CODEBOOK
Robin Hood 2017-2018 27m Follow-up Survey
Updated May 18, 2023

public_id   **Public ID number**

q9surveyyear   **Year of survey administration**

q9surveymonth   **Month of survey administration**
                                  1. January
                                  2. February
                                  3. March
                                  4. April
                                  5. May
                                  6. June
                                  7. July
                                  8. August
                                  9. September
                                  10. October
                                  11. November
                                  12. December

q9late   **Flag for late survey (completed after next survey in sequence)**
                                  1. Yes
                                  2. No

q9newyork   **Are you still a resident of New York City?**
                                  1. Yes
                                  2. No
                                  97. No answer
                                  98. Don't know
                                  99. Refused

q9a1   **Do you currently live with a spouse, domestic partner (a live-in romantic partner), or neither?**
                                  1. Spouse
                                  2. Domestic partner
                                  3. Neither
                                  97. No answer
                                  98. Don't know
                                  99. Refused

q9a2   **Do you have at least one biological or adopted child under the age of 18 who lives with you?**
                                  1. Yes
                                  2. No
                                  97. No answer
                                  98. Don't know
                                  99. Refused

q9b0   **Is your current house or apartment…**

1. Rented
2. Owned by you
3. Occupied without payment or rent?
4. Other
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9b10a
In a previous survey, you told us that you or your partner own a vehicle with a "XX" model year and "XX" make and model. Do you still own these vehicles?
1. Yes
2. No
3. Vehicle year or make/model incorrect
97. No answer
98. Don't Know
99. Refused

q9b10
Do you and your spouse/partner own anything for transportation, like cars, trucks, vans, SUV's, or motorcycles?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9b10b
Do you or your partner own any other vehicles besides the ones listed, like cars, trucks, vans, SUV's, or motorcycles?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't Know
99. Refused

q9c1
Do you and your spouse/partner have any credit cards, charge cards or store cards? Please do not include debit cards or cards used entirely for business.
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9c15
Do you and your spouse/partner currently serve

as a cosigner on any debt owed by a friend or family member? This includes on someone's rent or home mortgage, personal loans, or any other type of debt.
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9c16

Do you and your spouse/partner currently have a cosigner on any debt owed by yourself? This includes on your rent or home mortgage, personal loans, or any other type of debt.
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9d3

What is your current employment status? Are you...
1. Working Full-Time
2. Working Part-Time
3. On leave from a job or temporarily laid off
4. Looking for work
5. Unable to work
6. Keeping house
7. Going to school
8. Retired
9. Other (Please specify)
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9d5

During the past 12 months, in how many months did you work? Your best estimate is fine. Include paid vacation and sick leave as work.
[Entered response 0-12]
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9d6

During the past 12 months, about how many days did you miss work at a job or business because you or someone you care for was ill or injured? Your best estimate is fine.
1. None

2. Entered number of days
3. Self-employed/not applicable
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9d6x

During the past 12 months, about how many days did you miss work at a job or business because you or someone you care for was ill or injured? Your best estimate is fine.
[Entered numeric response]
970. No answer

q9d7

Were you paid for the days you missed because of illness or injury?
1. Yes, paid for all of them
2. Yes, paid for some of them
3. No
4. Self-employed/not applicable
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9d8

During the past 12 months, about how many days did you go to work feeling sick because you could not afford to lose pay?
1. None
2. Entered number of days
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9d8x

During the past 12 months, about how many days did you go to work feeling sick because you could not afford to lose pay?
[Entered numeric response]
970. No answer

q9d10

Elected officials have raised the minimum wage to $15 per hour, which is about $30,000 a year if working full time. Are your current wages at, above, or below this level?
1. At $15 per hour
2. Above
3. Below
4. Not employed
5. Self-employed or freelance
97. No answer

98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9f1

In order to buy just enough food to meet your household's needs, would you need to spend more, less, or about the same as you spend now?
1. More
2. Less
3. About the same
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9f1a

About how much MORE would you need to spend each week to buy enough food to meet the needs of your household?
1. Entered response
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9f1ax_tc

About how much MORE would you need to spend each week to buy enough food to meet the needs of your household?
[Entered numeric response]
97000000. No answer

NOTE: Below core repeated questions from F and J Modules were only asked of individuals who did not complete this survey late (q9late==2).

q9f2

"We worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more." During the past 3 months would you say this was true...
1. Often
2. Sometimes
3. Never
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9f6

In the past 3 months, did you stay at a shelter, in an abandoned building, an automobile, or any other place not meant for regular housing, even

for one night?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9f8

In the past 3 months, was your phone, gas, or electricity service ever cut off because there wasn't enough money to pay the bills?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9f9

In the past 3 months, was there a time when you or any member of your household needed to see a doctor, a dentist, or go to the hospital but couldn't go because of the cost?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9f10

In the past 3 months, how often did you run out of money between paychecks or before the end of the month? Would you say that happened…
1. Often
2. Sometimes
3. Never
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9j1_1

Below is a list of things that sometimes happen to people. Please select which of the following, if any, have happened to YOU in the past 3 months. Have you moved in the past 3 months?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9j1_2

Below is a list of things that sometimes happen to people. Please select which of the following,

if any, have happened to YOU in the past 3 months. Have you had child in the past 3 months?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9j1_3

Below is a list of things that sometimes happen to people. Please select which of the following, if any, have happened to YOU in the past 3 months. Have someone moved into your household in the past 3 months?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9j1_4

Below is a list of things that sometimes happen to people. Please select which of the following, if any, have happened to YOU in the past 3 months. Have someone moved out of your household in the past 3 months?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9j1_5

Below is a list of things that sometimes happen to people. Please select which of the following, if any, have happened to YOU in the past 3 months. Have you started a romantic relationship in the past 3 months?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9j1_6

Below is a list of things that sometimes happen to people. Please select which of the following, if any, have happened to YOU in the past 3 months. Have you ended a romantic relationship in the past 3 months?
1. Yes

2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9j1_7

Below is a list of things that sometimes happen to people. Please select which of the following, if any, have happened to YOU in the past 3 months. There was a change in your childcare arrangement in the past 3 months?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9j1_8

Below is a list of things that sometimes happen to people. Please select which of the following, if any, have happened to YOU in the past 3 months. Have you had to take time off work to talk to your child's teacher or guidance counselor in the past 3 months?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9j2_1

Please select which of the following, if any, have happened to YOU OR ANYONE in your household in the past 3 months. Has someone started a new job in the past 3 months?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9j2_2

Please select which of the following, if any, have happened to YOU OR ANYONE in your household in the past 3 months. Has someone lost a job in the past 3 months?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9j2_3

Please select which of the following, if any, have happened to YOU OR ANYONE in your household in the past 3 months. Has someone started to receive public benefits in the past 3 months?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9j2_4

Please select which of the following, if any, have happened to YOU OR ANYONE in your household in the past 3 months. Have someone's public benefits been cut off in the past 3 months?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9j2_5

Please select which of the following, if any, have happened to YOU OR ANYONE in your household in the past 3 months. Has someone had an unanticipated major expense in the past 3 months?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9j2_6

Please select which of the following, if any, have happened to YOU OR ANYONE in your household in the past 3 months. Has someone had a major increase in income in the past 3 months?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9j2_7

Please select which of the following, if any, have happened to YOU OR ANYONE in your household in the past 3 months. Has someone had a major decrease in income in the past 3

months?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9j2_8

Please select which of the following, if any, have happened to YOU OR ANYONE in your household in the past 3 months. Has someone had an accident, injury or illness that interfered with work or life in the past 3 months?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9j2_9

Please select which of the following, if any, have happened to YOU OR ANYONE in your household in the past 3 months. Has someone been the victim of a crime in the past 3 months?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9j2_11

Please select which of the following, if any, have happened to YOU OR ANYONE in your household in the past 3 months. Has someone lost or broke expensive belongings in the past 3 months?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

q9j3

In the past 3 months, were there any other major events or changes that affected your work or life?
1. Yes
2. No
97. No answer
98. Don't know
99. Refused

imp_q9bankacct_d

Do you and your spouse/partner have any checking or savings accounts? [Imputed]
1. Yes
2. No

imp_q9cdmoneymrkt_d

Do you and your spouse/partner have money in CDS or money market funds? [Imputed]
1. Yes
2. No

imp_q9stock_d

Do you and your spouse/partner have any shares of stock or stock mutual funds? [Imputed]
1. Yes
2. No

imp_q9bond_d

Do you and your spouse/partner have any treasury bills, gov't bond, or bond funds? [Imputed]
1. Yes
2. No

imp_q9retirement_d

Do you and your spouse/partner have any retirement accounts, assets in annuity, or are you included in any pension or retirement plans connected with a job? [Imputed]
1. Yes
2. No

imp_q9farmbus_d

Do you and your spouse/partner own part or all of a farm or business? [Imputed]
1. Yes
2. No

imp_q9lifeins_d

Do you and your spouse/partner have any life insurance? [Imputed]
1. Yes
2. No

imp_q9otherassets_d

Do you and your spouse/partner have any other savings or assets that you haven't told me about already? I.e., tools, equipment, jewelry, artwork, antiques, etc. [Imputed]
1. Yes
2. No

imp_q9creditcarddebt_d

Did you and your spouse/partner carry over any

credit card debt from last month to this month? [Imputed]
1. Yes
2. No

imp_q9educdebt_d

Do you and your spouse/partner have education related debt? [Imputed]
1. Yes
2. No

imp_q9medicaldebt_d

Do you and your spouse/partner owe any money for medical expenses? [Imputed]
1. Yes
2. No

imp_q9otherdebt_d

Do you and your spouse/partner have any other debt? [Imputed]
1. Yes
2. No

imp_q9homemortgage_d

Is there a mortgage or home equity loan on your home/apt? [Imputed]
1. Yes
2. No

imp_q9carowner_d

Do you and your spouse/partner own anything for transportation, like cars, trucks, vans, SUV's, or motorcycles? [Imputed]
1. Yes
2. No

imp_q9bankacct_tc

Total value of all your checking/savings accounts? Top-coded at 90% [Imputed]

imp_q9cdmoneymrkt_tc

Total value of all your money market funds and CDs? Top-coded at 90% [Imputed]

imp_q9stock_tc

Total value of all your stocks and stock mutual funds? Top-coded at 90% [Imputed]

imp_q9bond_tc

Total value of all your treasury bills, government bonds, bond funds? Top-coded at 90% [Imputed]

imp_q9retirement_tc

Total value of all your retirement accounts, annuities, pensions? Top-coded at 90% [Imputed]

imp_q9farmbus_tc

Total value of all your farms/businesses? Top-

	coded at 90% [Imputed]
imp_q9lifeins_tc	Current cash value of life insurance policy? Top-coded at 90% [Imputed]
imp_q9otherassets_tc	Total value of all your additional savings/assets? Top-coded at 90% [Imputed]
imp_q9creditcarddebt_tc	Total value of the credit card debt you carried over from last month? Top-coded at 90% [Imputed]
imp_q9educdebt_tc	Total value of all your education loans combined? Top-coded at 90% [Imputed]
imp_q9medicaldebt_tc	Total value of all your medical debts combined? Top-coded at 90% [Imputed]
imp_q9otherdebt_tc	Total value of all your additional debts owned? Top-coded at 90% [Imputed]
imp_q9homemortgage_tc	Total value of amount still owed on mortgage / equity loan? Top-coded at 90% [Imputed]
imp_q9homevalue_tc	What was the cost of your house when you acquired it? Top-coded at 90% [Imputed]
q9assets_tc	Total value of all assets. Top-coded at 90% [Imputed]
q9debts_tc	Total value of all debts. Top-coded at 90% [Imputed]
q9weight_p	Person level longitudinal weight
q9weight_pu	Family level longitudinal weight

Appendix A

Overview

This memo details our approach to survey weighting, by which we ensure that the Robin Hood Poverty Tracker sample is representative of New Yorkers age 18 and over. The primary Poverty Tracker is selected from an option survey at the conclusion of the Community Healthy Survey. The CHS is a Random Digit Dial (RDD) phone sample conducted by the survey research organization SRBI. The first panel generated a sample of approximately 3,403 RDD sample members. We included both landline and cell phone numbers in our sample frame. In addition, a second pool of 505 participants were recruited from agencies that provide assistance to low-income individuals. The purpose of this second pool was to oversample those using social service agencies in New York City. Oversample specific populations characteristics (social service agencies in this case) is a statistically and efficient way to increase the sample sizes of populations of interest in surveys.

Survey weights are then used to adjust statistical parameters (estimates) so that inferences made from the data apply to the overall population from which the sample was drawn (in this case, NYC). Data are weighted to a three-year American Community Survey (ACS) dataset provided by the United States Census Bureau.

The weighting approach that we employ, which adjusts for oversampling and for random over- or under-representation, for non-response, and for attrition, is used in all nationally and locally representative studies.

In the remainder of this memo, we provide more technical details on the construction of Poverty Tracker survey weights. The target population is adults (18+) who are New York City residents.

Structure of baseline sample

SRBI

The SRBI phone sample consists of 3,403 New York City residents contacted by random digit dialing (RDD). Of the 3,403 respondents, 1,774 were contacted by cellphone and 1,629 by landline.

Agency

The face-to-face sample includes 505 respondents from 26 agencies.

SRBI cell phone 1,774

SRBI landline 1,629

Agency 505

Total 3,908

Subsequent waves

For subsequent survey waves, we adjust for panel attrition using the stratification response propensity score method. Non-coverage is addressed by post-stratification. For each survey wave we compute individual weights for each respondent as well as family (poverty unit) weights.

Poverty units

The definition of the poverty unit differs from the traditional family in that unmarried partners are included as family members. Poverty unit weights are obtained from the personal weights by dividing by the number of adults in the poverty unit.

Post-stratification

The data used for post-stratification comes from 2014-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) NYC sample. We approximate the population distributions of the post-stratification variables using weighted ACS numbers.[1]

For agency sample, one variable, social service use, is not collected by the ACS. While, it is important to post-stratify on this variable because the agency sample oversamples individuals who use these services. We use the SRBI sample to estimate social service use in the population, which we used to post-stratify to.

Baseline weights

Constructing the baseline weights consists of three steps:

1. Weight the SRBI phone sample to match the NYC adult population (see the SRBI weights section).
2. Use the weighted SRBI sample to estimate the population distribution of social service use (see the Agency weights section).
3. Combine the SRBI and agency samples and weight to match social service use and demographics (see the Combined weights section).

SRBI weights

Using the SRBI phone sample only, we adjust for selection bias and nonresponse to match the ACS data:

1. ***Adjustment for the number of adults in the household and family.*** The larger household, the smaller the selection probability is for each individual. However, the larger the family, the larger the response probability from the family. We therefore need to weight up larger households while weighting down larger families. Gelman and Little (1988) recommend square roots for this weighting adjustment because inverse probability weights for household sizes tend to overcorrect in telephone surveys. For each respondent we use the square root of the ratio of the number of adults in the household to the number of adults in the family.

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[1] That is, we use the weights provided with the ACS and obtain a weighted frequency for each post-stratification variable.

2. ***Adjustment for phone availability***. Respondents with multiple phones in the household are more likely to be selected into the sample, while those who experience interrupted phone service are less likely to be selected. In this stage of the weighting process, we assign respondents in these two categories weights of ½ and 2, respectively.

   Because the landline and cellular RDD frames overlap there are cases of dual-service, that is, respondents from the landline sample who also have a cell phone in the household or respondents from the cell phone sample who also have landline service. We use frame integration weights (Lohr, 2009) to combine the landline and cellular components of the sample, with the dual-service respondents from the two frames integrated in proportion to their effective sample sizes. We can make this adjustment by assuming that the dual-service households from each of the two groups are random samples from the population of dual-service households.

   To compute the effective sample sizes, we first calculate a design effects for both landline and cellular groups. For the cellular sample we take the weights for the respondents who also have landline and compute the coefficient of variation cv_C. For the landline sample the calculation of cv_L is analogous. We take the design effects to be $1 + cv_C{}^2$ and $1 + cv_L{}^2$, respectively. The effective sample sizes (ESS) for the dual-service cases are then computed as the raw sample sizes divided by the design effects.

   Finally, the frame integration weights for the dual-service cell phone cases (cell phone respondents who have a landline) are $\text{fiw}_C = \frac{ESS_C}{ESS_C + ESS_L}$, which is the ratio of the effective number of dual-service cases among the cell phone respondents to the total effective number of dual-service cases in the landline and cell phone respondents combined. For the dual-service landline respondents, the frame integration weights are computed analogous as $\text{fiw}_L = \frac{ESS_L}{ESS_C + ESS_L}$. Single-service cases (in this case landline-only or cellphone-only) are given a frame integration weight of 1.

3. ***Adjustment for deviation on SES information from corresponding ACS-NYC 2014-2016 weighted totals***. Before making this adjustment, we obtain individual weights by multiplying the household weights obtained in the previous step by the number of adults in the household.[2] We then match the marginal distributions of post-stratification factors via raking procedure. Although the joint distribution by cross tabulation is available, we use raking under an independence assumption to control the variability due to small post-stratification cell sizes. The information used for post-stratification includes gender, age, education, immigration status, tenure (own or rent home), race, the number of children in the household, the number of seniors in the household, the number of working aged adults in the household, a poverty gap measure for the household[3], and interactions between many of the demographics and the

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[2] For this calculation, the number of adults in the household is capped at 4 due to spareness at larger values.

[3] From the World Bank: Poverty gap is the mean shortfall from the poverty line (counting the non-poor as having zero shortfall), expressed as a percentage of the poverty line. This measure reflects the depth of poverty as well as its incidence.

poverty measure to account for dependencies between these factors. After the raking procedure, we trim the resulting weights at the 97.5% percentile.

Because the weights adjust for the unequal selection, under-coverage and nonresponse, there is no simple formula for estimating the variance. We use the bootstrapping method implemented in the R **survey** package to obtain 50 sets of replicate weights for each set of sampling weights, from which we can obtain variance estimates.

Agency weights

For the Agency sample, we adjust weights by the (self-reported) frequency of agency services usage. To avoid over-representation, the more frequently an individual uses a service, the smaller the assigned weight.

Combined weights

The SRBI and Agency samples are then combined.[4] Again we correct for differences due to over-sampling from poor households by post-stratifying the household weights to the ACS household information. This is essentially the same adjustment that is made in the SRBI weights (see Step 3 in the SRBI weights section) but here we perform the adjustment on the combined SRBI and Agency samples. We then multiply the household weights by the number of adults in the household to obtain the person (individual) weights. Similarly, to Step 4 in the SRBI weights section, using these person weights we then post-stratify to adjust for deviations of the two samples from the corresponding ACS-NYC 2014 weighted totals. We also again adjust for frequency of social service use by including it as a post-stratification variable.[5]

Subsequent wave weights

Subsequent waves in the Poverty Tracker study have longitudinal weights calculated. These weights use the baseline weights as a basis but make two adjustments. The first adjustment corrects for nonresponse between the baseline and the wave of interest. The second adjustment is a raking adjustment back to the baseline population demographics.

The method for the first adjustment is inverse propensity scoring. This method uses a logistic regression to predict nonresponse given baseline characteristics, including race, education, immigration status, source – how many respondents were originally contacted, use of service frequency, the number of working adults in the household, the number of seniors in the household, spouse or partner in the

household, material hardship, severe health disadvantage, OPM income to needs ratio, OPM poverty status, receipt of government housing, and mental health status. From this model, the probability of

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[4] The weights for each sample are also separately normalized to each have a mean of 1.
[5] There will be unbalanced coverage of agency service visitors because frequent service users will be over-represented in the Agency sample. For the purpose of representing the general population of NYC adults, it is necessary to down-weight individuals in the sample who frequently use social service agencies. In order to post-stratify on frequency of service use, we need a measure of the distribution of social service use in the population. Unfortunately, we do not have any gold standard for the distribution

responding was predicted for each respondent, which we then broken into 20 quantiles to reduce noise. For each quantile, the inverse of the probability of responding is calculated, which we then use to adjust the baseline weights for nonresponse. After that, we do the second adjustment, raking procedure. We then trimmed and created replicate weights with the same technique as described for the baseline.

References

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