

Cross-Wave Harmonized Marriage Roster

wls_marriage_public_2026_v1

The marriage roster uses information from each wave of the survey and administrative data to create a complete harmonized marital history. For simplicity, the roster is stored in long form (one record for each marriage) rather than wide (one record for each grad or sib participant).

This roster reconciles differing reports across rounds. To avoid confusion, we have now deleted roster measures from the main dataset.

The roster includes a record for every person (19,046) in the WLS. People for whom we have had very limited contact, or who refused questions on marriage are included in the roster with the total number of marriages (totmar) coded as -4 meaning “Not Ascertained.” Never married participants are also included in the roster and are coded zero on “totmar.”

	Number of Marriages				Number of Participants		
	Grad	Sib	Total		Grad	Sib	Total
-4	700	2,782	3,482		700	2,782	3,482
0	433	261	694		433	261	694
1	7,325	4,469	11,794		7325	4469	11,794
2	3,060	2,012	5,072		1530	1006	2,536
3	846	543	1,389		282	181	463
4	160	100	260		40	25	65
5	25	25	50		5	5	10
6	6	0	6		1	0	1
7	7	0	7		1	0	1
Total	12,562	10,192	22,754		10317	8,729	19,046

Case level variables:

respidpub/priv	Single identifier created by concatenating familypub/priv and personid
totmar	Total number of marriages
ylc	Year of last completed telephone or in-person interview
mlc	Month of last completed telephone or in-person interview

Marriage Level variables

Variable Name	Label
mar_num	Marriage number
start_y	Year of start of marriage
start_m	Month of start of marriage
status	Last known status of marriage
sp_brth_y	Year of spouse's birth
sp_brth_m	Month of spouse's birth
num_kid	Number of kids reported
stop_y	Year couple stopped living together
stop_m	Month couple stopped living together
div_y	Year couple divorced
div_m	Month couple divorced
spdth_y	Year spouse died
spdth_m	Month spouse died
spcod	Spouse Cause of Death
r02spflg	Did Grad's parent tell about son-in-law in this marriage in 1964 parent post-card survey? (Not available for sibling participants.)
r03spflg	Did R talk about this spouse as current spouse in R03 (1975/77) interview?
r03lstspflg	Did R talk about this spouse as being the prior spouse in R03 (1975/77) interview?
r04spflg	Did R talk about this spouse as current spouse in R04 (1993/94) interview?
r05spflg	Did R talk about this spouse as current spouse in R05 (2004/05) interview?
r06spflg	Did R talk about this spouse as current spouse in R06 (2011) interview?
r07spflg	Was R married to this spouse at the time of the R07 (2020) interview?
r08spflg	Was R married to this spouse at the time of the R08 (2022) interview?
int_sp	Did this spouse complete the spouse interview in 2006?
sp_iq	Did we locate an IQ score for this spouse?
coupleid	ID linking participants who are/were married to each other

Measures disclosing spouse's birth and death month and coupleid are not included in the public version.

Using the ro#spflg variables users can match up more detailed information from the main data set to the marriage roster. In the following tables, I show which measures in the main data set are valid when ro#spflg=1.

Table of R02 measures that apply to marriages where r02spflg = 1

Variable Name	Label
r02_g_ochs64_q	R02 - 1950 occupation code for husband's occupation.
r02_g_ocph64_q	R02 - 1950 NORC prestige score for husband's occupation.
r02_g_ocsh64_q	R02 - 1950 Duncan's SEI score for husband's occupation.
r02_g_siths6_q	R02 - Husband's occupation by general category.

Table of R03 measures that apply to marriages where ro3spflg = 1

Variable Name	Label
r03_g_cwsphh_i	R03 - Class of worker code for current spouse's head of household when spouse was 16.
r03_g_edsphh_i	R03 - Educational attainment of current spouse's head of household when spouse was 16.
r03_g_inmsph_i	R03 - 1970 Major industry code for current spouse's head of household when spouse was 16.
r03_g_insphh_i	R03 - 1970 Census detailed industry code for current spouse's head of household when spouse was 16.
r03_g_mr75idus_i	R03 - IDPRIV of graduate's spouse if also a graduate respondent.
r03_g_ocesph_i	R03 - 1970 Occupational education score for current spouse's head of household when spouse was 16.
r03_g_ocisph_i	R03 - 1970 Occupational income score of current spouse's head of household when spouse was 16.
r03_g_ocmsph_i	R03 - 1970 Major occupation code for current spouse's head of household when spouse was 16.
r03_g_ocpsphu_i	R03 - 1970 Siegel prestige score for current spouse's head of household when spouse was 16.
r03_g_ocsphh_i	R03 - 1970 Census detailed occupation code for current spouse's head of household when spouse was 16.
r03_g_ocssphu_i	R03 - 1970 Duncan SEI score for current spouse's head of household when spouse was 16.
r03_g_rrmr75f_i	R03 - Is the graduate married to another graduate respondent in the sample?
r03_g_spbro_i	R03 - Number of brothers of current spouse.
r03_g_sphhos_i	R03 - Summary code for current spouse's head of household up to time spouse was 16.
r03_g_sphoh_i	R03 - Detailed code for current spouse's head of household up to time spouse was 16.
r03_g_spinct_i	R03 - Did current spouse live with both parents up to time spouse was 16?
r03_g_spsibs_i	R03 - Number of siblings of current spouse.
r03_g_spsis_i	R03 - Number of sisters of current spouse.
r03_z_csplfs_i	R03 - Labor force status of current spouse.
r03_z_cwcrs_i	R03 - Class of worker code for current spouse's current/last job.
r03_z_incrs_i	R03 - 1970 Census detailed industry code for current spouse's current/last job.
r03_z_inmcrs_i	R03 - 1970 Major industry code for current spouse's current/last job.
r03_z_mrceds_i	R03 - Educational attainment of current spouse.
r03_z_mrcrs_i	R03 - Employment status of current spouse.
r03_z_ocrs_i	R03 - 1970 Detailed occupation code for current spouse's current/last job.
r03_z_occrs_i	R03 - 1970 Occupational education score for current spouse's current/last job.
r03_z_ocicrs_i	R03 - 1970 Occupational income score for current spouse's current/last job.
r03_z_omcrs_i	R03 - 1970 Major occupation code for current spouse's current/last job.
r03_z_ocpcrsu_i	R03 - 1970 Siegel prestige score for current spouse's current/last job.
r03_z_ocscrsu_i	R03 - 1970 Duncan SEI score for current spouse's current/last job.

Table of R03 measures that apply to marriages where ro3lstspflg = 1

Variable Name	Label
r03_z_edlspu_i	R03 - Educational attainment of previous spouse.

Table of R04 measures that apply to marriages where ro4spflg = 1

Variable Name	Label
r04_z_c014sp_i	R04 - Labor force status of current spouse.
r04_z_c015sp_i	R04 - Current spouse's activity.
r04_z_c016sp_i	R04 - Has current spouse ever worked?
r04_z_c026sp_i	R04 - 1990 Census detailed industry code for current spouse's current/last job.
r04_z_c027sp_i	R04 - 1990 Census detailed occupation code for current spouse's current/last job.
r04_z_c028sp_i	R04 - 1990 Major industry code for current spouse's current/last job.
r04_z_c029sp_i	R04 - 1990 Major occupation code for current spouse's current/last job.
r04_z_c030sp_i	R04 - 1989 Nakao-Treas Prestige Rating for current spouse's current/last job.
r04_z_c031sp_i	R04 - 1990 occupational education score for current spouse's current/last job.
r04_z_c032sp_i	R04 - 1990 Occupational Earnings Score for current spouse's current/last job.
r04_z_c034sp_i	R04 - Is your current spouse living in the same household?
r04_z_c035sp_i	R04 - Reason for not living with current spouse.
r04_z_c036sp_i	R04 - Current spouse ever married before this marriage.
r04_z_c037sp_i	R04 - Number of marriages current spouse ever had before.
r04_z_c038sp_i	R04 - Description of current spouse's health.
r04_z_c039re_i	R04 - Similarity of outlook on life with current spouse.
r04_z_c040re_i	R04 - How close respondent is with current spouse.
r04_z_ca10sp_i	R04 - Highest grade of school current spouse completed at time of 1977 interview for marriages reported in 1977 interview.
r04_z_ca22sp_i	R04 - 1970 Occupational Education Score for current spouse's current/last job.
r04_z_cb10sp_i	R04 - Current spouse level of education completed at time of marriage for marriages newly reported this interview.
r04_z_cb22sp_i	R04 - 1970 Occupational Income Score for current spouse's current/last job.
r04_z_cu17sp_i	R04 - 1970 Census detailed industry code for current spouse's current/last job.
r04_z_cu18sp_i	R04 - 1970 Census detailed occupation code for current spouse's current/last job.
r04_z_cu19sp_i	R04 - Class of worker code for current spouse's current/last job.
r04_z_cu20sp_i	R04 - 1970 Major industry code for current spouse's current/last job.
r04_z_cu21sp_i	R04 - 1970 Major occupation code for current spouse's current/last job.
r04_z_cu22sp_i	R04 - 1970 Duncan SEI score for current spouse's current/last job.
r04_z_cu23sp_i	R04 - 1970 Siegel prestige score for current spouse's current/last job.
r04_z_cu24sp_i	R04 - 1970 MSEI2 occupational status score for current spouse's current/last job.
r04_z_cu25sp_i	R04 - 1970 TSEI2 occupational status score for current spouse's current/last job.
r04_z_c014sp_i	R04 - Labor force status of current spouse.
r04_z_c015sp_i	R04 - Current spouse's activity.
r04_z_c016sp_i	R04 - Has current spouse ever worked?
r04_z_c026sp_i	R04 - 1990 Census detailed industry code for current spouse's current/last job.
r04_z_c027sp_i	R04 - 1990 Census detailed occupation code for current spouse's current/last job.
r04_z_c028sp_i	R04 - 1990 Major industry code for current spouse's current/last job.

Table of R05 measures that apply to marriages where ro5spflg = 1

Variable Name	Label
r05_z_c014sp_i	R05 - Labor force status of current spouse.
r05_z_c015sp_i	R05 - Current spouse's labor force activity.
r05_z_c016sp_i	R05 - Has your current spouse ever worked?
r05_z_c026sp_i	R05 - 1990 Census detailed industry code for current spouse's current/last job.
r05_z_c027sp_i	R05 - 1990 Census detailed occupation code for current spouse's current/last job.
r05_z_c028sp_i	R05 - 1990 Major industry code for current spouse's current/last job.
r05_z_c029sp_i	R05 - 1990 Major occupation code for current spouse's current/last job.
r05_z_c030sp_i	R05 - 1989 Nakao-Treas Prestige Rating for current spouse's current/last job.
r05_z_c031sp_i	R05 - 1990 Occupational Education Score for current spouse's current/last job.
r05_z_c032sp_i	R05 - 1990 Occupational Earnings Score for current spouse's current/last job.
r05_z_c034sp_i	R05 - Are you and your spouse currently living in the same household?
r05_z_c035sp_i	R05 - Why are you and your spouse not currently living with one another?
r05_z_c038sp_i	R05 - How would you describe your current spouses' health?
r05_z_c039re_i	R05 - To what extent do you and your spouse share a similar outlook on life?
r05_z_c040re_i	R05 - How close are you and your current spouse?
r05_z_c090sp_i	R05 - Is your current spouses' job the same as it was at the time of your last interview?
r05_z_c091sp_i	R05 - In what year did your current spouse retire?
r05_z_c092sp_i	R05 - Has your current spouse worked since their retirement?
r05_z_c093sp_i	R05 - In what year did your current spouse leave their last/most recent job?
r05_z_c094sp_i	R05 - Does your current spouse have a physical or mental condition that limits the amount or kind of work that he/she can do for pay?
r05_z_c095sp_i	R05 - Is your current spouse a 1957 Wisconsin high school graduate?
r05_z_c115sp_i	R05 - Do you expect your spouse to return to the labor force within 6 months?
r05_z_c191sp_i	R05 - How is your relationship with your spouse since your spouse retired?
r05_z_c194sp_i	R05 - What is the most serious physical or mental condition that limits the amount or kind of work that spouse can do for pay?
r05_z_c216sp_i	R05 - How many hours per week does or did your spouse work at their current or last job?
r05_z_c316sp_i	R05 - Has your current spouse had a job since 1994?
r05_z_ca10sp_i	R05 - Highest grade of school current spouse completed at time of 1977 interview.
r05_z_cb10sp_i	R05 - Educational attainment of current spouse at time of marriage.
r05_z_cu19sp_i	R05 - Class of worker code for current spouse's current/last job.
r05_z_v005re_i	R05 - Does your current spouse have a condition or disability that limits any non-work activities now or is likely to in the future?
r05_z_v006re_i	R05 - What is the most serious condition or disability your current spouse has that limits any non-work activities now or is likely to in the future?
r05_z_v047sp_i	R05 - During the last 12 months, did your current spouse receive personal care for a period of one month or more because of an illness, or disability?
r05_z_c014sp_i	R05 - Labor force status of current spouse.
r05_z_c015sp_i	R05 - Current spouse's labor force activity.
r05_z_c016sp_i	R05 - Has your current spouse ever worked?
r05_z_c026sp_i	R05 - 1990 Census detailed industry code for current spouse's current/last job.
r05_z_c027sp_i	R05 - 1990 Census detailed occupation code for current spouse's current/last job.

r05_z_c028sp_i	R05 - 1990 Major industry code for current spouse's current/last job.
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Table of R06 measures that apply to marriages where ro6spflg = 1

Variable Name	Label
r06_z_1006spc_i	R06 - Spouse/Partner's Religious Preference
r06_z_c014sp_i	R06 - Labor force status of current (2011) spouse
r06_z_c016sp_i	R06 - Has 2011 spouse ever worked?
r06_z_c026sp_i	R06 - 1990 Census detailed Industry Code for spouse's job
r06_z_c027sp_i	R06 - 1990 Census detailed Occupation Code for spouse's job
r06_z_c028sp_i	R06 - 1990 major industry code for spouse's job
r06_z_c029sp_i	R06 - 1990 major Occupation code for spouse's job
r06_z_c030sp_i	R06 - 1989 NT Prestige Rating for Spouse's job
r06_z_c031sp_i	R06 - 1990 Occ Educ Score for spouse's current job
r06_z_c032sp_i	R06 - 1990 Occ Earnings Score for spouse's current job
r06_z_c034sp_i	R06 - Does R currently live with spouse/partner?
r06_z_c035spx_i	R06 - Why are R and spouse/partner not living together?
r06_z_c038spa_i	R06 - Version A: How would you describe your spouse/partner's health?
r06_z_c038spb_i	R06 - Version B: How would you describe your spouse/partner's health?
r06_z_c038spf_i	R06 - Flag for version and order of spouse health question
r06_z_c039re_i	R06 - To what extent do you and your spouse share a similar outlook on life?
r06_z_c040re_i	R06 - How close ae you and your current spouse?
r06_z_c090sp_i	R06 - (Continuous) Spouse has same job now as last intrvw?
r06_z_c091sp_i	R06 - Year of retirement/leaving job for R's current Spouse
r06_z_c094sp_i	R06 - Does Spouse/Partner have physical or mental condition that limits work?
r06_z_c126sp_i	R06 - 2000 Census detailed Industry Code for spouse's job
r06_z_c127sp_i	R06 - 2000 Census detailed Occupation Code for spouse's job
r06_z_c128sp_i	R06 - 2000 Census Major Industry Code for spouse's job
r06_z_c129sp_i	R06 - 2000 Census Major Occupation Code for spouse's job
r06_z_c130sp_i	R06 - NAICS (North American Industry Classification System code) for spouse's job
r06_z_c131sp_i	R06 - Standard Occupational Classification code for spouse's job
r06_z_c216sp_i	R06 - Hours spouse worked at current/last/retirement job
r06_z_c216spf_i	R06 - Flag for kc216sp kc026sp kcu19sp kc026sp kc027sp kc028sp kc029sp kc126sp kc127sp kc128sp kc129sp kc130sp kc131sp kc030sp kc031sp kc032sp
r06_z_c316sp_i	R06 - Current (continuous) spouse had a job since last interview?
r06_z_cb10sp_i	R06 - Level of Educational attainment of 2011 spouse/partner at time of marriage/cohab
r06_z_cc11sp_i	R06 - Number of Spouse/Partner's Children at time of new 2011 marriage/cohab
r06_z_cu19sp_i	R06 - Class of Worker Code for Spouse's Job
r06_z_ta121re_i	R06 - Current Quality of Relationship with spouse compared to pre-retirement relationship
r06_z_v005f_i	R06 - Flag for number of conditions listed
r06_z_v005re_i	R06 - Does spouse partner have condition that limits non-work activities now or is likely to in the future?
r06_z_v005re1_i	R06 - ICD-9 Code for first condition listed

r06_z_v005re2_i	R06 - ICD-9 Code for second condition listed
r06_z_v005re3_i	R06 - ICD-9 Code for third condition listed
r06_z_v005re4_i	R06 - ICD-9 Code for fourth condition listed
r06_z_v005re5_i	R06 - ICD-9 Code for fifth condition listed
r06_z_v047sp_i	R06 - In the last 12 months did sp/part RECEIVE personal care for a period of 1 month or more because of an illness or disability?
r06_z_1006spc_i	R06 - Spouse/Partner's Religious Preference
r06_z_c014sp_i	R06 - Labor force status of current (2011) spouse
r06_z_c016sp_i	R06 - Has 2011 spouse ever worked?
r06_z_c026sp_i	R06 - 1990 Census detailed Industry Code for spouse's job
r06_z_c027sp_i	R06 - 1990 Census detailed Occupation Code for spouse's job

Table of R07 measures that apply to marriages where ro7spflg = 1

Variable Name	Label
r07_z_c034sp_i	R07 - Currently live with spouse/partner
r07_z_c035sp_i	R07 - Reason why R and spouse/partner are not living together

Table of R08 measures that apply to marriages where ro8spflg = 1

Variable Name	Label
r08_z_c034sp_i	R08 - Currently live with spouse/partner
r08_z_c035sp_i	R08 - Reason why R and spouse are not living together

All measures from the WLS spouses interview will apply to marriages where int_sp = 1

Table of AD measures that apply to marriages where sp_iq = 1

Variable Name	Label
z_spwiiq_bm	AD - Best measure of spouse IQ mapped from converted Henmon-Nelson score
z_sphnrs_bm	AD - Best measure of spouse Henmon-Nelson raw score
z_spwicr_bm	AD - Best measure of spouse WI centile rank based on converted Henmon-Nelson score
z_spncr_bm	AD - Best measure of spouse National centile rank based on converted Henmon-Nelson score
z_spbook_flag_bm	AD - Best measure of years difference between estimated graduation and WI book found in
z_iqsource	AD - The grade level in which raw Henmom-Nelson scores were converted into best measure IQ score
z_spwiiq_f	AD - Spouse WI IQ based on the conversion of freshman raw Henmon-Nelson score
z_sphnrs_f	AD - Spouse converted freshman Henmon-Nelson score
z_spwicr_f	AD - Spouse WI centile rank based on converted freshman Henmon-Nelson score
z_spncr_f	AD - Spouse National centile rank based on converted freshman Henmon-Nelson score
z_spwiiq_p	AD - Spouse WI IQ based on the conversion of sophomore raw Henmon-Nelson score
z_sphnrs_p	AD - Spouse converted sophomore Henmon-Nelson score

z_spwicr_p	AD - Spouse WI centile rank based on converted sophomore Henmon-Nelson score
z_spncr_p	AD - Spouse National centile rank based on converted sophomore Henmon-Nelson score
z_spwiiq_j	AD - Spouse WI IQ based on the conversion of junior Henmon-Nelson score
z_sphnrs_j	AD - Spouse converted junior Henmon-Nelson score
z_spwicr_j	AD - Spouse WI centile rank based on converted junior Henmon-Nelson score
z_spncr_j	AD - Spouse National centile rank based on converted junior Henmon-Nelson score
z_spwiiq_s	AD - Spouse WI IQ based on the conversion of senior Henmon-Nelson score
z_sphnrs_s	AD - Spouse converted senior Henmon-Nelson score
z_spwicr_s	AD - Spouse WI centile rank based on converted senior Henmon-Nelson score
z_spncr_s	AD - Spouse National centile rank based on converted senior Henmon-Nelson score
z_fbook_flag	AD - Difference in years between estimated graduation and WI book score was found in for freshman
z_pbook_flag	AD - Difference in years between estimated graduation and WI book score was found in for sophomores
z_jbook_flag	AD - Difference in years between estimated graduation and WI book score was found in for juniors
z_sbook_flag	AD - Difference in years between estimated graduation and WI book score was found in for seniors