The General Social Survey (GSS) is a public opinion poll conducted yearly or biennially by the National Opinion Research Council. A version of the 1998 GSS is available at the web site for this text and is used for all end-of-chapter exercises. Our version of the 1998 GSS includes about 50 variables for a randomly selected subsample of about half of the original respondents. This codebook lists each item in the data set. The variable names are those used in the data files. The questions have been reproduced exactly as they were asked (with a few exceptions to conserve space), and the numbers beside each response are the scores recorded in the data file.

The data set includes variables that measure demographic or background characteristics of the respondents, including sex, age, race, religion, and several indicators of socioeconomic status. Also included are items that measure opinion on such current and controversial topics as abortion, capital punishment, and homosexuality.

Most variables in the data set have codes for “missing data.” These refer to various situations in which the respondent does not or cannot answer the question. These codes are excluded from all statistical operations and are listed here in parentheses to the right of the variable name. The codes for missing data are: NAP or “not applicable” (the respondent was not asked the question), DK or “Don’t Know” (the respondent didn’t have the requested information), and NA or “No Answer” (the respondent refused to answer).

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### abany  
She wants it for any reason.  
1. Yes  
2. No  

### ablahh  
The woman’s health is seriously endangered.  
(Number scoring as abany)

### age  
Age of respondent  
18–89. Actual age in years  

### attend  
How often do you attend religious services?  
0. Never  
1. Less than once per year  
2. Once or twice a year  
3. Several times per year  
4. About once a month  
5. 2–3 times a month  
6. Nearly every week  
7. Every week  
8. Several times a week
cappin  Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?
9. Oppose
8. Neither agree nor disagree
7. Agree
6. Strongly agree
5. Not sure
4. Disagree
3. Strongly disagree
2. Oppose
1. Favor
0. Not sure

child  How many children have you ever had? Please count all that were born alive at any time (including any from a previous marriage).
9. NA
8. Eight or more
7. Five or more
6. Four or more
5. Three or more
4. Two or more
3. One or more
2. None
1. None

class  Subjective class identification
9. NA
8. Upper class
7. Middle class
6. Working class
5. Lower class
4. Not sure
3. Not sure
2. Not sure
1. Not sure

cohab  Is it alright for a couple to live together without intending to get married?
9. NA
8. Strongly agree
7. Agree
6. Neither agree nor disagree
5. Disagree
4. Strongly disagree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
2. Disagree
1. Agree
0. Strongly agree

degree  Respondent's highest degree
9. NA
8. Graduate
7. Bachelor's
6. Associate/Junior college
5. Less than HS
4. High school
3. Some college
2. Some college
1. Some college
0. Some college

educ  Highest year of school completed
9. NA
8. Graduate
7. Bachelor's
6. Associate/Junior college
5. Some college
4. High school
3. Some college
2. Some college
1. Some college
0. Some college

equivth  Should the government reduce the income differences between the rich and the poor? If a score of 1 means the government SHOULD reduce income differences and a score of 7 means that the government SHOULD NOT do so, what score between 1 and 7 comes closest to the way you feel?
9. NA
8. Strongly agree
7. Agree
6. Neither agree nor disagree
5. Disagree
4. Strongly disagree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
2. Disagree
1. Agree
0. Strongly agree

fear  Is there any area right around here—that is, within a mile—where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?
9. NA
8. Yes
7. No
6. Not sure
5. Not sure
4. Not sure
3. Not sure
2. Not sure
1. Not sure
0. Not sure

fem  It is much better for everyone involved if the man is the achiever outside the home and the woman takes care of the home and family.
9. NA
8. Strongly agree
7. Agree
6. Neither agree nor disagree
5. Disagree
4. Strongly disagree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
2. Disagree
1. Agree
0. Strongly agree
help
It is more important for a wife to help her husband's career than to have one herself. (Same scoring as item 11)

grass
Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal or not? (0 = NAP, 8 = DK, 9 = NA)
1. Should
2. Should not

gunlaw
Would you favor or oppose a law that requires a person to obtain a police permit before he or she could buy a gun? (0 = NAP, 8 = DK, 9 = NA)
1. Favor
2. Oppose

hapmar
Taking things all together, how would you describe your marriage? Would you say that your marriage is very happy, pretty happy, or not too happy? (0 = NAP, 8 = DK, 9 = NA)
1. Very happy
2. Pretty happy
3. Not too happy

happy
Taken all together, how would you say things are these days—would you say that you are very happy, pretty happy, or not too happy? (0 = NAP, 8 = DK, 9 = NA)
1. Very happy
2. Pretty happy
3. Not too happy

homosex
What about sexual relations between two adults of the same sex. Do you think it is always wrong, almost always wrong, wrong only sometimes, or not wrong at all? (0 = Other, 1 = NAP, 8 = DK, 9 = NA)
1. Always wrong
2. Almost always wrong
3. Wrong only sometimes
4. Not wrong at all

income98
Resident's total family income from all sources for 1998 (0 = DK, 99 = NA)
1. Less than 1000
2. 1000 to 2999
3. 3000 to 4999
4. 4000 to 5999
5. 5000 to 6999
6. 6000 to 7999
7. 7000 to 8999
8. 8000 to 9999
9. 10,000 to 11,999
10. 12,000 to 14,999
11. 15,000 to 17,499
12. 17,500 to 19,999
13. 20,000 to 22,499
14. 22,500 to 24,999
15. 25,000 to 29,999
16. 30,000 to 34,999
17. 35,000 to 39,999
18. 40,000 to 49,999
19. 50,000 to 59,999
20. 60,000 to 74,999
21. 75,000 to 89,999
22. 90,000 to 109,999
23. 110,000 or over
| marital | Are you currently married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married? (9. NA)  
1. Married  
2. Widowed  
3. Divorced  
4. Separated  
5. Never married |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| news | How often do you read the newspaper? (0. NAP, 8. DK, 9. NA)  
1. Everyday  
2. A few times a week  
3. Once a week  
4. Less than once a week  
5. Never |
| paradox | Father's highest year of school completed (97. NAP, 98. DK, 99. NA)  
0–20. Actual number of years |
| paper88 | Prestige of father's occupation (0. NAP, DK, NA)  
17–86. Actual score |
| partners | How many sex partners have you had over the past five years? (9. 1 or more, don't know the number. 95. Several, 98. DK, 99. NA, −1. NAP)  
0. No partners  
1. 1 partner  
2. 2 partners  
3. 3 partners  
4. 4 partners  
5. 5–10 partners  
6. 11–20 partners  
7. 21–100 partners  
8. More than 100 partners |
| polviews | I'm going to show you a seven-point scale on which the political views that people might hold are arranged from extremely liberal to extremely conservative. Where would you place yourself on this scale? (0. NAP, 8. DK, 9. NA)  
1. Extremely liberal  
2. Liberal  
3. Slightly liberal  
4. Moderate  
5. Slightly conservative  
6. Conservative  
7. Extremely conservative |
| postlife | Do you believe there is life after death? (0. NAP, 8. DK, 9. NA)  
1. Yes  
2. No |
| premarxx | There's been a lot of discussion about the way morals and attitudes about sex are changing in this country. If a man and a woman have sex relations before marriage, do you think it is always wrong, almost always wrong, wrong only sometimes, or not wrong at all? (0. NAP, 8. DK, 9. NA)  
1. Always wrong  
2. Almost always wrong  
3. Wrong only sometimes  
4. Not wrong at all |
| pres96 | In 1996, you remember that Clinton ran for president on the Democratic ticket against Dole for the Republicans and Perot as an independent. Did you vote |
for Clinton, Dole, or Perot (includes only those who said they voted in this election)

1. Clinton
2. Dole
3. Perot

prosocial Prestige of respondent's occupation
17-86, Actual score

race Race of respondent
1. White
2. Black
3. Other

racepush African Americans shouldn't push themselves where they're not wanted.

1. Agree strongly
2. Agree slightly
3. Disagree slightly
4. Disagree strongly

region Region of interview
1. New England
2. Mid-Atlantic
3. East N. Cent.
4. West N. Cent.
5. So. Atlantic
7. West So. Cent.
8. Mountain
9. Pacific

reig What is your religious preference? Is it Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, some other religion, or no religion at all?
1. Protestant
2. Catholic
3. Jewish
4. Other
5. None

satfin So far as you and your family are concerned, would you say that you are pretty well satisfied with your present financial situation, more or less satisfied, or not satisfied at all?
1. Pretty well satisfied
2. More or less satisfied
3. Not satisfied at all

satjob On the whole, how satisfied are you with the work you do?

1. Very satisfied
2. Moderately satisfied
3. A little dissatisfied
4. Very dissatisfied

sex Respondent's gender
1. Male
2. Female
sexed
Would you be for or against sex education in your public schools?
(0= NAP, 3= Depends, 8= DK, 9= NA)
1. Favor
2. Oppose

sexfreq
About how many times did you have sex during the last 12 months?
(—1= NAP, 8= DK, 9= NA)
0. Never
1. Once or twice
2. About once a month
3. 2 or 3 times a month
4. About once a week
5. 2 or 3 times a week
6. More than 3 times a week

size
Size of place in thousands. Population figures from U.S. Census. Add three zeros to code for actual values.

spanking
Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree that it is sometimes necessary to discipline a child with a good, hard spanking?
(0= NAP, 8= DK, 9= NA)
1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Disagree
4. Strongly disagree

spkath
There are always some people whose ideas are considered bad or dangerous by other people. For instance, somebody who is against all churches and religion. If such a person wanted to make a speech in your city/town/ neighborhood, . . . should be allowed to speak or not?
(0= NAP, 8= DK, 9= NA)
1. Allowed
2. Not allowed

suicid1
Do you think a person has a right to end his or her own life if the person has an inurable disease?
(0= NAP, 8= DK, 9= NA)
1. Yes
2. No

most
Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?
(0= NAP, 8= DK, 9= NA)
1. Most people can be trusted
2. Can't be too careful

tvhours
On the average, about how many hours do you personally watch television?
(—1= NAP, 59.8= DK, 99.0= NA)
0.0—24.0 Actual hours

twelg
About how much time per week do you spend watching religious shows on television?
(—1= NAP, 99.0= DK, 999.0= NA)
0.0—180.0 Actual hours
wrlstat  Last week, were you working full time, part time, going to school, keeping house, or what?
1. Working full time
2. Working part time
3. With a job but not at work (ill, vacation, etc.)
4. Unemployed
5. Retired
6. In school
7. Keeping house
8. Other

xmovie  Have you seen an X-rated movie in the last year?  0=NA, 8=DK, 9=NA
1. Yes
2. No