11.03.2012

Variable Guide for the Harmonized Database

Presented to the Israeli Gerontological Data Center

Variable	Variable Name in Harmonized Database	Variable Appears in Original Database:					Comments
		SWB	BIO	SHARE	IMAS	CALAS	
Sample	sampleh	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	
Year of interview	sample_yearh	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	
Age	Ageh	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	
Age in 1945	age_in_1945	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	If year of birth was 1945 or less, variable was computed by subtracting year of birth from 1945.
Year of birth	birth_yearh	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	
Gender	Genderh 0=female 1=male	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	In BIO and SHARE scale was reverse coded
Education	educationh 1=0-8(elementary)	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	In BIO and SHARE, "0" category was unified with "1", and in SWB and

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	2=9-11 (partial high) 3=12 (high) 4=13-14(partial academic) 5=15+ (full academic)						SHARE, categories numbered 6 and over were unified with "5", to match current 5-point scale
Country of origin	originh 0=Israel 1=east 2=west	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	In the SWB and CALAS scale was reverse coded Country of origin was categorized into 3 categories according to socio-cultural similarities: Asian and African countries excluding South Africa were the "east" category and European, Oceanian and American countries including South Africa made up the "west" category
Year of Aliya	aliya_yearh	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Family status	marital_stateh 1=single 2=married 3=widowed 4=divorced/ seperated	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	In SWB, BIO, and SHARE, scale was reverse coded. In SHARE, IMAS, and CALAS, the "divorced/separated" category was unified into the answer "4"

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Number of living children	offspring_aliveh	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	In IMAS, separate variables for boys and for girls were summed to form target variable
Are parents alive	father_aliveh mother_aliveh 1=yes 0=no	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	In SWB and BIO scale was reverse coded. In SHARE, IMAS and CALAS negative answers were renumbered from "5" to "0" to match current categories
Income - subjective	subj_incomeh 1=sufficient 0=insufficient	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	In BIO and SHARE, scales were recoded from 4 points into 2, and in IMAS from 3 into 2
Holocaust survivor – unified variable	holocaust_combinedh 1=survivor 0=not survivor	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	The combined holocaust survivor variable was assigned a positive value whenever either the objective or subjective scales were positive. In SWB, BIO and SHARE there was no objective variable.
Subjective health	Subj_healthh 3=good 2=not so good 1=bad	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	Because of problems in matching category frequencies across databases, standardized Z-scores were used, separated by age groups. In CALAS, scale was also reverse

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		SWB	BIO	SHARE	IMAS	CALAS	
							coded. In BIO, IMAS, and CALAS, scale was recoded from a 4 into a 3 point scale, and in SHARE from 5 into 3, unifying the separate positive answer categories into "3", good.
Doctor visits	doctor_visitsh 1=more than once a month 0=once a month or less	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	In SWB and BIO scale was recoded from 5 points into a dichotomous scale
Religiousness	religious_viewh 1=secular 2=traditional 3=religious	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	Religious and orthodox categories in IMAS and BIO databases were unified to match the 3 categories in the SWB database. In the SHARE the scale was recoded from 6 points into 3, and in the CALAS the scale was reverse coded
Satisfaction with life – single item	life_satish 1=very bad 2=pretty bad 3=pretty good 4=very good	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	Scale was recoded so that category frequencies matched across databases. In SWB and BIO, the lower satisfaction answers were unified into "1", very bad, category, and the scale was recoded from 7 to a 4-point

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		SWB	BIO	SHARE	IMAS	CALAS	
							scale. In IMAS, high satisfaction answers were unified into "4", very good, recoding the scale from 5 to 4 points. In SHARE, scale was reverse coded
Payed work	Paidworkh 1=yes 0=no	✔		✔	✔	✔	In IMAS, "homemaker" category was unified with "0", no payed work answers.
Grandchildren	grandchildrenh		✔	✔	✔	✔	
Father/mother's country of origin	mother_originh– 3 databases father_originh– 4 databases 0=Israel 1=east 2=west	✔	✔	✔	✔		
Holocaust – objective (were you in a country under Nazi rule during WWI?I)	obj_holocausth 1=survivor 0=not		✔	✔	✔	✔	Variable was calculated for western origin only. In BIO, the non-survivor category was renumbered to match current scale
Country during the Holocaust	Holocaust_countryh		✔	✔	✔	✔	

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Holocaust experiences Concentration or extermination camp, in hiding, labor camp or ghetto, partisans, false papers, fled from authorities,or other	Concentration_camph Labor_camph Hideouth Gettoh Partizanh Fake_papersh Running_awayh Other_holoc_exph 1=yes 0=no		✔	✔	✔	✔	In BIO, "Permit & Other" categories were unified to form other_holoc_exph. In SHARE , "escape from authorities" and "escape to free zone" were united into "Running away" variable.
Fate of parents in the Holocaust	Parent_Holocaust_Fate 1 = perished the Holocaust 2 = survived the Holocaust 3= underwent the Holocaust 4= did not experience the Holocaust	✔	✔	✔	✔		
Parents at Holocaust	Parents_at_holocausth 1=yes 0=no	✔	✔	✔			In SWB, "no" category was renumbered to fit current scale. In BIO and SHARE, all separate positive answers were unified into "1", yes, recoding the scale 4-point scale into a dichotomous one
Second generation – born 1945 onwards and at least one	second_genh	✔	✔	✔			

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parent endured Holocaust	1=yes 0=no						
CESD, 10 items	cesd1h-11h 1=rarely 2=some of the time 3=occasionally 4=most of the time	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Children's residence 4 first children	offspring_resid1h offspring_resid2h offspring_resid3h offspring_resid4h 1=living with parents 2=same location 3=other location in Israel 4 =abroad			✓	✓	✓	In SHARE scale was recoded from 9 into a 4-point scale, and in IMAS and CALAS from 7 into 4 points
Frequency of contact with child	Child_connect1h Child_connect2h Child_connect3h Child_connect4h 0 = never 1 = once a month or less 2 =several times a month 3 = several times a week 4 = daily			✓	✓	✓	In SHARE, scale was recoded from 7 points into a 7-point scale. In IMAS and CALAS, from 9 points into 4

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Living Siblings	siblings_aliveh			✓	✓	✓	
Diseases	disease1_bloodh disease2_diabetesh disease3_hearth disease4_breathh disease5_boneh disease6_paralizeh disease7_jointh disease8_parkinsonh disease9_tumorh Joint problems & reumatizm were unified Heart attack & other heart problems were unified Dizziness & digestion problems were omitted			✓	✓	✓	Joint problems & reumatizm were unified Heart attack & other heart problems were unified Dizziness & digestion problems were omitted
Medication (medication types)	truf1_diabetesh truf2_bloodh truf3_hearth truf4_sleeph truf5_painh yes=1			✓	✓	✓	In CALAS, negative responses were recoded as "0", and all other responses were recoded as "1"

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	no=0						
ADL/IADL	ADL1_roomh ADL2_bathh ADL3_wearh ADL4_eath ADL5_bed_toh ADL6_toileth IADL1_mealh IADL2_shoppingh IADL3_accounth IADL4_workh IADL5_phoneh 1=yes 0=no			✓	✓	✓	
NAGI	NAGI1h NAGI2h NAGI3h 1=yes 0=no			✓	✓	✓	
Year/age of parents at death	father_death_ageh mother_death_ageh			✓	✓	✓	In SWB and BIO only year of death appears, without age at time of death
Age of participant at time of parent's death	age_at_father_deathh age_at_mother_deathh	✓	✓				In SWB, the original variable, time since death, was divided by 12 and subtracted from current age. In BIO, birth was

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							subtracted from year the parent died to create new variable
Income - objective	obj_incomeh 0-5			✔	✔	✔	Originally there are 5 separate variables that measure income (i.e., pension, social security, insurance, etc.). The new variable was created by summing them into a unified measure
Time orientation	year_orientationh month_orientationh 1=good 0=bad			✔	✔	✔	In IMAS and CALAS, scale was recoded from a 4-point scale into a dichotomous one. In SHARE, the "bad" category was recoded "0" from "2"
Weight/height	heighth weighth			✔	✔	✔	
Volunteering	volunteerh 1=yes 0=no			✔	✔	✔	
Nationality/religion: Jewish, Christian, etc.	religion_dichoh 1 =jew 0=other		✔	✔		✔	All the non-Jewish categories in the original scales were recoded as "other". In BIO, scale was recoded from a 3-point scale, in the CALAS from 4 and in the SHARE from 5

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							into a dichotomous scale
Holocaust – subjective	subj_holocausth dichotomous scale 1=survivor 0=not	✔			✔	✔	In SWB, "0" was renumbered into "2" to match new variable
Parents killed in Holocaust	Parents_killed_in_holocausth 1=yes 0=no		✔	✔	✔		The separate answers referring to parental death were unified into one category. In BIO and SHARE scale was recoded from a 4-point scale into a dichotomous one
SAS/Cantril	happiness_10h 0-10 scale	✔	✔		✔		
Visits to dentist	Dentisth 1=yes 0=no			✔	✔	✔	In SHARE, "5" was renumbered as "0" to match new variable. In IMAS and CALAS, all categories other than "yes" were recoded as "0" to create a dichotomous scale
Sleep difficulties	sleep_diffh 1=yes 0=no			✔	✔	✔	In SHARE, "2" was renumbered as "0" to match current variable. In IMAS and CALAS, levels "1" and "2" were unified into "yes" answers

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Smoking	smokingh 1=yes 0=no			✔	✔	✔	In SHARE, "5" was renumbered as "0" to match current variable. In CALAS, levels "1" and "2" were unified into "yes" answers
Smoking – in past	past_smokingh 1=yes 0=no			✔	✔	✔	All categories other than "yes" and "no" were recoded as missing
Smoking per day	smoke_per_dayh 1=1-9 2=10-20 3=21+			✔	✔	✔	In SHARE and IMAS, exact number of cigarettes per day, the original variable scale, was recoded into the new variable's 3 categories
Vision - subjective	Subjective_visionh 1-3 scale			✔	✔	✔	In SHARE and IMAS, scale was recoded into a 3-point scale from 6 and 4 points, respectively. In all three databases, items were reverse coded
Use of hearing aid	Hearing_aid_useh 1=yes			✔	✔	✔	In SHARE, "5" was renumbered as "0" to match current variable. In IMAS,

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	0=no						all positive answers were recoded as "1", transforming the scale from 4 points into a dichotomous one
Hearing in a crowd	crowd_hearingh 1=yes 0=no			✓	✓	✓	In SHARE, "5" was renumbered as "0" to match current variable. In IMAS and CALAS, levels "1" and "2" were unified into "yes" answers, and "3" into "no" answers
Hearing in loud surroundings	quietsur_hearingh 1=yes 0=no			✓	✓	✓	In SHARE, "5" was renumbered as "0" to match current variable. In IMAS and CALAS, levels "1" and "2" were unified into "yes" answers, and "3" into "no" answers
Alcohol use	Alcohol_useh 1=yes 0=no			✓	✓	✓	The harmonized variable was coded "1" if any of the alcohol consumption original categories were positive. In SHARE, scale was recoded from a 7-point scale into a dichotomous one
Mild exercise	Exer_mildh			✓	✓	✓	The harmonized variable was coded as positive if any of the original separate

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	1=yes 0=no						exercise categories were positive, and thus recoded into a dichotomous scale
Vigorous exercise	exer_vigoroush 1=yes 0=no			✓	✓	✓	In SHARE and IMAS, The harmonized variable was coded as positive if any of the original separate exercise categories were positive, and thus recoded into a dichotomous scale.
Helping with house chores/with grandchildren/financial help	Help_giveh 1=yes 0=no			✓	✓	✓	All positive answer categories were unified into "1" answers, thus recoding the original scales into a dichotomous one
Receiving help from family with house chores/shopping/rides/financial help	Help_recieveh 1=yes 0=no			✓	✓	✓	In SHARE, and IMAS, all positive answers were unified into "yes" category, thus recoding the scale into a dichotomous one
Trauma	Trauma1h-11h 1=yes 0=no		✓	✓		✓	Positive answers for each type of trauma in the original separate trauma variables were coded "1" while missing values were coded "0."
Bradburn	Bradburn1h-10h	✓	✓				Items 3, 4, 6, 9, and 10 were reverse coded

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		SWB	BIO	SHARE	IMAS	CALAS	
	1=never 2=once 3=few times 4=often						
Diener, Satisfaction with Life Scale	swls1h-5h 1=totally disagree 2=disagree 3=slightly disagree 4=do not approve and do not disagree 5=slightly approve 6=approve 7=totally approve	✓	✓				