Weight Variables for the SDA Version of GSS

Composite Weight for All Years: COMPWT

The SDA version of the GSS provides a **composite weight (COMPWT)** that can be used for all the years of the GSS. It incorporates the various weights provided in the GSS for various years. **This is the default weight for the analysis programs in SDA.**

This composite weight adjusts for:

- The number of adults in the household
- Black oversampling in 1982 and 1987
- Problems with form randomization in 1978-1985
- Post-stratification to Census variables in 1988 and later
- Differential non-response in 2004 and later

  There is also a small adjustment factor, so that the number of weighted cases equals the number of unweighted cases in the data file.

This document explains how the composite weight was constructed out of the various weights included in the GSS dataset, depending on the year of the interview.

New Weight Variables Introduced in the 2021 GSS and later

- Beginning in 2021, the GSS included new weights that, in addition to previous adjustments, **are also post-stratified** to match the distributions of several Census variables, using a procedure called "raking". (See the NORC GSS codebook for details. That codebook can be accessed from the title page of the SDA online codebook.)

- There are two such weights – WTSSPS and WTSSNRPS. The difference between them is that WTSSNRPS includes the non-response adjustment made possible since 2004. As of 2024, NORC extended these new weights back to earlier years. WTSSPS was extended back to include all the years since 1972. WTSSNRPS was extended back to include all the years since 2004. **Therefore, in 2024 COMPWT used the revised WTSSPS for the years 1972-2002 and**

used WTSSNRPS for all years from 2004 and later. Users should consequently be aware that analysis results for years prior to 2021 could be slightly different from results carried out on SDA in those previous years. The correlation between the current COMPWT and that in the years 2004 to 2018 is on average .83.

The following COMPUTE command was used to generate COMPWT:

```
if (year lt 2004) $wt = wtssps
else $wt = wtssnrps
endif
compwt = $wt * (75699/75700.601)
```
 (The factor at the end was a small adjustment to make the total number of weighted cases equal to the number of unweighted cases.)

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