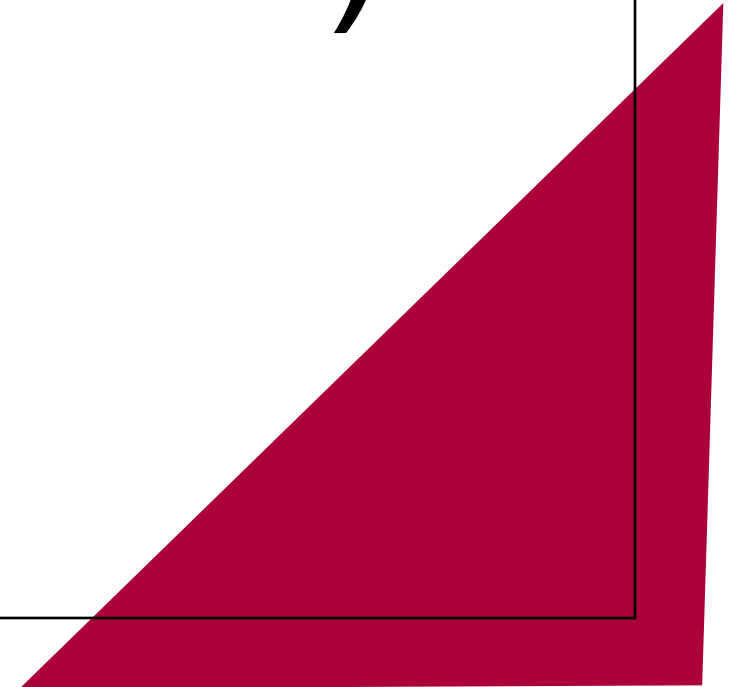


Understanding America Study (UAS)

*Cross-Network Meeting to
Advance Research on Aging, Health, and Place
September 8, 2025*



Study Design

- National probability-based internet panel (tablets provided if needed)
- Representative of the US adult population 18 and older
- Biennial surveys based on HRS content; monthly surveys on other topics



Surveys

5 waves of HRS (2014- 2022)
Rolling monthly surveys on other topics



Sample

~ 14,700 (20,000 by 2025)
Oversamples: Black, Asian, Hispanic,
Rural populations

UAS Data Collections & Linkages

- Survey data (biennial HRS and monthly event etc)
- Information from wearables (activity, sleep, pollution)
- Ecological momentary assessments (activities, mood)
- Self-recorded narratives (context and experiences)
- Administrative linkages (social security)
- Contextual data (social/physical/policy environments)
- Electronic records of financial transactions

UAS Survey Content



Demographics



Neighborhood



Early Life



Economics

(employment/pensions/income)



Health



Psychosocial



Limitations



Caregiving



Healthcare/insurance



User contributed topics



Cognition



Monthly surveys

Explore the Data

Welcome to the Interactive UAS Core Survey Data Explorer

For quick guide on how to use this dashboard, please click [here](#)

TOPICS

Cognition

SUBTOPICS

Cognition

VARIABLES

Cognitive Score. Picture Vocabulary, I

BY SUBGROUP:

☐ All

☐ Age

☒ Education

☐ Income

☐ Race-Ethnicity

☐ Sex

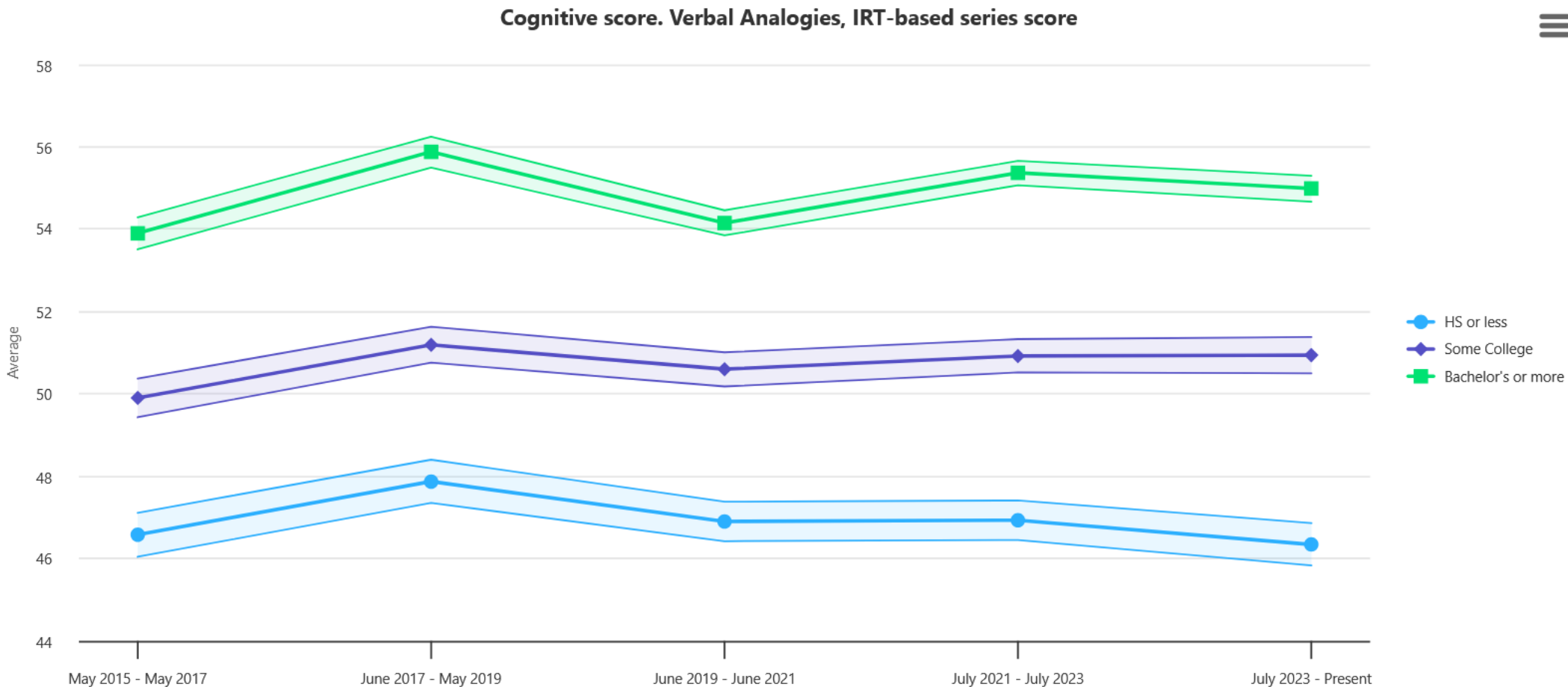
☐ Census region

DISTRIBUTION PLOT

BI-YEARLY TREND

Interactive UAS Core Survey Data Explorer

<https://uasvis.usc.edu/corevisualization.php>



Source: Biyearly Data CSV
*Weighted Estimates

Understanding America Study Exposome Database

<https://exposome.usc.edu/>

- UAS Exposome Database is a collection of user-friendly datasets that enable researchers to study the impact of physical, social, and policy environments on UAS respondents.
- UAS data users with access to the UAS enclave can request linkage of selected variables of these datasets to individual UAS respondents.
- The database is continually updated with new datasets.
- If you have a dataset you would like to be added, let us know at UAS-L@maillist.usc.edu.

Content Domains



**Physical
Environment**



**Physical
Environment**



Policy Environment

UAS|CDR

Contextual Data Resource for
the Understanding America Study



USC | UCLA Center on Biodemography and
Population Health

Available Data Products

Data Source	Time Period	Available Geographic Level			
		State	County	City	Tract
Census and American Community Survey	Census 2000-2018	●	●		●
Uniform Crime Reporting	1994-2014 and 2016		●		
GridMet Weather	2002-2019				●
USDA Food Enviroment and Access	Ranges: 2000-2016	●	●		●

Available Data Products

Data Source	Time Period	Available Geographic Level			
		City	Zip	Tract	Buffer/ Distance
StreetMap (ESRI) Walkability	2010			●	
Air Pollution: PM2.5 and Ozone EPA FAQSD Files	2002-2016			●	
Air Pollution: PM2.5 and Components from Atmos	2000-2017			●	

Nature Quality

NatureScore measures the amount and quality of natural elements of any address using a patent-pending system. For each address, NatureQuant analyzes and blends various data sets and processed information within a given radius, including satellite infrared measurements, GIS and land classifications, park data and features, tree canopies, air, noise and light pollutions, and computer vision elements (aerial and street images)

Source: NatureQuant

Link: <https://www.naturequant.com/naturescore/>

Citation: Browning MHEM, Hanley JR, Bailey CR, Beatley T, Gailey S, Hipp JA, Larson LR, James P, Jennings V, Jimenez MP, Kahn PH Jr, Li D, Reuben A, Rigolon A, Sachs NA, Pearson AL, Minson CT. Quantifying Nature: Introducing NatureScore™ and NatureDose™ as Health Analysis and Promotion Tools. Am J Health Promot. 2024 Jan;38(1):126-134. doi: 10.1177/08901171231210806b. PMID: 38126317; PMCID: PMC10876217.

Years: 2022

Show Variables

Current UAS Exposome Holdings

- United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Empirical Model Database
- Dartmouth University
- National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Economic Research Service (ERS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Satellite-derived PM2.5, Atmospheric Composition Analysis Group, Washington University in St. Louis
- United States Census Bureau TIGER/Line Shapefiles, All Lines shapefile and Cartographic Boundary Files
- U.S. Census Bureau
- NatureQuant
- Harvard Dataverse
- National Vital Statistics System
- US Census Bureau. US Decennial Census and American Community Survey
- Center for Aging and Policy Studies.


SURVEY DATA
AND DATA
PRODUCTS


SENSITIVE DATA


RESTRICTED
DATA


DATA
AGREEMENT


DATA
MANAGEMENT
POLICIES AND
SERVICES


UAS
VISUALIZATION

DATA AGREEMENT

To access our data, in addition to registering for a UAS account, please submit a Tier 1 data user agreement (DUA). This allows access to survey data and public use data products. For access to Tier 2 (Sensitive Data) or Tier 3 (Restricted Data), described below, a separate Data User Agreement is required.

Accounts are provided to those who have a legitimate research purpose. Your account, once granted, will provide access to UAS data associated with surveys that are not currently under embargo. **You may not share this data with colleagues, co-authors, or collaborators unless they too have created a UAS data access account.**

We strive to respond to your request within 3 business days. Incomplete DUAs, or failure of students to provide advisor contact information and signatures will engender delays. We will request verification from student advisors before granting student accounts.

<u><i>TIER 1: SURVEY DATA AND DATA PRODUCTS</i></u>
<u><i>TIER 2: SENSITIVE DATA</i></u>
<u><i>TIER 3: RESTRICTED DATA</i></u>
UAS data in this tier are made available for analysis only in the LINKAGE remote access Enclave, administered by UAS and the National Institute for Aging (NIA) Data Linkage Program. These data include coded UAS survey data linked with external program data from restricted sources such as SSA, CMS, or NDI. Also included in this tier are UAS coded survey data that include indirect or direct identifiers such as social media “handles” or data; occupation codes at levels 2 or 3, and location identifiers. To learn more about restricted data click here .