

The GSS is in transition from a replicating cross-sectional design to a design that uses rotating panels. In 2008 there were two components: a new 2008 cross-section with 2,023 cases and the first reinterviews with 1,536 respondents from the 2006 GSS. In 2010 the new design will be fully implemented. There will be a new cross-section of about 2,000 cases, the first reinterviews of the 2008 GSS respondents, and the second and final reinterviews of the 2006 GSS respondents. In 2012 and later years this design will be repeated. Each GSS will thus 1) start a new 4-year/3-wave panel, 2) be in the middle of a 4-year/3-wave panel, and 3) finish a still earlier 4-year/3-wave panel.

GSS data will be released in several stages and formats. The first release combines the new cross-sectional data with previous cross-sections into an updated, cumulative file (1972-2008). This is the traditional GSS data file. The second release is a panel file that combines the results from the 2006 interviews and the 2008 reinterviews. (In later years when the new design is fully implemented, two panel files will be release – an interim, 2-wave/2-year panel and a final, 3-wave, 4-year panel.) Finally, the new cross-sectional data will be combined with the earlier panel data to make an augmented 2008 file. For 2008 this will combine the 2,023 cases from the 2008 cross-section with the 1,536 cases from the 2006 panel reinterviews for a total of 3,559 cases. (In later years data from both earlier panels will be combined with the new cross-sectional data to make an augmented file.)

2008 New Variable List

Variable Name	Variable Label
SPKMسلم	ALLOW MUSLIM CLERGYMEN PREACHING HATRED OF THE US
COLMSLM	ALLOW ANTI-AMERICAN MUSLIM CLERGYMEN TEACHING IN COLLEGE
LIBMSLM	ALLOW ANTI-AMERICAN MUSLIM CLERGYMEN'S BOOKS IN LIBRARY
OTHJEW	CONSIDER SELF TO BE JEWISH
OTHJEW16	R RAISED AS A JEW
SPOTHJEW	SPOUSE CONSIDERS SELF JEWISH
STARTBIZ	R TRYING TO START BUSINESS
OWNBIZ	R OWNS BUSINESS
NUMOWN	NUMBER OF BUSINESSES YOU OWN AND MANAGE
YEARBIZ	YEAR BUSINESS STARTED
PAIDEMPS	R HAS PAID EMPLOYEES
BIZGROSS	BUSINESS REVENUE LAST YEAR
BIZSHARE	PERCENTAGE OWNERSHIP R HOLDS
OWNINC	AMT OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME COMING FROM THIS BUSINESS
WHYBIZ	WHY DID R START BUSINESS
NUMEMPS5	HOW MANY PEOPLE R EMPLOYS 5 YRS AFTER
SPJREL16	RELIGION IN WHICH SPOUSE RAISED
SPJOTH16	R'S SPOUSE RAISED JEWISH
MAJWOTH	R'S MOM WAS JEWISH WHEN R WAS GROWING UP

PAJWOTH	R'S DAD WAS JEWISH WHEN R WAS GROWING UP
BMITZVAH	R HAD BAR OR BAT MITZVAH WHEN R WAS A CHILD
SYNMEM	R BELONGS TO A SYNAGOGUE, TEMPLE, MINYAN, OR HIGH HOLIDAY CONGREGATION
KD1RELIG	RELIGION OF R'S CHILD 1
KD2RELIG	RELIGION OF R'S CHILD 2
KD3RELIG	RELIGION OF R'S CHILD 3
KD4RELIG	RELIGION OF R'S CHILD 4
KD5RELIG	RELIGION OF R'S CHILD 5
KD6RELIG	RELIGION OF R'S CHILD 6
KD7RELIG	RELIGION OF R'S CHILD 7
KD8RELIG	RELIGION OF R'S CHILD 8
KD1JWOTH	R'S CHILD 1 CONSIDERED JEWISH
KD2JWOTH	R'S CHILD 2 CONSIDERED JEWISH
KD3JWOTH	R'S CHILD 3 CONSIDERED JEWISH
KD4JWOTH	R'S CHILD 4 CONSIDERED JEWISH
KD5JWOTH	R'S CHILD 5 CONSIDERED JEWISH
SCIMODE	WAS SAQ SELF ADMINISTERED OR INTERVIEW ADMINISTERED
INTINTL	INTERESTED IN INTERNATIONAL ISSUES
INTFARM	INTERESTED IN FARM ISSUES
INTEDUC	INTERESTED IN LOCAL SCHOOL ISSUES
INTSCI	INTERESTED IN NEW SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES
INTECON	INTERESTED IN ECONOMIC ISSUES
INTTECH	INTERESTED IN TECHNOLOGIES
INTMED	INTERESTED IN MEDICAL DISCOVERIES
INTSPACE	INTERESTED IN SPACE EXPLORATION
INTENVIR	INTERESTED IN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
INTMIL	INTERESTED IN MILITARY POLICY
SCIINTRO	WHICH VERSION OF SCIENCE INTRODUCTION WAS USED
VISART	HOW OFTEN R VISITED ART MUSEUM LAST YEAR
VISNHIST	HOW OFTEN R VISITED NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM LAST YEAR
VISZOO	HOW OFTEN R VISITED ZOO LAST YEAR
VISSCI	HOW OFTEN R VISITED SCIENCE MUSEUM
VISLIB	HOW OFTEN R VISITED PUBLIC LIBRARY LAST YEAR
SCIMATH	QUALITY OF SCIENCE & MATH EDUC IN US IS INADEQUATE
ANSCITST	SCIENTISTS SHLD BE ALLOWED TO DO RESEARCH ANIMALS' PAIN & INJURY
MABOYGRL	DOES MOM'S GENE DECIDE BABY'S SEX
H2OLIFE	WHAT PROPERTY OF WATER IS MOST IMPORTANT
ANHEAT	WHICH BODILY FEATURES BE BEST SUITED TO A SMALL ANIMAL LIVING IN A COLD CLIMATE
LFTPLANE	KEY FACTOR THAT ENABLES AIRPLANE TO LIFT

STORMTXT	DO YOU SEE LIGHTNING BEFORE HEARING THUNDER
LITMSTXT	WHY LITMUS PAPER DOESN'T CHANGE COLOR IN MIXED SOLUTION
GOLDFISH	EXPERIMENT ABOUT GOLDFISH AND TEMPERATURE
SALTH2O	OCEAN WATER FOR VEGETABLES
EROSION	EXAMPLE OF EROSION
GENES	TRAITS ARE TRANSFERRED OVER GENERATION
GILLS	HOW FISH GET OXYGEN
UPBREATH	WHY SHORT BREATH AT THE TOP OF A MOUNTAIN
DAYNIGHT	WHEN DID MOST ERRORS OCCUR
WEIGHING	WHICH IS THE BEST METHOD TO REPORT WEIGHT OF LEAF
SEESAND	WHICH PICTURE SHOWS WHAT SHE SHOULD USE FOR THE 2ND POT
FISHEXP1	WHAT IS SCIENTIST TRYING TO FIND OUT FROM THIS EXPERIMENT
FISHEXP2	WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THAT ANSWER
NANOBEN	BALANCE WILL BE STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF THE BENEFITS OR SLIGHTLY
NANOHARM	BALANCE WILL BE STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF THE BENEFITS OR SLIGHTLY
DONE911A	HAS R DEVELOPED EMERGENCY PLANS
EFF911A	HOW EFFECTIVE R THINKS DEVELOPING EMERGENCY PLANS
DONE911B	HAS R STOCKPILED SUPPLIES
EFF911B	HOW EFFECTIVE R THINKS STOCKPILING SUPPLIES
DONE911C	HAS R PURCHASED THINGS TO MAKED THEM SAFER
EFF911C	HOW EFFECTIVE R THINKS PURCHASING THINGS TO MAKE THEM SAFER
DONE911D	HAS R LEARNED WHERE TO GET MORE INFO ABOUT TERRORISM
EFF911D	HOW EFFECTIVE R THINKS LEARNING WHERE TO GET INFO ABOUT TERRORISM
DONE911E	HAS R DUPLICATED IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS
EFF911E	HOW EFFECTIVE R THINKS DUPLICATING IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS
DONE911F	HAS R REDUCED AIR TRAVEL
EFF911F	HOW EFFECTIVE R THINKS REDUCING AIR TRAVEL
DONE911G	HAS R REDUCED TRAVEL BY TRAIN
EFF911G	HOW EFFECTIVE R THINKS REDUCING TRAVEL BY TRAIN
DONE911H	HAS R REDUCED USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
EFF911H	HOW EFFECTIVE R THINKS REDUCING USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
DONE911I	HAS R CHANGED MAIL HANDLING PROCEDURES
EFF911I	HOW EFFECTIVE R THINKS CHANGING MAIL HANDLING PROCEDURES
DONE911J	HAS R BECOME VIGILANT OF WHAT IS GOING ON AROUND R
EFF911J	HOW EFFECTIVE R THINKS BECOMING VIGILANT
DONE911K	HAS R AVOIDED TRAVEL TO CERTAIN CITIES
EFF911K	HOW EFFECTIVE R THINKS AVOIDING TRAVEL TO CERTAIN CITIES
DONE911L	HAS R AVOIDED TALL BUILDINGS
EFF911L	HOW EFFECTIVE R THINKS AVOIDING TALL BUILDINGS
DONE911M	HAS R AVOIDED NATIONAL LANDMARKS
EFF911M	HOW EFFECTIVE R THINKS AVOIDING NATIONAL LANDMARKS

DONE911N	HAS R DONE ANYTHING ELSE TO DEAL WITH TERRORISM
EFF911N	HOW EFFECTIVE R THINKS THAT IS
DONEELSE	SPECIFY WHAT IT IS R HAS DONE
WORK3YRS	HOW MANY FULL TIME JOBS R HAS IN PAST 3 YRS SINCE 2005
CUREMPYR	HOW MANY YRS R WORKED FOR CURRENT EMPLOYER
PAYCHNGE	HOW MUCH HAS R PAY CHANGED ON R'S CURRENT JOB SINCE R BEGAN
PASTPAY	WAS R'S STARTING PAY HIGHER/LOWER/SAME AS EARNING IN PREVIOUS JOB
WHYLEAVE	WHY R LEFT LAST JOB
WHYJBCT1	WHY JOB ABOLISHED OR LAID OFF
WHYJBCT2	WHY JOB ABOLISHED OR LAID OFF
LOSEJB12	HOW LIKELY R WILL LOSE JOB OR LAID OFF IN NEXT 1 YR
WHYLOSE1	WHY THAT MUCH POSSIBILITY OF JOB ABOLISHED OR LAID OFF
WHYLOSE2	WHY THAT MUCH POSSIBILITY OF JOB ABOLISHED OR LAID OFF
WHYLOSE3	WHY THAT MUCH POSSIBILITY OF JOB ABOLISHED OR LAID OFF
FINDNWJB	HOW LIKELY R TO FIND JOB WITH SAME/BETTER BENEFIT
MORETRDE	MORE TRADE, LESS JOBS IN USA
NEWJOBS	JOBS CREATED ARE BETTER THAN R'S CURRENT JOB
LOSTJOBS	JOBS TAKEN AWAY ARE BETTER THAN R'S CURRENT JOB
WKCOMPTR	USE COMPUTER AT WORK
WOCOMPTR	R CAN DO JOB WITHOUT COMPUTER
AUTONOJB	R HEARD OF PERSONS IN R'S FIRM HAVING JOBS REPLACED BY COMPUTERS
MEETF2F1	HOW OFTEN MEET FACE TO FACE WITH CUSTOMERS, CLIENTS, PATIENTS
MEETF2F2	HOW OFTEN MEET FACE TO FACE WITH CO-WORKERS TO WORK ON PROJECTS
INTLCOWK	HOW OFTEN EXCHANGE INFO WITH CO-WORKERS LOCATED OUTSIDE USA
LASTYRWK	THINKING ABOUT LAST FULL-TIME JOB, WHAT YR R WORKED LAST
LEAVEJB	WHY DID R LEAVE LAST JOB
WHYNOJB1	WHY JOB ABOLISHED OR LAID OFF
WHYNOJB2	WHY JOB ABOLISHED OR LAID OFF
INCLSTJB	EARNINGS FROM ALL SOURCES FOR THIS JOB
BORNSP	IN WHAT COUNTRY WERE YOU BORN
AGECMEUS	IF BORN OUTSIDE USA, WHAT AGE WERE YOU WHEN YOU PERMANENTLY MOVED TO USA
VISA	DO YOU HOLD A SPECIAL VISA
TYPEVISA	WHAT KIND OF VISA
NATDEG	IN WHICH COUNTRY DID YOU OBTAIN YOUR HIGHEST DEGREE?
EMPHLTH	DO YOU RECEIVE HEALTH INSURANCE FROM EMPLOYER
EMPHPLAN	NAME OF INSURANCE OR HMO
OTHPLAN	OTHER NAME FOR INSURANCE OR HMO POLICY
SEXSEX18	SINCE AGE 18, HAVE YOUR SEX PARTNERS BEEN...
TOLDSMSX	AT WHAT AGE YOU FIRST TOLD SOMEONE THAT YOU HAD SEX WITH SAME SEX
ATTRACTD	AT WHAT AGE WERE YOU FIRST SEXUALLY ATTRACTED TO SAME SEX

TOLDSXOR	AT WHAT AGE YOU FIRST TOLD SOMEONE THAT YOU WERE GAY/LES/BI
RELGENDR	WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP SITUATION
MARUNION	LEGAL MARITAL STATUS
SEXUNION	SEX OF R'S SPOUSE/CIVIL UNION PARTNER/DOMESTIC PARTNER
EVKID	HAVE EVER GIVEN BIRTH TO/FATHERED A CHILD
ADOPTKID	HAVE EVER LEGALLY ADOPTED A CHILD
KIDLIVED	CHILDREN UNDER 18 HAVE EVER LIVED WITH R UNDER R'S CARE
KIDRESP	R IS LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE BIOLOGICAL/ADOPTIVE PARENT OF A CHIND UNDER 18
KIDNOW1	R'S CHILDREN UNDER 18 LIVING WITH R
KIDNOW2	R IS LIVING IN A HH WHERE CHILDREN UNDER 18 ARE LIVING WITH R UNDER R'S CARE
TOLDWORK	HOW MANY OF R'S COWORKERS KNOW R IS GAY/LES/BI
EVLOSEJB	IN LIFE, R HAS EVER BEEN DENIED A JOB OR FIRED CUZ EMPLOYERS BELIEVED R WAS GAY/LES/BI
LOSEJOB5	IN LAST 5 YRS, R HAS BEEN DENIED A JOB OR FIRED CUZ EMPLOYER BELIEVED R WAS GAY/LES/BI
EVNEGJOB	IN LIFE, R EVER BEEN DENIED PROMO OR RECVD BAD EVALUATION CUZ EMPLOYR BELIVD R WAS GAY/LES/BI
NEGJOB5	IN LAST 5 YRS, R BEEN DENIED PROMO OR RECVD BAD EVALUATION CUZ EMPLOYR BELIVD R WAS GAY/LES/BI
EVHARJB	IN LIFE, R HAS EVER BEEN HARRASSED ON JOB CUZ R WAS BELIEVED TO BE GAY/LES/BI
HARJOB5	IN LAST 5 YRS, R HAS EVER BEEN HARRASSED ON JOB CUZ R WAS BELIEVED TO BE GAY/LES/BI
EVDWELL	IN LIFE, R HAS EVER BEEN PREVENTED FROM MOVING CUZ LANDLORD BELIVED R WAS GAY/LES/BI
DWELL5	IN LAST 5 YRS, R HAS BEEN PREVENTED FROM MOVING CUZ LANDLORD BELIVED R WAS GAY/LES/BI
EMPHLTH1	CURRENT EMPLOYER OFFER HEALTH CARE INSURANCE TO R AS EMPLOYEE
EMPHLTH2	EMPLOYER'S COVERAGE
HLTHCOVR	R HAS HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE
HLTHTYPE	SOURCE OF HEALTH INSURANCE
SPPART	R'S CURRENT INSURANCE PLAN COVERS SPOUSE
MYKIDS	R'S CURRENT INSURANCE PLAN COVERS CHILDREN
OTHKIDS	R'S CURRENT INSURANCE PLAN COVERS CHILDREN FOR WHOM R NOT A BIO/ADOPTIVE PARENT
HARSEXJB	R HAS BEEN THE OBJECT OF SEXUAL ADVANCES/PROPOSITIONS FROM SUPERVISORS
HARSEXCL	SINCE 18 R HAS EVER FOUND SELF THE OBJECT OF SEXUAL ADVANCES FROM RELIGIOUS LEADERS
OWNCLERG	DID THIS HAPPEN WITH A LEADER IN CONGREGATION R WAS ATTENDING

NUMCLERG	WITH HOW MANY DIFFERENT LEADERS HAS THIS HAPPENED TO YOU
OPENREL1	R AND LEADER EVER BECOME AN OPENLY ACKNOWLEDGED COUPLE
OPENREL2	R AND LEADER EVER BECOME AN OPENLY ACKNOWLEDGED COUPLE
OPENREL3	R AND LEADER EVER BECOME AN OPENLY ACKNOWLEDGED COUPLE
COUNSEL1	LEADER1 WAS R'S COUNSELOR
COUNSEL2	LEADER2 WAS R'S COUNSELOR
COUNSEL3	LEADER3 WAS R'S COUNSELOR
CLRGMAR1	LEADER1 WAS MARRIED AT THE TIME
CLRGMAR2	LEADER2 WAS MARRIED AT THE TIME
CLRGMAR3	LEADER3 WAS MARRIED AT THE TIME
CLRGSEX1	R HAD SEXUAL CONTACT WITH LEADER1
CLRGSEX2	R HAD SEXUAL CONTACT WITH LEADER2
CLRGSEX3	R HAD SEXUAL CONTACT WITH LEADER3
CLRGGEN1	SEX OF LEADER1
CLRGGEN2	SEX OF LEADER2
CLRGGEN3	SEX OF LEADER3
ONGOREL1	R HAD AN ONGOING RELATIONSHIP WITH LEADER1
ONGOREL2	R HAD AN ONGOING RELATIONSHIP WITH LEADER2
ONGOREL3	R HAD AN ONGOING RELATIONSHIP WITH LEADER3
HUSHREL1	LEADER1 TRIED TO KEEP R FROM TELLING OTHER PEOPLE ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP
HUSHREL2	LEADER2 TRIED TO KEEP R FROM TELLING OTHER PEOPLE ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP
HUSHREL3	LEADER3 TRIED TO KEEP R FROM TELLING OTHER PEOPLE ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP
TOLDEXP1	R HAS EVER TOLD ANYONE ABOUT EXPERIENCE WITH LEADER1
TOLDEXP2	R HAS EVER TOLD ANYONE ABOUT EXPERIENCE WITH LEADER2
TOLDEXP3	R HAS EVER TOLD ANYONE ABOUT EXPERIENCE WITH LEADER3
TOLDREL1	R EVER TOLD ANY AUTHORITY IN CONGREGATION ABOUT EXPERIENCE WITH LEADER1
TOLDREL2	R EVER TOLD ANY AUTHORITY IN CONGREGATION ABOUT EXPERIENCE WITH LEADER2
TOLDREL3	R EVER TOLD ANY AUTHORITY IN CONGREGATION ABOUT EXPERIENCE WITH LEADER3
KNWCLSEX	R KNOWS OTHER PEOPLE WHO WERE OBJ OF SEXUAL ADVANCES
CLSCLSEX	ANY OF THEM WERE CLOSE FRIENDS OR FAMILY MEMBERS
CLRGMODE	WAS SAQ SELF ADMINISTERED OR INTERVIEW ADMINISTERED
GEOMOBIL	HAS R MOVED FROM ONE KIND OF PLACE TO ANOTHER
RELGRPEQ	ALL RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN USA SHOULD HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS
RSPCTREL	WE MUST RESPECT ALL RELIGIONS
RELMARRY	R ACCEPTS A PERSON FROM A DIFFERENT RELIGION OR VIEW FROM R'S MARRYING RELATIVE

RELCAND	R ACCEPTS A PERSON FROM A DIFFERENT RELIGION OR VIEW FROM R'S BEING CANDIDATE OF PARTY R PREFERENCES
RELEXT1	RELIGIOUS EXTREMISTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING TO EXPRESS VIEWS
RELEXT2	PEOPLE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PUBLISH BOOKS EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS
REINCAR	BELIEVE IN REINCARNATION
NIRVANA	BELIEVE IN NIRVANA
ANCESTRS	BELIEVE IN SUPERNATURAL POWER OF DECEASED ANCESTORS
MYWAYGOD	R HAS OWN WAY OF CONNECTING WITH GOD WITHOUT CHURCHES OR RELIGIOUS SERVICES
RELOBJECT	FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS R HAS IN HOME SHRINE, ALTAR, OR RELIGIOUS OBJECT ON DISPLAY
VISTHOLY	HOW OFTEN R VISITS HOLY PLACE FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS
RELSPT	IS R SPIRITUAL PERSON
PAXHAPPY	RELIGION HELPS PEOPLE TO FIND INNER PEACE AND HAPPINESS
MAKEFRND	RELIGION HELPS PEOPLE TO MAKE FRIENDS
COMFORT	RELIGION HELPS PEOPLE TO GAIN COMFORT IN TIMES OF TROUBLE AND SORROW
RIGHTPEO	RELIGION HELPS PEOPLE TO MEET THE RIGHT KIND OF PEOPLE
PERSCRFC	R MADE SOME PERSONAL SACRIFICE AS AN EXPRESSION OF FAITH BY FASTING, GIVING UP ACTIVITY, ETC.
SEXORNT	SEXUAL ORIENTATION
USCITZN	IS R US CITIZEN
FUCITZN	IS R PLANNING/APPLYING FOR US CITIZENSHIP OR NOT
PILLOKY	BIRTH CONTROL TO TEENAGERS 14-16 (FORM 2)
POPESPKY	POPE IS INFALLIBLE ON MATTERS OF FAITH OR MORALS (FORM 2)
POLHIToy	EVER APPROVE OF POLICE STRIKING CITIZEN (FORM 2)
LETDIE1Y	ALLOW INCURABLE PATIENTS TO DIE (FORM 2)
RES2006	WAS R LIVING IN USA DURING MARCH-MAY 2006
CSHUTYPE	DURING MARCH-MAY 2006, WAS R RESIDENT IN HOUSEHOLD OR INSTITUTION