

# Package ‘childfree’

April 5, 2024

**Title** Access and Harmonize Childfree Demographic Data

**Version** 0.0.1

**Description** Reads demographic data from a variety of public data sources, extracting and harmonizing variables useful for the study of childfree individuals. The identification of childfree individuals and those with other family statuses uses Neal & Neal's (2024) "A Framework for Studying Adults who Neither have Nor Want Children" <doi:10.1177/10664807231198869>; A preprint is available at <doi:10.31234/osf.io/fa89m>.

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxygenNote** 7.2.3

**Depends** R (>= 2.10)

**Imports** rio, utils,

**Suggests** knitr,

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**URL** <https://www.zacharyneal.com/childfree>,  
<https://www.jennawneal.com/childfree-adults>,  
<https://github.com/zpneal/childfree>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/zpneal/childfree/issues>

**NeedsCompilation** no

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**Repository** CRAN

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childfree	<i>childfree: Access and harmonize childfree demographic data</i>
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### Description

Reads demographic data from a variety of public data sources, extracting and harmonizing variables useful for the study of childfree individuals. The identification of childfree individuals and those with other family statuses uses the framework described by Neal & Neal (2024).

Data can be generated from:

- UN Demographic and Health Surveys data using `dhs()`
- Michigan State University State of the State data using `sooss()`
- US CDC National Survey of Family Growth data using `nsfg()`

An introduction to the package is available using `vignette("childfree")`, and the detailed codebooks generated by these functions are available using `vignette("codebooks")`.

### References

Neal, Z. P. and Neal, J. W. (2024). A framework for studying adults who neither have nor want children. *The Family Journal*, 32, 121-130. Version of record: [doi:10.1177/10664807231198869](https://doi.org/10.1177/10664807231198869)  
Preprint: [doi:10.31234/osf.io/fa89m](https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/fa89m)

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dhs	<i>Read and recode UN Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) individual data</i>
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### Description

Read and recode UN Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) individual data

### Usage

```
dhs(files, extra.vars = NULL, progress = TRUE)
```

### Arguments

files	vector: a character vector containing the paths for one or more Individual Recode DHS data files (see details)
extra.vars	vector: a character vector containing the names of variables to be retained from the raw data
progress	boolean: display a progress bar

## Details

The United Nations **Demographic and Health Surveys** (DHS) program regularly collects health data from population-representative samples in many countries using standardized surveys since 1984. The "individual recode" data files contain women's responses, and are available in SPSS, SAS, and Stata formats from <https://www.dhsprogram.com/>. Access to these data requires a **free application**. The `dhs()` function reads one or more of these files, extracts and recodes selected variables useful for studying childfree adults and other family statuses, then returns a single data frame.

Although access to DHS data requires an application, the DHS program provides **model datasets** for practice. The example provided below uses the model data file "ZZIR62FL.SAV", which contains fictitious data, but has the same structure as real DHS data files. The example can be run without prior application for data access.

### Known issues

- The SPSS-formatted files containing data from Gabon Recode 4 (GAIR41FL.SAV) and Turkey Recode 4 (TRIR41FL.SAV) contain encoding errors. Use the SAS-formatted files (GAIR41FL.SAS7BDAT and TRIR41FL.SAS7BDAT) instead.
- In some cases, DHS makes available individual recode data files for specific states. For example, data from Ondo State in Nigeria from Wave 1 is contained in OSIR01FL.SAV, data from states in India from 1999 are contained in files named XXIR42FL.SAV, where the "XX" is a two-letter state code. This function only accepts whole-country individual recode data files, and not these state-specific data files.

## Value

A data frame containing variables described in the codebook available using `vignette("codebooks")`

## Examples

```
data <- dhs(files = c("ZZIR62FL.SAV"), extra.vars = c("v201"))
```

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nsfg

*Read and recode National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) data*

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## Description

Read and recode National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) data

## Usage

```
nsfg(years, progress = TRUE)
```

## Arguments

years	vector: a numeric vector containing the starting year of NSFG waves to include (2002, 2006, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017)
progress	boolean: display a progress bar

## Details

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control **National Survey of Family Growth** (NSFG) regularly collects fertility and other health information from a population-representative sample of adults in the United States. Between 1973 and 2002, the NSFG was conducted periodically. Starting in 2002, the NSFG transitioned to continuous data collection, releasing data in three-year waves (e.g., the 2013-2015, 2015-2017). The `nsfg()` function reads the raw data from CDC's website, extracts and recodes selected variables useful for studying childfree adults and other family statuses, then returns a single data frame.

### Known issues

- Starting in 2006, "hispanic" was a response option for race, however "hispanic" is not a racial category, but an ethnicity. When a respondent chose this option, their actual race is unknown.

## Value

A data frame containing variables described in the codebook available using `vignette("codebooks")`

## Examples

```
data <- nsfg(years = 2017)
```

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soos

*Read and recode Michigan State of the State (SOSS) data*

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## Description

Read and recode Michigan State of the State (SOSS) data

## Usage

```
soos(waves, extra.vars = NULL, progress = TRUE)
```

## Arguments

<code>waves</code>	vector: a numeric vector containing the SOSS waves to include (currently available: 79, 82, 84, 85, 86)
<code>extra.vars</code>	vector: a character vector containing the names of variables to be retained from the raw data
<code>progress</code>	boolean: display a progress bar

## Details

The **State of the State Survey** (SOSS) is regularly collected by the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) at Michigan State University (MSU). Each wave is collected from a sample of 1000 adults in the US state of Michigan, and includes sampling weights to obtain a sample that is representative of the state's population with respect to age, gender, race, and education. The `so` function reads the raw data from IPPSR's website, extracts and recodes selected variables useful for studying childfree adults and other family statuses, then returns a single data frame. Questions necessary for identifying childfree adults were asked in five waves, which each include unique questions that may be of interest:

- **Wave 79** (May 2020) - Neighborhoods, Health care, COVID, Personality
- **Wave 82** (September 2021) - Trust in government, Critical Race Theory
- **Wave 84** (April 2022) - Trust in scientists, Autonomous vehicles, Morality
- **Wave 85** (September 2022) - Reproductive rights, Race equity
- **Wave 86** (December 2022) - Education, Infrastructure

## Known issues

- Wave 79 did not include a "do not know" option for selected questions. Therefore, it is not possible to identify "undecided" or "ambivalent non-parent" respondents. This may lead other family status categories to be inflated.
- Wave 82 originally included a 500 person oversample of parents. These respondents are omitted if `wave == 82`.

## Value

A data frame containing variables described in the codebook available using `vignette("codebooks")`

## Examples

```
data <- so(waves = 84, extra.vars = c("neal1"))
```

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