

**(Modified) Well-Being and Basic Needs Survey,  
United States, 2019**

**Description:**

This data set is a modified data set, which draws on the “*Well-Being and Basic Needs Survey, United States, 2019*” found here: <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/ICPSR/studies/38044>

The description of the original data:

*In December 2017, the Urban Institute launched the Well-Being and Basic Needs Survey (WBNS), a nationally representative, internet-based survey of non-elderly adults designed to monitor changes in individual and family well-being during a time when policymakers are considering significant changes to federal safety net programs serving low-income families. The 2019 round of the survey collects information on a broad array of topics related to health, material hardship, and the safety net, including health insurance, housing, food security, employment, family income, program participation, family financial security, disability, the 2020 Census, substance use disorder, and immigration issues.*

The current data set, however, is a subset of the original data set, and only includes a handful of variables that have been recoded.

**Variable Information:**

There are a total of 7,964 observations (individuals) in the data set, with a total of 23 variables. The variables are described below.

Variable Name	Variable Description	Original Variable Name	Level of Measurement	Range of Values
<b>subsidized_housing</b>	Is your household paying lower rent because the federal, state, or local government is paying part of the cost?	Q11	Group/Text	(see data)
<b>food_last</b>	Food did not last	Q20	Group/Text	(see data)
<b>nervous</b>	During the past 30 days, about how often did you feel: nervous?	Q30_1	Group/Text	(see data)
<b>hopeless</b>	During the past 30 days, about how often did you feel: hopeless?	Q30_2	Group/Text	(see data)
<b>restless</b>	During the past 30 days, about how often did you feel: restless or fidgety?	Q30_3	Group/Text	(see data)
<b>no_cheer</b>	During the past 30 days, about how often did you feel: so sad that nothing could cheer you up	Q30_4	Group/Text	(see data)
<b>worthless</b>	During the past 30 days, about how often did you feel: worthless?	Q30_6	Group/Text	(see data)
<b>insured</b>	Thinking about your health insurance coverage over the past 12 months, how many months were you insured?	Q33	Group/Text	(see data)
<b>med_notafford</b>	Thinking about your health care experiences over the past 12 months, was there any time when you needed medical care but did not get it because you couldn't afford it?	Q34	Group/Text	(see data)
<b>working</b>	Are you currently working for pay or self-employed?	Q37	Group/Text	(see data)
<b>unexp_400</b>	How confident are you that you could come up with \$400 if an unexpected expense arose within the next month?	Q65	Group/Text	(see data)
<b>educ</b>	Education level	PPEDUCAT	Group/Text	(see data)
<b>race_eth</b>	Race/ethnicity	PPETHM	Group/Text	(see data)
<b>sex_gender</b>	Sex/Gender	PPGENDER	Group/Text	(see data)
<b>head_household</b>	Head of Household?	PPHHHEAD	Group/Text	(see data)
<b>internet</b>	Internet access	XACSNET	Group/Text	(see data)
<b>children_in_house</b>	Number of children age 0-18 in household	NUM_CHILD_HH	Group/Text	(see data)
<b>food_insecure</b>	Household was food insecure in past 12 months	FOOD_INSEC	Group/Text	(see data)
<b>utility_suspend</b>	Gas or electric company turned off service or oil company would not deliver in oil past 12 months	UTILSUSP_Y	Group/Text	(see data)
<b>utility_problems_paying</b>	Household was not able to pay full amount of gas, oil, or electricity bills in past 12 months	UTILPROB_Y	Group/Text	(see data)
<b>mortgage_cost</b>	How much is the regular monthly payment on this property, including mortgage payments, second mortgage or home equity loan payments, real estate taxes, insurance, and condominium fees?	Q10A	Numeric	0--5000
<b>rent_cost</b>	What is the monthly rent for the place where you live?	Q10B	Numeric	0--3300

<b>electricity_cost</b>	In a typical month, what is the total cost of electricity, gas, and any other fuel used in the place where you live?	Q10C	Numeric	0--1200
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