

DESCRIPTION & PURPOSE

To become familiar with how sociological research questions and demographic data are interrelated using data from the General Social Survey (GSS).

INSTRUCTIONS

Becoming Familiar

- (1) Go to the GSS site, located at <http://www.norc.org/GSS+Website/>
- (2) Click on the “**About GSS**” link in the top navigation bar, and in the next page, read the brief description about what the GSS is all about. Then click on the “**FAQs**” link in the same top navigation bar and click on some of the questions asked that interest you.
- (3) Again in the top navigation bar, go to the “**Data Analysis**” link, then in the left column, expand the “NORC Public Use Catalog,” “GSS,” etc. until you come to the “**Subject Index**” link.
- (4) After clicking on the “**Subject Index**” link, in the right frame, you’ll see the GSS’s list of variables available for analysis, arranged alphabetically.
- (5) Since your task will be to explore different social issues relating to race and ethnicity, click on the letter “**R**” and then on the “**Race**” link.
- (6) Click on the “**Actual (i.e. R.’s race)**” link, then on the “**Race of Respondent**” link. At the bottom of the page, you’ll see the answers/responses of White, Black, and “Other.”

Begin Tabulations

- (7) You’re now ready to begin creating your own cross tabulations. Click on the blue “**Tabulation**” link in the top submenu.
- (8) You can add variables to tabulate by (1) clicking through the different letter links to see all the variables to find the one you want, or (2) using the “Advanced Metadata Search” link, then in the “Search criteria” option, choosing “Variable name” and then typing the name of the variable you want.
- (9) Choose three topics/social issues to run cross tabulations with Race.
- (10) When you have your three variables and their codes, back in the “**Tabulation**” function, find **Race** first, then click on “**Add to column.**”
- (11) Then find your variable to cross-tabulate with Race, then click on “**Add to row.**”

- (12) The program will then generate a cross-tabulation on Race and your other variable. Write down or if you know how, do a screen capture of the table and save it as a picture file.
- (13) Once you've captured/copied your cross-tabulation table, click on the "Clear" icon in the top submenu (green 'recycling' icon).
- (14) Click on the "**Tabulation**" link again and repeat two more times, so that you end up with three cross-tabulations with Race and three variables.

Interpret Your Results

- (15) For each cross-tabulation, take a few minutes to look over the results to analyze what they mean.
- (16) Write down one observations about each cross-tabulation result that you just produced, along with one "future question" that you might ask in order to find out more specific information on your findings.
 - For example, using the variable PARTYID, the data show that 66.8% of Blacks identify as a "strong Democrat" or "not strong Democrat" while only 32.6% of Whites identified the same way
 - One possible "future question" may be, How would each racial group's political party identification differ if level of education were added as a third variable?

Write Up Your Report

- (17) Finally, type out and submit a writeup to me (either by hard copy or email) by the start of class on **Thursday, April 17** that contains each of the following:
 - A list of the three topic variables that you chose and why each of these topics interest you (5 pts.)
 - For each of the three topics, include (a) some kind of reproduction of your tabulation chart (either hand-drawn, a table created in Word or Excel, or a screen capture picture); (b) one observation on the tabulation results and (c) one "future research" question (30 pts. each)
 - Be sure to include your name on your report

Good luck and have fun.