USC Dornsife

Center for Economic and Social Research

Program on Global Aging, Health, and Policy

An Introduction to the Gateway to Global Aging Data

ELSA User Day

October 17th, 2018

Jenny Wilkens

Health and Retirement Studies around the World

- The Health and Retirement Study (HRS) – 1992
- The Mexican Health and Aging Study (MHAS) – 2001
- The English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) – 2002
- The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) – 2004
- The Costa Rican Longevity and Healthy Aging Study (CRELES) – 2005
- The Korean Longitudinal Study of Aging (KLoSA) – 2006

Health and Retirement Studies around the World

- The Japanese Study of Aging and Retirement (JSTAR) – 2007
- The Indonesian Family Life Survey (IFLS) – 2007
- The Study on global AGEing and adult health (SAGE) – 2010
  - China, Ghana, India, Mexico, Russian Federation, South Africa
- The Irish Longitudinal Study on Aging (TILDA) – 2010
- The China Health and Retirement Study (CHARLS) – 2010

Health and Retirement Studies around the World

- Health and Aging in Africa: A Longitudinal Study of an INDEPTH Community in South Africa (HAALSI) – 2014
- The Brazilian Longitudinal Study of Ageing and Well-Being (ELSI) – 2015
- Healthy Ageing in Scotland (HAGIS) – 2015
- Northern Ireland Cohort Longitudinal Study of Ageing (NICOLA) – 2015
- The Longitudinal Aging Study in India (LASI) – 2018

HRS Surveys: Key Innovations

Multi-disciplinary subject matter

- Demographics, health, economics, etc.

Enhancing quality of economic data

- Nonresponse bias
- Unfolding bracket questions
- Imputation

Integrating biomarkers into social surveys

- Anthropometry, blood pressure, performance measures, vision and hearing exams, blood specimen, genetics, brain images

HRS Surveys: Core Content Areas

Demographic

Education, marital status, age, resident, birth year, birth month

Health

Cognition, disease, depression, injury, physical functioning, physical measures, health behaviors

Health Services

Insurance, utilization, expenditure, out-of-pocket spending

Work & Employment

Employment status/history, labor force, earnings, disability, retirement, type of work, pension

Economic Status

Income and consumption: earnings, asset income, government transfers, pension

Wealth: financial assets, housing, non-financial assets

Family Structure & Social Network

Parents' information, household structure, family exchange, family support, social participation

Gateway to Global Aging

Secure | https://g2aging.org

GATEWAY TO GLOBAL AGING DATA

SURVEY DOCUMENTATION CONCORDANCE GRAPH PUBLICATIONS DOWNLOAD HELP

WHAT'S NEW

- Register for an upcoming webinar
- Harmonized CHARLS Ver.C now available
- New Universal Access to Study Data page
- We're hiring a programmer
- Physical & Anthropometric Measurement Working Paper
- Draft of Stress Measures Working Paper
- 2017 Gateway Meeting Summary and Slides

VIDEO

What's Available on the Gateway

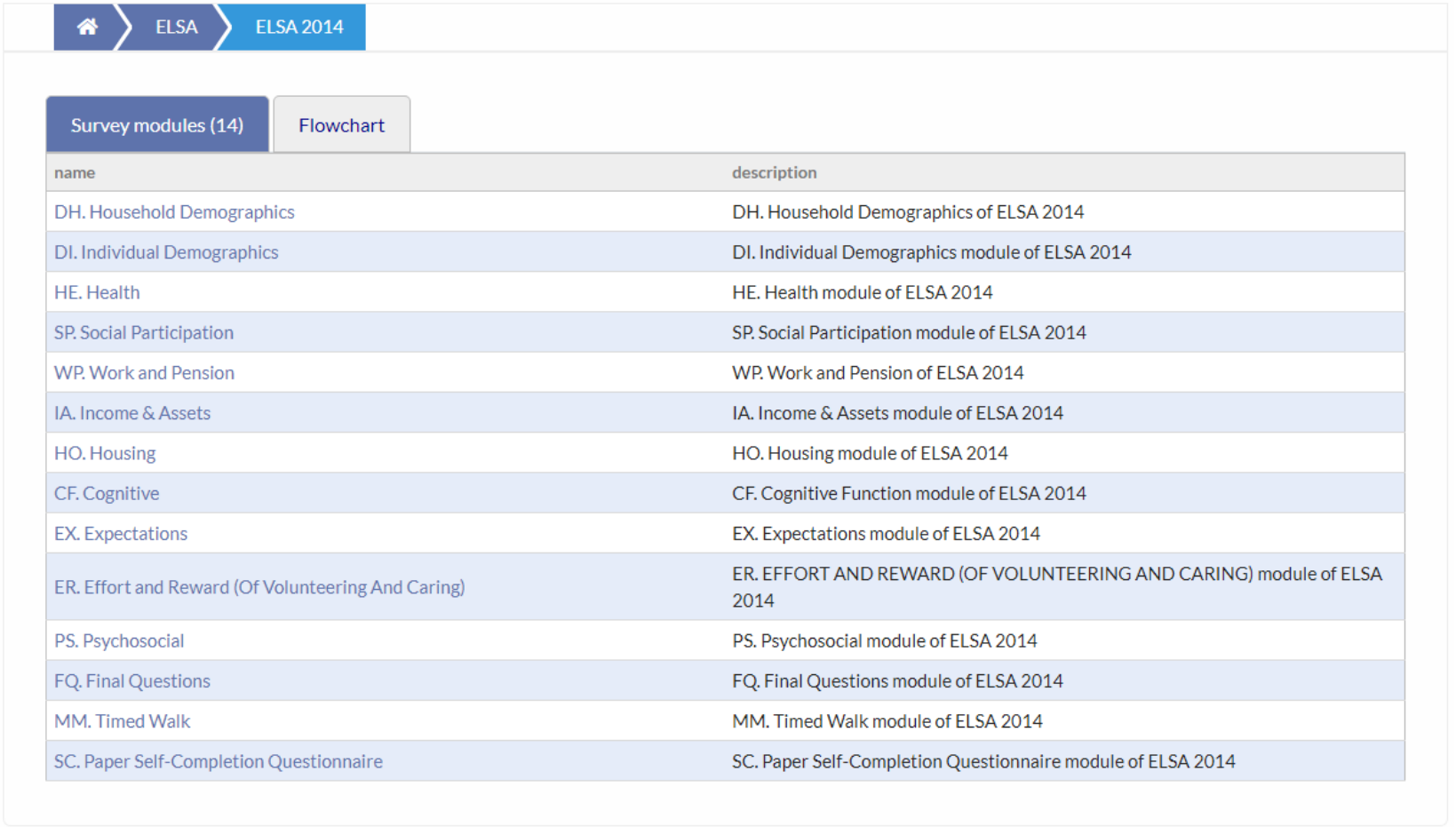
- HRS family surveys
  - Survey questionnaires
  - Flow-charts illustrating questionnaire skip patterns
  - Search by keyword or by topic
- Cross-study concordance tables of specific survey topics
- In-depth documentation of cross-study comparability
- Statistics shown in the interactive graphs and tables
- Search of publications based on HRS family surveys
- Harmonized data

Overview of HRS Family Surveys

- Survey Questionnaires
  - Flow Charts
    - The location of all modules and survey items inside the interview
    - How the question was asked and to whom
  - Individual Survey Questions
    - Includes question text and interviewer prompts
    - Includes answer types and choices, and how the values are formatted
- Key Word Search of Questionnaires and Harmonized Datasets
  - Every variable from harmonized datasets
  - Every question from individual studies by year
- Individual Item Search of Harmonized Datasets
  - Every variable from harmonized datasets by study and year
  - Select from over 100 topics

Survey Questionnaires

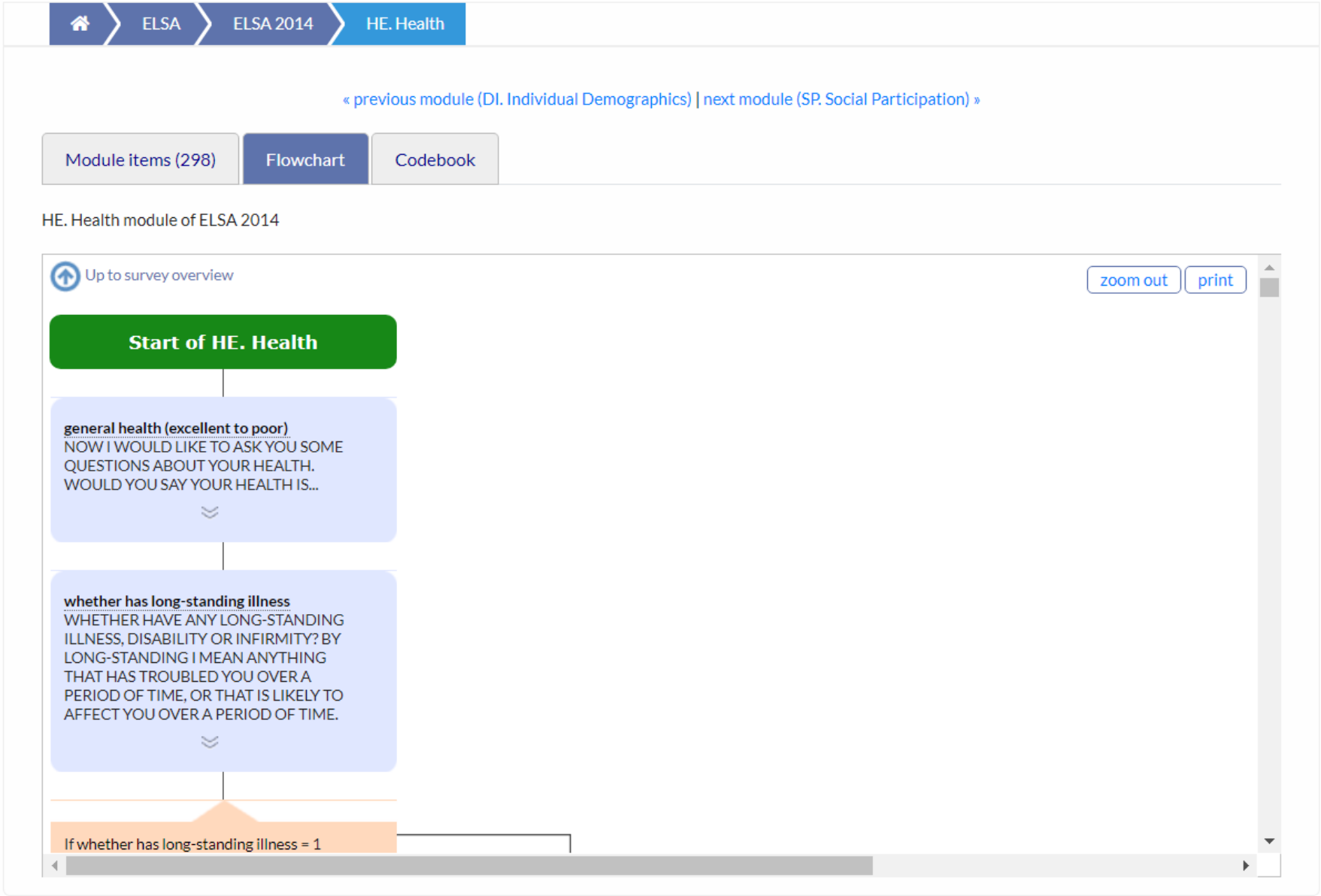
- Gateway provides detailed information about all the parts of the survey
- Includes order of modules and order of questions within modules



name	description
DH. Household Demographics	DH. Household Demographics of ELSA 2014
DI. Individual Demographics	DI. Individual Demographics module of ELSA 2014
HE. Health	HE. Health module of ELSA 2014
SP. Social Participation	SP. Social Participation module of ELSA 2014
WP. Work and Pension	WP. Work and Pension of ELSA 2014
IA. Income & Assets	IA. Income & Assets module of ELSA 2014
HO. Housing	HO. Housing module of ELSA 2014
CF. Cognitive	CF. Cognitive Function module of ELSA 2014
EX. Expectations	EX. Expectations module of ELSA 2014
ER. Effort and Reward (Of Volunteering And Caring)	ER. EFFORT AND REWARD (OF VOLUNTEERING AND CARING) module of ELSA 2014
PS. Psychosocial	PS. Psychosocial module of ELSA 2014
FQ. Final Questions	FQ. Final Questions module of ELSA 2014
MM. Timed Walk	MM. Timed Walk module of ELSA 2014
SC. Paper Self-Completion Questionnaire	SC. Paper Self-Completion Questionnaire module of ELSA 2014

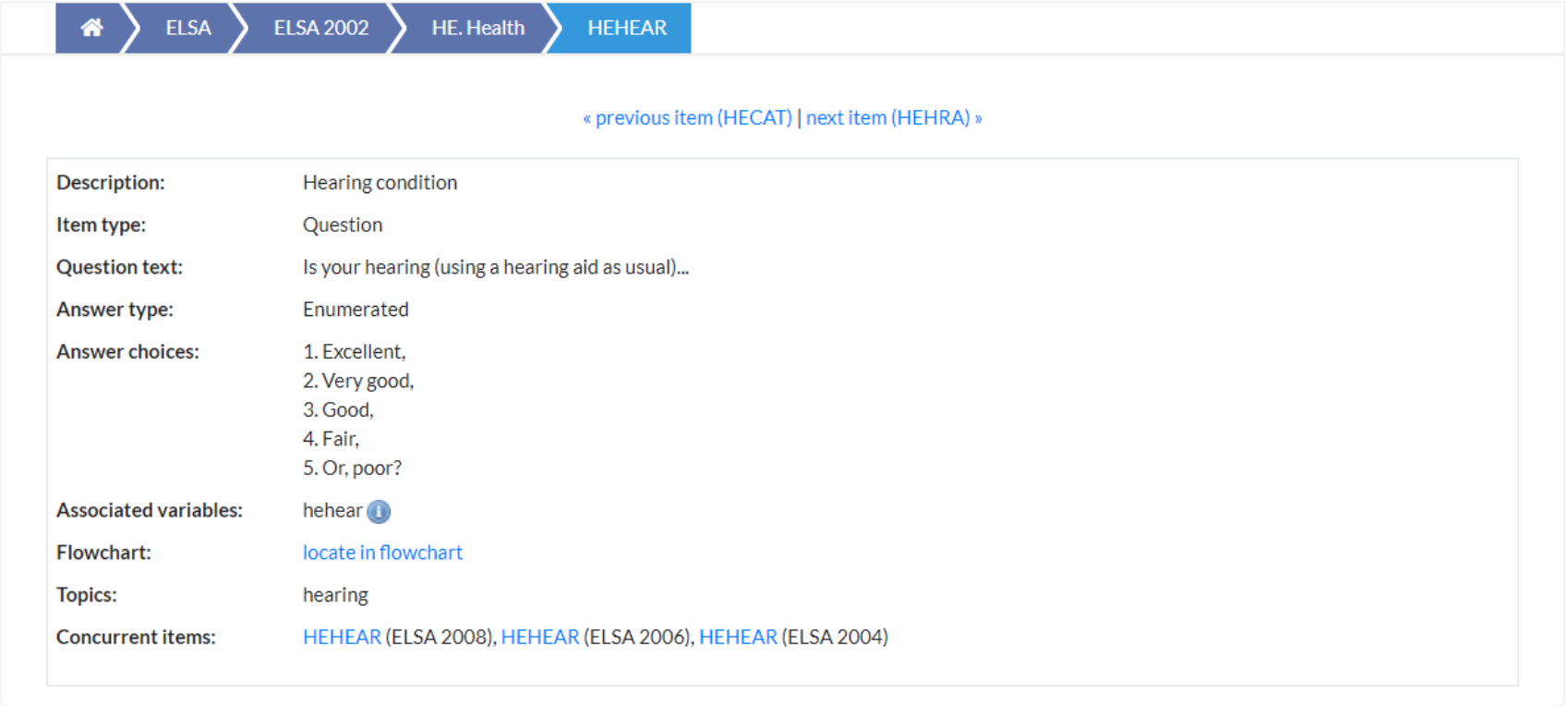
Flow Charts

- The location of all survey items inside the interview
- How the question was asked and to whom



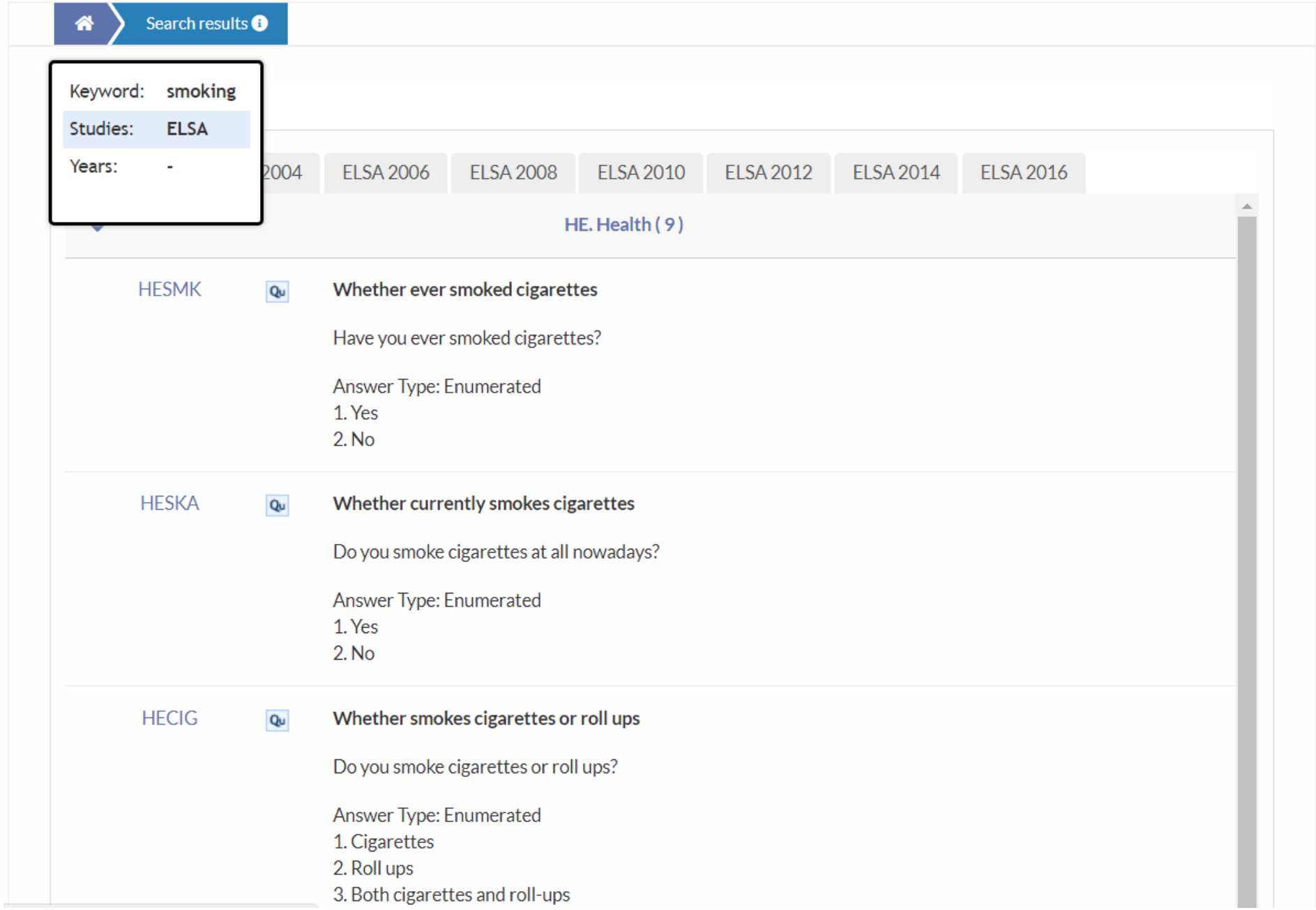
Individual Survey Questions

- Includes question text and interviewer prompts
- Includes answer types and choices, and how the values are formatted



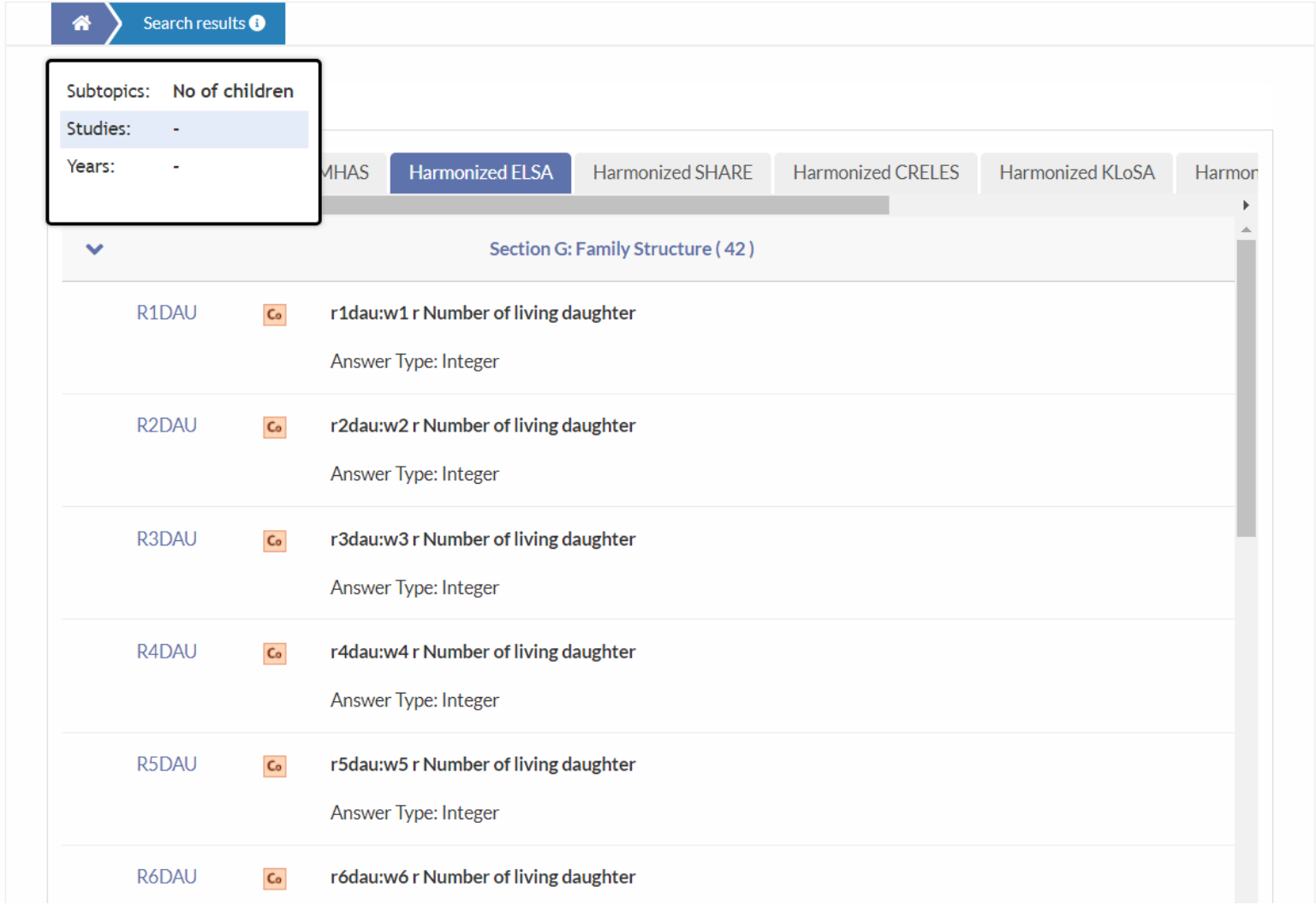
Key Word Search

- Every variable from harmonized datasets
- Every question from individual studies by year



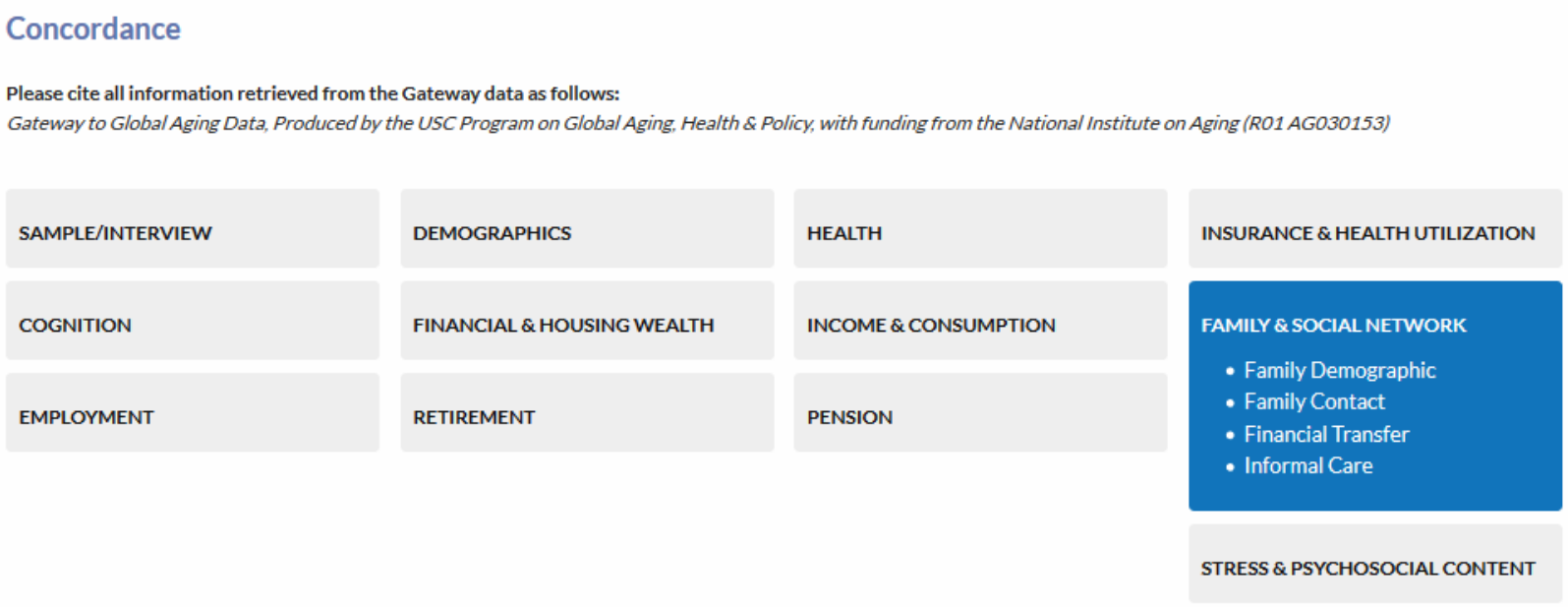
Topic Search of Harmonized Datasets

- Every variable from harmonized datasets by study and year
- Select from over 100 topics



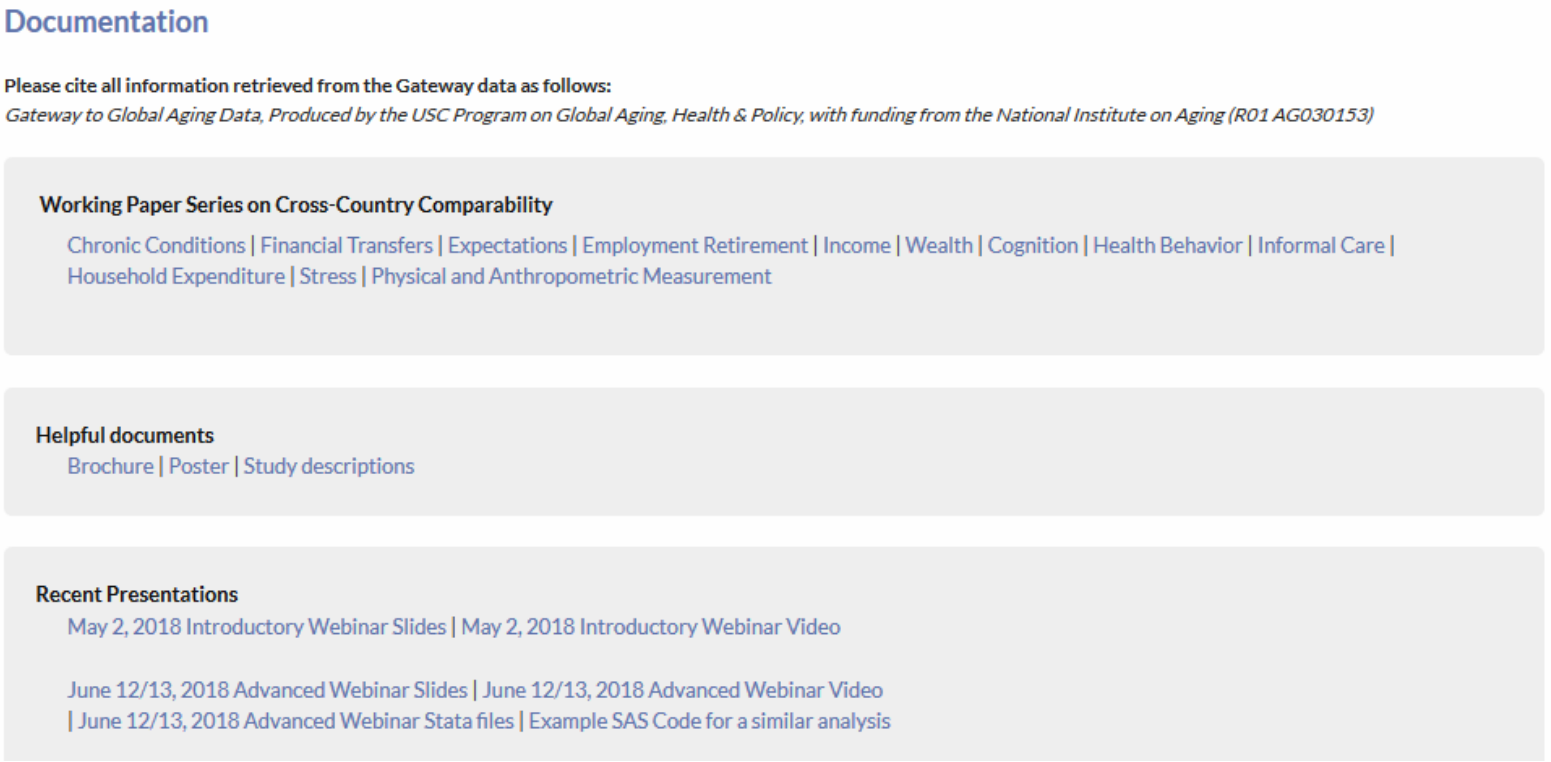
Concordance Tables

- **Domain-specific comparison tables**
  - Sample / Interview
  - Demographics
  - Health
  - Healthcare Utilization and Insurance
  - Cognition
  - Financial & Housing Wealth
  - Income & Consumption
  - Family & Social Network
  - Employment
  - Retirement
  - Pension
  - Stress & Psychosocial



Documentation

- **Domain-specific user guides**
  - Chronic medical conditions
  - Financial transfers
  - Expectations
  - Employment and retirement
  - Income
  - Wealth
  - Cognition
  - Health Behavior
  - Informal Care
  - Household Expenditure
  - Imputation procedures
  - Stress
  - Physical and Anthropometric Measurement



Documentation

Please cite all information retrieved from the Gateway data as follows:

Gateway to Global Aging Data, Produced by the USC Program on Global Aging, Health & Policy, with funding from the National Institute on Aging (R01 AG030153)

Working Paper Series on Cross-Country Comparability

Chronic Conditions | Financial Transfers | Expectations | Employment Retirement | Income | Wealth | Cognition | Health Behavior | Informal Care | Household Expenditure | Stress | Physical and Anthropometric Measurement

Helpful documents

Brochure | Poster | Study descriptions

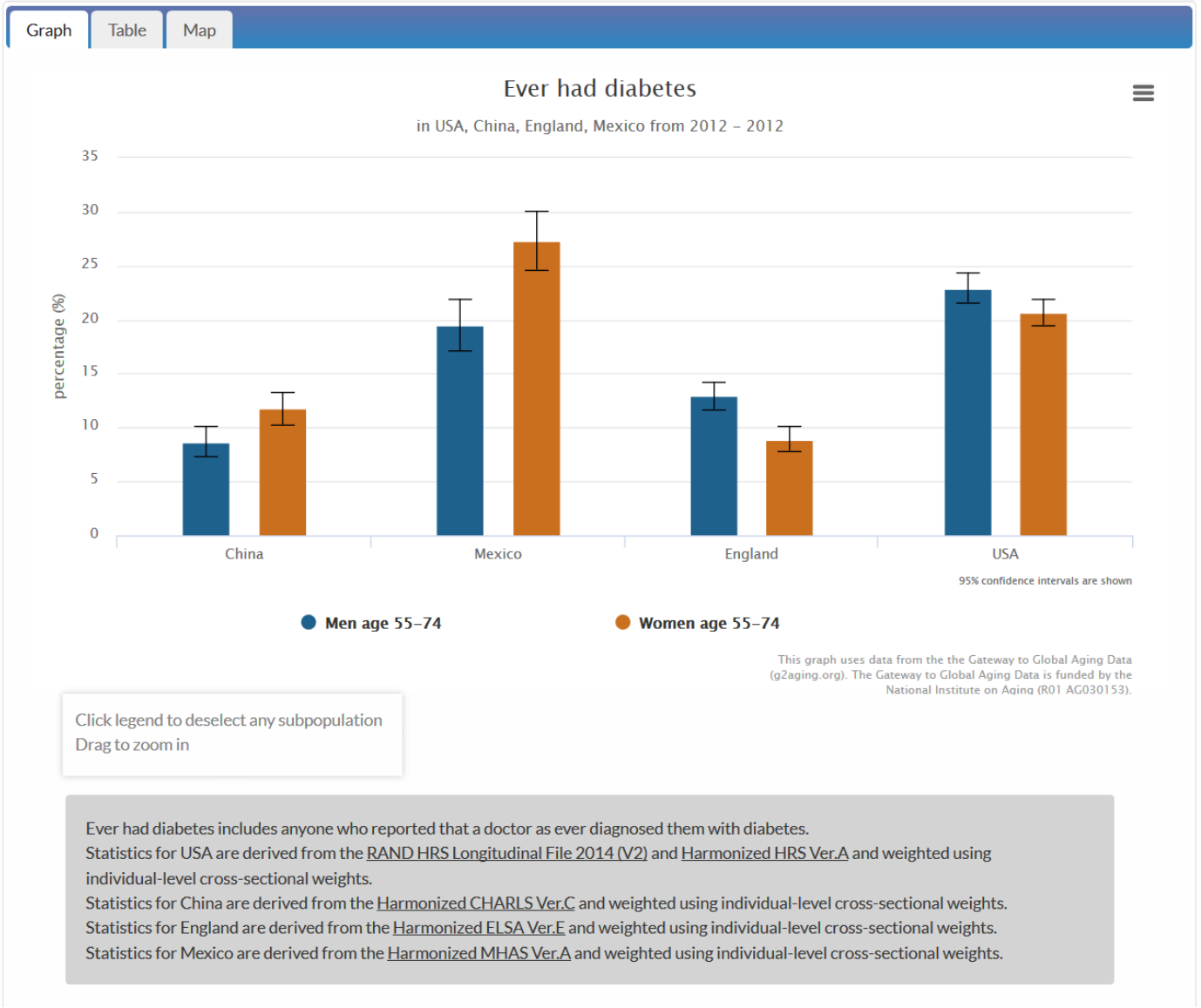
Recent Presentations

May 2, 2018 Introductory Webinar Slides | May 2, 2018 Introductory Webinar Video

June 12/13, 2018 Advanced Webinar Slides | June 12/13, 2018 Advanced Webinar Video | June 12/13, 2018 Advanced Webinar Stata files | Example SAS Code for a similar analysis

Interactive Graphs and Tables

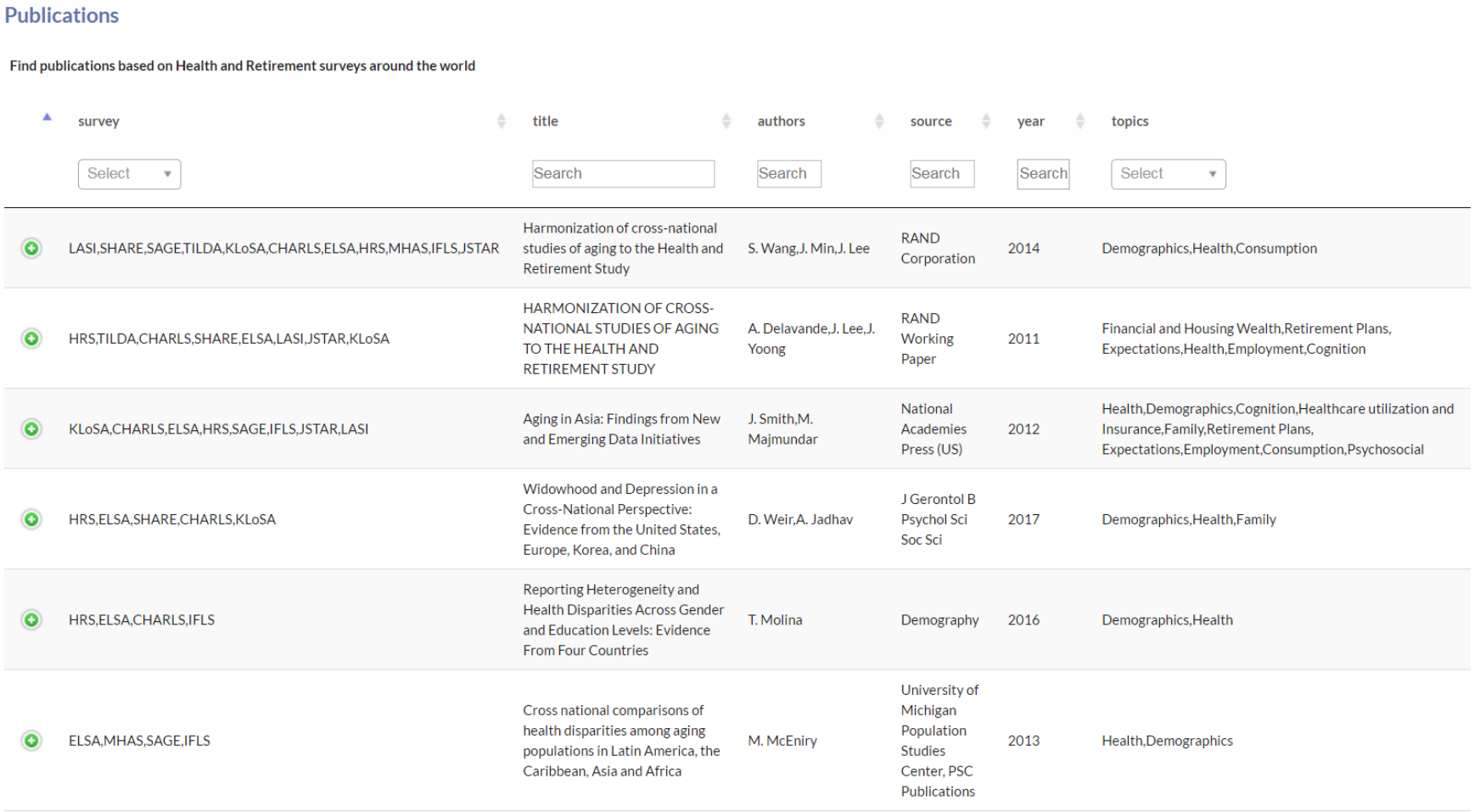
- Can select from 110 topics, 29 countries, and 12 years
- Filter by individual level and household level characteristics
- Produces population estimates
  - Weights are already applied
- Do NOT need to download datasets
- View as graph, table, or map
- Can easily download your results in a variety of formats



Catalog of Publications

Users can find publications based on Health and Retirement Surveys around the world which are relevant to their research focus

- Select from
  1. survey
  2. topic
- Search by
  1. title
  2. author
  3. source
  4. year



Publications

Find publications based on Health and Retirement surveys around the world

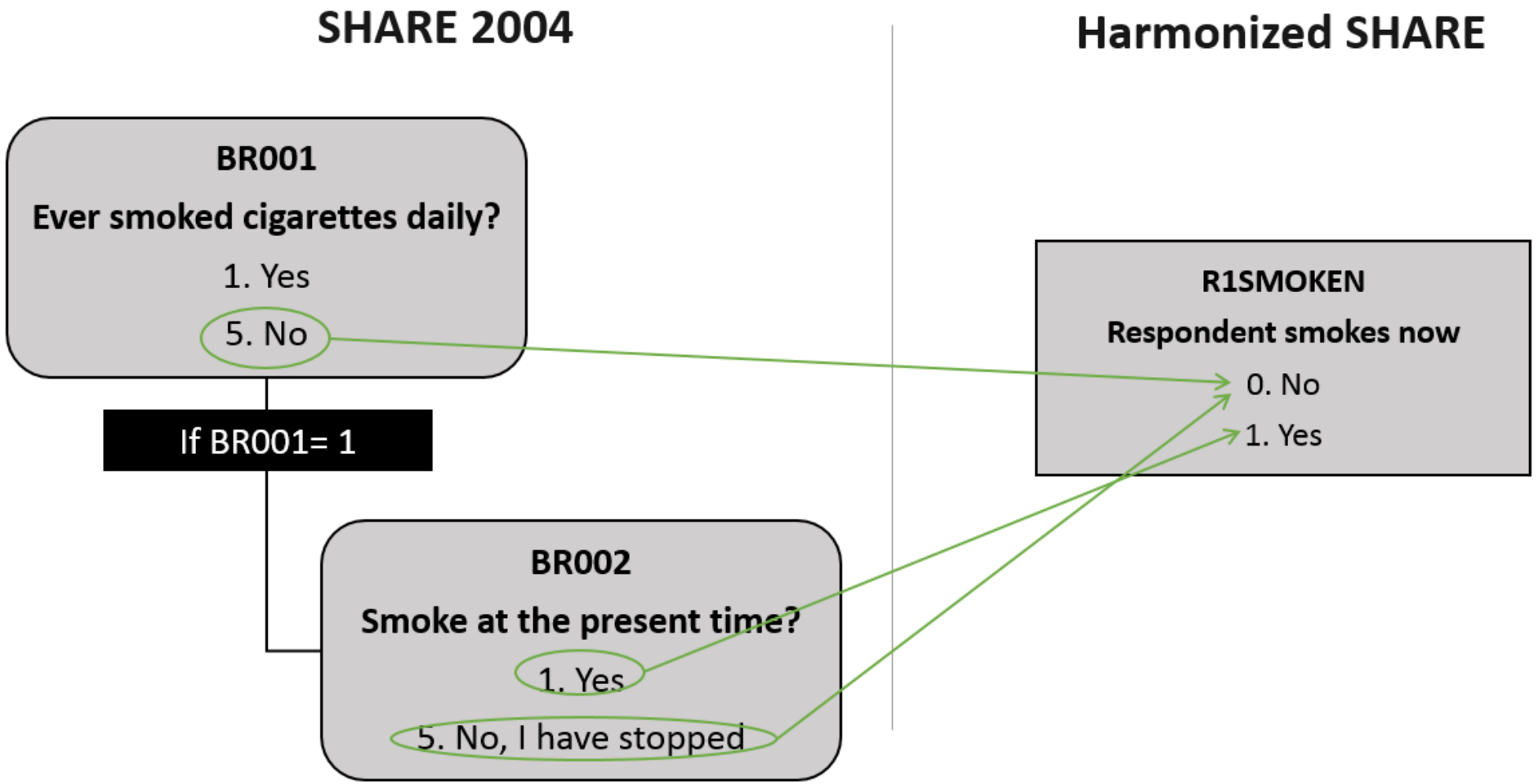
survey	title	authors	source	year	topics
Select	Search	Search	Search	Search	Select
LASI,SHARE,SAGE,TILDA,KLoSA,CHARLS,ELSA,HRS,MHAS,IFLS,JSTAR	Harmonization of cross-national studies of aging to the Health and Retirement Study	S. Wang,J. Min,J. Lee	RAND Corporation	2014	Demographics,Health,Consumption
HRS,TILDA,CHARLS,SHARE,ELSA,LASI,JSTAR,KLoSA	HARMONIZATION OF CROSS-NATIONAL STUDIES OF AGING TO THE HEALTH AND RETIREMENT STUDY	A. Delavande,J. Lee,J. Yoong	RAND Working Paper	2011	Financial and Housing Wealth,Retirement Plans, Expectations,Health,Employment,Cognition
KLoSA,CHARLS,ELSA,HRS,SAGE,IFLS,JSTAR,LASI	Aging in Asia: Findings from New and Emerging Data Initiatives	J. Smith,M. Majmundar	National Academies Press (US)	2012	Health,Demographics,Cognition,Healthcare utilization and Insurance,Family,Retirement Plans, Expectations,Employment,Consumption,Psychosocial
HRS,ELSA,SHARE,CHARLS,KLoSA	Widowhood and Depression in a Cross-National Perspective: Evidence from the United States, Europe, Korea, and China	D. Weir,A. Jadhav	J Gerontol B Psychol Sci Soc Sci	2017	Demographics,Health,Family
HRS,ELSA,CHARLS,IFLS	Reporting Heterogeneity and Health Disparities Across Gender and Education Levels: Evidence From Four Countries	T. Molina	Demography	2016	Demographics,Health
ELSA,MHAS,SAGE,IFLS	Cross national comparisons of health disparities among aging populations in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and Africa	M. McEniry	University of Michigan Population Studies Center, PSC Publications	2013	Health,Demographics

Harmonized Data Files

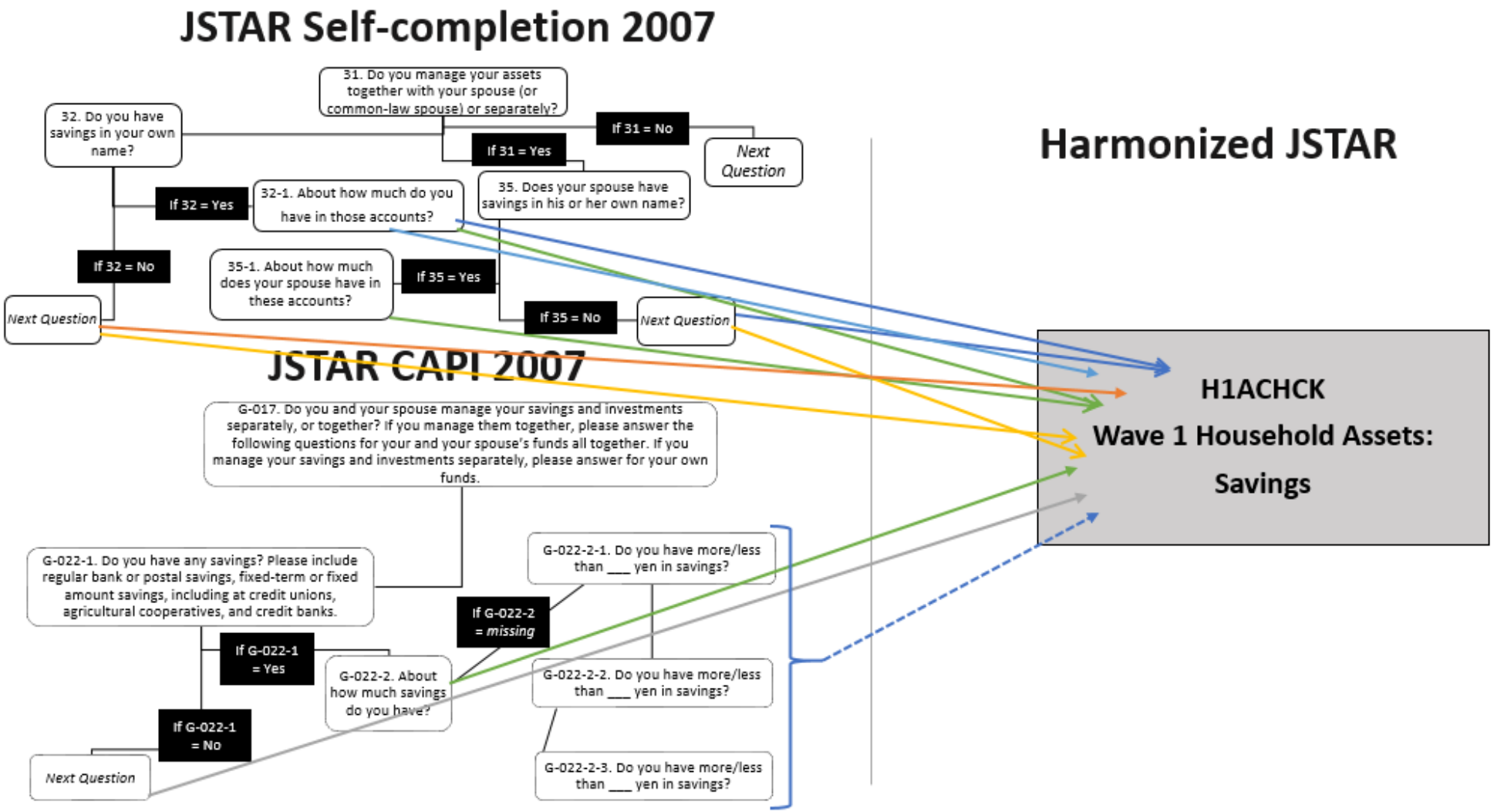
Harmonized Datasets are created to provide harmonized measures of HRS-type surveys:

- Combined all waves; each individual is one record
- User-friendly subset of the original survey data
- Variables are defined to be as comparable as possible
- Follow a standard naming convention, e.g. r1work – whether the respondent is currently working in wave 1
- Spouse versions of most variables are also created e.g. s2work – whether respondent's spouse is currently working in wave 2
- Country specific variable name: e.g. r1lbrf_c – respondent's labor force status in wave 1 of CHARLS, with different response scale

Simple Harmonization



Complex Harmonization



Harmonized Codebooks

- Includes brief overview of statistics for each variable

Health Behaviors: Smoking (Cigarettes)

Wave	Variable	Label	Type
1	R1SMOKEV	r1smokev:w1 r smoke ever	Categ
2	R2SMOKEV	r2smokev:w2 r smoke ever	Categ
3	R3SMOKEV	r3smokev:w3 r smoke ever	Categ
4	R4SMOKEV	r4smokev:w4 r smoke ever	Categ
5	R5SMOKEV	r5smokev:w5 r smoke ever	Categ
6	R6SMOKEV	r6smokev:w6 r smoke ever	Categ
7	R7SMOKEV	r7smokev:w7 r smoke ever	Categ
8	R8SMOKEV	r8smokev:w8 r smoke ever	Categ
1	S1SMOKEV	s1smokev:w1 s smoke ever	Categ
2	S2SMOKEV	s2smokev:w2 s smoke ever	Categ
3	S3SMOKEV	s3smokev:w3 s smoke ever	Categ
4	S4SMOKEV	s4smokev:w4 s smoke ever	Categ
5	S5SMOKEV	s5smokev:w5 s smoke ever	Categ
6	S6SMOKEV	s6smokev:w6 s smoke ever	Categ
7	S7SMOKEV	s7smokev:w7 s smoke ever	Categ
8	S8SMOKEV	s8smokev:w8 s smoke ever	Categ

Harmonized Codebooks

Descriptive Statistics

Variable	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
R1SMOKEV	11909	0.64	0.48	0.00	1.00
R2SMOKEV	9430	0.63	0.48	0.00	1.00
R3SMOKEV	9764	0.61	0.49	0.00	1.00
R4SMOKEV	10881	0.60	0.49	0.00	1.00
R5SMOKEV	10139	0.62	0.49	0.00	1.00
R6SMOKEV	10407	0.62	0.49	0.00	1.00
R7SMOKEV	9485	0.62	0.48	0.00	1.00
R8SMOKEV	8327	0.62	0.48	0.00	1.00
S1SMOKEV	7937	0.64	0.48	0.00	1.00
S2SMOKEV	6176	0.63	0.48	0.00	1.00
S3SMOKEV	6380	0.60	0.49	0.00	1.00
S4SMOKEV	7241	0.59	0.49	0.00	1.00
S5SMOKEV	6831	0.62	0.49	0.00	1.00
S6SMOKEV	7049	0.61	0.49	0.00	1.00
S7SMOKEV	6382	0.61	0.49	0.00	1.00
S8SMOKEV	5571	0.61	0.49	0.00	1.00

Harmonized Codebooks

Categorical Variable Codes

Value	R1SMOKEV	R2SMOKEV	R3SMOKEV	R4SMOKEV
.d:DK	11		1	2
.m:Missing		1	6	20
.p:proxy	174			143
.r:Refuse	5	1		4
0.no	4289	3479	3774	4341
1.yes	7620	5951	5990	6540

Value	R5SMOKEV	R6SMOKEV	R7SMOKEV	R8SMOKEV
.m:Missing		193	181	118
.p:proxy	133			
.r:Refuse	2	1		
0.no	3840	3956	3586	3146
1.yes	6299	6451	5899	5181

Value	S1SMOKEV	S2SMOKEV	S3SMOKEV	S4SMOKEV
.d:DK	7		1	2
.m:Missing		1	5	19
.p:proxy	122			136
.r:Refuse	4	1		4
.u:Unmar	3561	2671	2708	2932
.v:SP NR	468	583	677	716
0.no	2837	2302	2527	2964
1.yes	5100	3874	3853	4277

Value	S5SMOKEV	S6SMOKEV	S7SMOKEV	S8SMOKEV
.m:Missing		192	178	116
.p:proxy	131			
.r:Refuse	2	1		
.u:Unmar	2742	2802	2548	2255
.v:SP NR	568	557	558	502
0.no	2625	2739	2478	2156
1.yes	4206	4310	3904	3415

Harmonized Codebooks

- Details variable creation and any assumptions made in the creation

How Constructed

RwSMOKEV indicates whether the respondent reports ever having smoked. The answer to the respondent's first ever-smoked question is fed-forward for subsequent waves. A code of 0 indicates that the respondent reports never having smoked. A code of 1 indicates that the respondent reports having ever smoked. Don't know, refused, or other missing values to RwSMOKEV are assigned special missing codes .d, .r, .m, respectively. RwSMOKEV is set to special missing .p if the smoking question was skipped because the interview was by proxy. RwSMOKEV is set to plain missing (.) for respondents who did not respond to the current wave.

SwSMOKEV indicates whether respondent's spouse reports ever having smoked and is taken directly from the spouse's responses to RwSMOKEV. In addition to the special missing codes used in RwSMOKEV, SwSMOKEV employs two other missing codes, .u and .v. Special missing value .u is used when the respondent does not report being coupled in the current wave. Special missing value .v is used when the respondent reports being coupled in the current wave but their spouse is not interviewed.

Harmonized Codebooks

- Highlights any differences between waves and any differences between this variable and the RAND HRS variable

Cross Wave Differences in ELSA

Smoking questions were asked to different groups of respondents in different waves. These are two questions that were asked to the respondents:

1. Have you ever smoked cigarettes?

2. Do you smoke cigarettes at all nowadays?

In wave 1, the first question was asked to every respondent who was not surveyed by proxy, and the second question was asked to every respondent who gave a positive answer to the first question.

In wave 2, the first question was asked to respondents who did not answer in the first wave, even if the respondent was surveyed by proxy. The second question was asked to respondents who gave positive answers to the first question.

In wave 3, the first question was only asked to the people who were not surveyed by proxy and did not answer the first question in the previous two waves. The second question was asked for all except those whose current answer to ever smoking was no, including proxies.

In wave 4, the first question was only asked to respondents who were not surveyed by proxy and did not answer the first question in the previous waves. The second question was not asked to respondents who gave negative answers or to proxies when there was no previous answer to the first question.

In wave 5, the first question was asked to non-proxy respondents and was not asked to respondents who had previously answered yes to the question. The second question was not asked to respondents who gave a negative answer to the first question or to proxies when there was no previous yes answer.

In wave 6 and 7, the first question was asked to non-proxy respondents and was not asked to respondents who had previously answered yes to the question. The second question was asked to all respondents except those whose current answer to ever smoking was no, including proxies.

Differences with the RAND HRS

No differences known.

Harmonized Codebooks

- Lists all the variables from the originating dataset used in the creation of the variable

ELSA Variables Used

Wave 1 Core:		
	HECIG	do you smoke cigarettes or roll ups?
	HESKA	do you smoke cigarettes at all nowadays?
	HESKB	about how many cigarettes a day do you usually smoke on
	HESKC	about how many cigarettes a day do you usually smoke on
	HESMK	have you ever smoked cigarettes?
Wave 2 Core:		
	HECIG	type of nicotine product smokes
	HESKA	whether smokes cigarettes at all nowadays
	HESKB	number of cigarettes smoke per weekday
	HESKC	number of cigarettes smoke per weekend day
	HESKE	reason disputed reported smoking from wave 1
	HESMK	whether ever smoked cigarettes
Wave 3 Core:		
	HECIG	type of nicotine product smokes
	HESKA	whether smokes cigarettes at all nowadays
	HESKB	number of cigarettes smoke per weekday
	HESKC	number of cigarettes smoke per weekend day
	HESKE	reason disputed reported smoking at last interview
	HESMK	whether ever smoked cigarettes

All Harmonized Data Files

- Harmonized HRS – incorporates the first twelve waves of HRS (1992 - 2014)
- Harmonized MHAS – incorporates the first three waves of MHAS (2001, 2003, 2012)
- Harmonized ELSA – incorporates the first seven waves of ELSA (2002 - 2014)
- Harmonized SHARE – incorporates the first, second, fourth, fifth, and sixth wave of SHARE (2004, 2006, 2010, 2012, 2014)
- Harmonized CRELES – incorporates the five waves of CRELES (2005, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2012)
- Harmonized KLoSA - incorporates the first four waves of KLoSA (2006, 2008, 2010, 2012)
- Harmonized JSTAR – incorporates the first three waves of JSTAR (2007, 2009, 2011)
- Harmonized TILDA – incorporates the first two waves of TILDA (2010, 2012)
- Harmonized CHARLS - incorporates the first, second, and fourth waves of CHARLS (2011, 2013, 2015)
- Harmonized LASI – incorporates the pilot data of LASI (2010)

- Harmonized data files are either distributed through the Gateway or the originating study.
- In some cases the data files are created by users based on a code provided by the Gateway.

Downloads

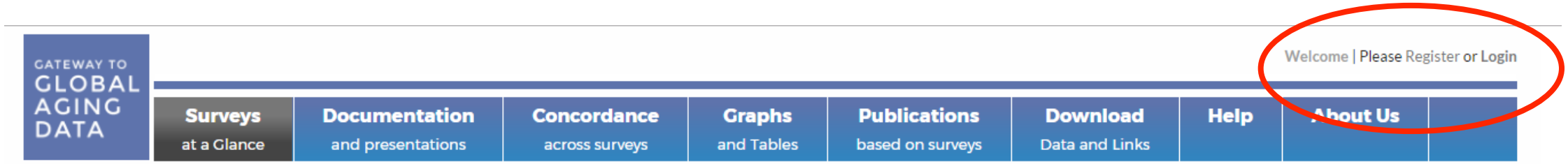
To register and access data for any of the HRS-family studies, click here

Please cite all information retrieved from the Gateway data as follows:
Gateway to Global Aging Data, Produced by the Program on Global Aging, Health & Policy, University of Southern California with funding from the National Institute on Aging (R01 AG030153

	HRS	MHAS	ELSA	SHARE	CRELES	KLoSA	JSTAR	TILDA	CHARLS	LASI
	United States	Mexico	England	20+ European Countries and Israel	Costa Rica	Korea	Japan	Ireland	China	India
Links to Download Survey Data	ISR, The University of Michigan	University of Texas, Medical Branch	UK Data Service	Munich Center for the Economics of Aging	Costa Rican Longevity and Healthy Aging Study	Korea Employment Information Service	Research Institute of Economy, Trade, & Industry	Irish Social Science Data Archive	National School of Development, Peking University	Program on Global Aging, Health, and Policy
Download Harmonized Dataset	RAND HRS Harmonized HRS	Harmonized MHAS	Harmonized ELSA	[See Stata code below]	Harmonized CRELES	[See Stata code below]	Harmonized JSTAR	Harmonized TILDA	Harmonized CHARLS	Harmonized LASI
Download Harmonized Codebook	RAND HRS Codebook Harmonized HRS Codebook	Harmonized MHAS Codebook	Harmonized ELSA Codebook	Harmonized SHARE Codebook	Harmonized CRELES Codebook	Harmonized KLoSA Codebook	Harmonized JSTAR Codebook	Harmonized TILDA Codebook	Harmonized CHARLS Codebook	Harmonized LASI Codebook
Create Harmonized Data*	RAND HRS SAS Code Harmonized HRS Stata Code	Harmonized MHAS Stata Code	Harmonized ELSA Stata Code	Harmonized SHARE Stata Code	Harmonized CRELES Stata Code	Harmonized KLoSA Stata Code	Harmonized JSTAR Stata Code	Harmonized TILDA Stata Code	Harmonized CHARLS Stata Code	Harmonized LASI Stata Code

*For information about obtaining Harmonized Data in formats other than Stata, click here.

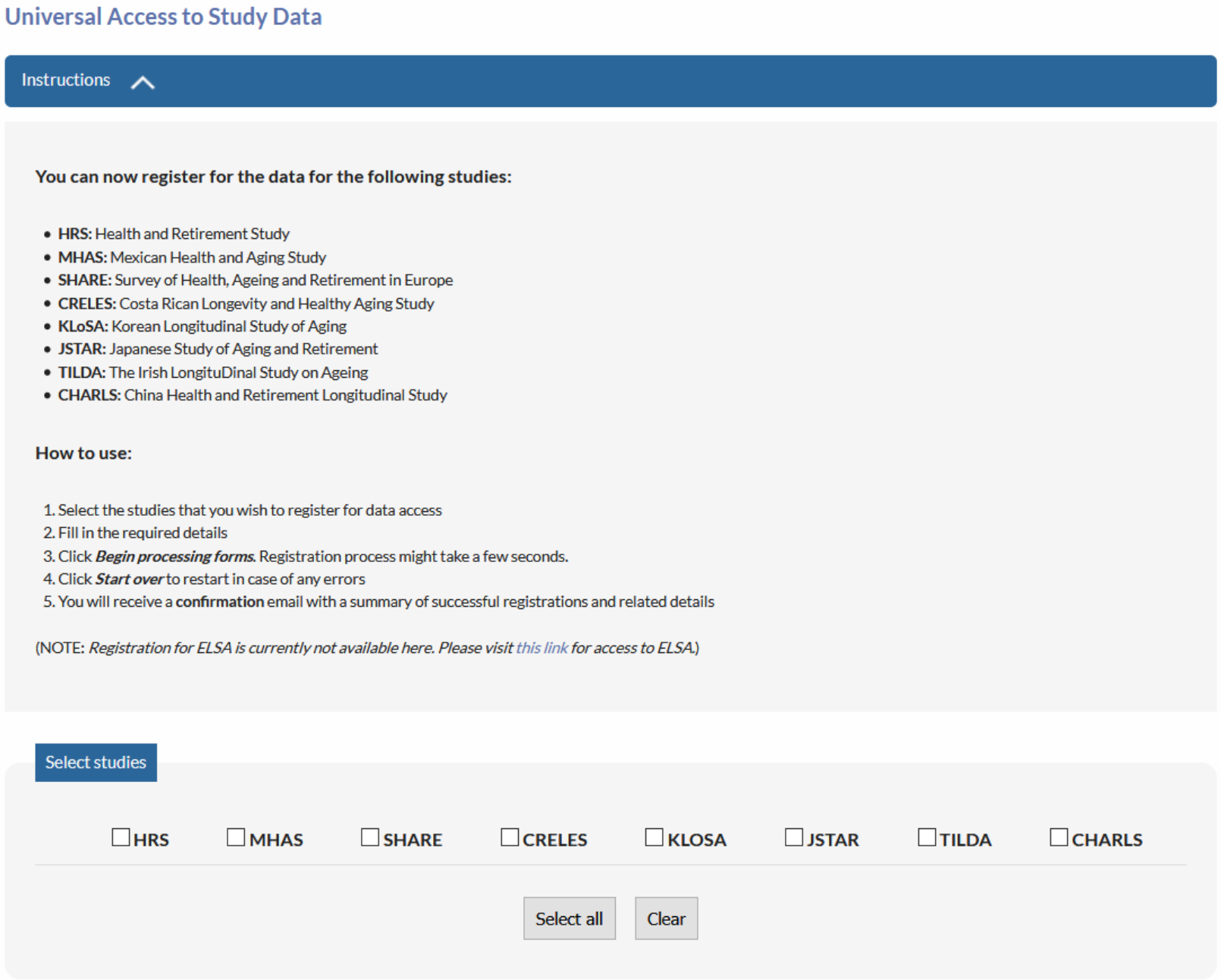
Registering at g2aging.org



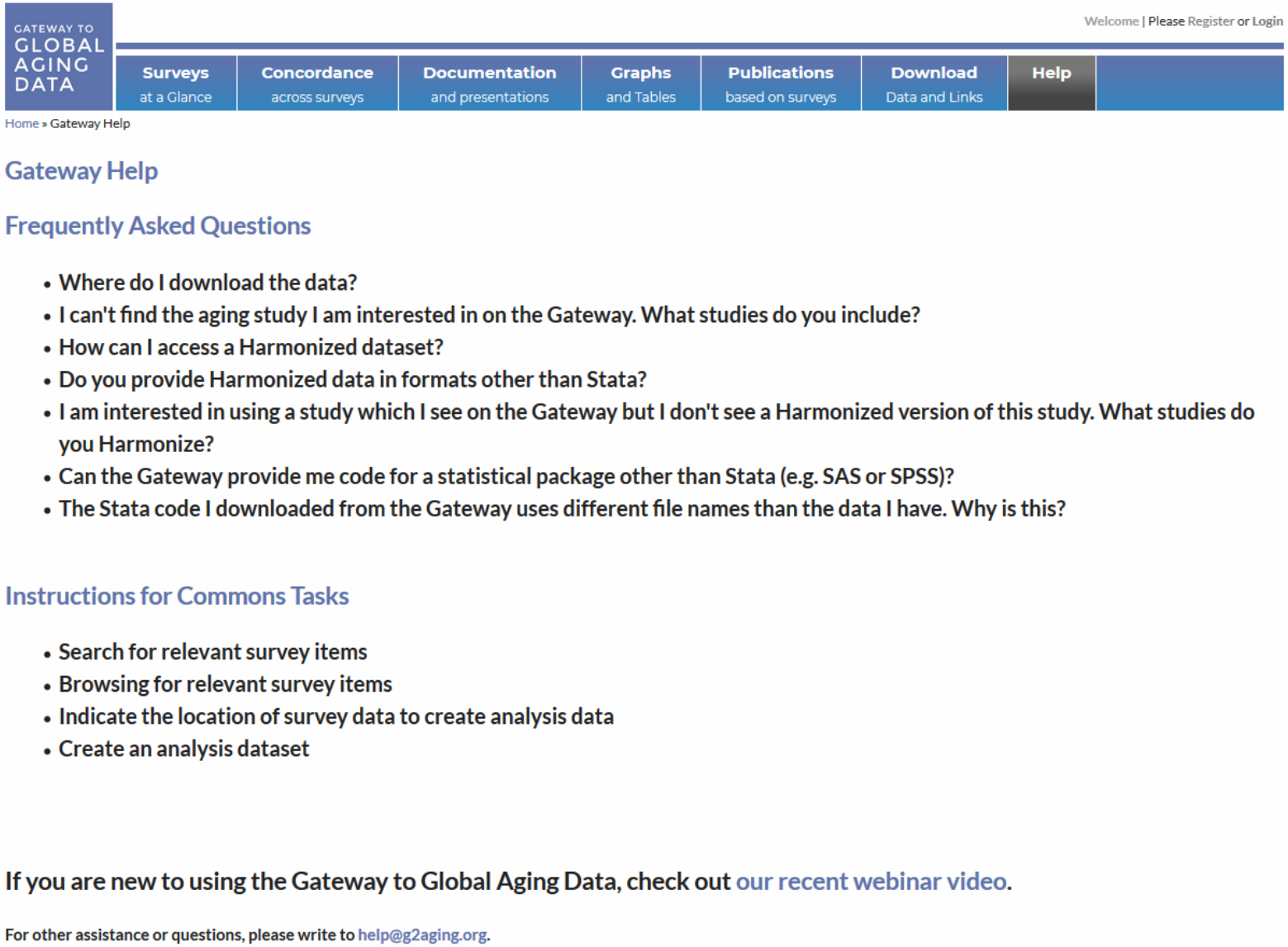
- Choose “register” in the upper right
- Enter your information
- Confirm email

Universal Access to Study Data

- Easily register for multiple Health and Retirement family studies in a single step
- Some studies will have immediate access, others will require signing a form and emailing it



Help at g2aging.org



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