institution to open the account due to previous incarceration
- 6 Other (please explain):

**re006\_other** (other why unable to open account in section Section5)

STRING

END OF GROUP

END OF IF

**re007** (obtain loan from bank or non-bank lender in section Section5)

Did (you/your household member) attempt to obtain a loan from a bank or non-bank lender (for example getting an auto loan) or obtain a credit card within the first three years after release?

- 1 No, did not attempt to borrow money from a bank or credit union
- 2 Yes, Less than three months after release
- 3 Yes, Less than 1 year after release
- 4 Yes, 1-3 years after release
- 5 Unsure

**IF re007 IN (2,3,4) THEN**

**re008** (successful to borrow money or obtain credit card in section Section5)

Was the attempt to borrow money or obtain a credit card from a bank or credit union successful?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Not sure

**END OF IF**

**re009** (credit score before incarceration in section Section5)

How would you rate (your/your household member's) credit score before incarceration?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Very good
- 3 Good
- 4 Fair
- 5 Poor
- 6 Don't know

**re010** (credit score after release in section Section5)

How would you rate (your/your household member's) credit score upon release?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Very good
- 3 Good
- 4 Fair
- 5 Poor
- 6 Don't know

**re011** (credit score currently in section Section5)

How would you rate (your/your household member's) credit score today?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Very good
- 3 Good
- 4 Fair
- 5 Poor
- 6 Don't know

**re012** (when started searching for work in section Section5)

When did (you/your household member) start searching for work after release?

- 1 Did not look for work
- 2 Immediately
- 3 Within one month
- 4 Within three months
- 5 Within 6 months
- 6 Within the first year
- 7 After the first year

**IF re012 != 1 THEN**

**re013** (how long take to find a job in section Section5)

How long did it take (you/your household member) to find a job after release?

- 1 Less than 6 months
- 2 Between 6 months and 1 year
- 3 1 - 3 years
- 4 Over 3 years
- 5 Have not yet found a job

**IF re013 IN (2,3,4,5) THEN**

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

**re014** (any obstacles making it difficult to work in section Section5)

Did any of the following potential obstacles make it difficult to find work? (please select all that apply)

- 1 Court, probation, or parole requires staying in a certain area
- 2 Suspended driver's license
- 3 Not eligible for an occupational license
- 4 Unable to get a loan to start a business
- 5 Background checks
- 6 Attending court, probation or parole appointments
- 7 Other (please explain):

**re014.other** (other any obstacles making it difficult to work in section Section5)

STRING

**END OF GROUP**

**END OF IF**

**END OF IF**

**re015** (how long take to find housing in section Section5)

How long did it take (you/your household member) to find permanent housing after

release?

- 1 Returned to permanent housing upon release
- 2 Less than 6 months
- 3 Between 6 months and 1 year
- 4 1 - 3 years
- 5 Over 3 years
- 6 Still looking

END OF IF

**re016\_intro** (Section Section5)

*This next section will ask about (your/your household member's) current finances and any currently outstanding fines, fees, or court debts.*

GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

**re016** (currently owe money in fines, fees, debt in section Section5)

(Do you/Does your household member) currently owe money in fines, fees, or other outstanding court debt?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No, fully paid off
- 3 No, not required
- 4 No, other (please explain):

**re016\_other** (other currently owe money in fines, fees, debt in section Section5)

STRING

END OF GROUP

IF re016 = 1 THEN

**re017a** (how much currently own in outstanding fines in section Section5)

How much (do you/does your household member) owe in outstanding fines, fees, or other court debt?

- 1 Less \$1,000
- 2 \$1,001 - \$5,000
- 3 \$5,001 - \$10,000
- 4 \$10,001 - \$15,000
- 5 \$15,001 - \$20,000
- 6 \$20,001 - \$25,000
- 7 Over \$25,000
- 8 Not sure

**re018a** (how difficult to pay down amount of fines, fees, debt in section Section5)

How difficult is it for you or your household to pay down the amount of fines, fees, or other court debt owed?

- 1 Very easy

- 2 Easy
- 3 Neither easy nor difficult
- 4 Difficult
- 5 Very difficult
- 6 Not applicable

**ELSEIF re016 IN (2,4) THEN**

**re017b** (how much did own in outstanding fines in section Section5)

How much did (you/your household member) owe in outstanding fines, fees, or other court debt?

- 1 Less \$1,000
- 2 \$1,001 - \$5,000
- 3 \$5,001 - \$10,000
- 4 \$10,001 - \$15,000
- 5 \$15,001 - \$20,000
- 6 \$20,001 - \$25,000
- 7 Over \$25,000
- 8 Not sure

**re018b** (how difficult it was to pay down amount of fines, fees, debt in section Section5)

How difficult was it for you or your household to pay down the amount of fines, fees, or other court debt owed?

- 1 Very easy
- 2 Easy
- 3 Neither easy nor difficult
- 4 Difficult
- 5 Very difficult
- 6 Not applicable

**END OF IF**

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

**re019** (currently have liens in section Section5)

Do you or any members of your household currently have liens on any of the following due to outstanding fines, fees, or other debts owed to the court system or correctional facilities?

- 1 House
- 2 Car
- 3 Bank account
- 4 Wage garnishment
- 5 Other (please explain):
- 6 No

**re019\_other** (other currently have liens in section Section5)

| STRING

END OF GROUP

IF re016 = 1 THEN

GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

**re020a** (how paying for fines, fees, debt in section Section5)

How (do you/does your household member) pay the courts for fines, fees, or other court-related debts? (select all that apply)

- 1 Online
- 2 In-person
- 3 Mail
- 4 By phone
- 5 Other, please specify:
- 6 Not applicable

**re020a\_other** (other how paying for fines, fees, debt in section Section5)

STRING

END OF GROUP

**re022** (covid hurt ability to pay fines, fees, debt in section Section5)

Has COVID-19 hurt you or your household's ability to make payments for fines, fees, or other court-related debts?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

ELSEIF re016 IN (2,4) THEN

GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

**re020b** (how paid for fines, fees, debt in section Section5)

How did (you/your household member) pay the courts for fines, fees, or other court-related debts? (select all that apply)

- 1 Online
- 2 In-person
- 3 Mail
- 4 By phone
- 5 Other, please specify:
- 6 Not applicable

**re020b\_other** (other how paid for fines, fees, debt in section Section5)

STRING

END OF GROUP

**re021** (how long took to pay fines, fees, debt in section Section5)

How long did it take to pay off any court fines, fees, or other debts?

- 1 Under 1 year
- 2 1 to 5 years
- 3 5 to 10 years
- 4 10 to 15 years
- 5 15 to 20 years
- 6 Over 20 years
- 7 Fines, fees, and other debts were waived
- 8 Not sure
- 9 Not applicable

**END OF IF**

**re023\_intro** (Section Section5)

*This next section will ask (your/your household member's) experiences overall with the criminal justice system. Consider all interactions with the criminal justice system, not just the longest period of incarceration.*

**re023** (presented with opportunity to reduce fines, fees, debt in section Section5)

(Were/Was) (you/your household member) presented with the opportunity to reduce court fines, fees, or other court debts through court offered activities (for example community service)?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know
- 4 Not applicable

**re024** (presented with opportunity to enter payment plan in section Section5)

(Were/Was) (you/your household member) presented with the opportunity to enter into a payment plan for court fines, fees, or other debts?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know
- 4 Not applicable

**re025** (lost housing due to jail or prison in section Section5)

Have you ever lost housing because you or a member of the household spent time in jail or prison? This includes evictions due to the fact that a household member was incarcerated. (select all that apply)

- 1 No
- 2 Yes, inability to pay rent or mortgage due to loss of income
- 3 Yes, evicted from a private residence due to incarceration
- 4 Yes, from loss of private housing vouchers due to incarceration
- 5 Yes, evicted from public housing due to incarceration



**re026** (driver license suspended in section Section5)

Has (your/your household member's) driver's license been suspended for any of the following reasons (select all that apply):

- 1 Yes, due to failure to pay court fines, fees, or other debt
- 2 Yes, due to a missed a court date
- 3 Yes, due to a drug offense
- 4 Yes, due to unpaid child support
- 5 No

**IF re026 = RESPONSE AND re026 != 5 THEN**

**re027** (able to get license back in section Section5)

(Were/Was) (you/your household member) able to get (your/their) license back?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

**IF re027 = 1 THEN**

**re028** (how long took to get license back in section Section5)

How long did it take to get (your/their) license back?

- 1 Less than one year
- 2 Between one and three years
- 3 Between three and five years
- 4 Over five years

**END OF IF**

**END OF IF**

**re029** (ever been put in jail or prison due to failing fines or fees in section Section5)

(Have you/Has your household member) ever been put in jail or prison due to failing to pay court fines or fees?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

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

**re030** (ever denied access to benefits because of incarceration in section Section5)

Has anyone in your household ever been denied access to the following public benefits or had them taken away due to you or a member of your household having been previously incarcerated? (please select all that apply)

- 1 Public Housing
- 2 Housing vouchers
- 3 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- 4 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- 5 Medicaid
- 6 Unemployment Insurance
- 7 Other, please specify:

8 No

**re030\_other** (other ever denied access to benefits because of incarceration in section Section5)  
STRING

#### END OF GROUP

IF re016 IN (1,2,4) THEN

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

**re031\_intro** (Section Section5)  
(Have you/Has your household) ever used the services/methods below to pay for fines from sentencing and/or fees from time spent in jail, prison, or the combination of both?

#### SUBGROUP OF QUESTIONS

**re031a** (Took out a payday loan or received a pay advance loan in section Section5)  
Took out a payday loan or received a pay advance loan  
1 Yes  
2 No  
3 I don't know

**re031b** (Used a pawn shop loan in section Section5)  
Used a pawn shop loan  
1 Yes  
2 No  
3 I don't know

**re031c** (Used an installment loan in section Section5)  
Used an installment loan  
1 Yes  
2 No  
3 I don't know

**re031d** (Took out a tax refund anticipation loan in section Section5)  
Took out a tax refund anticipation loan  
1 Yes  
2 No  
3 I don't know

**re031e** (Cut back on basic needs, such as groceries or medical care in section Section5)  
Cut back on basic needs, such as groceries or medical care  
1 Yes

- 2 No
- 3 I don't know

**re031f** (Committed a crime in section Section5)

Committed a crime

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 I don't know

**re031g** (Stopped making other debt payments in section Section5)

Stopped making other debt payments

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 I don't know

**re031h** (Delayed or stopped rent, mortgage, or utility payments in section Section5)

Delayed or stopped rent, mortgage, or utility payments

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 I don't know

END OF SUBGROUP

END OF GROUP

END OF IF

**re032** (any other thoughts in section Section5)

In addition to your answers above, if there is anything else you would like to share with us about your experience please feel free to write in the text box below.

STRING

End of section **Section5**

Start of section **Closing**

askConsent := checkIdentifier()

IF askConsent = 1 THEN

IF q137 IN (1,3) THEN

IF 4 IN ric003 OR 5 IN ric003 THEN

RCount := getRCount()

IF RCount < 12 THEN

**consentR** (consent R in prison in section Closing)

We are inviting you to take part in an interview study because you noted that you or a household member spent time in jail and/or prison. For this study, we are interviewing people who have been, or have household members who have been in prison or jail.

The aim of the study is to help us understand the financial challenges people face before, during and after incarceration, and to find better ways to meet their needs.

**The interviews will be approximately one hour and we will give you \$100 as a thank you for your time and your valuable input.**

Are you willing to participate in an in-depth interview?

1 Yes

2 No

**IF consentR = 1 THEN**

**confirmR** (Section Closing)

Thank you for your response. We will follow up with further information if you are selected for an interview.

**END OF IF**

**END OF IF**

**END OF IF**

**ELSEIF q137 = 2 THEN**

**IF 4 IN hic004 OR 5 IN hic004 THEN**

HHMemberCount := getHHMemberCount()

**IF HHMemberCount < 6 THEN**

**consentHHMember** (consent household member in prison in section Closing)

We are inviting you to take part in an interview study because you noted that you or a household member spent time in jail and/or prison. For this study, we are interviewing people who have been, or have household members who have been in prison or jail.

The aim of the study is to help us understand the financial challenges people face before, during and after incarceration, and to find better ways to meet their needs.

**The interviews will be approximately one hour and we will give you \$100 as a thank you for your time and your valuable input.**

Are you willing to participate in an in-depth interview?

1 Yes

```

2 No
IF consentHHMember = 1 THEN
  confirmHHMember (Section Closing)
  Thank you for your response. We will follow up with further information if you are
  selected for an interview.
END OF IF
END OF IF
END OF IF
END OF IF
END OF IF

```

**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. \*/