Harmonizing HRS-Type Datasets for Cross-Country Comparability

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1 Abstract

HRS-type datasets are essential for aging, health, and retirement research. "HRSg2agingToPanel.do" simplifies working with HRS-type datasets, streamlining cross-country comparative research and preserving variable labels. The file is designed to facilitate the analysis of Health and Retirement Study (HRS) and related sister surveys harmonized by the Gateway2Aging (g2aging) project (SHARE, CHARLS, ELSA, etc.). The file streamlines data preparation, reshaping wide-format data into a long-format panel, reducing the dataset to a compact dataset, keeping only the chosen variables. This facilitates cross-country economic research on elderly populations.

2 Key Features

- **Data Reshaping:** Converts HRS-type datasets from wide to long format, simplifying analysis for cross-country comparisons.

- **Variable Label Transfer:** Preserves metadata by transferring variable labels to the long-format panel.

- **Variable Selection:** Allows users to choose specific variables for their analysis, focusing on relevant data.

- **Software:** Stata SE 17 is used. Both Windows and Mac can be used.

3 How to Use

Researchers can adapt "HRSg2agingToPanel.do" by customizing "Part 1" of the code, including folder locations and identifiers, while retaining core functionality.

Also to be adapted are the desired variables in "Part 3" of the code. Refer to the harmonized codebooks on the g2aging website for the variable names.

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5   Usage Acknowledgements

Researchers are encouraged, but not required, to acknowledge the use of "HRSg2agingToPanel.do" in their publications, citing its contribution to data preparation and harmonization. Citing encourages use by other reserachers who find it useful.

6   Keywords

HRS, Data Harmonization, Stata, Cross-Country Comparability.