

Dataset Title: National Survey of Black Americans

Overview: The National Survey of Black Americans provides data on social, economic, and psychological components of life for African-Americans in the United States. The survey asked interviewees questions about their family and friends, community, racial identity, political opinions, and employment history. It was the first national sample of Black Americans, as previous surveys had been conducted on a much smaller scale.

Date: 1979-1980 (Wave 1)
1987-1988 (Wave 2)
1988-1989 (Wave 3)
1992 (Wave 4)

Time dimension: Longitudinal Study

Sample: The researchers used a national multistage probability sample based on the 1970 census so that every African-American household in the continental U.S. had an equal probability of being chosen to participate in the survey. The sample was self-weighting.

Two new screening methods were used to select the households that would be used in this study. The Standard Listing and Screening Procedure (SLSAP) identified a subsample of households to be references for the race of occupants in surrounding households, while the Wide Area Screening Procedure (WASP) was screened by Caucasian interviewers in areas where there were few or no black households. The Survey Research Center explicitly told interviewers which black housing units (HUs) to contact in the SLSAP procedure, but the identification of these reference housing units was contingent upon interviewer's assessment in the WASP.

Data source: Data came from personal interviews with 2,107 African-Americans who were 18 years or older and citizens of the United States. All of the interviewers were African-American men and women who received training at the Survey Research Center in the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research.

Self-Identified Race and Hispanic Origin Measures:

G1. People use different words to refer to people of our race. What word do you use?

G2. Four words that many people use are Black, Negro, Afro-American and Colored. Are there any of these words that you would not want to be called?

1. YES

5. NO → GO TO G3

G2a. Which words?

G5. Which would you say is more important to you -- being Black or being American, or are both equally important to you?

1. BLACK

2. AMERICAN

3. BOTH EQUALLY

7. OTHER (SPECIFY :

_____)

8. DON'T KNOW

G10. Who do you feel closer to -- Black people in Africa or White people in America?

1. BLACKS IN AFRICA

2. WHITES IN AMERICA

3. NEITHER

4. BOTH

8. DON'T KNOW

Observed Race Measures:

The interviewer was asked to draw a thumbnail sketch of each respondent.

Reflected Race Measures: N/A

Phenotype Measures:

K21. The R's skin color is:

1. VERY DARK BROWN

2. DARK BROWN

3. MEDIUM BROWN

4. LIGHT BROWN (LIGHT SKINNED)

5. VERY LIGHT BROWN (VERY LIGHT SKINNED)

Race or Ethnic origin of Respondent's Parents: N/A

Interviewer Characteristics: N/A

Other Race Measures:

D23. Is your work supervisor Black, White or what?

1. BLACK

2. WHITE

3. NO SUPERVISOR

7. OTHER (SPECIFY:

_____)

J2. Have you or any of your relatives ever tried to trace your family's roots?

1. YES

5. NO

Collected by: Program for Research on Black Americans at the Institute for Social Research,
University of Michigan
Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research

Funded by: National Institute of Mental Health
Center for the Study of Minority Group Mental Health

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Citation:
Jackson, James S., and Gerald Gurin. National Survey of Black Americans, 1979-1980.
ICPSR08512-v1. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research
[distributor], 1999. <http://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR08512.v1>

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