

Codebook for the Subset of the 2008 General Social Survey

The General Social Survey (GSS) is a large, national probability sample of adults in the United States. It began in 1972 and continued on an almost yearly basis until 1996. In 1996, the GSS became a biannual survey and the sample size increased. Many questions are asked on each survey, while other questions are rotated from survey to survey. This subset from the 2008 GSS includes all the cases (2,023) and 79 variables. It is recommended that you weight the data using the weight variable supplied by GSS (WTSS).

Variable	Description of Variable
ABANY	Abortion if woman wants for any reason
ABDEFECT	Abortion if strong chance of serious defect
ABHLTH	Abortion if woman's health seriously endangered
ABNOMORE	Abortion if married and wants no more children
ABPOOR	Abortion if low income and can't afford more children
ABRAPE	Abortion if pregnant as result of rape
ABSINGLE	Abortion if not married
ADULTS	Household members 18 years and older
AGE	Age of respondent
AGED	Should aged live with their children
AGEKDBRN	Respondent's age when first child born
ATTEND	How often respondent attends religious services
BIBLE	Feelings about the bible
CAPPUN	Favor or oppose death penalty for murder
CHILDS	Number of children
CHLDIDEL	Ideal number of children
CLASS	Subjective class identification
COLATH	Allow anti-religionist to teach
COLCOM	Allow communist to teach
COLHOMO	Allow homosexual to teach
COLMIL	Allow militarist to teach
COLRAC	Allow racist to teach
DEGREE	Respondent's highest degree
EDUC	Highest year of school completed
FAIR	People fair or try to take advantage
FEAR	Afraid to walk at night in neighborhood
FINRELA	Opinion of family income
FUND	Fundamentalism of respondent's religion
GRASS	Should marijuana be made legal
GUNLAW	Favor or oppose gun permits
HAPMAR	Happiness of marriage
HAPPY	General happiness
HEALTH	Condition of health

HOMPOP	Number of persons in household
HRS1	Number of hours respondent worked last week
HRS2	Number of hours respondent usually works a week
ID	Respondent's identification (id) number
INCOME06	Total family income (2007)
INC06REC	Recoded total family income (2007)
LIBATH	Allow anti-religious book in library
LIBCOM	Allow communist's book in library
LIBHOMO	Allow homosexual's book in library
LIBMIL	Allow militarist's book in library
LIBRAC	Allow racist's book in library
MADEG	Mother's highest degree
MAEDUC	Highest year school completed, mother
MARITAL	Marital status
MASEI	R's mother's socioeconomic index
PADEG	Father's highest degree
PAEDUC	Highest year school completed, father
PARTYID	Political Party Affiliation
PASEI	Respondent's father's socioeconomic index
POLVIEWS	Think of self as liberal or conservative
POSTLIFE	Belief in life after death
PRAY	How often does respondent pray
PRAYER	Support Supreme Court Decision on prayer in public schools
PRES04	Vote for Kerry, Bush, Nader in 2004
PRESTG80	Respondent's occupational prestige score (1980)
RACE	Race of respondent
RELIG	Respondent's religious preference
RELIG1	More detailed breakdown of religious preference
RELITEN	Strength of affiliation
SEI	Respondent's socioeconomic index
SEX	Respondent's sex
SIBS	Number of brothers and sisters
SPDEG	Spouse's highest degree
SPEDUC	Highest year school completed, spouse
SPKATH	Allow anti-religionist to speak
SPKCOM	Allow communist to speak
SPKHOMO	Allow homosexual to speak
SPKMIL	Allow militarist to speak
SPKRAC	Allow racist to speak
THNKSELF	How important for child to learn to think for one's self
TRUST	Can people be trusted
TVHOURS	Hours per day watching television
VOTE04	Did respondent vote in 2004
WTSS	Weight variable for GSS08 (recommended that you use WTSS to weight data)

YEAR
ZODIAC

Year of survey (2008 for all respondents)
Respondent's astrological sign