

GSS Analysis Codebook

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Introduction

This codebook documents the variables used in our analysis of the General Social Survey (GSS) dataset, focusing on work-related outcomes and their relationships with various social and demographic factors.

Key Variables

Occupational Prestige [VAR: prestige]

- **Description:** Measures the social standing or prestige associated with different occupations
- **Type:** Continuous
- **Range:** 0-100
- **Missing Values:** -1
- **Notes:** Higher scores indicate greater occupational prestige

Work Status [VAR: wrkstat]

- **Description:** Current employment status
- **Type:** Categorical
- **Values:**
 1. Working full time
 2. Working part time
 3. Temporarily not working
 4. Unemployed, laid off
 5. Retired
 6. School
 7. Keeping house
 8. Other
- **Missing Values:** -1
- **Notes:** Primary indicator of employment situation

Self-Employment Status [VAR: wrkslf]

- **Description:** Indicates whether respondent is self-employed
- **Type:** Binary
- **Values:**
 1. Self-employed
 2. Works for someone else
- **Missing Values:** -1, 9
- **Notes:** Key variable for comparing employment outcomes

Government Employment [VAR: wrkgovt]

- **Description:** Indicates whether respondent works for government
- **Type:** Binary
- **Values:**
 1. Government employee
 2. Non-government employee
- **Missing Values:** -1, 9
- **Notes:** Used to analyze public vs private sector employment

Work-Related Variables

Hours Worked [VAR: hrs1]

- **Description:** Number of hours worked in last week
- **Type:** Continuous
- **Range:** 0-89
- **Missing Values:** -1
- **Notes:** Indicator of work intensity

Ever Worked [VAR: evwork]

- **Description:** Whether respondent has ever worked for pay
- **Type:** Binary
- **Values:**
 1. Yes
 2. No
- **Missing Values:** -1
- **Notes:** Employment history indicator

Occupation [VAR: occ]

- **Description:** Detailed occupation code
- **Type:** Categorical
- **Range:** Multiple occupation codes
- **Missing Values:** 0
- **Notes:** Used in conjunction with prestige scores

Demographic Variables

Year [VAR: year]

- **Description:** Survey year
- **Type:** Continuous
- **Range:** 1972-2014
- **Missing Values:** None
- **Notes:** Temporal dimension of the analysis

ID [VAR: id]

- **Description:** Unique respondent identifier
- **Type:** Continuous
- **Notes:** Used for data management

Control Variables

Survey Weights

- **wtss:** Standard weight
- **wtssnr:** Non-response weight

- **wtssall:** Weight for all years
- **Range:** Varies
- **Notes:** Used for representative analysis

Sampling Variables

- **vstrat:** Variance stratum
- **vpsu:** Variance PSU
- **Notes:** Used for complex survey design

Usage Notes

1. All analyses should incorporate appropriate survey weights
2. Missing values should be handled according to analysis requirements
3. For time series analysis, consider survey design changes across years
4. Prestige scores should be treated as continuous variables
5. Work status categories may need recoding for specific analyses

References

- GSS Data Explorer: <https://gssdataexplorer.norc.org/>
- GSS Codebook: <https://gss.norc.org/>
- GSS Methodology Report: Available through NORC