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HARI – 2003: FILE STRUCTURE NOTES

Surveying the Jewish Population in the United States

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The Institute's 2001-02 data file from the national Survey of Heritage and Religious Identification (HARI) is an SPSS file, originally Version 14.0.

As is the case with most Jewish population surveys, the questionnaire is intricate and the data file is complex. Users should have a copy of the questionnaire and, ideally, the full methods report when running the data.

Here are some key attributes of the **data collection**:

- The telephone interviews took place July 3 – Nov. 7, 2001 ($n_1=5,100$) and March 4 – June 11, 2001 ($n_2=5,104$), yielding a total of 10,204 interviews.
- HARI used a nationally representative GENESYS™ sample of telephone numbers, purchased from MSG.
- All telephone numbers in the starting sample received at least 10 contact attempts before replacement.
- Respondents were randomly selected using the "most recent birthday" method, with no substitutions allowed.
- Refusal conversions were attempted except in cases of angry, adamant, or abusive refusers.
- Further details of the sample, sampling error, and interviewing can be found in the methods report, "Surveying the Jewish Population in the United States," prepared by Gary Tobin and me. (A copy of the questionnaire is contained in this report.)

Here are some important things to know about the **data file**:

- Weights: “prswght8” is the person-level weight; “hhwgt” is the household-level weight. For most analyses, the person-level weight is the appropriate one to use.
- The survey contains many multiple response questions, where more than one answer was accepted. These are indicated in the data file by _1, _2, _3 ... _n variable naming. Caution: This numbering format does NOT denote the sequence in which the answers were given (which is not possible to determine).
- “QXcom” variables: “Com” variables have been constructed from a combination of answers to more than one question (for example, one’s current religious identity is constructed from a series of contingent questions). Furthermore, since “com” variables themselves may sometimes be multiple response variables – such as having more than one current religious identity – these can also take the multiple response format, for example, Q9com_1, Q9com_2, ... Q9com_6, indicating that up to six answers were accepted as the respondent’s religious identity. Other “com” variables are:
 - * Q8com_1 thru Q8com_6 = the religion(s) the respondent was raised in;
 - * Q9ecom_1 thru Q9ecom_3 = the respondent’s mother’s last religion(s);
 - * Q9fcom_1 thru Q9fcom_3 = the respondent’s father’s last religion(s);
 - * Q11com_1 thru Q11com_3 = the respondent’s spouse’s current religion(s);
 - * Q14com_1 thru Q14com_6 = the respondent’s earlier religion(s) which are different than the current one(s).
- Several mid-survey changes were made to the survey instrument (and interview) after the end of the first wave of interviewing and before the beginning of the second:
 - * DK and REF answerers to Q9 originally skipped to Q10; in wave 2, the skip was changed to go to Q9e and then Q9f to try to capture the respondent’s mother’s and father’s religion.
 - * The same change was applied to those answering No Religion, Atheist, or Agnostic in Q9.
 - * Q22-22a were added in wave 2 to find out if the children in Jewish households are being raised Jewish.These changes are footnoted in the printed questionnaire.
- Coding of religion categories: All answers of “Agnostic” and “Atheist” have been recoded into “None / No religion / Secular” (code 73). So were “Ethical Culture”, “Humanist”, and “Multiple/Many/All”.

- IJCR definition of Jewish respondent: The variable names or labels are generally self-explanatory and clearly descriptive. One key variable, "Jewish", warrants explanation: "Jewish" = Yes reflects the IJCR definition for adult population estimates, which includes:
 - * Respondents whose current religion is Jewish (or Jewish and some other),
 - * Respondents who identify ethnically as Jews (or Jewish and something else) AND do not have some other current religion,
 - * Respondents who were raised Jewish AND do not have some other current religion,
 - * Respondents with a Jewish mother or father AND who do not have some other current religion,
 - * Respondents who practice Judaism as another religion and do not consider another religion as their primary religion, and
 - * Respondents who formerly considered themselves Jewish AND do not have some other current religion.
- The same full set of questions was not asked about the respondent's spouse/partner (if any). As a result, a spouse is considered Jewish ("jspouse" variable) if Judaism is the spouse's current religion (or Jewish and some other), or if Jewish is the spouse's ethnic identity and he/she has no current religion.
- A Jewish household ("jhh" variable) is one where either the respondent or the spouse/partner is Jewish by these definitions.
- The user might decide that some variables are of minimal value and perhaps deletable to shorten the file, particularly the QG6b series asking about the race of other family members when different from the respondent's race (36 separate variables).

BE SURE TO READ THE METHODS REPORT FOR ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION!