Data Description

Health and Retirement Study

Consumption and Activities Mail Survey

Weights 2001 - 2015

Version 2.0
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Health and Retirement Study, Consumption and Activities Mail Survey

There are two sample weights for each wave of the HRS CAMS (2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015): a household-level weight and a respondent-level weight. The household weight should be used for analyses of items that are measured at the household level in the survey, namely questions about household spending. The respondent weight should be used for analyses of respondent level items, specifically the activity measures.

In every wave of CAMS, the household questions are asked of only one respondent in coupled households; this person is designated as the primary CAMS respondent and the assignment was retained across waves as long as the couple remained intact. The respondent weight should be used for analyses of respondent level items, specifically the activity measures. In 2001 and 2003, the activity questions were asked of only the primary CAMS respondent. However, starting in 2005, an "activities questionnaire" was administered to spouses in coupled CAMS households (designated as spouse respondents). The primary CAMS respondent received the activities questions along with questions about household spending.

This release of CAMS weights includes weights for 2015. Additionally, the CAMS weights for 2013 were updated to incorporate changes in the core HRS weights for 2004-2008. The variables named "CAMS01" to "CAMS15" in the cross-wave tracker file identify CAMS respondents, non-respondents, and non-sample for each wave, 2001-2015. The CAMS sample indicators for 2005-2015 further differentiate primary vs. spouse respondents and non-respondents.

The CAMS household weight is the product of the prior core wave household weight and a non-response adjustment factor. The non-response adjustment factor was obtained from a propensity model predicting the probability of completing the CAMS questionnaire among those selected and eligible to participate. The propensity model was estimated by logistic regression and weighted by the prior wave core household weight. Predictor variables included age (of oldest spouse, if coupled), education (of highest educated spouse, if coupled), race, ethnicity, coupleness, self-rated health, cognition, difficulty managing money, total assets, total income, home ownership, and ownership of a second residence.

All the predictor variables in the propensity model were taken from the prior core wave or, if missing, the closest non-missing prior core wave. The inverse of the fitted probability of CAMS completion formed the non-response adjustment factor. As a final step, the weights were post-stratified to match the prior wave core weighted household sample size and composition by age, gender, and coupleness status.

The CAMS respondent weight followed a similar procedure as the household weight. It is the product of the prior core wave respondent weight and a non-response adjustment factor. The same propensity model was used to obtain the non-respondent adjustment factor, based on individual level characteristics (e.g., own age and own education) and weighted by the prior wave core respondent weight. As a last step, the CAMS respondent weight was post-stratified to match the prior wave core weighted respondent sample size and composition by age, gender, and coupleness status.

The data file containing the weight variables for the CAMS 2001 – 2015 waves is called CAMSWTS and SAS, Stata, and SPSS versions are available. The data file contains sixteen weight variables and HHID and PN. The HRS CAMS weight variables are named so that they are easily identified both in terms of

the relevant wave (or year of data) and the level of analysis. For example, CAMS01WGTHH refers to the CAMS weight at the household level for the 2001 wave of data and CAMS01WGTR is the respondent level weight for the 2001 data.