

Center for Demography and Ecology

University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Surveys of the Life Course and Aging:
Some Comparisons**

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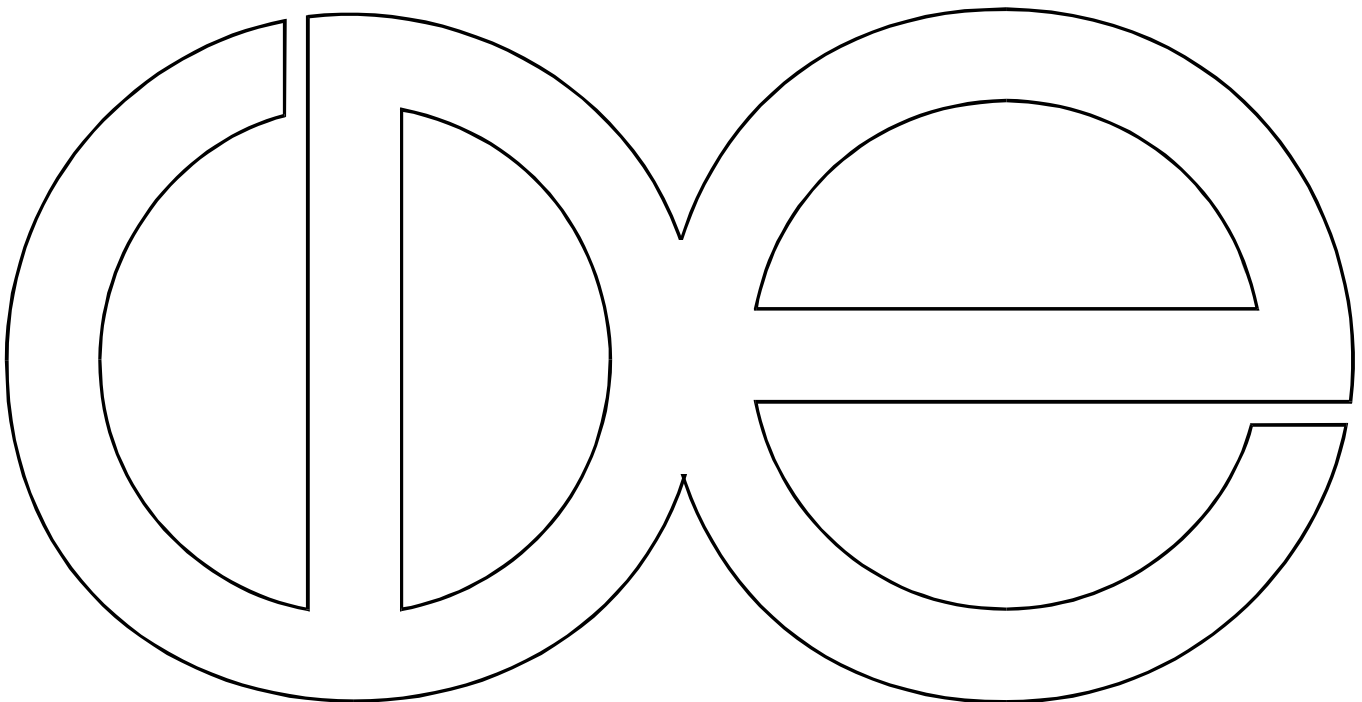
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Abstract

In this paper, we introduce, compare, and evaluate the design and content of five major longitudinal studies of aging: the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study (WLS), Health and Retirement Survey (HRS), National Survey of Families and Households (NSFH), Americans' Changing Lives (ACL), and Midlife in the United States (MIDUS). We first compare population coverage, sampling design, response rate, observational duration, sources of relational and multi-level data, and links to public records. Overall, WLS, HRS, and NSFH excel in many respects. We also evaluate questions and measures in each study. In topical coverage, WLS and NSFH are the most complete. In question quality, WLS, HRS, and NSFH excel in several areas, while MIDUS and ACL stand out mainly in life event inventories, psychological measures and some health measures.

In several major reports, expert panels of the National Research Council (NRC) have offered new, but convergent recommendations for future research on health and aging (National Research Council 1997; 2000a; 2000b; 2000c; 2000d; 2001a; 2001b). Their common themes are (1) the importance of social context for behavior; (2) interdisciplinary approaches to scientific and policy issues; (3) the need for developmental or life-course perspectives; (4) recognition of multiple levels of influence; (5) identification of mechanisms or pathways to health and illness; (6) development and use of new methodologies; and (7) development of new institutional and training infrastructure to support the new research agenda (Berkman 2001). These admirable goals require continued development of major, public longitudinal data resources on population health and aging.

In a recent symposium at the National Academy of Sciences, Hauser (2001) outlined several strengths of longitudinal population surveys: (1) Giving us “the big picture,” global descriptions of variations in the life course in populations; (2) Making it possible to model dynamic processes over long periods of time; (3) Providing data across time about role-relationships, e.g., parent-child, sister-brother, wife-husband, as well as about persons; (4) Providing data at multiple levels of analysis, e.g., the biological, neurological, psychological, and social, as well as varying levels of aggregation; (5) Providing representative data about rare as well as common events and processes; (6) Leading to serendipitous findings; and, taken together with other studies, (7) Permitting piecewise construction of synthetic models of life-course processes.

We have assembled a tabular comparison among five major studies.²

1. Wisconsin Longitudinal Study (WLS) – <http://dpls.dacc.wisc.edu/WLS/wlsarch.htm>
2. Health and Retirement Survey (HRS) – <http://www.umich.edu/~hrswww/>
3. National Survey of Families and Households (NSFH) – <http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/nsfh/home.htm>

4. Americans' Changing Lives (ACL) – <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/>

5. Midlife in the United States (MIDUS) – <http://midmac.med.harvard.edu/>

The last of these is not (yet) a longitudinal study, but a second wave has been proposed.

In our judgment, each of the five focal studies has made important contributions to our knowledge of midlife development, health, and aging, and each is likely to make important contributions in the future. Moreover, we believe that multiplicity, comparability, and partial overlap in content are valuable features of the nation's repertoire of longitudinal studies (Hauser 2001). Thus, we would not suggest that any one of them is a substitute for any of the others.

Among the major omissions from the comparison, the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) is probably most important.³ The PSID has followed the members of 5000 American families – and the sample members who have left those families – since 1968. Its regular – annual or biennial – coverage of income sources and amounts, employment, family composition changes, and demographic events is unparalleled. The surveys often contain psychological variables and health measures. Unfortunately, because of variations in the supplemental content of the PSID – and in its sample design and coverage across time – we were unable to include it in the comparison tables. We have also excluded other important studies of the elderly, either because of short duration (the two Longitudinal Studies of Aging, LSOA), focus on institutional populations (National Long-Term Care Survey, NLTCs)–or because they are no longer active–the older cohorts of the National Longitudinal Survey of Labor Market Experience (NLS). The Behavior and Social Research unit within the National Institute of Aging has prepared a very useful summary of the design and content of its larger set of aging surveys and studies (<http://www.nih.gov/niaresearch/extramural/behavior/data00.pdf>).

A Description of the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study

The WLS began with a 1/3 random sample (N = 10,317) of women and men who graduated from Wisconsin high schools in 1957.⁴ The original purpose of the study was to assess the demand for higher education in Wisconsin. The next two waves of survey data were collected from the graduates or their parents in 1964 and 1975. Those data provide a full record of social background, high school curriculum, youthful aspirations and social influences, schooling, military service, family formation, labor market experiences, and social participation. Early survey data were supplemented by earnings of parents from state tax records, mental ability test scores and rank in high school class, and characteristics of communities of residence, schools and colleges, employers, and industries. Recently, the WLS added state archival data on high school district resources from 1954 to 1957 (Olson and Ackerman 2000a; 2000b). The WLS records for graduates are also linked to those of three best same-sex high school friends; about half the graduates have a named peer in the sample. Data on the occupational careers of male graduates are supplemented by Social Security earnings histories from 1957 to 1971.

In 1975, the WLS obtained a roster of living siblings and chose a focal sibling at random for each graduate (including all twins). Adolescent cognitive ability test scores have been located for 6619 siblings, 75 percent of the focal siblings of graduates. In 1977 parallel interviews were carried out in a highly stratified sample of 2100 of these randomly selected siblings.

In 1992-94, the WLS conducted telephone and mail surveys of graduates and nearly identical telephone and mail surveys of an expanded random sample of brothers and sisters of graduates. These updated measurements of marital status, child-rearing, education, labor force participation, jobs and occupations, social participation, and future aspirations and plans among graduates and siblings. In addition, they expanded the content of earlier follow-ups to include psychological well-being, mental and physical health, wealth, household economic transfers, and social comparison and exchange relationships with parents, siblings, and children.

In 1975, measurement procedures resembled those of the Current Population Survey (CPS) and the 1973 Occupational Changes in a Generation Survey (OCG). In 1992, the surveys balanced continuity of these procedures with comparability to other well-designed surveys, e.g., Health and Retirement Survey (HRS), National Survey of Families and Households (NSFH), NIH surveys of work and psychological functioning, and the NORC General Social Survey (GSS). The survey design was also coordinated with members of the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Successful Midlife Development, with the Whitehall II study (Marmot et al. 1991), and with Wadsworth's (1991) longitudinal cohort study of births in Great Britain in 1946.

In 1992, the 1-hour telephone interview covered life history data, family rosters, and job histories, which have many skips or branches. For example, a job history protocol for CATI (Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview), which covered 94% of jobs held since 1975 that lasted 6 months or longer. Because lower response rates were anticipated in the mail survey, the CATI instrument contains selected items from key inventories of personality (The Big Five, John 1990; 1991), health (depression and alcohol use), and well-being (Ryff 1989; Ryff and Keyes 1995), of which there are more detailed measures in the mail instrument. The mail instrument also added measures of well-being, social contact, exchanges, and health, including an extensive account of menopausal experience. The sibling mail survey was modified to obtain additional measures of physical health and health-related behaviors, richer accounts of women's menopausal experiences, and more information about relationships between the focal sibling and other family members—including indicators of childhood abuse.

Recently, WLS graduates and siblings have been matched to the National Death Index-Plus (NDI-Plus)—using SSNs, names, and birthdates as identifiers—in order to obtain cause(s) of death and confirm date and place of death.

The WLS sample design has become increasingly complex over time, but a fair summary is

that, in 1992, the project completed telephone interviews with 8493 WLS graduates out of 9741 survivors, and it interviewed 4804 siblings out of 6260.⁵

The strengths of the WLS as a resource for studies of midlife and aging lie in its *longitudinal scope*, its exceptional *sample retention*, the *content and quality* of survey and administrative data, and its *relational design*: the fact that it has followed a large and diverse sample from high school graduation to the cusp of retirement and that it has followed a number of social and economic relationships between the graduates and their significant others.

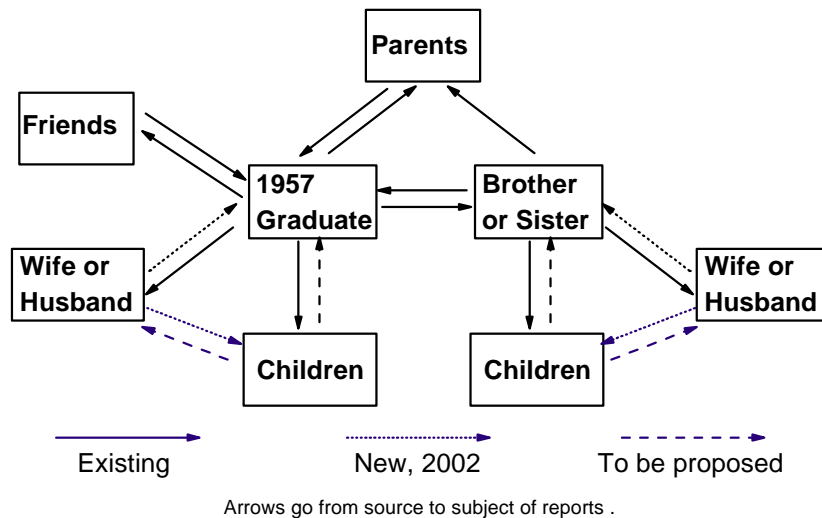
While the WLS data center on the graduates of 1957, it is now more useful to think of the graduates as focal points in sets of relationships with aging parents, spouses, adult children, and brothers and sisters, as shown in Figure 1, as well as with the localities and social institutions through which they have passed—high schools, colleges, and employers. WLS files include full survey and administrative data records for graduates, linked with those of friends and siblings.

Parents were the initial post-high school informants about graduates, but a great deal of information about parents has come from administrative record data or from siblings. Data have not previously been

obtained from spouses or children—except sometimes to help locate sample members.

The parallel data for siblings are a special strength of the WLS. Siblings provide unique data—self-reporting variables that cannot be obtained from proxies, cross-validating information

Figure 1. Relational Links in the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study



about graduates and their families, and complementing accounts of inter-household (and intergenerational) exchanges. Analytically, the sibling data permit construction of multi-level models of family and individual effects on life course outcomes (Hauser and Sewell 1986; Hauser, Sheridan, and Warren 1999).

Among Americans aged 60 to 64 in March 2000, 66.7% are non-Hispanic white women and men who completed at least 12 years of schooling (U.S. Bureau of the Census 2000: Table 1a) and thus resemble the WLS cohort. The WLS is unusually valuable in its representation of women as well as men. The WLS cohort, born mainly in 1939, precedes by a few years the baby boom generation that has taxed social institutions and resources at each stage of life. The study can thus provide early indications of trends and problems that will become important as the larger group passes through its early 60s. Also, because the WLS is the first of the large, longitudinal studies of American adolescents, it provides the first large-scale opportunity to study the life course from late adolescence through the mid-60s in the context of a full record of ability, aspiration, and achievement.⁶ The WLS graduates and their siblings have lived through major social changes: rising affluence, suburban growth, the decline of old ethnic cleavages, the cold war, and changing gender roles. The WLS overlaps the youngest cohorts that entered HRS in 1992, and this has provided opportunities to check the scope of our findings. Unlike the WLS, the HRS is nationally representative, but it does not cover the lives of respondents from adolescence to old age.

The WLS data also have obvious limitations. Some strata of American society are not represented. Everyone in the graduate sample completed high school. (Sewell and Hauser 1975) estimated that about 75% of Wisconsin youth graduated from high schools in the late 1950s; about 7% of siblings in the WLS did not graduate.⁷ There are only a handful of African American, Hispanic, or Asian persons in the WLS. Given the minuscule share of minorities in Wisconsin when the WLS began, there is no way to remedy this omission. About 19% of the WLS sample is

of farm origin; this is consistent with national estimates in cohorts of the late 1930s. In 1964, 1975, and 1992, 70% of the sample lived in Wisconsin, but 30% lived elsewhere in the U.S. or abroad. The WLS graduates are homogeneous in age, but their siblings are not. Siblings range widely in age, mainly from 8 to 10 years older to 8 to 10 years younger than the graduates.

National Studies of the Life Course and Aging

The HRS, MIDUS, NSFH, and ACL differ from the WLS in somewhat the same ways: All attempt to cover the entire U.S. population; all are presently of relatively short duration. Except HRS/AHEAD, they cover adults of all ages. Only NSFH provides rich (retrospective) data on early life circumstances, but it lacks the psychological measures in the WLS. Beyond these features, each study is unique in content and design, reflecting the interests of its leaders and research community.

Now that HRS has been combined with two older (AHEAD and CODA) cohorts, it provides continuing, biennial coverage of the U.S. population over the age of 50 in a sample of about 20,000 individuals. It is surely the flagship among large, long-term studies of aging. It covers spouses of married couples, and over-samples minorities and Floridians. HRS has also established links with data from the SSA, NDI, HCFA (Medicare), and employers. Coverage was excellent in the initial wave, and sample retention has been good across the first 8 years. Data cover cognition, self-reported health—with different emphases than the WLS, and a variety of attitudes and preferences, but there is far more emphasis on detailed economic data than in the WLS. Unlike the WLS, data on upbringing and on events before the age of 50 are retrospective or thin in HRS. Spousal reports provide important relational content, but there are no data from siblings or children. As with the WLS, bio-indicators have been obtained only on a pilot basis.

NSFH began with 13,017 persons aged 19 or more in 1987-88.⁸ Wave 2 took place in 1992-93, and wave 3 is in the field. The response rate was 74% in the first wave, and 83% of survivors responded in wave 2. The total sample is quite large, and the data provide rich, self-

reported accounts of relationships among spouses, children, and parents. NSFH covers work experience, health, and well-being in less detail than the WLS. It provides similar data on family histories, social support, inter-household exchanges, and current labor force involvement, income sources, assets, and debt. However, there are few elders in NSFH—by comparison either to HRS or WLS—and the NSFH does not provide cognitive measures or relational data for adult siblings. The temporal window of observation in NSFH is wider than that of HRS—15 years vs. 9, and there are no plans to obtain bio-indicators.

ACL, like NSFH and MIDUS, is a sample of the adult household population.⁹ The first (1986) wave achieved a response rate of 68% (N = 3,617). Responses were obtained for 83% of first wave participants in the second wave (1989) and for 83% of second wave participants in the third wave (1994). A fourth wave has been funded. ACL focuses on “productive” social relationships—on and off the job—and on cross-cultural variation in them. It has strong coverage of stressful events, chronic strains, and their effects on health, personal functioning, and productive activity. It also has excellent data on neighborhood contexts, spousal relationships, social support, and friendship. However, ACL contains relatively little information about early life circumstances, schooling, occupational histories, pensions, health, health insurance, or retirement.

MIDUS is a household-based, cross-sectional study of about 3500 adults in 1995 (oversampling those 45 and older), supplemented by 951 siblings (of 529 primary respondents), an independent sample of 1000 twin-pairs, and small oversamples in several metropolitan areas. The relational design is a great strength, but the first round response rate was unfortunately low (60.8% in the main sample), and persons with low levels of schooling were substantially under-represented. MIDUS has a very rich base of psychosocial assessments, focusing on midlife development and health, but it is weak in measures of adolescent development, educational history,

work history, marital history, intergenerational relationships, and financial status. A second round has been proposed to add a large array of bio-indicators and create a supplementary African-American sample from Milwaukee.

Tabular Comparisons of Study Design and Content

We have constructed two tables that offer selected comparisons among WLS,¹⁰ MIDUS, HRS, NSFH, and ACL.¹¹ Table 1 is a summary of design and content, which reports our assessments of study content – its quality and coverage – within several major areas. Table 2 provides supporting detail in each content area, and it is the major contribution of this paper. We have constructed Table 2 by reviewing questionnaires and other documentation available at each wave of each survey. Some surveys are covered in more detail than others in this edition of the table. For example, we have not yet distinguished among waves in HRS or NSFH, where almost all measures have been ascertained anew at each wave of the study. Also, we have not distinguished sources of information in MIDUS,¹² HRS, or NSFH, that is, whether data were ascertained from primary respondents or from spouses, siblings, or children. The present omission of these details implies that Table 2 understates the richness of relational data in those surveys.

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2. This effort was undertaken in connection with the preparation of a program of projects built around the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study, and the text reflects this focus, but we believe that the tabular comparison of study design and content may be of more general interest.
3. See <http://www.isr.umich.edu/src/psid/>.
4. The WLS cohort thus includes Milwaukee's "Class of '57," made famous by the much-repeated TV comedy, *Happy Days*. In 2002, Richie, Potsie, and Ralph would be 63 years old.
5. An additional randomly selected 20% of the siblings who had not been interviewed in 1977 were not interviewed by telephone because we ran out of money; 55% of these siblings responded to a modified mail survey.
6. There have, of course, been exceptionally important and influential longer-term studies of the life-course in the U.S. These reflect careful and insightful work, but they are based on small, local, or highly selected samples (Oden 1968; Elder 1974; Clausen 1993).
7. Because of its high response rates, we think that the WLS is less positively selected than most other large epidemiological studies of aging populations.
8. N = 9600, plus large over-samples of minorities and persons in households with one parent, step-children, cohabitators, and the recently married.
9. It over-samples Blacks, persons aged 60+, and spouses of married men aged 65+.
10. The WLS portion of the tables has been elaborated to distinguish between graduates and siblings and to report separately on the content of the Life History and Health at Midlife Study, which interviewed and obtained biomedical data from a small subsample of WLS graduates in 1997.
11. We consider this a work in progress, and we welcome corrections and suggestions for expansion of this summary material.
12. In MIDUS, the relational data are especially rich because the same instrument was used for primary respondents, twins, and other siblings.

Table 1. Summary Comparisons of Surveys of the Life Course and Aging*

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
SAMPLE							
SAMPLE POPULATION	1957 Senior Class of Wisconsin High School	Randomly selected sibling of WLS Grads	Selected from the WLS Grads (Not a random sample)	National sample	National Sample	National Sample	National but Hawaii and Alaska
SAMPLE SIZE	10,317	2,429/7,230	202	5676	15,497	17,502	5355
BIRTH COHORT	1939	1913-1965		1921-1970	1931-1941	1968 and younger	1961 and younger
OVERSAMPLING	n.a.	n.a.	See WLS Grad. These 202 people were respondents to the WLS Grad surveys in 1957, 1964, 1975, and 1992.	oversampling persons 45 years and older, a handful of metropolitan sample, siblings (N = 951), twins (n = 1005)	Af.Am/Hispanic, Florida	Black, Mex, PR, hh of one-parent, hh of step-children, cohabitators, recently married.	oversampling black; over-represented wives of married men 65+.
FIRST INTERVIEW							
age	18	28-78	56	25-74	51-61	19+	25+
time	1957	1977	1996	1995-6	1992	1987	1986
DATA QUALITY							
UNCONDITIONAL RESPONSE RATE							
baseline (first wave)	100%	87.81%	Pers. Intv. 60% Bio. Intv. 31%	60.80% (see footnote)	81.65%	74.37%	68%
1st follow up	87.09%	76.74%	n.a.	n.a.	74.33%	60%	55.25%
2nd follow up	90.09%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	72.16%	n.a.	83% (see footnote)
3rd follow up	87.18%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	80.4%(see footnote)	n.a.	n.a.
4th follow up	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Not available.	n.a.	n.a.
TIME OF OBSERVATION	1957/64/75/92	1977/94	1957/64/75/92/96	1995	1992/94/96/98	1987/92-94	1986/98/94
DURATION OF OBSERVATION	35 yrs	17 yrs	39 yrs		6 yrs	6 yrs	8 yrs
RELATIONAL DATA							
siblings	x	x	x	x			
spouse	x	x	x		x	x	x
friend network	x	x	x				
children						x	
MULTI-LEVEL DATA							
household/family	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
school	x	x	x				
PUBLIC/GOV RECORD LINK							
Social Security	x	x	x		x		
Tax Record	x	x	x				
School Record	x	x	x				
NDI	x	x	x			x	
Employer Pension Study						x	
DATA CONTENT							
FAMILY ORIGIN	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Good	Acceptable
PARENTING STYLE AND CHILDHOOD FAMILY RELATIONSHIP	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good	None	Excellent	Good
EARLY HEALTH ENVIRONMENT & FAMILY MEDICAL HISTORY	Good	Good	Good	Good	None	Good	None
EARLY ABILITY/ACHIEVEMENT	Excellent	Acceptable	Excellent	None	None	Acceptable	None
EARLY AMBITIONS/ASPIRATION	Excellent	Acceptable	Excellent	None	None	Poor	None
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Acceptable	None	Excellent	Poor

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
EDUCATION	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Poor	Acceptable	Acceptable	Poor
LFP/EMPLOYMENT/WORK	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
MILITARY SERVICE	Excellent	Good	Excellent	None	Poor	Acceptable	None
INCOME	Good	Good	Good	Acceptable	Excellent	Excellent	Good
FINANCIAL SITUATION AND INTERTRANSFER	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Poor	Excellent	Excellent	Poor
ASSETS AND WEALTH	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Poor	Excellent	Excellent	Poor
HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD	None	None	Poor	Acceptable	Good	Poor	Excellent
PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Excellent	Poor	Poor
RETIREMENT AND FUTURE (see JOB section for more)	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Excellent	Poor	Good
MARRIAGE/COHABITATION (see also INTIMATE REL)	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good
SPOUSE(S)/INTIMATE PARTNER (R's report only)	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Poor
FERTILITY OR CHILDREN ROSTER	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
SELECTED (FOCAL) CHILD	Excellent	Good	Excellent	None	None	Excellent	None
PARENTS (OWN; IN-LAWS)	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Poor	Excellent	Excellent	Acceptable
SIBLINGS	Excellent	Poor	Excellent	Poor	Excellent	Excellent	None
SELECTED SIBLING	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	None	None
HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Poor	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
FRIENDS	Excellent	None	Excellent	None	None	None	Excellent
COGNITIVE FUNCTION/MENTAL ABILITY	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	None	Good	None	Good
PERSONALITY	Good	Good	Good	Excellent	None	None	Acceptable
OTHER PSYCHOLOGICAL MEASURES	Good	Good	Good	Excellent	None	Good	Acceptable
ATTITUDES, BELIEFS, PRIORITIES	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable	Excellent	None	Acceptable	Good
PERCEIVED DISCRIMINATION, IDENTITY	None	None	Acceptable	Excellent	None	None	Poor
RELIGION	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Poor	Good	Excellent
RELATIONSHIP WITH SPOUSE/PARTNER	Poor	Poor	Good	Excellent	Poor	Excellent	Excellent
HOUSEHOLD WORK	None	None	None	Poor	None	Good	Excellent
SEXUALITY AND SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP	None	None	Poor	Excellent	None	Good	None
WIDOWHOOD	None	None	None	None	Good	Good	Good
CLOSENESS AND SIMILAR VIEWS WITH FAMILY	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	None	None	Excellent	None
SOCIAL COMPARISON TO FAMILY	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	None	Poor	Good	None
SOCIAL SUPPORT (also see CAREGIVING)	Good	Good	Good	None	Poor	Good	Excellent
CAREGIVING, SOCIAL CONTACT AND ACTIVITIES	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Poor	Poor	Excellent	Poor
LIFE EVENT INVENTORY	Poor	Poor	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Acceptable	Excellent
PHYSICAL/MENTAL HEALTH							
Health Perception and Comparison	Good	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Acceptable	Acceptable	Good
Bio-Markers	None	None	Excellent	None	Poor	None	None
Neurophysiological measures	None	None	Excellent	None	None	None	None
Hand usage	None	None	Excellent	None	None	None	None
Functional Status	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable	Good	Good	Poor
Diseases, Illnesses, and Medical Conditions	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Acceptable	Acceptable
Physical Symptoms	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Poor	Poor	Poor
Body Size	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Good	Good
NUTRITION INFORMATION	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
MENTAL HEALTH							
General mental/emotional health	None	None	Good	Good	Good	None	None
Stress	Good	Good	Good	Excellent	None	Good	None
Depression	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Acceptable	Acceptable	Good
Medical Treatment and Drugs	None	None	Acceptable	Good	Excellent	None	None
Hospitalization	Good	Good	Good	None	Good	None	Acceptable
Physical Exams Reported	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	None	None	None
Other Health Service Utilization	None	None	Poor	Excellent	Excellent	None	Poor
WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND MENOPAUSE	Good	Excellent	Good	Good	None	None	None
ALCOHOL/DRINKING	Good	Good	Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable
SMOKING	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good
EXERCISE	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable	None	Poor
SLEEP	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable	None	None	Good

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
THE END OF LIFE	Excellent	Excellent	None	None	Excellent	Good	None

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
*We consider this a work in progress, and we welcome corrections and suggestions for expansion of this summary material.							
NOTES							
1. Duration/Time of Observation							
The duration of observation is measured by the time between the first observation/interview and the most recent one reported here. The most recent observation/interview is defined by the data we can obtain through ICPSR or other sources. For example, though ACL 1994 is not available through ICPSR, we are able to obtain a copy of the questionnaire and to report it in the table. However, we do not include HRS 2000 here.							
2. MIDUS sibling and twin sample							
Up through June 2001, we could not find any documents released to the public regarding the twin and sibling samples. From the documents in ICPSR and the Harvard public health school, sample size and data content are the only available information.							
3. MIDUS response rate							
There are 4464 eligible persons in the screened sample. It is estimated that 1212 persons are eligible in the sample of screening not completed. The total eligible sample size is 5676. The unweighted actual interviewed sample size is 3485. The response rate of 60.8 percent is reported in the technical report documenting the MIDUS survey (METHODOLOGY OF THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF MIDLIFE DEVELOPMENT IN THE UNITED STATES (MIDUS)), which is available on the MIDUS website. http://midmac.med.harvard.edu/research.html#res1 According to that report, it is not possible to calculate a response rate with a ratio of completions to selected cases because some refusals took place <u>before</u> sample selection, so the actual denominator could only be estimated.							
4. ACL response rate							
There are 4994 eligible persons in the original sample, including black oversample from national black supplement sample. Additionally, there are 361 eligible wives in households with husbands older than 65. The total eligible sample size is 5355. The actual sample size is 3617. The unconditional response rate is 68%. However, in the second wave, ACL only tried to interview respondents from the first wave. With 166 deaths and 584 refusals, the response rate is 83%. Since we use the original eligible sample as the denominator, the unconditional response rate would be 55.3%, i.e., (3617-166-584)/(5355-166). The response rate for the third wave (1994) was provided by Stephanie Robert.							
5. HRS sample/questionnaire design							
In addition to the age-eligible samples of 1931-1941 birth year cohorts in the baseline survey, HRS also interviewed and followed up their spouses or partners regardless of their age. The questionnaires for the age-eligible members and their partners are identical. The general rule for the follow-up sample is that if the relationship has ended before the following survey, then interviews are requested with both the sample member and the original spouse or partner as well as the new spouse or partner of either of them at the time of the following wave (the new spouse or partner is followed up only until he/she no longer lives with the sample member and is found to be married to or living with someone else). Thus, as of HRS98 interviews were asked to all respondents in the baseline survey, although there was a slight exception for this rule at the third wave of HRS.							
6. HRS Response Rates:							
There were 11,522 respondents re-interviewed in 1994, including 177 exit reports. With 233 deaths confirmed, the unconditional response rate is 74.32%, i.e., (11522-177)/(15497-233). There were 11,377 respondents reinterviewed in 1996, including 413 exit reports (177 from 1994). With 515 deaths confirmed but 109 new spouses from 1994, the 'unconditional' response rate is 72.16%, i.e., (11377-413)/(15497+109-413). For response rate in 1998, please check HRS technical report at http://www.umich.edu/~hrswww/studydet/techdet/sample.html . Note the official response rates reported by HRS include exit reports on the deceased and all new spouses.							
7. NSFH sample/questionnaire design							
For NSFH1 (1987-88) an interview with one adult per household who was randomly selected as the primary respondent, was conducted as well as a self-administrated questionnaire. In addition, the spouse or cohabiting partner of the primary respondent was also asked with a self-administered questionnaire. In 1992-94 NSFH2, the original NSFH samples were reinterviewed. Not only the current spouse or cohabiting partner but also the original spouse or partner with whom the primary respondent no longer lived were interviewed with an almost identical questionnaire as the main respondent. Furthermore, NSFH2 conducted a telephone interview with "focal children" of age 10-17 and age 18-23 at the survey as well as a randomly selected parent of the main respondent.							
8. Relational Data							
Relational Data include siblings, parent-child, spouse, and friends. Spousal relational data are inherited in household data. WLS has more than 200 original 1957 graduates whose spouses are also in the sample. WLS siblings are selected randomly from the sibling roster. We cannot find any report on the selection methods of MIDUS twin and sibling sample, except that MIDUS twins are a national sample and different from the MIDUS main and sibling sample.							

Table 2. Detailed Comparisons of Surveys of the Life Course and Aging*

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
FAMILY ORIGIN							
Nationality				95	x	x	86
Race/Ethnicity	57	77/94	57	95	x	x	86
parental nationality	75	77	75	95			86
grandparental nationality							86
parental education	57/75	77(age 16)/94	57/75	95	x	x	89
parental employment	57/75	77(age 16)/94	57/75	95		x	
parental occupation	57/75	77(age 16)/94	57/75	95		x	
father as an union member	75	77	75				
family income	57(Wisc)/75		57(Wisc)/75				
on welfare				95		x	
perceived family financial status in childhood				95			89
parental assessment on family wealth in community	57		57				
residential area (size, geocode)	57/64/70/75/92	77/94	57/64/70/75/92/96			x	
family religion/religiosity	75		75			x	
twin	75	77/94	75	95			
birth order	75	77/94	75	95	x	x	
number of siblings	75/92	77/94	75/92	95	x	x	
all siblings (age, sex, education)	75/92		75/92		x(not edu)		
language spoken in home				95 (English or not)			
(also see sections EARLY HEALTH ENVIRONMENT/FAMILY MEDICAL HISTORY, AND PARENTS)							
PARENTING STYLE AND CHILDHOOD FAMILY RELATIONSHIP							
family structure	75/92	77/94	75/92	95		x	89
age at family disruption				95		x	89
parental marital problem	94	94	96			x (see footnote)	89
experience of leaving parental hh						x	89
living arrangement with biological/step parents			96			x	
close to any adult in the hh, if separated from parents							89
< 16 work to support family: age, hrs of work							89
shy as a child							89
affection display among parents and siblings	94	94	96				
autonomy in childhood	94	94	96	95 (rules)			
positive relationship among parents and siblings	94	94	96				
physical abuse among parents and siblings	94	94	96			x	
verbal abuse among parents and siblings	94	94	96	95		x	
emotional abuse among parents and siblings			96				
perceived drinking problem: who (up to 3)						x	89
perceived violence: who (up to 3)						x	89
perceived mental problem: who (up to 3)						x	89
perceived mother's personality/characters			96	95		x (see footnote)	
perceived relationship with mother (closeness, confiding, affection, attention)			96	95		x (see footnote)	
perceived parenting from mother (rule, strict, consistent, harsh)				95		x (see footnote)	
perceived parenting from mother (caring, overprotecting)			96				
perceived father's personality/characters				95		x (see footnote)	
perceived relationship with father (closeness, confiding, affection, attention)			96	95		x (see footnote)	
perceived parenting from father (rule, strict, consistent, harsh)			96	95		x (see footnote)	
perceived parental health (mental & physical)			96				
housework sharing as a child				95		x (see footnote)	

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
EARLY HEALTH ENVIRONMENT AND FAMILY MEDICAL HISTORY							
smokers	94	94	94			x (see footnote)	
drinking problems	94	94	94			x (see footnote)	
family history of heart attack				95			
perceived bio-parental health status at age 16				95			
A585perceived (bio) parental health at age 16				95			
EARLY ABILITY/ACHIEVEMENT							
school performance	57		57			x (see footnote)	
academic program(s)	57		57				
academic program(s): reported by parents	57		57			x (see footnote)	
IQ	57 (Wisconsin)	77 (Wisconsin)	57 (Wisconsin)				
EARLY AMBITIONS/ASPIRATION							
post high school plan	57/75		57/75/96				
post high school, educational plan	57/75	77 (age 16)	57/75/96				
post high school, work plan	57		57				
post high school, family/marriage plan	57		57			x (see footnote)	
post high school, military plan	57		57				
educational asp/expectation	57/75		57/75/96			x (see footnote)	
occupational asp/expectation	57/75	77 (at 16)/94	57/75/96				
value of college education	57		57				
perceived parental encouragement/expectation	57/75/94	77 (at 16)/94	57/75/94			x (see footnote)	
perceived parental support on higher education	57/75		57/75			x (see footnote)	
perceived peer's influence	57/75		57/75				
perceived teacher's influence	57/75		57/75				
parental expectation on education	57		57				
reasons: not expecting further education for R	57		57				
parental attitude on college education (multiple items)	57		57				
parental expectation on job/work/occupation	57		57				
parental involvement on college plan (parent)	57		57				
parental involvement on college plan (respondent)	57		57				
teacher's evaluation (only outstanding students)	57		57				
contact teachers for college plan	57		57				
unfulfilled occ asp at teen and its consequences			96				
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION							
residence at interviews: geo codes	57/64/75/92	77/92	57/64/75/92		x(state)	x	
residence at interviews: city size	57/64/75/92	77/92	57/64/75/92			x	
residence at interviews: Urban/rural	57/64/75/92	77/92	57/64/75/92			x	
residence at interviews: SMSA	57/64/75/92	77/92	57/64/75/92			x	
month and year in which R began living in this place						x	
residence while growing up	57	77/92	57	95 (size only)		x (at 16)	86
residence right after birth						x	
# of moving				95 (childhood)			
# of moving since Jan '82						x	
recent moving: time							94
self-assessment of curr neighborhood (see SOCIAL RELATIONSHIP)				95		x	

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
SOCIOECONOMIC LIFE							
EDUCATION							
educational plan/asp at teen (see EARLY AMBITIONS)	57/75	77 (age 16)	57/75			x (see footnote)	
significant other's expectation/encouragement (see EARLY AMBITIONS and EARLY ACHIEVEMENT)	57/75	94	57/75			x (see footnote)	
formal education history	64/75/92	77/94	64/75/92		x	x	
high school performance	57 (official/self)		57 (official/self)			x (see footnote)	
high school program/courses	57		57				
college preparation (tests)	57		57				
financial preparation	57		57				
college application	57		57				
college program(s)	57/64/75/92	77/94	57/64/75/92				
degrees	64/75/92	77/94	64/75/92		x	x	
educational attainment	64/75/92	77/94	64/75/92	95	x	x	86
schooling history	64/75/92	--(constructed)	64/75/92			x	
school/college characteristics	64/75/92	77/94	64/75/92				
continuing education	64/75/92	77/94	64/75/92				
on job training	75/92	77/94	75/92		x		
vocational/occupational education	64/75/92	77/94	64/75/92			x	
military education/training	75		75				
perceived educational success	92	94	92				
value of education	57	94	57				
Labor Force Participation/EMPLOYMENT/WORK							
post high school job plan	57		57				
occ expectation/asp (see EARLY AMBITION)	57/75/92		57/75/92/96				
occupational asp 10 years later, at interviews	75/92	77/94	75/92/96				
unfulfilled occ asp at teen and its consequences			96				
unfulfilled occ asp at age 35 and its consequences			96				
current LFP/major activities	64/75/92	77/94	64/75/92/96	95	x	x	86/89/94 (wks,hr/wk)
LFP history	64/75/92	94	64/75/92/96		x(partial)	x	
LFP 1985-95	75/92	94	75/92/96	95			
Out of LF longest: duration, reason				95			
laid off/unemployed/looking for job, last 10yrs					x		
LF activities in weeks, last year				95			
LFP and fertility (women only)	75 (up to 1974)	77 (up to 1976)	75 (up to 1974)			x	
job/occ history	64/75/92	94	64/75/92/96		x(partial)		
first job	75/92	77/94	75/92				
first job: age	75/92	77/94	75/92	95			
first job: occupation	75/92	77/94	75/92				
first full-time employment: age	75/92	77/94	75/92	95		x	
first full-time employment: occ	75/92	77/94	75/92				
job/occ at 1970	75/92	77/94	75/92				
job/occ one year ago, at interviews	75/92	77/94	75/92			x	
job/occ at age 50 (for R over age 60)						x	
cur/last job/occ	64/75/92	77/94	64/75/92/96	95	x	x	86/89/94
all jobs: occupation	75/92		75/92				
all jobs: industry	75/92		75/92				
all jobs: ft/pt	75/92		75/92			x	
all jobs: on job training	92		92				
all jobs: reason(s) to quit	92		92/96				
all jobs: company/employer	92		92				
all jobs: union membership	92		92				
all jobs: health insurance	92		92				
cur/last job: hours of work (a week)	75/92	77/94	75/92/96	95	x	x	86/89/94
cur/last job: industry	64/75/92	77/94	64/75/92/96		x	x	86/89/94

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
cur/last job: wage	75/92	77/94	75/92		x	x	86/89/94
cur/last job: salary	75/92	77/94	75/92		x	x	86/89/94
cur/last job: tenure	75/92	77/94	75/92/96				89/94 (cur)
cur/last job: 2nd job	92		92		x	x	86/89
cur/last job: work schedule				95	x	x	
cur/last job: company characteristics	75/92	94	75/92				
cur/last job: pension plan	92	94	92		x		
cur/last job: job characteristic	75/92	77/94	75/92/96	95 (limited)			86/89 (20+hrs), 94 (limited)
cur/last job: Wright's items	75/92		75/92/96				
cur/last job: index of job desirability	75/92	77/94	75/92				
cur/last job: job satisfaction (in general)	75/92	77/94	75/92/96		x		86/89/94
cur/last job: job satisfaction (in specific characteristics)	75		75				
cur/last job: job enjoyment							86/89/94
cur/last job: job security	75/92	94	75/92	next 2 yrs	x (next yr)		86/89
cur/last job: union or employee-assoc	75/92	77/94	75/92		x		
cur/last job: self-assessment of job					x		86/89/94
cur/last job: boring/not apprec, freq bothered (only applied to 20+ hrs and housekeeping)							86/89/94
cur/last job: occupational hazard (type, frequency)	92	94	92/96				
cur/last job: job search activities	75/92	77/94	75/92				
cur/last job: impact on physical/mental health	92		92	95			
importance of work in general	75/92	77/94	75/92				
importance of money in work (whether work, if not for pay)	75/92	77/94	75/92		x		
perceived success in work	92	94	92/96				
perceived benefited/worse off for others							86/89
perceived worse/worse off for r							86
want to work more or to work less							86/89
want to work more or to work less: why (2 reasons)						x	89
ideal number of work hours						x	94
work life: best/worse parts (why important)			96				
work life: successful? (why)			96				
work life: one major change, if possible (why)+A260			96				
time to work				95		x	
time for traveling to work				95		x	
job/family stress spill over (see MENTAL HEALTH)	92	94	92/96	95		x	
harassment/discrimination at work (type, harasser, grievance, complaints, resolution, satisfaction)		94	96				
difficulties in work				95			86/89 (3yrs)
work/occ hazard to health: ever, # of times							94
supports from or relationship with supervisor/co-workers				95			
keeping house (see HOUSEHOLD WORK)							86/89/94
irregular work past 12 mos: time							86/89/94
irregular work past 12 mos: enjoyment							86/89/94
irregular work past 12 mos: satisfaction							86/94
irregular work past 12 mos: better/worse off for R and others							86/89/94
irregular work past 12 mos: better/worse off for others							86/94
irregular work past 12 mos: like to do more?							86
irregular work past 12 mos: perceived more in 5 yrs							86
curr looking for another job					x		
job search activity to find another job					x		
if found out a job like the curr job, will look into it?					x		
reasons not to work	75/92	77/94	75/92				86/89/94
reasons not getting good jobs in life							86
reasons to work (for 55+)							89
work/employment plan 10 years later	75/92	77/94	75/92				

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
work/employment plan at age 55	92	94	92				
work/employment plan at age 62	92	94	92				
work/employment plan at age 65	92	94	92				
stop working for pay in 2/3 yrs: likely							86/89
stop working for pay in 2/3 yrs: reasons							86
stop working for pay in 2/3 yrs: how much choice, feel							86
likelihood of working full-time after 62			96		x		
likelihood of working full-time after 65			96		x		
likelihood to reduce time at work			96				
self assessment of employment/LF/self-employment/ work situation: 10 yrs ago, now, 10 yrs ahead				95			
chance that health will limit work activity next 10yrs					x		
planning to stop working at a particular age: when					x		
planning to work fewer hrs at a particular age: when					x		
planning to change the kind of work at a particular age: when					x		
planning to work for yourself at a particular age: when					x		
control over work				95			
efforts and thoughts on work				95			
attitudes on retirement					x	x	
retirement status/time	92	94	92/96		x	x	86/89/94
retirement plan	92	94	92/96		x		
retirement status/time (spouse)	92	94	92/96		x	x	
retirement plan (spouse)	92	94	92/96		x		
when to stop working completely	92	94	92		x		86/89/94
retired: reasons					x		86/89/94
retired: as wanted to?					x		86/89/94
retired: satisfaction					x		
retired: comparison to years before retired					x		
retired: how much choice, feel							86/89/94
degree if importance of some reasons why R retired					x		
before retired, how much thought about retirement					x		
preparation for retirement (retiree): discussion with others					x		
preparation for retirement (retiree): attending meetings					x		
chance back to work or increase work time	92	94	92		x		
how do you expect living standards change	92	94	92/96		x	x	
want to continue some paid work when retire					x		
volunteer work (see SOCIAL SUPPORTS)							86/89/94
MILITARY SERVICE							
post high school, military plan	57		57				
entered as a draftee or enlisted	75/92	77/94	75/92			x	
education before entering	75/92	77/94	75/92				
duration	75/92	77/94	75/92		x	x	
military education/training	75		75				
military ranking/program (history)	75		75				
promotion	75		75				
pay rank	75		75				
ever involved in combat						x	
INCOME							
r and sp : wage/salary	75/92	77/94	75/92		x	x	86/89/94
r and sp : farm (self employment) income	75	77	75				
r and sp: net income from self-employment	75/92	77/94	75/92		x	x	
r and sp: total income	75/92	77/94	75/92	95	x	x	86/89/94
r and sp: child support and alimony payment		94	96		x	x	
hh: net income in total	92	94	92	95	x	x	

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
hh: interest/dividends (capital income)	92	94	92		x	x	86/89/94 (couple, y/n)
hh: social security	92	94	92	95	x	x	86/89/94 (couple, y/n)
hh: pension/annuities/benefit	92	94	92		x	x	86/89/94 (couple, y/n)
hh: public assistance	92	94	92	95	x	x	86/89/94 (couple, y/n)
hh: child support	92	94	92		x	x	
hh: alimony	92	94	92		x	x	
hh: unemployment compensation					x	x	86/89/94 (couple, y/n)
hh: workers' compensation					x	x	86/89/94 (couple, y/n)
hh: SSI and other welfare					x	x	86/89/94 (couple, y/n)
hh: other sources	92	94	92	95	x	x	86/89/94 (couple, y/n)
FINANCIAL SITUATION AND INTERTRANSFER							
satisfaction with financial status					x		86/89/94
self-evaluation				95			
comparison							89 (to 86)
comparison to 10 years before and after				95			
control over financial situation				95			
thoughts and efforts on financial situation				95			
meet needs (family)				95		x	
paying bills				95			86/89/94
serious financial probs: time (86:ever; 89: since 86; 94: since 86/89)							86/89/94
serious financial probs: types							89
serious financial probs: expected							86/89/94
serious financial probs: how dealt							86/89
serious financial probs: sp/children/friend help, worse mortgage				95 (y/n)			89
expense: food					x		86/89
expense: rent							86/89
inheritance (>1000): r and sp (when and amount)	92	94	92		x	x	
charity	92	94	92				
receiving: type (cash or property)	92 (1975 on)	94 (1977 on)	92 (1975 on)		x		
receiving: whom (parents and others, ranking)	92 (1975 on)	94 (1977 on)	92 (1975 on)	95 (public/private)	x	x	
receiving: amount	92 (1975 on)	94 (1977 on)	92 (1975 on)	95	x	x	
receiving: time	92 (1975 on)	94 (1977 on)	92 (1975 on)		x	x	
receiving: purpose	92 (1975 on)	94 (1977 on)	92 (1975 on)		x	x	
to children: whom (ranking)	92 (1975 on)	94 (1977 on)	92 (1975 on)		x	x	
to children: amount	92 (1975 on)	94 (1977 on)	92 (1975 on)		x	x	
to children: time	92 (1975 on)	94 (1977 on)	92 (1975 on)		x	x	
to children: purpose	92 (1975 on)	94 (1977 on)	92 (1975 on)		x	x	
to parents: whom (ranking)	92 (1975 on)	94 (1977 on)	92 (1975 on)		x	x	
to parents: amount	92 (1975 on)	94 (1977 on)	92 (1975 on)		x	x	
to parents: time	92 (1975 on)	94 (1977 on)	92 (1975 on)		x	x	
to parents: purpose	92 (1975 on)	94 (1977 on)	92 (1975 on)		x	x	
to others: whom (ranking)	92 (1975 on)	94 (1977 on)	92 (1975 on)		x	x	
to others: amount	92 (1975 on)	94 (1977 on)	92 (1975 on)		x	x	
to others: time	92 (1975 on)	94 (1977 on)	92 (1975 on)		x	x	
to others: purpose	92 (1975 on)	94 (1977 on)	92 (1975 on)		x	x	
receiving >200 from ones not living together in past 5 yrs:whom						x	
receiving >200 from ones not living together in past 5 yrs: \$						x	
giving >200 to ones not living together in past 5 yrs: whom						x	
giving >200 to ones not living together in past 5 yrs: \$						x	
receiving from relatives living w/ r: for room or board, in \$						x	
giving to relatives living w/ r: for clothing, entertainment, etc.						x	
giving loan (>200) to relatives living with r: \$						x	

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
ASSETS AND WEALTH							
homeownership	92	94	92	95	x	x	86/89/94 (cur value)
real estate	92	94	92		x	x	
business/farm	92	94	92		x	x	
motor vehicles	92	94	92		x	x	
IRA-Keoghs				95	x	x	
stock mutual fund					x	x	
checking-saving					x	x	
bonds					x	x	
CD					x	x	
saving	92	94	92		x	x	
investment (bond, fund, or stock)	92	94	92		x	x	
other assets					x	x	
total (net) assets				95	x	x	86/89
total assets from checking/saving/stock/bond					x	x	94
personal debts	92	94	92		x	x	
ever homeless, last 5 years				95			
ever phoneless, last 5 years				95			
HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD							
perceived neighborhood quality				95			86, 94
perceived inequalities in neighborhood			96	95			
time in the current neighborhood				95			
satisfaction with home					x	x	86/89
satisfaction with neighborhood					x	x	86
housing (interviewer): types					x	x	86/89
housing (interviewer): structure (number of rooms, stories)					x	x	86/89
housing (interviewer): design (esp. for older people)							86/89
housing (interviewer): location, including number of floor							86/89
housing (interviewer): interior cleanliness					x		86/89
housing (r): number of rooms							86/89
neighborhood (interviewer): various types of constructions					x		86/89
neighborhood (interviewer): well kept structure					x		86/89
neighborhood (interviewer): well kept yard/sidewalks							86/89
PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE							
employment/union insurance: self	92	94	92	95	x	x	94 (any)
employment/union insurance: spouse	92	94	92	95	x	x	
employment/union insurance available: self				95			
employment/union insurance available: spouse				95			
way of paying for employer/union insurance					x		
whether employer/union insr is available to retiree					x		
whether employer/union pay the costs of insurance					x		
whether spouses of retired be covered under this plan					x		
non-empl insurance (types)	92	94	92				
Gov: Medicare				95	x		
Gov: Medicaid				95	x		
Gov: VA/CHAMPUS				95	x		
Gov: others					x		
Medicare available to: self, spouse				95			
Medicaid available to: self, spouse				95			
VA/CHAMPUS available to: self, spouse				95			
Individual (private): Basic					x		
Individual (private): MEDIGAP					x		
Individual (private): Other supplemental health					x		
Individual (private): Long-term care					x		

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
Individual (private): Others							
amount of pay for individual insurance					x		
whether health insurance covering mental health: self, spouse				95			89/94 (y/n)
reasons not to have insurance	92		92				
reasons being rejected by insurance co. (r, sp)		94			x		
pensions: respondent/spouse	92	94	92		x	x	
pensions: plan(s)	92	94	92	95	x	x	
pensions: eligible age	92	94	92		x		
pensions: current	92	94	92		x	x	
pension: type (formula, account)					x		
pension: amount of pay					x		
pension: benefits to be expected					x		
life insurance: individual or group policies					x		
life insurance: whether term insurance					x		
life insurance: # of insurance policies					x		
life insurance: obtained thru employer or individual					x		
life insurance: amount					x		
life insurance: current face value of policies					x		
life insurance: beneficiary					x		
RETIREMENT AND FUTURE (see JOB section for more)							
work full time after 55	92	94	92				
work full-time after 62	92	94	92/96		x		
work full-time after 65	92	94	92/96		x		
likelihood to reduce time at work			96				
work 10 years from now	75/92	77/94	75/92/96				
self assessment of employment/LF/self-employment/ work situation: 10 yrs ago, now, 10 yrs ahead				95			
chance that health will limit work activity next 10yrs					x		
planning to stop working at a particular age: when					x		
planning to work fewer hrs at a particular age: when					x		
planning to change the kind of work at a particular age: when					x		
planning to work for yourself at a particular age: when					x		
retirement status/time	92	94	92/96		x		
attitudes on retirement					x	x	
retirement plan	92	94	92/96		x		
moving to retirement comm (R age 50+)							86/89
retirement status/time (spouse)	92	94	92/96		x	x	
retirement plan (spouse)	92	94	92/96		x		
retired: reasons					x		86/89/94
retired: as wanted to?					x		86/89/94
retired: satisfaction					x		
retired: comparison to years before retired					x		
retired: how much choice, feel					x		86/89/94
degree if importance of some reasons why R retired					x		
before retired, how much thought about retirement					x		
preparation for retirement (retiree): discussion with others					x		
preparation for retirement (retiree): attending meetings					x		
when to stop working completely			96		x		
chance back to work or increase work time	92	94	92/96				
influences on living standards	92	94	92/96		x		
FAMILY AND NETWORK							
MARRIAGE/COHABITATION (see also INTIMATE REL)							
post high school, marriage plan	57		57			x	
marital status	64/75/92	77/94	64/75/92/96	95	x	x	86/89/94

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
number of marriages	75/92	77/94	75/92/96	95	x	x	86/89/94
marital history	75/92	77/94	75/92/96		x	x	86(frist/widow/div), 89(cur)
marriage(s): age	75/92	77/94	75/92/96	first/most recent	x	x	
marriage(s): duration	75/92	77/94	75/92/96	first/most recent	x	x	
marriage(s): reason of ending	75/92	77/94	75/92/96	first/most recent	x	x	
marriage(s): fertility	75/92	77/94	75/92			x	
cohabitation history						x	
cohabitation: duration						x	
cohabitation: number of partner						x	
cohabitation: plan (how likely, age)						x	
the perceived quality of cur marr (see INTIMATE REL)				95		x	86/89/94
serious romantic relationship - duration			96				
SPOUSE(S)/INTIMATE PARTNER (R's report only)							
first spouse: education	75	77/94	75			x	
first spouse: age/birthdate	75	77/94	75			x	
first spouse: age at marriage	75	77/94	75			x	
first spouse: married before						x	
first spouse: any children before, #						x	
first spouse: age of children						x	
first spouse: religion change, religion before marriage						x	
first spouse: LFP						x	
first spouse: father's education					x		
first spouse: live with natural parents up to 14						x	
last spouse: SES (origin)	75 (cur sp)		75 (cur sp)		x (widowed)		
last spouse: age/birthdate	75/92	77/94	75/92		x (widowed)		
last spouse: education	75/92	77/94	75/92		x (widowed)		
last spouse: occ (industry, self-employed, private/public)	75/92	77/94	75/92		x (widowed)		
last spouse: marital history	75/92		75/92		x (widowed)		
last spouse: age at marriage	75/92	77/94	75/92		x (widowed)		
last spouse: time at dissolution	75/92	77/94	75/92		x (widowed)		86 (if 1 mar)
last spouse: dealing with divorce							86 (if 1 mar)
last spouse: death (place, time)	92 (1975 sp)	94 (1977 sp)	92 (1975 sp)		x (widowed)		86 (if widow ever)
last spouse: dealing with spousal death							86 (if widow ever)
cur spouse: SES (origin)	75 (cur sp)		75 (cur sp)		x	x	
cur spouse: nationality/race					x	x	86/89/94
cur spouse: age/birthdate	75/92	77/94	75/92	95	x	x	86/89/94
cur spouse: ages living with nature/step parents						x	
cur spouse: relationship with parents/siblings						x	
cur spouse: relationship with in-laws						x	
cur spouse: health of parents						x	
cur spouse: education	75/92	77/94	75/92/96	95	x	x	86/89/94
cur spouse: LFP	64/75/92	77/94	64/75/92/96		x	x	86/89/94
cur spouse: occ(industry, self-employed, private/public)	64/75/92	77/94	64/75/92/96(brief)	95	x	x	86/89/94
cur spouse: work schedule				95		x	
cur spouse: time to work				95	x	x	
cur spouse: time traveling to work				95			
cur spouse: work plan in the next 2 years				95			
cur spouse: marital history	75/92	77/94	75/92/96		x	x	
cur spouse: age at marriage	75/92	77/94	75/92/96		x	x	
cur spouse: religion at marriage	75/92		75/92				
cur spouse: current religion	75/92		75/92		x	x	
cur spouse: salary/wage	75/92	77/94	75/92	95	x	x	
cur spouse: second job					x	x	
cur spouse: child care while R is working						x	
cur spouse: self empl income	92	94	92	95	x	x	

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
in control of the relationship with children				95			
efforts and thoughts on relationship with children				95			
life changed for children				95			
fertility history	75/92	77/94	75/92	95		x	
fertility and LFP history (women)	75 (up to 1974)	77 (up to 1976)	75 (up to 1974)				
SELECTED (FOCAL) CHILD							
birth order	75/92	77/94	75/92			x	
birth date	75/92		75/92			x	
education (degrees)	92	94	92			x	
schooling	92	94	92			x	
current residence (or living arrangement)						x	
R's educational expectation/aspiration for the child	75/92		75/92			x	
R's expectation on child's occupation	75		75				
perceived influence on child's education	92		92			x	
military	92		92				
labor force/employment	92		92			x	
occupation (industry, self-employed, private/public)	92		92				
job search activities (with R's help?)	92		92				
R's financial aid or payments						x	
marital status	92	94	92			x	
closeness and contact	92	94	92			x	
PARENTS (OWN; IN-LAWS)							
grandparents' not born in U.S.							86
parents: nationality/race				95 (father)			86
parents: age or birth date	75/92	94	75/92	95	x	x	86 (nature; age)
parents: education	57/75/92	77/94	57/75/92		x	x	
parents: occ (industry, self-employed, private/public)	57/75/92	77/94	57/75/92			x	
parents: residence	57/64/75/92		57/64/75/92		x	x	
parents: personality/characters perceived by R			96	95			
parents: living arrangement	92		92		x	x	
parents: duration if living together/distance	92		92		x	x	
parents: health	92		92/96	95	x	x	
parents: marital status	57/64/75/92	77/94	57/64/75/92		x	x	
parents: contact	92	94	92		x	x	86/89
parents: closeness	92	94	92			x	
parents: social comparison (same sex parent)	92	94	92				
parents: similar outlook/views	92	94	92				
parents: perceived support (loved/cared, willing to listen)						x (see footnote)	
parents: perceived hassle (demand and criticized)						x (see footnote)	86/89/94
parents: guidance							86/89
parents: perceived relationship (bio/step)						x	
parents: income	75/92	94	75/92			x (see footnote)	
parents: home ownership	92	94	92		x	x (see footnote)	
parents: net worth	92	94	92			x (see footnote)	
parents: R's assessment on parents' financial situation					x		
parents: financial intertransfer to and from	92	94	92		x	x	
parents: death	92	94	92	95	x	x	86/89/94 (bio/natural)
parents: time/place/cause of death	92	94	92	95	x	x	86/89/94 (bio/natural)
parent figures, if parents died: relation to R							86
parent figures, if parents died: guidance							86
parental death in last 3 yrs: relation (bio/step)						x	86/89, 94 (since last intvw)
parental death in last 3 yrs: time						x	86/89, 94 (since last intvw)

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
parental death in last 3 yrs: dealing with death well							86/89
mother's maiden name (in MEMORY TEST, see IQ)							86/89/94
in-laws: education	75 (cur sp)		75 (cur sp)		x	x	
in-laws: occ (industry, self-employed, private/public)	75 (cur sp)		75 (cur sp)				
in-laws: residence	92		92		x	x	
in-laws: living arrangement	92		92		x	x	
in-laws: living distance	92		92		x	x	
in-laws: health	92		92		x	x	
in-laws: marital status	92		92		x	x	
in-laws: contact	92		92		x	x	
in-laws: income	92		92				
in-laws: home ownership	92		92		x		
in-laws: net worth	92		92				
in-laws: financial intertransfer to and from	92		92		x	x	
in-laws: death	92	94	92		x	x	
in-laws: perceived relationship						x	
in-laws: perceived relationship with siblings-in-laws						x	
SIBLINGS							
number of siblings	75/92	75/77/92/94	75/92/96	95	x	x	
3 most influential siblings			96				
all siblings: name	75/92		75/92				
all siblings: sex	75/92		75/92		x	x(num of bro, sis)	
all siblings: relation	75/92		75/92		x	x(num of full, step)	
all siblings: age	75/92		75/92		x	x (see footnote)	
all siblings: birth order	75/92		75/92		x	x (see footnote)	
all siblings: education	75/92		75/92			x (see footnote)	
all siblings: occupation			96				
all siblings: marital status					x	x	
all siblings: living distance						x	
all siblings: social contacts			96				
all siblings: closeness			96			x	
all siblings: outlook in life			96				
all siblings: comparison in education/work/finance			96(detailed)		x		
all siblings: perceived relationship						x	
SELECTED SIBLING							
birthdate	75/92	94	75/92				
high school characteristics	75/92	77/94	75/92				
living together up to age 16 (most of time)	77/92/94	77/94	77/92/94				
marital status	92	94	92		x		
employment	75/92	94	75/92		x (30 hrs/wk)		
last/cur occ (industry, self-employed, private/public)	75/92	94	75/92				
job search activities (with R's help?)	92	94	92				
own a home					x		
having anyone under age 18 living with					x		
living arrangement with parents: together, w/in 10 miles					x		
contact	92	94	92				
closeness	92	94	92				
similar outlook/view	92	94	92				
social comparison	92	94	92		x (financial)		
death place	92	94	92				
death cause	92	94	92				
HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS							
name	92	94	92		x	x	

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
vulnerability index							86/89
autonomy	92	94	92/96	95		x	
personal growth	92	94	92/96	95		x	
environment mastery	92	94	92/96	95		x	
positive relationship with others	92	94	92/96	95		x	
purpose in life	92	94	92/96	95		x	
self-acceptance	92	94	92/96	95		x	
Brandstadter flexible goal adjustment	92	94	92				
Brandstadter tenacious goal pursuit	92	94	92				
Goal strategies (now, 10 yrs ago, 10 yrs beyond)				95			
Optimism (hope item from CESD)	92	94	92	95		x	
Generativity (adapted McAdams)				95			
Self-esteem (Rosenberg, 1965)				95		x	
sense of achievement (work/finance/education)	92	94	92				
Personal efficacy/Mastery				95		x	
Perceived constraints				95			
Perceived life overall (cur, 10 yrs ago, 10 yrs later)				95		x(cur. only)	
Perceived control over health				95			
Perceived control over life in general, sex, work, relationship with spouse/partner/children finance, contribution to others				95			
ATTITUDES, BELIEFS, PRIORITIES							
attitudes regarding ageing and elderly							86/89
attitudes regarding middle age, rating 20s, 40s, 60s.				95			
importance of success in work/finance/education	92	94	92/96				
importance of various job characteristics	92	94	92				
perceived life success in general			96 (open)				
Thoughts and efforts on overall life, sex, work, relationship with spouse/partner/children finance, contribution to others				95			
Problem management strategies/beliefs				95			
Life management beliefs/strategies				95			
fatalism index							86/89
social/ultimate justice index							86/89
Beliefs about planning and making sense of the past				95			
Beliefs about gathering support from others				95			
Family responsibility/obligation (Rossi)				95		x	
Social (nonfamily) responsibility				95			
Gender Role Attitude on family/work/household				95		x	89
attitudes on divorce and marriage						x	
attitudes on parenting						x	
PERCEIVED DISCRIMINATION, IDENTITY							
Social well-being/alienation (Keyes, 6 scales)				95			
Perceived inequalities and opportunities (family, work)			96	95			
Perceived inequalities in neighborhood			96	95			
Perceived race identification/closeness				95			86
Perceived discrimination due to race/ethnicity, sex, physical appearance, age, religion, sexual orientation, or others.				95			94 (race)
Perceived discrimination in frequency: education, scholarship, hiring, promotion, housing, police, loan, medical care, service.				95			
Perceived frequency of day to day discrimination				95			

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
Main self-assessed reason for discrimination				95			
Perceived amount that discrimination interferes on productive life, life getting harder				95			
RELIGION							
family religion/religiosity	75		75			x	
religion at high school	75		75				
current religion/religiosity	75/92	77/94	75/92/96	95	x	x	86/94
Spirituality			96	95		x	
Degree of identification with religious group			96	95			
General importance of religion: family origin, currently			96	95			86/89/94 (cur only)
Importance of religion: seeking comfort, decision making			96	95			
importance of spirituality in current life			96	95			
importance of spirituality: praying, meditation			96				
Openness about religiosity/ spirituality				95			
religiosity: attending services	75/92	77/94	75/92	95	x	x	86/89
religiosity: reading text							86
religiosity: TV/tapes							86
religiosity: freq seeking spiritual comfort at diff time							86/89
religious beliefs: re-united with loved, reward after life							86
Superstitiousness			96	95			
Fundamentalism beliefs			96	95		x	
Born again (Christian)			96	95		x	
religion before marriage (SP)	92		92			x	
current religion (SP)	92		92		x	x	
RELATIONSHIP AND INTERACTIONS WITH OTHERS							
RELATIONSHIP WITH SPOUSE/PARTNER							
quality in general			96	95		x	
quality in general: 10 yrs ago, 10 yrs later				95			
marital satisfaction					x	x	86/89/94
closeness with spouse	92	94	92/96			x	86/89
sharing similar views with spouse	92	94	92/96			x (by items)	
intimacy: emotional/sexual/recreational/intellectual/social			96				
conventionality			96				
partner abuse: emotional/verbal/physical			96				
unfulfilled family/personal asp at youth			96				
family/personal life: aspects better/worse than expected (why)			96				
family/personal life: successful? (why)			96				
family/personal life: one major change (why)			96				
in control				95			
efforts and thoughts on marriage				95			
chance to separate				95			
marital harmony index: deserved,div/sep, forgiven, conflict, upset						x	
dependency on spouse: lost, death, taking place							86/89
negative spouse behavior: drink, violence, affair, waste \$						x	86/89
marital/relationship difficulties: in trouble, sep				95		x	
disagreement: financial, hh chores, leisure, something important				95		x	
specific quality: communication, caring, understanding							
appreciation, help, relaxing				95		x	
specific problem: demanding, tense, argument, let you down, get on nerve				95		x	
family/personal decision making with sp/partner				95			89
perceived support (loved/cared, willing to listen)				95 (more items)			86/89/94

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
perceived hassle (demand and criticized)				95 (more items)			86/89/94
perceived inequality between supports from/to sp						x	89
freq of conflict/disagreement, bothered/upset						x	86/89/94
perceived changes in life if separated						x	
HOUSEHOLD WORK							
time spent on hh chores: self and spouse/partner				95		x	
home maintenance: repair, mowing, canning, car repair						x	86/89
home maintenance: money saved, time spent, enjoyment							86/89
childcare: time spent						x	86/89/94
childcare: enjoyment and benefits							86/89/94
childcare by r and sp: change schedule, serious problem				95			
housework: cleaning, cooking, laundry, sew&mend						x	86/89/94
housework: time spent, enjoyment, any help							86/89/94
housework: pride, respect, rewarding				95		x	
fairness in hh chores: r, sp				95		x	
staying home: job characteristics							86
staying home: difficulties to do a good job							86
SEXUALITY AND SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP							
quality in general				95		x	
quality in specific dimensions			96				
quality comparison to 10 years ago and 10 years ahead				95			
control over sexual life				95			
efforts and thoughts on sexual life				95			
number of sex partners, past year				95			
sexual orientation				95			
having sex, frequency in the last 6 months				95		x(past 1 mon)	
WIDOWHOOD							
most recent dead sp: age at death					x	x	86/89/94
most recent dead sp: exp or unexpected						x	86/89/94
most recent dead sp: living arrangement before death						x	89
most recent dead sp: last time of work for pay						x	
most recent dead sp: most recent job						x	
most recent dead sp: working hours per week						x	
most recent dead sp: cause(s) of death						x	86/89/94
most recent dead sp: medical conditions or illness					x	x	
most recent dead sp: time lapse, if ill, or sudden						x	89/94
most recent dead sp: ill before, if died of accident						x	89/94
most recent dead sp: care required						x	89/94
most recent dead sp: duration and intensity of care						x	89/94
most recent dead sp: help from others						x	
most recent dead sp: time to recover for R							89/94
grief : duration to recover, missing, talking about							
special occ to miss, feeling, death meaning to R,							86/89/94
why not recovered							86
supports or worse, children/rel-friends						x	89
widowed experience: self-confidence, responsibly,							
negligence, meant to be, unfair, remarriage,							
better off for the dead, stronger.							86/89/94
financial situation: start/stop/change in Soc Sec and \$					x		
financial situation: start/stop/change in Supp Sec and \$					x		
financial situation: start/stop/change in Vet benif and \$					x		
financial situation: start/stop/change in pens or annuity and \$					x		
financial situation: start/stop/change in earnings and \$					x		

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
financial situation: start/stop/change in wk hrs and \$					x		
financial situation: change in health insurance					x		
financial situation: received life insr settlement and \$					x		
financial situation: received lump-sum pension settle and \$ expenses associated with the death					x		
CLOSENESS AND SIMILAR VIEWS WITH FAMILY							
closeness: spouse	92	94	92/96			x	
closeness: parents	92	94	92			x	
closeness: sibling	92	94	92/96			x	
closeness: children	92	94	92/96			x	
similar views: spouse	92	94	92/96			x	
similar views: parents	92	94	92			x	
similar views: sibling	92	94	92/96				
similar views: children	92	94	92/96			x	
SOCIAL COMPARISON TO FAMILY							
financial: same sex parent	92	94	92				
financial: sibling	92	94	92/96		x (focal sib)		
financial: children	92	94	92/96			x	
work: same sex parent	92	94	92				
work: sibling	92	94	92/96				
work: children	92	94	92/96			x	
education: same sex parent	92	94	92			x (see footnote)	
education: sibling	92	94	92/96			x	
education: children	92	94	92/96			x	
SOCIAL SUPPORT (also see CAREGIVING)							
any adult/friend for confiding while growing up		94					
confidant (kin and non-kin)	92	94	92/96				94
receiving help: persons (last month)	92 (last mo)	94 (last mo)	92/96 (since 92)			x	
receiving help: types (last month)	92 (last mo)	94 (last mo)	92/96 (since 92)			x	
giving help: persons (last month)	92 (last mo)	94 (last mo)	92/96 (since 92)		x (to parents)	x	86/89 (cur/last mo)
giving help: types (last month)	92 (last mo)	94 (last mo)	92/96 (since 92)			x	86/89 (cur/last mo)
giving help: time					x		86/89 (cur/last mo)
giving help: how stressful							86/89 (cur)
volunteer works (12 mos): types (church/edu/pol/sr citz/other)							86/89/94
volunteer works: time					x		86/89/94
volunteer works: enjoyment							86/89/94
volunteer works: satisfaction							86
volunteer works: better/worse off for R							86
volunteer works: better/worse off for others							86/89
volunteer works: more?							89
volunteer works: why not volunteer							86
helps to others (12 mos): types							86/89/94
helps to others: time							86/89/94
helps to others: enjoyment							86/89/94
helps to others: satisfaction							86
helps to others: better/worse off for R							86
helps to others: better/worse off for others							86/89
perceived support in time of need	92	94	92				
possibility to borrow money for emergency	92	94	92			x	
possibility to talk to someone for personal problem	92	94	92			x	
possibility to ask for care during sickness	92	94	92				
Perceived positive/negative social support			96				
Perceived care, understanding, relying on, talking about							

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
worries, demands, criticism, let you down, on nerves (family, friends, other family members, co-workers)				95			86/89/94
Emotional, instrumental, financial support support/helps at sp/children death: who (sp/children/friends)	92	94	92	95		x	86/89/94
CAREGIVING, SOCIAL CONTACT AND ACTIVITIES							
Caregiving							
disability: whom (r, sp, hh mem)	92	94	92/96 (since 1992)			x	
disability: condition	92	94	92/96 (since 1992)			x	
disability: ranking	92	94	92/96 (since 1992)			x	
disability: caregiving	92	94	92/96 (since 1992)			x	
caregiving: type	92	94	92/96 (since 1992)			x	
caregiving: duration	92	94	92/96 (since 1992)			x	
caregiving: frequency	92	94	92/96 (since 1992)			x	
caregiving: living arrangement	92	94	92/96 (since 1992)			x	
caregiving: who gives	92	94	92			x	
caregiving to fr/rel in 12 mos: time, stressful							86/89/94
Social Contacts							
neighbor: freq in contact/conversation				95			
frequency: friends, family, friend/relatives/co-workers				95			
frequency: parents	92	94	92		x	x	
frequency: sibling	92	94	92			x	
frequency: child	92	94	92		x	x	94(16+,live elsewhere)
time last seeing: parents	92	94	92				
time last seeing: sibling	92	94	92				
time last seeing: child	92	94	92				
Social/Leisure Activities or SOCIAL INTEGRATION							
friends (freq in past 4 wks)	92	94	92			x	
relatives (freq in past 4 wks)	92	94	92			x	
freq in phone (social integration)							86/89
freq visits with friends (social integration)						x	86/89
freq attending meetings (social integration)						x	86/89
how many nearby neighbors whom R knows by name					x		86/89/94
freq getting together with any of these neighbors					x		
TV/radio: hrs/wk							86/89
reading: hrs/wk							86/89
Social Participation (level of involvement)							
church	75/92	77/94	75/92			x	
church related groups	75/92	77/94	75/92			x	
union member	75/92	77/94	75/92			x	
veterans' organization	75/92	77/94	75/92			x	
fraternal organizations	75/92	77/94	75/92			x	
business or civic groups	75/92	77/94	75/92				
parent-teachers' assoc	75/92	77/94	75/92				
community centers	75/92	77/94	75/92				
organization of people of the same nationality	75/92	77/94	75/92			x	
sport teams	75/92	77/94	75/92			x	
country clubs	75/92	77/94	75/92				
youth groups (scout leaders etc.)	75/92	77/94	75/92			x	
professional groups	75/92	77/94	75/92			x	
political clubs or organizations	75/92	77/94	75/92			x	
neighborhood improvement organizations	75/92	77/94	75/92				
charity or welfare organization	75/92	77/94	75/92				
hobby groups	75/92		75/92			x	
others	75/92	77/94	75/92			x	
voting	75 (1974 vote)	77 (1976 vote)	75 (1974 vote)				89 (1988 vote)

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
LIFE EVENT INVENTORY							
psychological turning point in last 12 mos in job/career, interpersonal relationship, recognizing self, strength/weakness, realizing dreams: event, impact				95			
ever homeless in the last 5 yrs				95			
ever institutionalized in the last 5 years				95			
divorce since last intvw: time to sep, time to be official	75/92	77/94	75/92/96				89/94
divorce since last intvw: dealing, worse/support from children/ex-sp, friend						x	89
death of parents: time	92	94	92			x	94 (since 86/89)
death of close relative							94 (since 86/89)
serious financial problem: time, expected							94 (since 86/89)
physical attack or assault ever: time						x	86/89/94(since 86/89)
physical attack or assault ever: type, who							89
life-threatening illness or accidents ever: time							86/89/94(since 86/89)
life-threatening illness or accidents ever: what (type)							89
life-threatening illness or accidents ever: dealing							86/89
serious, not life-threatening illness/injury: time							86/89(last 3 yrs),94(since 86 or 89)
serious, not life-threatening illness/injury: worse/support from spouse/children/friend							86
moving to new place: time							86/89(last 3 yrs),94(since 86 or 89)
moving to new place: old address							86
moving to new place: changes due to move							86
lost job: time, expected	75/92	77/94	75/92				86/89(last 3 yrs)/94(since 86/89)
robbed/burglarized: time							86/89(last 3 yrs)/94(since 86/89)
others							86/89(last 3 yrs)/94(since 86/89)
self reported major life event: events			96				
self reported major life event: time			96				
self reported major life event: emot strength & impact on life			96				
PHYSICAL/MENTAL HEALTH							
Health Perception and Comparison							
Overall health rating	92	94	92/96	95	x		86/89/94
Health compared to same sex/age peers	92	94	92/96	95		x	
Health change 10 yrs ago, expected 10 yrs ahead				95	x(1 yr ago)		
Health comparison							89 (to 86)
Appearance 10 years ago	92	94	92				
Appearance change since 10 yrs ago				95			
Overall health at age 16				95			
Evaluation appropriate weight (body image)				95			
Comparing to 10 years ago ---							
General health	92	94	92/96				
Appearance		94	96				
eyesight		94					
teeth		94					
Energy		94					
weight		94					
hearing		94					
hair condition		94					

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
body shape		94					
skin condition		94					
sexual pleasure		94					
strength of arms		94					
strength of legs		94					
digestive functions		94					
Comparing to 5 years ago ----							
Energy				95			
Physical fitness				95			
Physique/figure				95			
Weight				95			
Satisfaction							
Overall health satisfaction				95	x	x	86/89/94
Overall appearance satisfaction				95		x	
Interviewer's rating							
general health (r and sp)							86/89
tiredness					x		86/89
eyesight							86/89
hearing					x		86/89/94
walking							86/89
understanding					x	x	86/89/94
memory					x		86/89/94
Risk Rating							
heart attacks				95			
cancers				95			
Bio-Markers							
vital sign: height, weight, waist, hip, blood pressure							
peak flow, temp/pulse/resp rate,							
visual acuity (glasses)			96		x		
general: grip, dominant hand, apparent age, race, attitudes			96				
Skin: color/temp/texture/moisture/lesions			96				
Nail: pigmentation, length, lesions, lines, white area			96				
Hair: distribution, texture, color			96				
Health history volunteered by R			96				
Lymph			96				
Skull: size, tenderness, bruit							
Eyes: extraocular movements, nystagmus,							
lid lesions, sclerae, conjunctivae, cornea,							
pupils, ophthalmoscopic exam			96				
Ears: hearing, bone conduction, pinnae, external canal, drum			96				
Nose: Mucous membranes, sinus tenderness			96				
Mouth: Lip color, lip moisture, lip lesions,							
odor of breath, salivary pool, tongue,							
teeth, gums, buccal mucosa, torus			96				
Throat: Uvula, posterior pharynx, voice quality			96				
Neck: ROM, tenderness, thyroid size, bruit,							
tracheal position, salivary glands			96				
Thorax and lungs: inspection, palpation, percussion,			96				
auscultation							
Cardiovascular: jugular, apical, auscultation,							
murmurs, friction rub, pulses, peripheral vascular,							
arterial bruits, venous distension, pulsation,							
tenderness, or inflammation abnormal venous pattern			96				
over chest/abdomen							
Abdomen: Organs, Hernias, auscultation			96				
Musculoskeletal: Muscles, spine, joints, tender pts			96				

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
Mental State: grooming, affect, activity, speech, mood, sensorium			96				
Neurophysiological measures							
Hand usage							
in various situations			96				
forced to change (when, how, why)			96				
Functional Status							
Eyesight: problems, corrections					x(self-rating)		86
Hearing: problems, corrections					x(self-rating)		86
Employment disability (full)				95	x	x	
Disability limits work for pay (respondent)					x	x	
Disability limits work for pay (spouse)					x		
Employment interruption by health reasons	92	94			x		
Length of employment disability (full)				95	x		
Health lead to cutback in work activities				95	x		
major health problem(s)							86(3)/89(1)/94(3)
disability due to health problem(s)							86(3)/89(1)/94(3)
Functional disability due to illness					x	x	
ADL(modified IADL & ADL) limited	92	94		95	x	x	86/89/94
Need help with basic ADLs (Rs 55+)						x	
Received care for illness/last 12mo.	92	94	92			x	
Received help with basic ADLs (12 mos)	92	94	92				
disability in hh: whom (r, sp, hh mem)	92	94	92/96 (since 1992)			x	
disability in hh: condition	92	94	92/96 (since 1992)			x	
disability in hh: ranking	92	94	92/96 (since 1992)			x	
disability in hh: caregiving	92	94	92/96 (since 1992)			x	
Diseases, Illnesses, and Medical Conditions							
anemia	92	94	92/96	95			
asthma	92	94	92/96	95	x	x	
arthritis	92	94	92/96	95	x	x	86/89/94
bronchitis or emphysema	92	94	92/96	95		x	
lung diseases				95	x		86/89/94
cancer	92	94	92/96	95	x	x	86/89/94
chronic liver	92	94	92/96	95		x	
diabetes	92	94	92/96	95	x	x	86/89/94
serious back	92	94	92/96	95	x		
heart trouble	92	94	92/96	95	x	x	86/89/94
high blood pressure	92	94	92/96	95	x		86/89/94
stroke				95	x		86/89/94
kidney/bladder	92	94	92/96	95	x		
ulcer	92	94	92/96	95		x	
stomach				95	x		
allergies	92	94	92/96	95			
ms	92	94	92/96	95			
fracture				95	x		86/89/94
colitis	92	94	92/96	95		x	
circulation problem		94	92/96	95			
urine				95			86/89/94
feet and legs				95	x		86/89/94
high cholesterol		94	92/96	95	x		
anxiety/depression				95			
alcohol/drug abuse				95			
others	92	94	92/96				
cancers, in various type				95	x		86/89/94
heart attack (ever)				95	x		86/89/94
Diagnosis of angina or other heart problems				95	x		

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
Physical Symptoms							
energy	92	94	92/96	95			
trouble sleep	92	94	92/96	95			
fatigue/exhaustion	92	94	92/96	95		x	
headaches	92	94	92/96	95			
visual problem	92	94	92/96	95			
dizziness	92	94	92/96	95			86/89/94
heart bit hard				95			86/89/94
numbness	92	94	92/96	95			
ringing	92	94	92/96	95			
nausea	92	94	92/96	95			
vomit	92	94	92/96	95			
upset stomach	92	94	92/96	95			
constipation	92	94	92/96	95			
diarrhea	92	94	92/96	95			
urination	92	94	92/96	95			86/89/94
aching muscles	92	94	92/96	95			
stiff/swollen joint	92	94	92/96	95			
back pain	92	94	92/96	95	x		
chest pain	92	94	92/96	95			
shortness of breath	92	94	92/96	95			86/89/94
excess sweating	92	94	92/96	95			
respiratory problems	92	94	92/96	95			
skin problems	92	94	92/96	95			
coughing/wheezing	92	94	92/96	95			
bone pains		94		95			
palpitations		94		95			
painful sexual intercourse		94		95			
hearing loss			96	95			
teeth or gum			96	95			
trouble swallowing			96	95			
shaking or tremors			96	95			
others	92	94	92/96				
Symptoms, shortness of breath (revised Rose)				95			
Symptoms of angina (Rose index)				95			
Body Size							
BMI (height/weight)	92	94	92/96	95	x	x (see footnote)	86/89/94
Waist/Hip			96	95			
Weight one year ago				95	x		
Weight at 21 yrs old				95			
10 lbs lost/gain in past 12 months? Why?			96	95			
Lifetime times 10+ lbs lost				95			
NUTRITION INFORMATION							
MENTAL HEALTH							
General mental/emotional health			96	x	x		
Stress							
family stress spill over work	92	94	92/96	95		x	
work stress spill over family	92	94	92/96	95		x	
family enhancement spill over work	92	94	92/96				
family stress				95			
work stress				95			
Depression							
CES-D	92	94	92/96	95	x	x	86/89/94
earliest age	92	94	92/96	95			89

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
duration	92	94	92/96	95			
age at most serious	92	94	92/96	95			
times (frequency)	92	94	92/96	95			
age at most recent	92	94	92/96				89/94 (comp to 86/89)
life time: freq, duration, spacing	92	94	92/96				86(ever)/89(freq)
most serious (last year): freq, duration							86/89
comparison to last week							86/94
suicide attempts (frequency, first/last time)			96				
impact on social/work life			96				
hospitalization/professional help/medication			96				
Interviewer's rating: depressed							86/89/94
SAD (when)			96				
Anxiety (scale)		94	96	95			
Hostility (scale)	92	94	92/96			x	
Panic attacks, last 12 months			96	95			
Dysphoria, past month				95			
Positive affect, past month				95			
Substance Abuse (various type of substances)				95			
HEALTH SERVICE UTILIZATION AND HOSPITALIZATION							
Medical Treatment and Drugs							
Treatment for heart trouble				95	x		
Heart procedures ever done				95			
Treatment for cancer					x		
Treatment for lung condition					x		
Treatment for diabetes					x		
Treatment for high blood pressure				95			
Treatment for arthritis or rheumatism					x		
Most recent operation (anesthetized)				95			
Taking any medications for stroke				95	x		
Taking any medications for high blood pressure				95	x		
Taking any medications for depression/anxiety			96				
Prescription meds taken for various conditions			96	95			
Non-prescrip drugs last 12 months (freq)				95			
Consequence (family/work/school) of non-prescrip drugs				95			
Hospitalization							
Illness bed days/last yr	92	94	92		x		86/89/94 (3mos)
Frequency (last year)	92	94	92				
Reason (longest stay)	92	94	92				
Duration (longest stay)	92	94	92				
Self care minutes					x		
# of admission to hospital over 1 yr	92	94	92		x		
# of night stayed in hospital					x		86/89/94 (6mos)
# of admission to nursing home over 1 yr					x		
time stayed in nursing home					x		86/89/94 (6mos)
for mental health problem			96				
Physical Exams Reported							
complete health exam, last 12 months	92	94	92				
dental check-up, past 12 months		94					
stress test, past 12 months		94					
cholesterol test, past 12 months		94					
blood pressure, past 12 months		94					
when last blood pressure test				95			
chest x-ray, past 12 months		94					
prostate exam, past 12 months		94					
pap smear, past 12 months		94					

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
mammogram, past 12 months		94					
Other Health Service Utilization							
# of doctor visits in 1 yr					x		86/89 (6mos), 94 (3mos)
frequency, routine physical/dentist/optician, last 12 months				95	x		
one place of medical care, own doctor				95	x		
Last blood pressure reading				95	x		
Alternative Medicine				95			
Vitamins and supplements taken regularly			96	95	x		
Seeing mental health professionals			96	95	x		
# of visits to mental health professionals				95	x		86/89 (3mos)
Self Help Group (past 12 months)				95			
Health reminder in life (who)							86
WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND MENOPAUSE							
contraceptive pills: duration		94					
contraceptive pills: cur usage		94		(past 30 days)			
sterilization		94				x	
menstruating: first time		94		95			
menstruating: frq of discomfort		94		95			
menstruating: most recent period		94		95			
menstruating: why stop		94		95			
perimenopause: symptoms		94					
menopause: time	92	94	92	95			
menopause: surgery (type, age, reasons, others' attitudes)	92	94	92	95			
menopause: hormone (age, duration, cur use, by types, reasons, attitudes/preference)	92	94	92	95 (some)			
menopause: symptoms	92	94	92				
menopause: consequence (family, work, self-image)	92	94	92	95			
menopause: knowledge on menopause	92	94	92				
ALCOHOL/DRINKING							
ever drink	92	94	92/96				86/89/94
ever drinking regularly	92	94	92/96	95	x	x	94
when quit							94
reason to quit							94
when begin	92	94	92/96	95	x		
frequency (past month)	92	94	92/96	95	x	x	86/89/94
quantity	92	94	92/96	95		x	86/89/94
frequency for 5+ drinks (past month)	92	94	92/96			x (see footnote)	
greatest quantity, age				95			
use more than intended				95			
modified MAST				95	x	x	
consequences (MAST)	92	94	92/96				
problem drinkers in hh (childhood)	92	94	92/96				
problem drinkers in hh ever	92	94	92/96			x	
SMOKING							
current smoking	92	94	92	95	x		86/89/94
ever smoking	92	94	92	95	x		86/89
duration	92	94	92	95			
when quit or start		94	96	95	x		94
amount	92	94	92	95	x		86/89/94 (curr)
EXERCISE							

	WLS Grads	WLS Sib	Life History	MIDUS	HRS	NSFH	ACL
light physical activity (in frequency)	92	94	92/96	95	x		
vigorous physical activity (in frequency)	92	94	92/96	95	x		
physical activities in summer and winter				95			
physical activities: gardening, walk							86/89
active sports: in freq							86/89
SLEEP							
# of hrs/ per day							86/89
physical symptom: trouble sleeping	92	94	92/96	95			
menopause symptom -- trouble sleeping	92	94	92	95			
THE END OF LIFE							
death	92	94	92		x	x	
cause of death	92	94	92		x	x	
death place	92	94	92		x		
death date	92	94	92		x	x	
Social Security Number	92	94	92		x		
*We consider this a work in progress, and we welcome corrections and suggestions for expansion of this summary material.							
NOTES							
1. Spouse section							
In this section, variables are limited to those collected from the respondents, that is, proxy report. Since HRS, NSFH II, and ACL also interviewed current spouses, one can obtain spousal information by matching household records. This also applies to a handful of WLS graduate couples. Please read footnotes 5, 7, and 8 in Table 1.							
2. Physical symptoms and medical conditions							
In both WLS surveys, the physical symptom is self-reported incidence occurred in the last 6 months and the medical condition is reported as diagnosed by a medical professional. In MIDUS and ACL, both are measured as self-reported incidence occurred in the last 12 months or diagnosed by a medical professional. NSFH87 did not have a checklist, but asked about disabling conditions. The conditions are from NSFH92. Additionally, WLS also ask the degree of discomfort from the physical symptom and the degree of interference with life from the medical condition.							
3. Life History Data and open-ended questions							
Life History Survey has many open-ended questions that do not appear in their codebooks. Therefore, it was not possible to document any more details for this data set. For more information on these data, contact Carol Ryff at The Institute on Aging, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA.							
4. NSFH							
Many NSFH questions about parenting, family background, and siblings are reported by the focal children. So the reader should check with the NSFH codebook to be certain who these questions are being asked about.							

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