Canada

Statistics Canada. Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division, StatCan

General Social Survey, Cycle 2, 1986 [Canada]: Time Use, Social Mobility, and Languages Use - Episode File

Study Documentation

May 12, 2022

Metadata Production

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Table of Contents

General Social Survey, Cycle 2, 1986 [Canada]: Time Use, Social Mobility, and Languages Use - Episode File (GSS Cycle 2, 1986: Time Use, Social Mobility, and Languages Use - Episode File)
Enquête sociale générale, Cycle 2, 1986 [Canada]: Emplois du temps, Fichier des épisodes

Overview

Type	General Social Survey
Identification	gss-12M0002-E-1986-c-2-ep
Version	1.0
Series	The two primary objectives of the General Social Survey (GSS) are: to gather data on social trends in order to monitor changes in the living conditions and well being of Canadians over time; and to provide information on specific social policy issues of current or emerging interest.

Abstract

The General Social Survey (GSS) has two principal objectives: first, to gather data on social trends in order to monitor changes in Canadian society over time; and secondly, to provide information on specific policy issues of current or emerging interest. The GSS is a continuing program with a single survey cycle each year. This survey collected data on social mobility and time use of Canadians, and examined language knowledge and use. Topics include occupation, education and other characteristics of Canadians and their parents, language knowledge and use, activities over a 24-hour period, and data for each episode of time use. This cycle contains three files, the main file, time use summary file and episode file. The main file is composed of 286 variables covering general background, language and social mobility variables. The time use summary file consists of one record per respondent and summarizes the total time spent on each of 95 activities and the 10 major categories, total time spent at each location and total time spent with various persons. In addition, it contains a subset of characteristics found on the main file. The time use episode file consists of all episodes reported by respondents. Each respondent generated a variable number of records depending on the number of episodes reported. For each episode, there is information on the activity, start and end time, duration, location and an indication of who the respondent was with for that episode.

Kind of Data	Survey data, microdata file
Unit of Analysis	Individual

Scope & Coverage

Keywords	Activities, Business, Day care, Dwelling, Educational attainment, Entertainment, Ethnic origin, Hobbies, Housework, Income, Job search, Language, Mother tongue, Occupation, Recreation, Religion, Salaries and wages, Television viewing, Transportation, Travel
Time Period(s)	1986
Countries	Canada

Geographic Coverage
Canada, Provinces

Universe
Included: Persons 15 years of age and older living in Canada's Provinces
Excluded: Persons living Yukon and Northwest Territories, full-time residents of institutions.

Producers & Sponsors

Primary Investigator(s)	Statistics Canada. Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division, StatCan

Other Producer(s)	Statistics Canada

Sampling

Sampling Procedure
Stratified Sample
 Two random Digit Dialling (RDD) sampling techniques are used. For Newfoundland and Ontario, the Elimination of Non-working Banks method was used. For the other provinces, the Waksberg method was used.
 The sample size was 16,390.

Response Rate
The overall response rate for the GSS was approximately 80%.

Weighting
Main File=(FWGT_OS)
Summary File= (FWGT_MS)
 When a probability sample is used, as was the case for the GSS, the principle behind estimation is that each person seleeted in the sample 'represents' (in addition to himself/herself) several other persons not in the sample. For example, in a simple random sample of 2% of the population, each person in the sample represents 50 persons in the population.
 An overall weighting factor (FINAL WT) was placed on each record to indicate the number of sampled persons that the record represents. This weighting factor refers to the number of times a particular record should contribute to a population estimate. For example, 10 estimate the number of persons who have graduated from high school, the value of FINAL_WT is summed over all records with this characteristic. This weighting process is described in Section 7.1.

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates	start 1986-10-25 end 1986-11-21 start 1986-11-22 end 1986-12-22
Time Period(s)	single 1986

Data Collection Notes
Responding to this survey is voluntary. Data are collected directly from survey respondents.

Data Processing & Appraisal

Estimates of Sampling Error
Statistics from the General Social Survey (GSS) databases are estimates based on data collected from a small fraction of the population (roughly one person in 2,000) and are subject to error. The error can be divided into two components: sampling error and non-sampling error.
Sampling error is the difference between the estimate derived from a sample and the result that would have been obtained from a population census using the same data collection procedures. For a sample survey such as the GSS, this error is estimated from the survey data. The measurement of error used is the standard deviation of the estimate. When a sampling error is more than 33 1/3% of the estimate itself, it is considered to be too unreliable to be published. In such a case, the symbol "-- " appears in statistical tables in place of the estimate. When the sampling error is between 16 2/3% and 33 1/3%, the corresponding estimate is accompanied by the symbol " * " in a table. Such estimates should be used with caution. Finally, all estimates with a sampling error of less than 16 2/3% can be used without restriction.
All other types of errors, such as coverage, response, processing, and non-response, are non-sampling errors. Many of these errors are difficult to identify and quantify.
Coverage errors arise when there are differences between the target population and the surveyed population. Households without telephones represent a part of the target population that was excluded from the surveyed population. To the extent that this excluded population differs from the rest of the target population, the estimates will be biased. Since these exclusions are small, one would expect the biases introduced to be small. However, since there are correlations between a number of questions asked on this survey and the groups excluded, the biases may be more significant than the small size of the groups would suggest.

Individuals residing in institutions were excluded from the surveyed population. The effect of this exclusion is greatest for people aged 65 and over, for whom it approaches 9%. In a similar way, to the extent that the non-responding households and persons differ from the rest of the sample, the estimates will be biased. The overall response rate for the GSS was approximately 80%. Non-response could occur at several stages in this survey. There were two stages of information collection: at the household level and at the individual level. Non-response at the household level averaged 6%. Non-response also occurs at the level of individual questions. For most questions, the response rate was high and, in tables, the non-responses generally appear under the heading "not stated".

While refusal to answer specific questions was very low, accuracy of recall and ability to answer some questions completely can be expected to affect some of the results presented in the subsequent chapters. Awareness of exact question wording will help the reader interpret the survey results.

Since the survey is cross-sectional, caution is required in making causal inferences about the association between variables. Observed associations may be a reflection of differences between cohorts, period effects, differences between age groups or a combination of these factors.

Accessibility

Distributor(s)	Data Liberation Initiative

Access Conditions
DLI License

Citation Requirements
The publishing of analysis and results from research using any of the data products is permitted in research communications such as scholarly papers, journals and the like. The authors of these communications are required to cite Statistics Canada as the source of the data, and to indicate that the results or views expressed are those of the author/authorized user and are not those of Statistics Canada. Permission to include extracts of these data in textbooks must be obtained from the Licencing Section of Statistics Canada's Marketing Division.

Rights & Disclaimer

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Files Description

Dataset contains 1 file(s)

gss_12M0002_E_1986_c-2_ep_F1	
# Cases	179148
# Variable(s)	16
Version Data redownloaded from DLI - may 7, 2008 - AME	

Variables Group(s)

Dataset contains 5 group(s)

Group Diary Day

#	Name	Label	Type	Format	Valid	Invalid	Question
1	DDAY	DIARY DAY	continuous	numeric-1.0	179148	0	-
2	REFFLAG	REFUSAL FLAG	continuous	numeric-1.0	843	178305	-

Group Episodes

#	Name	Label	Type	Format	Valid	Invalid	Question
1	NO_EPISO	Total number of episodes during the reference day	continuous	numeric-2.0	179148	0	-
2	ACT_CODE	Activity code of the episode	continuous	numeric-2.0	179148	0	-
3	STRTTIME	Start time of the episode	continuous	numeric-4.0	179148	0	-
4	ENDTIME	END TIME (HHMM)	continuous	numeric-4.0	179148	0	-
5	DURATION	DURATION (MINUTES)	continuous	numeric-4.0	179148	0	-
6	PLACE	LOCATION	continuous	numeric-1.0	175018	4130	-

Group Respondent

#	Name	Label	Type	Format	Valid	Invalid	Question
1	SEQNUM	SEQUENCE NUMBER FOR RESPONDENT	continuous	numeric-5.0	179148	0	-

Group Social Contacts

#	Name	Label	Type	Format	Valid	Invalid	Question
1	ALONE	SOCIAL CONTACT: ALONE?	continuous	numeric-1.0	139874	39274	Social contacts - alone?
2	SPOUSE	SOCIAL CONTACT: SPOUSE?	continuous	numeric-1.0	139874	39274	Social contacts - with spouse?
3	CHILD	SOCIAL CONTACT: HOUSEHOLD CHILDREN?	continuous	numeric-1.0	139874	39274	Social contacts - child(ren) of household?
4	OTH_FAM	Social contacts - with other family members?	continuous	numeric-1.0	139874	39274	-
5	FRIENDS	SOCIAL CONTACT: FRIENDS?	continuous	numeric-1.0	139874	39274	Social contacts - with friends?
6	OTHERS	SOCIAL CONTACT: OTHERS?	continuous	numeric-1.0	139874	39274	Social contacts - with others?

Group Weight

#	Name	Label	Type	Format	Valid	Invalid	Question
1	FWGT_MS	FINAL WEIGHT OF EACH RECORD	continuous	numeric-9.0	179148	0	-

General Social Survey, Cycle 2, 1986 [Canada]: Time Use, Social Mobility, and Languages Use - Episode File - Variables Description

- 9 -
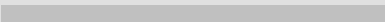
Variables Description

Dataset contains 16 variable(s)

General Social Survey, Cycle 2, 1986 [Canada]: Time Use, Social Mobility, and Languages Use - Episode File - Variables Description

- 9 -

File : gss_12M0002_E_1986_c-2_ep_F1

SEQNUM: SEQUENCE NUMBER FOR RESPONDENT

Information	[Type= continuous] [Format=numeric] [Range= 4-16389] [Missing=*]
Statistics [NW/ W]	[Valid=179148 /-] [Invalid=0 /-] [Mean=8229.151 /-] [StdDev=4708.107 /-]
Notes	Numbering of each record 00004:16389 (all values are not present)

DDAY: DIARY DAY

Information	[Type= continuous] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-7] [Missing=*]
Statistics [NW/ W]	[Valid=179148 / 3528663877595] [Invalid=0 / 0]

Value	Label	Cases	Weighted	Percentage (Weighted)
1	SUNDAY	17442	449228147265.0	12.7%
2	MONDAY	33211	515093085134.0	14.6%
3	TUESDAY	32185	520184472402.0	14.7%
4	WEDNESDAY	32465	517450593048.0	14.7%
5	THURSDAY	20559	515202818443.0	14.6%
6	FRIDAY	21304	530453832117.0	15.0%
7	SATURDAY	21982	481050929186.0	13.6%

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.

NO_EPISO: Total number of episodes during the reference day

Information	[Type= continuous] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-58] [Missing=*]
Statistics [NW/ W]	[Valid=179148 / 3528663877595] [Invalid=0 / 0] [Mean=20.345 / 20.007] [StdDev=6.816 / 6.695]
Notes	Total number of episodes during the references day for a respondent. 01:58

ACT_CODE: Activity code of the episode

Information	[Type= continuous] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-99] [Missing=*]
Statistics [NW/ W]	[Valid=179148 / 3528663877595] [Invalid=0 / 0] [Mean=42.116 / 42.618] [StdDev=27.784 / 27.806]
Notes	Activity code of the episode. 01:99

STRTTIME: Start time of the episode

Information	[Type= continuous] [Format=numeric] [Range= 400-2756] [Missing=*]
Statistics [NW/ W]	[Valid=179148 / 3528663877595] [Invalid=0 / 0] [Mean=1406.028 / 1407.228] [StdDev=568.423 / 570.854]
Notes	Start time of the episode. 0400 hrs:2756 hrs

ENDTIME: END TIME (HHMM)

Information	[Type= continuous] [Format=numeric] [Range= 404-2800] [Missing=*]
Statistics [NW/ W]	[Valid=179148 / 3528663877595] [Invalid=0 / 0] [Mean=1539.272 / 1542.56] [StdDev=597.53 / 599.78]
Notes	End time of the episode. 0404 hrs:2800 hrs

DURATION: DURATION (MINUTES)

Information	[Type= continuous] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-1440] [Missing=*]
Statistics [NW/ W]	[Valid=179148 / 3528663877595] [Invalid=0 / 0] [Mean=79.946 / 81.199] [StdDev=102.968 / 103.967]
Notes	Duration of the episode. Derived from START_TIME and END_TIME. 0001:1440 minutes

PLACE: LOCATION

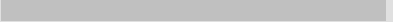| Information	[Type= continuous] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-7] [Missing=*/8/9]
Statistics [NW/ W]	[Valid=175018 / 3444513763847] [Invalid=4130 / 84150113748]

File : gss_12M0002_E_1986_c-2_ep_F1

PLACE: LOCATION

Value	Label	Cases	Weighted	Percentage (Weighted)
1	AT HOME	109092	2118340117300.0	61.5%
2	AT WORK	12751	252742514809.0	7.3%
3	AT OTHER PLACES	21774	445729647287.0	12.9%
4	IN TRANSIT - BY CAR	23357	466964855042.0	13.6%
5	IN TRANSIT - BY FOOT	5492	104139430285.0	3.0%
6	IN TRANSIT - BY BUS/SUBWAY	1929	43989959692.0	1.3%
7	OTHER	623	12607239432.0	0.4%
8	IN TRANSIT/NOT STATED	1343	25980281060.0	
9	NOT STATED	2787	58169832688.0	

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.

ALONE: SOCIAL CONTACT: ALONE?

Information	[Type= continuous] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-2] [Missing=*/0/9]
Statistics [NW/ W]	[Valid=139874 / 2743613365633] [Invalid=39274 / 785050511962]
Literal question	Social contacts - alone?

Value	Label	Cases	Weighted	Percentage (Weighted)
1	YES	55595	1030116443319.0	37.5%
2	NO	84279	1713496922314.0	62.5%
0	NOT APPLICABLE	36270	725071113924.0	
9	NOT STATED	3004	59979398038.0	

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.
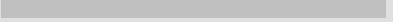
SPOUSE: SOCIAL CONTACT: SPOUSE?

Information	[Type= continuous] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-2] [Missing=*/9/0]
Statistics [NW/ W]	[Valid=139874 / 2743613365633] [Invalid=39274 / 785050511962]
Literal question	Social contacts - with spouse?

Value	Label	Cases	Weighted	Percentage (Weighted)
1	YES	31404	667468262684.0	24.3%
2	NO	108470	2076145102949.0	75.7%
0	NOT APPLICABLE	36270	725071113924.0	
9	NOT STATED	3004	59979398038.0	

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.
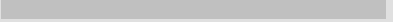
CHILD: SOCIAL CONTACT: HOUSEHOLD CHILDREN?

Information	[Type= continuous] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-2] [Missing=*/0/9]
Statistics [NW/ W]	[Valid=139874 / 2743613365633] [Invalid=39274 / 785050511962]
Literal question	Social contacts - child(ren) of household?

Value	Label	Cases	Weighted	Percentage (Weighted)
1	YES	25503	487042236168.0	17.8%
2	NO	114371	2256571129465.0	82.2%
0	NOT APPLICABLE	36270	725071113924.0	
9	NOT STATED	3004	59979398038.0	

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.

File : gss_12M0002_E_1986_c-2_ep_F1

OTH_FAM: Social contacts - with other family members?

Information	[Type= continuous] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-2] [Missing=*/0/9]
Statistics [NW/ W]	[Valid=139874 / 2743613365633] [Invalid=39274 / 785050511962]

Value	Label	Cases	Weighted	Percentage (Weighted)	
1	YES	12497	274471546924.0	10.0%	
2	NO	127377	2469141818709.0		90.0%
0	NOT APPLICABLE	36270	725071113924.0		
9	NOT STATED	3004	59979398038.0		

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.

FRIENDS: SOCIAL CONTACT: FRIENDS?

Information	[Type= continuous] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-2] [Missing=*/0/9]
Statistics [NW/ W]	[Valid=139874 / 2743613365633] [Invalid=39274 / 785050511962]
Literal question	Social contacts - with friends?

Value	Label	Cases	Weighted	Percentage (Weighted)	
1	YES	17580	354970917452.0	12.9%	
2	NO	122294	2388642448181.0		87.1%
0	NOT APPLICABLE	36270	725071113924.0		
9	NOT STATED	3004	59979398038.0		

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.

OTHERS: SOCIAL CONTACT: OTHERS?

Information	[Type= continuous] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-2] [Missing=*/0/9]
Statistics [NW/ W]	[Valid=139874 / 2743613365633] [Invalid=39274 / 785050511962]
Literal question	Social contacts - with others?

Value	Label	Cases	Weighted	Percentage (Weighted)	
1	YES	18960	386156669913.0	14.1%	
2	NO	120914	2357456695720.0		85.9%
0	NOT APPLICABLE	36270	725071113924.0		
9	NOT STATED	3004	59979398038.0		

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.

REFFLAG: REFUSAL FLAG

Information	[Type= continuous] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-1] [Missing=*/0]
Statistics [NW/ W]	[Valid=843 /-] [Invalid=178305 /-] [Mean=1 /-] [StdDev=0 /-]

Value	Label	Cases	Percentage	
1	RESPONSE REFUSED	843		100.0%
0	NOT APPLICABLE	178305		

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.

FWGT_MS: FINAL WEIGHT OF EACH RECORD

Information	[Type= continuous] [Format=numeric] [Range= 361691-261140433] [Missing=*]
Statistics [NW/ W]	[Valid=179148 /-] [Invalid=0 /-] [Mean=19696920.298 /-] [StdDev=16999072.847 /-]
Notes	This gives the final weight of each record in the main sample. The weigh is s nine digit number containing 4 decimal places i.e. xxxxx.xxxx