

ICPSR 30103

**How Couples Meet and Stay
Together (HCMST), Wave 1 2009,
Wave 2 2010, Wave 3 2011, Wave 4
2013, Wave 5 2015, United States**

Description

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Bibliographic Description

ICPSR Study No.: 30103

Title: How Couples Meet and Stay Together (HCMST), Wave 1 2009, Wave 2 2010, Wave 3 2011, Wave 4 2013, Wave 5 2015, United States

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Scope of Study

Summary: How Couples Meet and Stay Together (HCMST) surveyed how Americans met their spouses and romantic partners, and compared traditional to non-traditional couples. This collection covers data that was gathered over five waves. During the first wave, respondents were asked about their relationship status, including the gender, ethnicity, and race of their current partner, as well as the level of education of their parents. They were also asked about their living arrangements with their partner, the country, state, and city the respondent and/or the respondent's partner resided in most from birth to age 16, and whether the couple attended the same high school/college/university, or grew up in the same town. Information was collected on the legal status of the relationship, the city/state where the partnership was legalized, and how many times the respondent had previously been married. Additionally, respondents were asked about how often they visited with relatives, which gender they were most attracted to, their earned income in 2008,

and the length of their current relationship. Finally, respondents were asked to recall how, when, and where they met their partner, how their parents felt about their partner, and to describe the perceived quality of their relationship. The second wave followed up with respondents one year after Wave 1. Information was collected on respondents' changes, if any, in marital status, relationship status, living arrangements, and reasons for separation where applicable. The third wave followed up with respondents one year after the second wave, and collected information on respondents' relationships reported in the first two waves, again including any changes in the status of the relationship and reasons for separation. The fourth wave followed up with respondents two years after Wave 3. In addition to information on relationship status and reasons for separation, Wave 4 includes the subjective level of attractiveness for the respondent and their partner. Wave 5 collected updated data on respondents' changes, if any, in marital status, relationship status, and reasons for separation where applicable. Information about respondents' sexual orientations, sex frequencies, and attitudes towards sexual monogamy were also collected. Demographic information includes age, race/ethnicity, gender, level of education, household composition, religion, political party affiliation, and household income.

The data is being released in two parts: part one is available for public use and part two is available for restricted use. The public use data contains Waves 1-5, including the addition of nine variables collecting information such as race, household income, whether the respondent was born outside of the United States, zip code relative to rural area, and respondents' living arrangements between birth and 16 years of age. The restricted use data contains Waves 1-3, and differs from the public use data by including FIPS codes for state of marriage and state of residence, town or city where the respondent was raised, and qualitative variables revised by the Principal Investigator (Waves 1-5), consisting of respondent's answers to how they first met their partner, the quality of their relationship in their own words, why they broke up if applicable and if they have an open relationship.

Subject Term(s): civil union, dating (social), divorce, domestic partnership, gays and lesbians, gender, living arrangements, love, marital status, marriage, physical appearance, religious affiliation, same-sex marriage, sexual attitudes, sexual preference

Smallest Geographic Unit: Census region (public use); State (restricted use)

Geographic Coverage: United States

Time Period:

- 2009, Wave 1
- 2010, Wave 2
- 2011, Wave 3

- 2013, Wave 4
- 2015, Wave 5

Date(s) of Collection:

- February 2009 - April 2009, Wave 1
- March 2010 - June 2010, Wave 2
- March 2011 - August 2011, Wave 3
- March 2013 - November 2013, Wave 4
- November 2014 - March 2015, Wave 5

Unit of Observation: Individual

Universe: The Universe for Wave 1 was English literate adults in the US. The Universe for Wave 2-5 was respondents who were still together with their partners from Wave 1. Additionally, background information was collected on all subjects who remained in the Knowledge Networks/ GfK panel.

Data Type: survey data

Data Collection Notes: The survey was carried out by the survey firm Knowledge Networks.

The codebook and setup files for the restricted use dataset contain characters with diacritical marks used in many European languages.

Indirect Identifiers: To limit possible disclosure risk, the state identification variables Q15A2, Q15A3, RECODED_OREGONIANS, MARRYSTATEFIPS, MARRYSTATE, CIVILSTATE, CIVILSTATEFIPS, PPSTATEN, PP2_STATEN, PP3_PPSTATEN, Q18B, Q18C, W3_Q7_SSC_MARRY_STATE, and W3_Q8_SSC_DOM_PARTNER_STATE, and time of interview variables TM_START, TM_FINISH, W2_TM_START, and W2_TM_FINISH have been dropped from the public use data.

The public use data contains Waves 1-5. The restricted use data contains Waves 1-3 with supplemental string variables for Waves 1-5.

Additional information on this study can be found by visiting the [How Couples Meet and Stay Together](#) Web site.

Methodology

Purpose of the Study: n/a

Study Design: The survey was carried out by survey firm Knowledge Networks. The survey respondents were recruited from an ongoing panel. Panelists are recruited via random digit dial phone survey. Survey questions were mostly answered online; some follow-up surveys were conducted by phone. Panelists who did not have internet access at home were given an internet access device (WebTV). For further information about how the Knowledge Networks hybrid phone-internet survey compares to other survey methodology, see the accompanying documentation.

Sample: There were 4,002 original survey respondents from members of Knowledge Network's Nationally Representative Survey Panel. Subsequent waves included the 3,009 survey respondents who were partnered at the time of the main survey, minus the respondents who reported having broken up with their partner or the partner passed away by each previous wave. Please see the "Brief Guide to data sources and variables in the public HCMST" within the ICPSR codebook for further information.

Weight: The data are not weighted; however, this collection contains eight weight variables; WEIGHT1-WEIGHT7 and WEIGHT_COUPLES_CORESIDENT. Please refer to the ICPSR codebook for further information about weighting.

Mode of Data Collection: computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI)

web-based survey

Response Rates: Response to Wave 1 (main survey) was 71 percent. Response to Wave 2 (follow-up survey) one year later was 84 percent. Response to Wave 3 (follow-up survey) one year later was 72.9 percent. Response to Wave 4 (follow-up survey) was 60 percent. Response rate to Wave 5 (follow-up survey) was 46%

Extent of Processing: Standardized missing values.

Checked for undocumented or out-of-range codes.

Access and Availability

Note: A list of the data formats available for this study can be found in the [summary of holdings](#). Detailed file-level information (such as record length, case count, and variable count) is listed in the [file manifest](#).

Some instruments administered as part of this study may contain contents from copyrighted instruments. Reproductions of the instruments are provided solely as documentation for the analysis of the data associated

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with this collection. Please contact the data producers for information on permissions to use the instruments for other purposes.

Restrictions: The variables PPZIPCODE, Q18B, Q18C, RECODED_OREGONIANS, MARRYSTATEFIPS, MARRYSTATE, CIVILSTATE, CIVILSTATEFIPS, W3_Q7_SSC_MARRY_STATE, W3_Q8_SSC_DOM_PARTNER_STATE, PPSTATEN, PP2_PPSTATEN, PP3_PPSTATEN, Q15A2, and Q15A3 are only being made available in the restricted use version of this data. Additionally, variables Q24 and Q35 are being provided in one tab-separated ASCII file; W4_QUALITY_TEXT, W4_WHY_BROKE_UP, W5_P_NONMONOGOMY_EXP, W5_IDENTITY_OTHER, and W5_WHY_BROKE_UP are being provided in one Excel file; These two files are for restricted use only.

Original ICPSR Release: 2011-11-01

Version History: The last update of this study occurred on .

2016-03-18 - Wave 5 variables have been added to the public data. Supplemental string variables for Wave 4 and 5 (W4_QUALITY_TEXT, W4_WHY_BROKE_UP, W5_P_NONMONOGOMY_EXP, W5_IDENTITY_OTHER, and W5_WHY_BROKE_UP) are being released as restricted use only.

2014-09-02 - Wave 4 variables have been added to the public use data.

2013-01-16 - The citation has been updated to include an additional PI. Variables Q24 and Q35 are being released as restricted use only.

2013-01-03 - Nine variables have been added to the public use collection and 19 variables have been added to the restricted use collection.

2012-05-25 - The citation has been updated to include an additional PI.

2012-04-06 - The data have been further processed by the principal investigator. In addition, a number of variables have been added to the data set.

2011-11-22 - In order to prevent disclosure risk, several variables were dropped from the public use file.

Dataset(s):

- DS1: Public Use Data
- DS2: Restricted Use Data