

**User's Guide and Codebook  
Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)**

**Michigan Public Policy Survey Restricted Use Datasets:  
Spring 2015 Data**

**CENTER FOR LOCAL, STATE, AND URBAN POLICY (CLOSUP)**  
**FORD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

## **ABOUT THE DATASET:**

Title: Michigan Public Policy Survey Restricted Use Datasets: Spring 2015 Data

Responses: 1,448 total surveys from 1,328 distinct local jurisdictions

Sample: census survey of 3,712 top elected and top appointed officials from all 1,856 Michigan counties, cities, villages, and townships

Field period: April 6 - June 8, 2015

Response rate: 72% by jurisdiction; 41% by individual respondent

Dataset Version: Version 1

Dataset Release Date: April 22, 2016

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS) is a program of state-wide surveys of local government leaders in Michigan. The MPPS is administered online and via hard copy questionnaire and takes place twice each year, in spring and fall. Each wave investigates local officials' opinions and perspectives on a variety of important public policy issues. Respondents for the MPPS include county administrator and board chairs, mayors and city managers, village presidents, clerks, and managers, and township supervisors, clerks, and managers from every general-purpose unit of government across the state.

## **SURVEY WAVE CONTENT:**

The Spring 2015 MPPS wave focused on fiscal, budgetary and operational policies. Additional questions focused on retiree health care and income benefits and job approval assessments for the governor, state legislators, and state agencies.

## **WEIGHTS AND DATA ANALYSIS:**

The Spring 2015 dataset includes two separate weights—one for individual-level (`ind_wgt`) and one for jurisdiction-level (`juris_wgt`) analyses—that should be used to account for nonresponse at the individual and jurisdictional levels, respectively. The variable `samp_juris` can be used to select cases according to whether analysis is being done at the individual-level or jurisdiction-level.

**MISSING DATA:**

Missing data in the Spring 2015 dataset can reflect two distinct types of missing data: questions that a respondent chose to not answer (refused), and questions that were not asked due to skip patterns in the data (not applicable). Skip patterns are indicated where applicable in this codebook.

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## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS) is administered by the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) at the University of Michigan.

For the benefit of users of MPPS data, we have prepared this guide to the design, methods, and content of the Spring 2015 wave of the survey. Please address questions or comments to:

**Sarah Mills, Project Manager**

or

**Tom Ivacko, Center Administrator**

Center for Local, State, and, Urban Policy (CLOSUP)

735 S. State Street

Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Phone: (734) 647-4091

Fax: (734) 615-5389

Email: [closup-mpps@umich.edu](mailto:closup-mpps@umich.edu)

## **HOW TO CITE MPPS DATA:**

When using data from the Michigan Public Policy Survey, please use the folder citation provided by ICPSR, including DOI.

Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy. Michigan Public Policy Survey Restricted Use Datasets: Spring 2015 Data. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2016-04-22. <http://doi.org/10.3886/E55175V1>

## DATA COLLECTION OVERVIEW:

### *Sample:*

The sample for the Spring 2015 MPPS included on average two officials from each of the local general purpose units of government (83 counties, 279 cities, 254 villages, and 1,240 townships) in the state of Michigan. The sample frame included, where the position existed and was not vacant, the top elected and top appointed official in each jurisdiction. For counties, this consisted of county administrators and board chairs; for cities, mayors and city managers; for villages, village presidents and managers. Townships are a special case, in that, typically, their governing officials are all elected. Therefore, in townships, both the elected supervisors and the elected clerks were administered surveys, as well as the few appointed township managers.

### Sample frame:

	<i>Elected Officials</i>	<i>Appointed Officials</i>	<i>Total</i>
Counties (83)	86	59	145
Townships (1240)	2,480	42	2,522
Cities (277)	277	240	517
Villages (256)	256	83	339
<i>Total (1856)</i>	<i>3,099</i>	<i>424</i>	<i>3,523</i>

### *Method:*

The Spring 2015 MPPS was administered via two modes. For those officials for whom an email address could be identified, an email invitation was sent containing a url link to the survey instrument online. For those officials for whom no email address was available, hard copy questionnaires were mailed out in the week prior to the launch of the survey via USPS, scheduled for delivery during the first week of field period.

### Survey administration:

	<i>Electronically</i>	<i>Via hardcopy</i>	<i>Total</i>
Surveys sent	3,173	470	3,643
Responses in database	1,345	103	1,448

### *Field dates, recontacts to non-respondents, and partial completes:*

Respondents received initial email invitations and hard copy questionnaires during the week of April 6, 2015. Non-respondents with valid email addresses were recontacted each Monday of field period by email to urge them to participate. Respondents with invalid addresses were subsequently mailed hard copy questionnaires. Village non-respondents were also sent an email by the Michigan Municipal League (MML). Non-respondents who had been originally sent a hard copy questionnaire and for whom a fax number was available were sent another questionnaire by fax. Field period closed on June 8. Partially-completed ("partials") surveys captured by the online survey software are included in the dataset if respondents completed through Q5.



*Data anomalies:*

Known data anomalies are noted at the appropriate variable in the codebook below. If you notice possible undocumented errors in the dataset, we would appreciate an email to "closup-mpps@umich.edu" describing the problem so that we can research and address it.

## ISSUES OF RESPONDENT CONFIDENTIALITY:

The MPPS program pledges to all of its respondents that all survey answers will remain confidential, meaning that researchers will not link survey responses to individual respondents or jurisdictions in any publications or public analysis of the data. Thus, users of the MPPS datasets should only publish statistical summary information that does not permit the identification, either directly or inferentially, of any individual person, official position, or local jurisdiction.

In order to protect respondent confidentiality, CLOSUP made the following modifications to the dataset available for use by researchers:

- 1) Open-ended responses were extracted from the main datafile. Identifying information from open-ended responses was redacted (denoted in the data as [redacted]). These responses can be linked back to the main datafile using the variables: respondent\_id, ID.date, ID.start, ID.endDate, ID.end, and ID.time.
- 2) Certain identifying variables were removed from the dataset
  - Direct identifiers for jurisdiction such as FIPS codes, county names, and jurisdiction names
  - Direct identifiers for respondents, such as name and contact information (corresponding to survey questions Q44a, Q44b, Q44c)
  - Other information potentially identifying individual respondents, including , year of birth (corresponding to survey question q46), years in office (corresponding to survey question q47). Recoded versions of these variables are available.
- 3) The original population variables taken from US census data were removed/masked from the dataset. New categorical population variables were created for the different jurisdiction types: pop\_county, pop\_township, pop\_city, pop\_village. Additionally, a population density variable was added to the dataset.

Any intentional identification of a research subject (whether an individual or a jurisdiction) or unauthorized disclosure of his or her confidential information violates the promise of confidentiality given to the providers of the information. Therefore, users of data agree:

To use these datasets solely for research or statistical purposes and not for investigation of specific research subjects.

To make no use of the identity of any research subject discovered inadvertently, and to advise CLOSUP of any such discovery (closup-mpps@umich.edu).

## **Merging your data with MPPS Data**

CLOSUP recognizes that there is significant research value in being able to link external datasets to the MPPS data. However, to protect respondent and jurisdiction confidentiality, direct geographic identifiers are not available in the MPPS datasets. Users who are interested in merging their own geographically-keyed datasets to MPPS datasets should contact CLOSUP ([closup@umich.edu](mailto:closup@umich.edu)) to apply to have wave\_id added to the researcher's dataset, in order to enable links between datasets. CLOSUP will review all applications and determine whether providing the key would pose an unacceptable risk to confidentiality. If your application is approved, you will send your dataset to CLOSUP, the wave key will be merged onto the dataset and replace any existing geographic ID variables, and you can upload this new dataset to the VDE following openICPSR's policies.

## LIST OF VARIABLES:

name	varlab
respondent_id	Unique ID for each case
master_id	Longitudinal Jurisdiction ID
wave_id	Single-wave Jurisdiction ID
idcompleted	Completion status
source	Hardcopies/online completes/partial
idenddate	ID.endDate
idend	ID.end
idstart	ID.start
iddate	ID.date
idtime	ID.time
jtype	Jurisdiction Type
samp_juris	Identifies unique survey responses for each jurisdiction
snap_elec_app	Elected or appointed to position
snap_pos	Position held--numeric
q2	During the next twelve months, business conditions will be...
q3a	Ability of govt to meet fin. needs this year
q3b	Ability of govt to meet fin. needs next year
q4a	Changes in revenue from property taxes...
q4b	Changes in revenue from fees, licenses, transfers...
q4c	Changes in amount of debt...
q4d	Changes in ability of jurisdiction to repay debt...
q4e	Changes in amount of federal aid...
q4f	Changes in amount of state aid...
q4g	Changes in number of tax delinquencies...
q4h	Changes in number of home foreclosures...
q4i	Changes in population of jurisdiction...
q4j	Changes in public safety needs...
q4k	Changes in infrastructure needs...
q4l	Changes in human service needs...
q4m	Changes in general government operations needs...
q4n	Changes in number of employees...
q4o	Changes in pay rates for Juris.'s employee wages and salaries...
q4p	Changes in cost of Juris.'s employee pensions...
q4q	Changes in cost of Juris.'s current employee health benefits...
q4r	Changes in cost of Juris.'s retired employee health benefits...
q5a	Jurisdiction's property tax rates...
q5b	Jurisdiction's charges for fees, licenses, etc...
q5c	Jurisdiction's reliance on general fund balance...
q5d	Jurisdiction's reliance on rainy day funds...
q5e	Jurisdiction's amount of services provided...
q5f	Jurisdiction's actual public safety spending...
q5g	Jurisdiction's actual infrastructure spending...
q5h	Jurisdiction's actual human services spending...
q5i	Jurisdiction's actual general government operations spending...
q5j	Jurisdiction's funding for economic development programs...
q5k	Jurisdiction's amount of debt...
q5l	Jurisdiction's sale of public assets...
q5m	Jurisdiction's privatizing or contracting out services...

q5n Jurisdiction's number/scope of interlocal agreements or cost sharing plans...

q5o Jurisdiction's workforce hiring...

q5p Jurisdiction's workforce layoffs...

q5q Jurisdiction not filling vacant positions...

q5r Jurisdiction's employee pay rates...

q5s Jurisdiction's employees' share of health benefits...

q5t Jurisdiction's employees' share of retirement contributions...

q5u Jurisdiction's retirees' share of health benefits...

q6 Fiscal year end

q6other Fiscal year end: other-specify

q7a Last fiscal year: Revenues

q7a\_new General fund revenues - recoded

q7b Last fiscal year: Expenditures

q7b\_new General fund expenditures - recoded

q8 Juris.'s unreserved gen. fund balance as % gen. fund expenditures at end last FY

q9 You consider jurisdiction's unreserved gen. fund balance to be...

q10 Jurisdiction's cash flow and ability to pay bills in a timely manner is...

q11a Jurisdiction's overall fiscal health: Today

q11a\_new Fiscal Stress Index Today, 3 cat

q11b Jurisdiction's overall fiscal health: Five years from now

q11b\_new Fiscal Stress Index in 5 years, 3 cat

q13a Budget surplus priority: Jurisdiction's Board/Council

q13b Budget surplus priority: Jurisdiction's citizens

q13c Budget surplus priority: Local official

q14a Budget deficit reduction: Jurisdiction's Board/Council

q14b Budget deficit reduction: Jurisdiction's citizens

q14c Budget deficit reduction: Local official

q15 Juris. offers retirement income benefits to employees and/or elected officials

q16a Should juris. offer retirement benefits to curr. and/or retired employees

q16b Should juris. offer retirement benefits to curr. and/or former elected officials

q17a1 Retirement income benefits: New hires: Defined Contribution

q17a2 Retirement income benefits: New hires: Defined Benefit

q17a3 Retirement income benefits: New hires: Hybrid

q17a4 Retirement income benefits: New hires: None

q17a5 Retirement income benefits: New hires: Not Applicable

q17a6 Retirement income benefits: New hires: Don't Know

q17b1 Retirement income benefits: Current employees: Defined Contribution

q17b2 Retirement income benefits: Current employees: Defined Benefit

q17b3 Retirement income benefits: Current employees: Hybrid

q17b4 Retirement income benefits: Current employees: None

q17b5 Retirement income benefits: Current employees: Not Applicable

q17b6 Retirement income benefits: Current employees: Don't Know

q17c1 Retirement income benefits: Retired employees: Defined Contribution

q17c2 Retirement income benefits: Retired employees: Defined Benefit

q17c3 Retirement income benefits: Retired employees: Hybrid

q17c4 Retirement income benefits: Retired employees: None

q17c5 Retirement income benefits: Retired employees: Not Applicable

q17c6 Retirement income benefits: Retired employees: Don't Know  
 q17d1 Retirement income benefits: Current elected officials: Defined Contribution  
 q17d2 Retirement income benefits: Current elected officials: Defined Benefit  
 q17d3 Retirement income benefits: Current elected officials: Hybrid  
 q17d4 Retirement income benefits: Current elected officials: None  
 q17d5 Retirement income benefits: Current elected officials: Not Applicable  
 q17d6 Retirement income benefits: Current elected officials: Don't Know  
 q17e1 Retirement income benefits: Former elected officials: Defined Contribution  
 q17e2 Retirement income benefits: Former elected officials: Defined Benefit  
 q17e3 Retirement income benefits: Former elected officials: Hybrid  
 q17e4 Retirement income benefits: Former elected officials: None  
 q17e5 Retirement income benefits: Former elected officials: Not Applicable  
 q17e6 Retirement income benefits: Former elected officials: Don't Know  
 q18a Generosity of retirement income benefits: New hires  
 q18b Generosity of retirement income benefits: Current employees  
 q18c Generosity of retirement income benefits: Retired employees  
 q18d Generosity of retirement income benefits: Current elected officials  
 q18e Generosity of retirement income benefits: Former elected officials  
 q19a Pension actions: Actuarial valuation within last 2 years  
 q19b Pension actions: Increased years of service and/or retirement age  
 q19c Pension actions: Increased employee contribution to defined benefit  
 q19d Pension actions: Reduced multiplier that helps determine pension payments  
 q19e Pension actions: Reduced, eliminated, or postponed the COLA  
 q19f Pension actions: Decreased assumed rate of return for stock market  
 q19g Pension actions: Closed defined benefit pension to new individuals  
 q19h Pension actions: Converted to defined contribution  
 q19i Pension actions: Converted to a hybrid  
 q19j Pension actions: Financed liability through bonds  
 q19k Pension actions: Don't Know  
 q19l Pension actions: Other  
 q19count Number of pension actions taken  
 q20 Effectiveness of juris.'s efforts at controlling retirement inc. benefits costs  
 q21 Jurisdiction's contributions to its pension fund during previous fiscal year  
 q21\_new Juris's contributions to its pension fund during previous fiscal year, recoded  
 q22 Are jurisdiction's pension obligations currently fully funded  
 q23 Are jurisdiction's pension obligations a fiscal problem  
 q24 Concerned that jurisdiction will not be able to fulfill pension obligations  
 q25 Juris. provides retiree health benefits to employees and/or elected officials  
 q26a Should juris. provide retiree health benefits: Curr. and/or retired employees

q26b Should juris. provide retiree health benefits: Curr. and/or former elected

q27a Retiree health care benefits: New hires

q27b Retiree health care benefits: Current employees

q27c Retiree health care benefits: Retired employees

q27d Retiree health care benefits: Current elected officials

q27e Retiree health care benefits: Former elected officials

q28a Generosity of retirement health benefits: New hires

q28b Generosity of retirement health benefits: Current employees

q28c Generosity of retirement health benefits: Retired employees

q28d Generosity of retirement health benefits: Current elected officials

q28e Generosity of retirement health benefits: Former elected officials

q29a Health benefit actions: Actuarial valuation

q29b Health benefit actions: Increased cost-sharing

q29c Health benefit actions: Increased years of service and/or retirement age

q29d Health benefit actions: Reduced/eliminated benefits for spouses/dependents

q29e Health benefit actions: Less expensive plan options

q29f Health benefit actions: Wellness plan

q29g Health benefit actions: Converted to defined contributions/stipend

q29h Health benefit actions: Introduced HSA option

q29i Health benefit actions: Financed liability through bonds

q29j Health benefit actions: Created or joined a qualified health care trust

q29k Health benefit actions: Transferred to a VEBA

q29l Health benefit actions: Don't Know

q29m Health benefit actions: Other

q29count Number of retiree health care benefit actions taken

q30 Effectiveness of juris.'s efforts to control retiree health care benefits costs

q31 Has juris. transitioned retirees to public health care exchanges

q31\_new Juris. transition of retirees to public health care exchanges - recode

q32 Juris.'s contribution to retiree health care fund during previous fiscal year

q32\_new Juris's contributions to retiree health care fund during prev. fiscal yr - recod

q34 Are juris.'s retiree health care obligations curr. fully funded

q35 Are juris.'s retiree health care obligations a problem

q36 Concern that juris. will not be able to fulfill health care benefit obligations

q37a Possible action: Prohibit providing retiree health benefits for future retirees

q37b Possible action: Set hard caps on juris.'s contributions

q37c Possible action: Create state-wide VEBA

q37d Possible action: Create state-pooled retiree health care benefit system

q37e Possible action: Facilitate private health care exchanges for local governments

q37f Possible action: Create state-wide bonding pool

q37g Possible action: Ease credit-based restrictions so more juris. can issue bonds

q37h	Possible action: Other
q38	You feel things in your jurisdiction are generally going...
q39	How would you rate the way your Juris.'s governing board is performing its job?
q40	You feel things in the state of Michigan are generally going...
q42	How would you rate the way Rick Snyder is performing his job as MI's governor?
q43	How would you rate the way the MI Legislature is performing its job?
q45	Gender
age_category	Respondent Age
tenure	Respondent's time in office
q48	Are you of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino descent
q49a	Race: White
q49b	Race: Black or African American
q49c	Race: American Indian or Alaskan Native
q49d	Race: Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
q49e	Race: Asian
q49f	Race: Multiracial
q49g	Race: Other
q49h	Race: Don't Know
q50	Highest level of education
q51	Political affiliation
q51other	Political affiliation: Something else
q52	Strength of political affiliation
q53	As an Independent, which party are you closer to?
q54	Date hardcopy received
partyid	7-point partisanship scale
threpty	3-point partisanship scale
region	MI regions
juris_rr	Jurisdiction-level Response Rate
juris_wgt	Jurisdiction-level Weight
ind_rr	Individual-level Response Rate
ind_wgt	Individual-level Weight
pop_density	Population Density
pop_township	Population Category: Township
pop_city	Population Category: City
pop_village	Population Category: Village
pop_county	Population Category: County



## FULL VARIABLE TEXT AND FREQUENCIES:

-----  
respondent\_id

Unique ID for each case  
-----

```

                type:  numeric (int)
                range:  [1,1458]
unique values:  1,448
                units:  1
                missing .: 0/1,448

                mean:    728.872
                std. dev: 421.513

percentiles:    10%      25%      50%      75%      90%
                146      363.5    728.5    1094.5   1314
```

CODEBOOK NOTE: respondent\_id is a unique identifier for each MPPS respondent. It varies between datasets, and cannot be used to link datasets from multiple waves.

-----  
master\_id

Longitudinal Jurisdiction ID  
-----

```

                type:  numeric (int)
                range:  [1,1999]
unique values:  1,328
                units:  1
                missing .: 0/1,448

                mean:    1014.45
                std. dev: 571.816

percentiles:    10%      25%      50%      75%      90%
                209      537.5    1015     1517.5   1800
```

CODEBOOK NOTE: master\_id is an anonymized jurisdiction-level identifier that allows datasets to be linked across multiple waves of the MPPS at the jurisdiction level. Datasets cannot be linked at the individual respondent level. Users should be aware that master\_id is linked to a unique combination of fips code and jurisdiction type, so when a jurisdiction type changes (for example, when a village incorporates into a city), the master\_id for that jurisdiction also changes.

-----  
wave\_id

Single-wave Jurisdiction ID  
-----

```

                type:  numeric (int)
                range:  [1,1328]
unique values:  1,328
                units:  1
                missing .: 0/1,448

                mean:    665.939
```

std. dev: 384.381

percentiles: 10% 25% 50% 75% 90%  
133 333.5 665.5 1000.5 1198

CODEBOOK NOTE: wave\_id is an anonymized jurisdiction-level identifier which can be used to link external datafiles with geographic ID's to MPPS datasets. Unlike master\_id, wave\_id is randomized for every wave of the MPPS, so it does not allow datasets to be linked across years. CLOSUP recognizes that there is significant research value in being able to link external datasets to the MPPS data. However, to protect respondent and jurisdiction confidentiality, direct geographic identifiers are not available in the MPPS datasets. Users who are interested in merging their own geographically-keyed datasets to MPPS datasets should contact CLOSUP ([closup@umich.edu](mailto:closup@umich.edu)) to apply to have wave\_id added to the researcher's dataset, in order to enable links between datasets.

---

idcompleted  
Completion status

---

type: numeric (byte)  
label: completepart  
range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 0/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	93	0	Partial
	1,355	1	Complete

CODEBOOK NOTE: The Spring 2015 database includes partial surveys by respondents who answered at least up to Q5 on the survey instrument.

---

source  
Hardcopies/online completes/partials

---

type: numeric (byte)  
label: source3  
range: [1,3] units: 1  
unique values: 3 missing .: 0/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	103	1	Hard Copy
	1,252	2	Online Complete
	93	3	Online Partial

---

idenddate  
ID.endDate

---

type: string (str9)

unique values: 59

missing "": 0/1,448

CODEBOOK NOTE: Variable indicates time at which respondent started survey online

---

idend  
ID.end

type: string (str8)

unique values: 1,384

missing "": 0/1,448

CODEBOOK NOTE: Variable indicates time at which respondent submitted survey online or at which an unfinished "partial" response was closed.

---

idstart  
ID.start

type: string (str8)

unique values: 1,425

missing "": 0/1,448

CODEBOOK NOTE: Variable indicates time at which respondent started survey online

---

iddate  
ID.date

type: string (str9)

unique values: 59

missing "": 0/1,448

CODEBOOK NOTE: Variable indicates date on which respondent started survey online.

---

idtime  
ID.time

type: numeric (float)

range: [3.47,27655.87]

units: .01

```

unique values:  1,118                               missing .:  0/1,448

              mean:    732.73
              std. dev: 3203.26

percentiles:   10%      25%      50%      75%      90%
              9.77     13.09    20.01   31.835   85.37

```

CODEBOOK NOTE: Variable indicates length of time (in minutes) respondent took to complete survey online

---

jtype  
Jurisdiction Type

---

```

              type:  numeric (byte)
              label:  jurisdiction

              range:  [1,4]                               units:  1
unique values:  4                                         missing .:  0/1,448

tabulation:  Freq.   Numeric  Label
              72      1      County
              965     2      Township
              232     3      City
              179     4      Village

```

---

samp\_juris  
Identifies unique survey responses for each jurisdiction

---

```

              type:  numeric (byte)

              range:  [0,1]                               units:  1
unique values:  2                                         missing .:  0/1,448

tabulation:  Freq.  Value
              120    0
              1,328  1

```

CODEBOOK NOTE: Variable designates one survey response as representative for each individual jurisdiction:

- If there is a single response from the jurisdiction, samp\_juris = 1
- If there are two (or more) responses from the jurisdiction where only one is complete (either hardcopy or online), the complete response is coded as samp\_juris = 1, the other(s) coded as samp\_juris = 0
- If two (or more) complete responses from jurisdiction, the one from the appointed official (or clerk, if it's a township) is coded as samp\_juris = 1, the other(s) coded as samp\_juris = 0
- If two (or more) complete responses from jurisdiction but none are appointed (or clerk), then the top elected (or supervisor, if it's a township) is coded as samp\_juris = 1, the other(s) coded as samp\_juris = 0

Analyses appearing in MPPS reports published by CLOSUP are based on samp\_juris=1 cases only, unless otherwise specified.

---

snap\_elec\_app  
Elected or appointed to position

---

type: numeric (byte)  
label: elec\_app

range: [1,2] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 1/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	1,151	1	Elected
	296	2	Appointed
	1	.	

CODEBOOK NOTE: Variable designates whether respondent is an elected or appointed official. Elected officials include Chairs of County Commission, County Executives, Mayors, Village Presidents, Township Supervisors, Township Clerks, self-identified "Other" elected; Appointed officials include County Administrators/Controllers, City Administrators/Managers/Superintendents, Village Managers/Superintendents, Township Managers/Superintendents, self-identified "Other" appointed.

---

snap\_pos  
Position held--numeric

---

type: numeric (byte)

range: [1,10] units: 1  
unique values: 10 missing .: 1/1,448

mean: 6.84658  
std. dev: 2.58412

percentiles:	10%	25%	50%	75%	90%
	2	5	8	9	9

CODEBOOK NOTE: Variable designates what position respondent holds.

Elected officials:

- 1 - Chair of County Commission
- 2 - County Clerk
- 3 - County Executive
- 4 - Mayor

- 5 - City Clerk
- 6 - Village President
- 7 - Village Clerk
- 8 - Township Supervisor
- 9 - Township Clerk
- 10 - Other

Appointed officials:

- 1 - County Administrator/Controller
- 2 - City Administrator/Manager/Superintendent
- 3 - City Clerk
- 4 - Village Manager/Superintendent
- 5 - Village Clerk
- 6 - Township Manager/Superintendent
- 7 - Other

---

q2

During the next twelve months, business conditions will be...

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Thinking about business conditions in your community, do you think that during the next twelve months your community will have good times financially, or bad times financially?

type: numeric (byte)  
label: business

range: [1,4] units: 1  
unique values: 4 missing .: 12/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	672	1	Good Times
	157	2	Bad Times
	423	3	Neither
	184	4	Don't Know
	12	.	

---

q3a

Ability of govt to meet fin. needs this year

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Thinking about the financial needs of your jurisdiction, would you say that your unit of government is less able or better able to meet its

financial needs in... this fiscal year compared to the last fiscal year?

type: numeric (byte)  
label: ability

range: [1,6] units: 1  
unique values: 6 missing .: 9/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	34	1	Significantly Less
	252	2	Somewhat Less
	571	3	Neither
	480	4	Somewhat Better
	83	5	Significantly Better
	19	6	Don't Know
	9	.	

---

q3b

Ability of govt to meet fin. needs next year

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Thinking about the financial needs of your jurisdiction, would you say that your unit of government is less able or better able to meet its financial needs in... the next fiscal year compared to this fiscal year?

type: numeric (byte)  
label: ability

range: [1,6] units: 1  
unique values: 6 missing .: 182/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	41	1	Significantly Less
	192	2	Somewhat Less
	489	3	Neither
	392	4	Somewhat Better
	74	5	Significantly Better
	78	6	Don't Know
	182	.	

---

q4a

Changes in revenue from property taxes...

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to its previous fiscal year, please consider the ways the following items have changed. Indicate whether - in your opinion - there has been a decrease, an increase, or no change from the previous fiscal year. Revenue from property taxes

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison

range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing .: 22/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	26	1	Greatly Decreased
	330	2	Somewhat Decreased
	367	3	No Change
	646	4	Somewhat Increased
	14	5	Greatly Increased
	2	6	Not Applicable
	41	7	Don't Know
	22	.	

-----

q4b

Changes in revenue from fees, licenses, transfers...

-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to its previous fiscal year, please consider the ways the following items have changed. Indicate whether - in your opinion - there has been a decrease, an increase, or no change from the previous fiscal year. Revenue from fees for services, licenses, transfers, etc

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison

range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing : 35/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	11	1	Greatly Decreased
	162	2	Somewhat Decreased
	850	3	No Change
	249	4	Somewhat Increased
	8	5	Greatly Increased
	85	6	Not Applicable
	48	7	Don't Know
	35	.	

-----

q4c

Changes in amount of debt...

-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to its previous fiscal year, please consider the ways the following items have changed. Indicate whether - in your opinion - there has been a decrease, an increase, or no change from the previous fiscal year. Amount of debt

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison

range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing : 26/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	22	1	Greatly Decreased
	277	2	Somewhat Decreased
	639	3	No Change



171	4	Somewhat Increased
40	5	Greatly Increased
249	6	Not Applicable
24	7	Don't Know
26	.	

-----  
q4d

Changes in ability of jurisdiction to repay debt...  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to its previous fiscal year, please consider the ways the following items have changed. Indicate whether - in your opinion - there has been a decrease, an increase, or no change from the previous fiscal year. Ability of your jurisdiction to repay its debt

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison

range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing : 28/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	6	1	Greatly Decreased
	52	2	Somewhat Decreased
	791	3	No Change
	225	4	Somewhat Increased
	36	5	Greatly Increased
	287	6	Not Applicable
	23	7	Don't Know
	28	.	

-----  
q4e

Changes in amount of federal aid...  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to its previous fiscal year, please consider the ways the following items have changed. Indicate whether - in your opinion - there has been a decrease, an increase, or no change from the previous fiscal year. Amount of federal aid to your jurisdiction

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison

range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing : 39/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	22	1	Greatly Decreased
	134	2	Somewhat Decreased
	707	3	No Change
	71	4	Somewhat Increased
	10	5	Greatly Increased
	337	6	Not Applicable
	128	7	Don't Know
	39	.	



QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to its previous fiscal year, please consider the ways the following items have changed. Indicate whether - in your opinion - there has been a decrease, an increase, or no change from the previous fiscal year. Home foreclosures in your jurisdiction

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison  
range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing : 40/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	54	1	Greatly Decreased
	420	2	Somewhat Decreased
	522	3	No Change
	187	4	Somewhat Increased
	11	5	Greatly Increased
	12	6	Not Applicable
	202	7	Don't Know
	40	.	

-----  
q4i  
Changes in population of jurisdiction...  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to its previous fiscal year, please consider the ways the following items have changed. Indicate whether - in your opinion - there has been a decrease, an increase, or no change from the previous fiscal year. Population of your jurisdiction

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison  
range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing : 17/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	9	1	Greatly Decreased
	216	2	Somewhat Decreased
	812	3	No Change
	342	4	Somewhat Increased
	5	5	Greatly Increased
	1	6	Not Applicable
	46	7	Don't Know
	17	.	

-----  
q4j  
Changes in public safety needs...  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to its previous fiscal year, please consider the ways the following items have changed. Indicate whether - in your opinion - there has been a decrease, an increase, or no change from the previous fiscal year. Public safety needs

```

type: numeric (byte)
label: comparison

range: [1,7]
unique values: 7
units: 1
missing : 18/1,448

```

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	3	1	Greatly Decreased
	16	2	Somewhat Decreased
	922	3	No Change
	373	4	Somewhat Increased
	45	5	Greatly Increased
	39	6	Not Applicable
	32	7	Don't Know
	18	.	

---

q4k  
Changes in infrastructure needs...

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to its previous fiscal year, please consider the ways the following items have changed. Indicate whether – in your opinion – there has been a decrease, an increase, or no change from the previous fiscal year. infrastructure needs

```

type: numeric (byte)
label: comparison

range: [1,7]
unique values: 7
units: 1
missing : 27/1,448

```

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	6	1	Greatly Decreased
	34	2	Somewhat Decreased
	545	3	No Change
	549	4	Somewhat Increased
	194	5	Greatly Increased
	47	6	Not Applicable
	46	7	Don't Know
	27	.	

---

q4l  
Changes in human service needs...

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to its previous fiscal year, please consider the ways the following items have changed. Indicate whether – in your opinion – there has been a decrease, an increase, or no change from the previous fiscal year. Human service needs

```

type: numeric (byte)
label: comparison

range: [1,7]
units: 1

```

unique values: 7 missing .: 39/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	2	1	Greatly Decreased
	15	2	Somewhat Decreased
	800	3	No Change
	383	4	Somewhat Increased
	35	5	Greatly Increased
	89	6	Not Applicable
	85	7	Don't Know
	39	.	

-----  
q4m

Changes in general government operations needs...  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to its previous fiscal year, please consider the ways the following items have changed. Indicate whether - in your opinion - there has been a decrease, an increase, or no change from the previous fiscal year. General government operations needs

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison

range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing .: 41/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	4	1	Greatly Decreased
	14	2	Somewhat Decreased
	836	3	No Change
	443	4	Somewhat Increased
	40	5	Greatly Increased
	19	6	Not Applicable
	51	7	Don't Know
	41	.	

-----  
q4n

Changes in number of employees...  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to its previous fiscal year, please consider the ways the following items have changed. Indicate whether - in your opinion - there has been a decrease, an increase, or no change from the previous fiscal year. Number of employees that work for your jurisdiction

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison

range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing .: 19/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	8	1	Greatly Decreased
	88	2	Somewhat Decreased

1,116	3	No Change
156	4	Somewhat Increased
5	5	Greatly Increased
51	6	Not Applicable
5	7	Don't Know
19	.	

-----  
q4o

Changes in pay rates for Juris.'s employee wages and salaries...  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to its previous fiscal year, please consider the ways the following items have changed. Indicate whether – in your opinion – there has been a decrease, an increase, or no change from the previous fiscal year. Pay rates for your jurisdiction's employee wages and salaries.

```

      type: numeric (byte)
      label: comparison

      range: [2,7]
unique values: 6
                                units: 1
                                missing : 17/1,448

```

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	19	2	Somewhat Decreased
	586	3	No Change
	774	4	Somewhat Increased
	5	5	Greatly Increased
	43	6	Not Applicable
	4	7	Don't Know
	17	.	

-----  
q4p

Changes in cost of Juris.'s employee pensions...  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to its previous fiscal year, please consider the ways the following items have changed. Indicate whether – in your opinion – there has been a decrease, an increase, or no change from the previous fiscal year. Cost of your jurisdiction's employee pensions

```

      type: numeric (byte)
      label: comparison

      range: [1,7]
unique values: 7
                                units: 1
                                missing : 22/1,448

```

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	6	1	Greatly Decreased
	36	2	Somewhat Decreased
	570	3	No Change
	338	4	Somewhat Increased
	48	5	Greatly Increased
	416	6	Not Applicable
	12	7	Don't Know

---

q4q

Changes in cost of Juris.'s current employee health benefits...

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to its previous fiscal year, please consider the ways the following items have changed. Indicate whether – in your opinion – there has been a decrease, an increase, or no change from the previous fiscal year. Cost of your jurisdiction's current employee health benefits

```

type: numeric (byte)
label: comparison

```

```

range: [1,7]                units: 1
unique values: 7            missing .: 27/1,448

```

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	9	1	Greatly Decreased
	64	2	Somewhat Decreased
	247	3	No Change
	389	4	Somewhat Increased
	116	5	Greatly Increased
	580	6	Not Applicable
	16	7	Don't Know
	27	.	.

---

q4r

Changes in cost of Juris.'s retired employee health benefits...

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to its previous fiscal year, please consider the ways the following items have changed. Indicate whether – in your opinion – there has been a decrease, an increase, or no change from the previous fiscal year. Cost of your jurisdiction's retired employee health benefits

```

type: numeric (byte)
label: comparison

```

```

range: [1,7]                units: 1
unique values: 7            missing .: 26/1,448

```

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	7	1	Greatly Decreased
	26	2	Somewhat Decreased
	349	3	No Change
	189	4	Somewhat Increased
	54	5	Greatly Increased
	774	6	Not Applicable
	23	7	Don't Know
	26	.	.

---

q5a  
Jurisdiction's property tax rates...

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to the next fiscal year, please indicate which actions your jurisdiction has taken or is likely to take. Property tax rates

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison2  
range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing : 27/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	3	1	Greatly Decrease
	72	2	Somewhat Decrease
	881	3	No Change
	384	4	Somewhat Increase
	10	5	Greatly Increase
	13	6	Not Applicable
	58	7	Don't Know
	27	.	

---

q5b  
Jurisdiction's charges for fees, licenses, etc...

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to the next fiscal year, please indicate which actions your jurisdiction has taken or is likely to take. Charges for fees, licenses, etc.

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison2  
range: [2,7] units: 1  
unique values: 6 missing : 33/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	14	2	Somewhat Decrease
	1,010	3	No Change
	265	4	Somewhat Increase
	1	5	Greatly Increase
	92	6	Not Applicable
	33	7	Don't Know
	33	.	

---

q5c  
Jurisdiction's reliance on general fund balance...

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to the next fiscal year, please indicate which actions your jurisdiction has taken or is



likely to take. Reliance on general fund balance

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison2

range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing .: 29/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	11	1	Greatly Decrease
	65	2	Somewhat Decrease
	928	3	No Change
	327	4	Somewhat Increase
	41	5	Greatly Increase
	18	6	Not Applicable
	29	7	Don't Know
	29	.	

-----  
q5d

Jurisdiction's reliance on rainy day funds...

-----  
QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to the next fiscal year, please indicate which actions your jurisdiction has taken or is likely to take. Reliance on "rainy day" funds

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison2

range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing .: 41/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	11	1	Greatly Decrease
	55	2	Somewhat Decrease
	883	3	No Change
	205	4	Somewhat Increase
	24	5	Greatly Increase
	187	6	Not Applicable
	42	7	Don't Know
	41	.	

-----  
q5e

Jurisdiction's amount of services provided...

-----  
QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to the next fiscal year, please indicate which actions your jurisdiction has taken or is likely to take. Amount of services provided

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison2

range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing .: 37/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	6	1	Greatly Decrease
	67	2	Somewhat Decrease
	1,064	3	No Change
	221	4	Somewhat Increase
	4	5	Greatly Increase
	32	6	Not Applicable
	17	7	Don't Know
	37	.	

-----  
q5f  
Jurisdiction's actual public safety spending...  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to the next fiscal year, please indicate which actions your jurisdiction has taken or is likely to take. Actual public safety spending

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison2  
range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing .: 39/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	7	1	Greatly Decrease
	45	2	Somewhat Decrease
	713	3	No Change
	466	4	Somewhat Increase
	31	5	Greatly Increase
	114	6	Not Applicable
	33	7	Don't Know
	39	.	

-----  
q5g  
Jurisdiction's actual infrastructure spending...  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to the next fiscal year, please indicate which actions your jurisdiction has taken or is likely to take. Actual infrastructure spending

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison2  
range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing .: 40/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
-------------	-------	---------	-------

11	1	Greatly Decrease
58	2	Somewhat Decrease
591	3	No Change
507	4	Somewhat Increase
111	5	Greatly Increase
81	6	Not Applicable
49	7	Don't Know
40	.	

-----  
q5h  
Jurisdiction's actual human services spending...  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to the next fiscal year, please indicate which actions your jurisdiction has taken or is likely to take. Actual human services spending

```

type: numeric (byte)
label: comparison2

range: [1,7]
unique values: 7
units: 1
missing : 55/1,448

```

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	2	1	Greatly Decrease
	17	2	Somewhat Decrease
	917	3	No Change
	128	4	Somewhat Increase
	1	5	Greatly Increase
	263	6	Not Applicable
	65	7	Don't Know
	55	.	

-----  
q5i  
Jurisdiction's actual general government operations spending...  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to the next fiscal year, please indicate which actions your jurisdiction has taken or is likely to take. Actual general government operations spending

```

type: numeric (byte)
label: comparison2

range: [1,7]
unique values: 7
units: 1
missing : 49/1,448

```

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	6	1	Greatly Decrease
	70	2	Somewhat Decrease
	688	3	No Change
	557	4	Somewhat Increase
	10	5	Greatly Increase

25 6 Not Applicable  
43 7 Don't Know  
49 .

-----  
q5j

Jurisdiction's funding for economic development programs...  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to the next fiscal year, please indicate which actions your jurisdiction has taken or is likely to take. Funding for economic development programs

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison2  
range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing .: 53/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	9	1	Greatly Decrease
	56	2	Somewhat Decrease
	766	3	No Change
	181	4	Somewhat Increase
	18	5	Greatly Increase
	301	6	Not Applicable
	64	7	Don't Know
	53	.	

-----  
q5k

Jurisdiction's amount of debt...  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to the next fiscal year, please indicate which actions your jurisdiction has taken or is likely to take. Amount of debt

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison2  
range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing .: 48/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	17	1	Greatly Decrease
	226	2	Somewhat Decrease
	621	3	No Change
	191	4	Somewhat Increase
	33	5	Greatly Increase
	282	6	Not Applicable
	30	7	Don't Know
	48	.	

-----



QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to the next fiscal year, please indicate which actions your jurisdiction has taken or is likely to take. Number and/or scope of interlocal agreements or other cost-sharing plans with other governments

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison2  
range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing .: 51/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	1	1	Greatly Decrease
	9	2	Somewhat Decrease
	843	3	No Change
	300	4	Somewhat Increase
	13	5	Greatly Increase
	159	6	Not Applicable
	72	7	Don't Know
	51	.	

-----  
q5o  
Jurisdiction's workforce hiring...  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to the next fiscal year, please indicate which actions your jurisdiction has taken or is likely to take. Your jurisdiction's workforce hiring

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison2  
range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing .: 35/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	2	1	Greatly Decrease
	45	2	Somewhat Decrease
	1,093	3	No Change
	125	4	Somewhat Increase
	2	5	Greatly Increase
	132	6	Not Applicable
	14	7	Don't Know
	35	.	

-----  
q5p  
Jurisdiction's workforce layoffs...  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to the next fiscal year, please indicate which actions your jurisdiction has taken or is likely to take. Your jurisdiction's workforce layoffs

```

type: numeric (byte)
label: comparison2

range: [1,7]
unique values: 6
units: 1
missing .: 35/1,448

```

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	7	1	Greatly Decrease
	10	2	Somewhat Decrease
	1,054	3	No Change
	15	4	Somewhat Increase
	308	6	Not Applicable
	19	7	Don't Know
	35	.	

-----  
q5q  
Jurisdiction not filling vacant positions...  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to the next fiscal year, please indicate which actions your jurisdiction has taken or is likely to take. Your jurisdiction not filling vacant positions

```

type: numeric (byte)
label: comparison2

range: [1,7]
unique values: 7
units: 1
missing .: 47/1,448

```

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	3	1	Greatly Decrease
	25	2	Somewhat Decrease
	921	3	No Change
	65	4	Somewhat Increase
	3	5	Greatly Increase
	356	6	Not Applicable
	28	7	Don't Know
	47	.	

-----  
q5r  
Jurisdiction's employee pay rates...  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to the next fiscal year, please indicate which actions your jurisdiction has taken or is likely to take. Employee pay rates

```

type: numeric (byte)
label: comparison2

range: [2,7]
unique values: 6
units: 1
missing .: 33/1,448

```

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	9	2	Somewhat Decrease
	567	3	No Change
	763	4	Somewhat Increase
	2	5	Greatly Increase
	59	6	Not Applicable
	15	7	Don't Know
	33	.	

-----  
q5s

Jurisdiction's employees' share of health benefits...

-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to the next fiscal year, please indicate which actions your jurisdiction has taken or is likely to take. Employee's share of premiums, deductibles, and/or co-pays on health insurance

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison2

range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing .: 31/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	2	1	Greatly Decrease
	7	2	Somewhat Decrease
	510	3	No Change
	291	4	Somewhat Increase
	26	5	Greatly Increase
	560	6	Not Applicable
	21	7	Don't Know
	31	.	

CODEBOOK NOTE: Users should be aware that, based on CLOSUP's analysis of data from past waves, some jurisdictions that do not offer employee health benefits may have selected "No Change" rather than "Not Applicable". Therefore, this variable cannot be used to measure the number of jurisdictions offering employee health benefits.

-----

q5t

Jurisdiction's employees' share of retirement contributions...

-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to the next fiscal year, please indicate which actions your jurisdiction has taken or is likely to take. Employees' share of contributions to retirement funds

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison2

range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing .: 32/1,448



tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	1	1	Greatly Decrease
	10	2	Somewhat Decrease
	727	3	No Change
	163	4	Somewhat Increase
	5	5	Greatly Increase
	492	6	Not Applicable
	18	7	Don't Know
	32	.	

-----

q5u

Jurisdiction's retirees' share of health benefits...

-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, comparing your jurisdiction's current fiscal year to the next fiscal year, please indicate which actions your jurisdiction has taken or is likely to take. Retiree's share of premiums, deductibles, and/or co-pays on health insurance

type: numeric (byte)  
label: comparison2

range: [2,7] units: 1  
unique values: 6 missing .: 46/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	4	2	Somewhat Decrease
	501	3	No Change
	175	4	Somewhat Increase
	11	5	Greatly Increase
	688	6	Not Applicable
	23	7	Don't Know
	46	.	

-----

q6

Fiscal year end

-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: When does your jurisdiction's fiscal year end?

type: numeric (byte)  
label: fiscalyearend

range: [1,6] units: 1  
unique values: 6 missing .: 29/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	763	1	March 31
	380	2	June 30
	27	3	September 30
	183	4	December 31
	1	5	Don't Know
	65	6	Other

---

q6other  
Fiscal year end: other-specify

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: When does your jurisdiction's fiscal year end? Other (*please specify*)

type: string (str45)

unique values: 27

missing "": 1,376/1,448

---

q7a  
Last fiscal year: Revenues

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Thinking about your jurisdiction's last fiscal year, were revenues and expenditures higher or lower than what they were projected to be in its originally adopted general fund budget? General fund revenues

type: numeric (byte)  
label: higher\_lower

range: [1,6]

units: 1

unique values: 6

missing .: 36/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	4	1	Significantly Higher
	491	2	Somewhat Higher
	641	3	As Originally Budgeted
	246	4	Somewhat Lower
	12	5	Significantly Lower
	18	6	Don't Know
	36	.	

---

q7b  
Last fiscal year: Expenditures

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Thinking about your jurisdiction's last fiscal year, were revenues and expenditures higher or lower than what they were projected to be in its originally adopted general fund budget? General fund expenditures

type: numeric (byte)  
label: higher\_lower

range: [1,6]

units: 1

unique values: 6

missing .: 124/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	20	1	Significantly Higher
	444	2	Somewhat Higher

460	3	As Originally Budgeted
369	4	Somewhat Lower
19	5	Significantly Lower
12	6	Don't Know
124	.	

-----  
q8

Juris.'s unreserved gen. fund balance as % gen. fund expenditures at end last FY  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Different local jurisdictions manage their unreserved/unassigned general fund balances in different ways depending on their specific circumstances. Despite these differences, we're interested in tracking overall changes in these balances over time. Approximately what was your jurisdiction's unreserved/unassigned general fund balance as a percentage of general fund expenditures at the end of its last fiscal year?

```

type: numeric (byte)
label: percent

range: [1,13]
unique values: 13

units: 1
missing .: 113/1,448

```

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	33	1	0% or Less
	175	2	1-10%
	160	3	11-20%
	185	4	21-30%
	94	5	31-40%
	43	6	41-50%
	46	7	51-60%
	34	8	61-70%
	30	9	71-80%
	18	10	81-90%
	37	11	91-100%
	77	12	Over 100%
	403	13	Don't Know
	113	.	

-----  
q9

You consider jurisdiction's unreserved gen. fund balance to be...  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Thinking about your jurisdiction's fiscal needs, overall, do you consider your jurisdiction's unreserved/unassigned general fund balance to be too high, about right, or too low?

```

type: numeric (byte)
label: high_low

range: [1,4]
unique values: 4

units: 1
missing .: 57/1,448

```

```

tabulation:  Freq.  Numeric  Label
              95      1   Too High
              887     2   About Right
              264     3   Too Low
              145     4   Don't Know
              57      .

```

-----  
q10

Jurisdiction's cash flow and ability to pay bills in a timely manner is...

-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: In your opinion, is your jurisdiction's cash flow and its ability to pay bills in a timely manner a significant fiscal problem, somewhat of a problem, not much of a problem, or not a problem at all?

```

      type:  numeric (byte)
      label:  problem

      range:  [1,5]                units:  1
unique values: 5                    missing .: 33/1,448

```

```

tabulation:  Freq.  Numeric  Label
              8      1   A Significant Problem
              59     2   Somewhat of a Problem
              348    3   Not Much of a Problem
              997    4   Not a Problem at All
              3      5   Don't Know
              33     .

```

-----  
q11a

Jurisdiction's overall fiscal health: Today

-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, thinking about the overall fiscal stress in your jurisdiction today and what you expect it to be down the road – including any future financial obligations it may have – on a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is the best: perfect fiscal health and 10 is the worst: fiscal crisis, how would you rate your jurisdiction's overall fiscal stress... today?

```

      type:  numeric (byte)
      label:  fiscal_health

      range:  [1,11]               units:  1
unique values: 11                  missing .: 98/1,448

```

```

tabulation:  Freq.  Numeric  Label
              179    1   1: Perfect Fiscal Health
              270    2
              294    3
              167    4
              227    5
              78     6
              56     7
              32     8
              7      9

```

```

          4          10  10: Fiscal Crisis
         36          11  Don't Know
         98          .

```

-----  
q11b

Jurisdiction's overall fiscal health: Five years from now  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, thinking about the overall fiscal stress in your jurisdiction today and what you expect it to be down the road – including any future financial obligations it may have – on a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is the best: perfect fiscal health and 10 is the worst: fiscal crisis, how would you rate your jurisdiction's overall fiscal stress... as you expect it to be five years from now?

```

          type: numeric (byte)
          label: fiscal_health

          range: [1,11]                units: 1
unique values: 11                      missing .: 182/1,448

```

```

tabulation:  Freq.   Numeric  Label
              136      1    1: Perfect Fiscal Health
              268      2
              204      3
              135      4
              180      5
              92       6
              61       7
              44       8
              15       9
              6        10  10: Fiscal Crisis
              125      11  Don't Know
              182      .

```

-----  
q12

Factors considered when rating fiscal stress  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: What factor(s) were you thinking about when rating your jurisdiction's overall fiscal stress?

```

          type: string (str2045)

unique values: 889                      missing "": 551/1,448

```

CODEBOOK NOTE: This variable does not appear in the Stata dataset, because some versions of Stata do not support long string variables. Responses to q12 are available in the excel file 2015-Spring-Opens-Redacted.xlsx, and can be linked back to the original data using the variable respondent\_id, as well as the ID.date, ID.start, ID.endDate, and ID.end variables. Additionally, to protect respondent confidentiality, identifying information from responses was redacted. Redacted text was denoted [REDACTED]. The original responses are not available to secondary users of the data.  
-----

q13a

Budget surplus priority: Jurisdiction's Board/Council

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Regardless of whether or not your jurisdiction expects to have a budget surplus this year, in your opinion, what would be the highest priority for using any potential surplus (if it had one) according to the following groups or individuals? Do you think that they would prefer to spend the budget surplus on public services or infrastructure, save that money for future use, use it to pay down any debt your jurisdiction may have, or reduce taxes? Majority of your jurisdiction's Board/Council would prefer to ...

type: numeric (byte)  
label: surplus  
range: [1,5] units: 1  
unique values: 5 missing .: 87/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	625	1	Spend on public services or infrastructure
	462	2	Save for future use
	151	3	Pay down any debt
	32	4	Reduce taxes
	91	5	Don't Know
	87	.	

---

q13b

Budget surplus priority: Jurisdiction's citizens

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Regardless of whether or not your jurisdiction expects to have a budget surplus this year, in your opinion, what would be the highest priority for using any potential surplus (if it had one) according to the following groups or individuals? Do you think that they would prefer to spend the budget surplus on public services or infrastructure, save that money for future use, use it to pay down any debt your jurisdiction may have, or reduce taxes? Majority of your jurisdiction's citizens would prefer to ...

type: numeric (byte)  
label: surplus  
range: [1,5] units: 1  
unique values: 5 missing .: 96/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	531	1	Spend on public services or infrastructure
	184	2	Save for future use
	61	3	Pay down any debt
	360	4	Reduce taxes
	216	5	Don't Know
	96	.	

---

q13c

Budget surplus priority: Local official

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Regardless of whether or not your jurisdiction expects to have a budget surplus this year, in your opinion, what would be the highest priority for using any potential surplus (if it had one) according to the following groups or individuals? Do you think that they would prefer to spend the budget surplus on public services or infrastructure, save that money for future use, use it to pay down any debt your jurisdiction may have, or reduce taxes? You personally in your role as a local official would prefer to ...

type: numeric (byte)  
label: surplus  
range: [1,5] units: 1  
unique values: 5 missing .: 104/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	657	1	Spend on public services or infrastructure
	429	2	Save for future use
	174	3	Pay down any debt
	44	4	Reduce taxes
	40	5	Don't Know
	104	.	

---

q14a

Budget deficit reduction: Jurisdiction's Board/Council

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, regardless of whether or not your jurisdiction expects to have a budget deficit this year, in your opinion, what would be the preferred method for eliminating any potential deficit (if it had one) according to the following groups or individuals? Do you think that they would prefer to cut costs/services, increase taxes, use any savings your jurisdiction may have, or increase debt (if legally allowable)? Majority of your jurisdiction's Board/Council would prefer to ...

type: numeric (byte)  
label: deficit  
range: [1,5] units: 1  
unique values: 5 missing .: 95/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	516	1	Cut costs/services
	69	2	Increase taxes
	510	3	Use any savings
	6	4	Increase debt
	252	5	Don't know
	95	.	

---

q14b

Budget deficit reduction: Jurisdiction's citizens

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, regardless of whether or not your jurisdiction expects to have a budget deficit this year, in your opinion, what would be the preferred method for eliminating any potential deficit (if it had one) according to the following groups or individuals? Do you think that they would prefer to cut costs/services, increase taxes, use any savings your jurisdiction may have, or increase debt (if legally allowable)? Majority of your jurisdiction's citizens would prefer to ...

```
type: numeric (byte)
label: deficit

range: [1,5]
unique values: 5

units: 1
missing .: 105/1,448
```

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	420	1	Cut costs/services
	12	2	Increase taxes
	526	3	Use any savings
	16	4	Increase debt
	369	5	Don't know
	105	.	

-----  
q14c

Budget deficit reduction: Local official  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Now, regardless of whether or not your jurisdiction expects to have a budget deficit this year, in your opinion, what would be the preferred method for eliminating any potential deficit (if it had one) according to the following groups or individuals? Do you think that they would prefer to cut costs/services, increase taxes, use any savings your jurisdiction may have, or increase debt (if legally allowable)? You personally in your role as a local official would prefer to ...

```
type: numeric (byte)
label: deficit

range: [1,5]
unique values: 5

units: 1
missing .: 108/1,448
```

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	548	1	Cut costs/services
	123	2	Increase taxes
	506	3	Use any savings
	12	4	Increase debt
	151	5	Don't know
	108	.	

-----  
q15

Juris. offers retirement income benefits to employees and/or elected officials  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: First, does your jurisdiction offer any kind of retirement income benefits (defined benefit pensions, defined contribution plans such as an IRA, 401a,



457b, or 401k-type plan, etc.) to any current or former employees and/or elected officials?

type: numeric (byte)  
label: y\_n\_dk  
range: [1,3] units: 1  
unique values: 3 missing .: 79/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	892	1	Yes
	459	2	No
	18	3	Don't Know
	79	.	

-----  
q16a

Should juris. offer retirement benefits to curr. and/or retired employees  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Do you think your jurisdiction should be providing retirement income benefits to... current and/or retired employees? (if your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "not applicable")

type: numeric (byte)  
label: y\_n\_na\_dk  
range: [1,4] units: 1  
unique values: 4 missing .: 1,001/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	31	1	Yes
	321	2	No
	77	3	Not Applicable
	18	4	Don't Know
	1,001	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=2.  
-----

q16b

Should juris. offer retirement benefits to curr. and/or former elected officials  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Do you think your jurisdiction should be providing retirement income benefits to... current and/or former elected officials?

type: numeric (byte)  
label: y\_n\_na\_dk  
range: [1,4] units: 1  
unique values: 3 missing .: 1,068/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	25	1	Yes
	338	2	No

17 4 Don't Know  
1,068 .

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=2.

-----  
q17a1

Retirement income benefits: New hires: Defined Contribution  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) New hires: Defined Contribution

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing : 610/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	465	0	Not Selected
	373	1	Selected
	610	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

-----  
q17a2

Retirement income benefits: New hires: Defined Benefit  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) New hires: Defined Benefit

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing : 610/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	655	0	Not Selected
	183	1	Selected

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

-----  
q17a3

Retirement income benefits: New hires: Hybrid  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) New hires: Hybrid

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing : 611/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	764	0	Not Selected
	73	1	Selected
	611	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

-----  
q17a4

Retirement income benefits: New hires: None  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) New hires: No Retirement Income Benefits

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing : 611/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	761	0	Not Selected
	76	1	Selected
	611	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

-----  
q17a5

Retirement income benefits: New hires: Not Applicable  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) New hires: Not Applicable

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected  
  
range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing : 611/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	698	0	Not Selected
	139	1	Selected
	611	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

-----  
q17a6

Retirement income benefits: New hires: Don't Know  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) New hires: Don't Know

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected  
  
range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing : 611/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	801	0	Not Selected
	36	1	Selected
	611	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

-----  
q17b1

Retirement income benefits: Current employees: Defined Contribution  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) Current employees: Defined Contribution

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing : 606/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	475	0	Not Selected
	367	1	Selected
	606	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

-----  
q17b2

Retirement income benefits: Current employees: Defined Benefit  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) Current employees: Defined Benefit

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing : 606/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	512	0	Not Selected
	330	1	Selected
	606	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

-----  
q17b3

Retirement income benefits: Current employees: Hybrid  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? *(If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.)* Current employees: Hybrid

```
          type: numeric (byte)
          label: selected

          range: [0,1]                units: 1
unique values: 2                    missing .: 607/1,448

tabulation:  Freq.   Numeric  Label
              769     0      Not Selected
              72     1      Selected
              607     .
```

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

-----  
q17b4

Retirement income benefits: Current employees: None  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? *(If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.)* Current employees: No Retirement Income Benefits

```
          type: numeric (byte)
          label: selected

          range: [0,1]                units: 1
unique values: 2                    missing .: 607/1,448

tabulation:  Freq.   Numeric  Label
              791     0      Not Selected
              50     1      Selected
              607     .
```

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

-----  
q17b5

Retirement income benefits: Current employees: Not Applicable  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) Current employees: Not Applicable

```
      type: numeric (byte)
      label: selected

      range: [0,1]                units: 1
unique values: 2                  missing  .: 607/1,448
```

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	731	0	Not Selected
	110	1	Selected
	607	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

-----  
q17b6

Retirement income benefits: Current employees: Don't Know  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) Current employees: Don't Know

```
      type: numeric (byte)
      label: selected

      range: [0,1]                units: 1
unique values: 2                  missing  .: 607/1,448
```

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	810	0	Not Selected
	31	1	Selected
	607	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.  
-----

q17c1

Retirement income benefits: Retired employees: Defined Contribution

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) Retired employees: Defined Contribution

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected  
range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing : 638/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	694	0	Not Selected
	116	1	Selected
	638	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

---

q17c2

Retirement income benefits: Retired employees: Defined Benefit

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) Retired employees: Defined Benefit

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected  
range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing : 638/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	512	0	Not Selected
	298	1	Selected
	638	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

---



q17c3

Retirement income benefits: Retired employees: Hybrid

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) Retired employees: Hybrid

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected  
range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing : 638/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	787	0	Not Selected
	23	1	Selected
	638	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

---

q17c4

Retirement income benefits: Retired employees: None

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) Retired employees: No Retirement Income Benefits

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected  
range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing : 638/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	658	0	Not Selected
	152	1	Selected
	638	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

---

q17c5

Retirement income benefits: Retired employees: Not Applicable

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) Retired employees: Not applicable

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected  
range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing : 638/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	592	0	Not Selected
	218	1	Selected
	638	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

---

q17c6

Retirement income benefits: Retired employees: Don't Know

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) Retired employees: Don't Know

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected  
range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing : 638/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	772	0	Not Selected
	38	1	Selected
	638	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

---

q17d1

Retirement income benefits: Current elected officials: Defined Contribution

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) Current elected officials: Defined Contribution

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 635/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	488	0	Not Selected
	325	1	Selected
	635	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

---

q17d2

Retirement income benefits: Current elected officials: Defined Benefit

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) Current elected officials: Defined Benefit

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 635/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	643	0	Not Selected
	170	1	Selected
	635	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

---

q17d3

Retirement income benefits: Current elected officials: Hybrid

-----  
QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) Current elected officials: Hybrid

```
      type: numeric (byte)
      label: selected

      range: [0,1]
unique values: 2                               units: 1
                                                missing : 635/1,448

      tabulation:  Freq.   Numeric  Label
                   783      0      Not Selected
                   30      1      Selected
                   635      .
```

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

-----  
q17d4

Retirement income benefits: Current elected officials: None  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) Current elected officials: No Retirement Income Benefits

```
      type: numeric (byte)
      label: selected

      range: [0,1]
unique values: 2                               units: 1
                                                missing : 635/1,448

      tabulation:  Freq.   Numeric  Label
                   523      0      Not Selected
                   290      1      Selected
                   635      .
```

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

-----  
q17d5

Retirement income benefits: Current elected officials: Not Applicable  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) Current elected officials: Not Applicable

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,0] units: 1  
unique values: 1 missing .: 635/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	813	0	Not Selected
	635	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

CODEBOOK NOTE: This was not a valid response option to be selected, as all jurisdictions should have current elected officials.

-----  
q17d6

Retirement income benefits: Current elected officials: Don't Know  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) Current elected officials: Don't Know

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 635/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	782	0	Not Selected
	31	1	Selected
	635	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

-----  
q17e1

Retirement income benefits: Former elected officials: Defined Contribution

-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) Former elected officials: Defined Contribution

```

        type: numeric (byte)
        label: selected

        range: [0,1]
unique values: 2                               units: 1
                                                missing : 622/1,448

        tabulation:  Freq.   Numeric  Label
                   723     0      Not Selected
                   103     1      Selected
                   622     .

```

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

-----

q17e2

Retirement income benefits: Former elected officials: Defined Benefit

-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) Former elected officials: Defined Benefit

```

        type: numeric (byte)
        label: selected

        range: [0,1]
unique values: 2                               units: 1
                                                missing : 622/1,448

        tabulation:  Freq.   Numeric  Label
                   711     0      Not Selected
                   115     1      Selected
                   622     .

```

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

-----

q17e3

Retirement income benefits: Former elected officials: Hybrid

-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) Former elected officials: Hybrid

```

type: numeric (byte)
label: selected

range: [0,1]
unique values: 2

units: 1
missing : 622/1,448

tabulation: Freq.   Numeric  Label
              818         0  Not Selected
              8          1  Selected
              622         .

```

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

q17e4

Retirement income benefits: Former elected officials: None

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.) Former elected officials: No Retirement Income Benefits

```

type: numeric (byte)
label: selected

range: [0,1]
unique values: 2

units: 1
missing : 622/1,448

tabulation: Freq.   Numeric  Label
              466         0  Not Selected
              360         1  Selected
              622         .

```

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

q17e5

Retirement income benefits: Former elected officials: Not Applicable





about right, or not generous enough? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions.) New hires

type: numeric (byte)  
label: generosity

range: [1,5] units: 1  
unique values: 5 missing : 595/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	42	1	Too Generous
	496	2	About Right
	81	3	Not Generous Enough
	202	4	Not Applicable
	32	5	Don't Know
	595	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

-----  
q18b

Generosity of retirement income benefits: Current employees

-----  
QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Overall, do you consider your jurisdiction's retirement income benefits – or lack thereof – for each of the following groups to be too generous, about right, or not generous enough? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions.) Current employees

type: numeric (byte)  
label: generosity

range: [1,5] units: 1  
unique values: 5 missing : 591/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	80	1	Too Generous
	536	2	About Right
	68	3	Not Generous Enough
	148	4	Not Applicable
	25	5	Don't Know
	591	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

-----  
q18c

Generosity of retirement income benefits: Retired employees

-----  
QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Overall, do you consider your jurisdiction's retirement income benefits – or lack thereof – for each of the following groups to be too generous, about right, or not generous enough? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions.) Retired employees

type: numeric (byte)  
label: generosity

range: [1,5] units: 1  
unique values: 5 missing .: 609/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	127	1	Too Generous
	322	2	About Right
	29	3	Not Generous Enough
	327	4	Not Applicable
	34	5	Don't Know
	609	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

-----  
q18d

Generosity of retirement income benefits: Current elected officials  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Overall, do you consider your jurisdiction's retirement income benefits - or lack thereof - for each of the following groups to be too generous, about right, or not generous enough? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions.) Current elected officials

type: numeric (byte)  
label: generosity

range: [1,5] units: 1  
unique values: 4 missing .: 750/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	29	1	Too Generous
	529	2	About Right
	58	3	Not Generous Enough
	82	5	Don't Know
	750	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q15=1.

-----  
q18e

Generosity of retirement income benefits: Former elected officials  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Overall, do you consider your jurisdiction's retirement income benefits - or lack thereof - for each of the following groups to be too generous, about right, or not generous enough? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions.) Former elected officials

type: numeric (byte)  
label: generosity

range: [1,5] units: 1  
unique values: 5 missing .: 609/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
-------------	-------	---------	-------



-----  
q19c

Pension actions: Increased employee contribution to defined benefit  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its defined benefit and/or hybrid pension plans for any of its employees, elected officials, or retirees? (*check all that apply*) Increased employee contribution to defined benefit portion of the pension

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 1,011/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	295	0	Not Selected
	142	1	Selected
	1,011	.	

SKIP PATTERN: Not asked unless Q17a=2 or Q17a=3 or Q17b=2 or Q17b=3 or Q17c=2 or Q17c=3 or Q17d=2 or Q17d=3 or Q17e=2 or Q17e=3  
-----

q19d

Pension actions: Reduced multiplier that helps determine pension payments  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its defined benefit and/or hybrid pension plans for any of its employees, elected officials, or retirees? (*check all that apply*) Reduced the multiplier that helps determine pension payments based on final average salary

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 1,011/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	355	0	Not Selected
	82	1	Selected
	1,011	.	

SKIP PATTERN: Not asked unless Q17a=2 or Q17a=3 or Q17b=2 or Q17b=3 or Q17c=2 or Q17c=3 or Q17d=2 or Q17d=3 or Q17e=2 or Q17e=3  
-----

q19e

Pension actions: Reduced, eliminated, or postponed the COLA  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its defined benefit and/or hybrid pension plans for any of its employees, elected officials, or retirees? (*check all that apply*) Reduced, eliminated, or postponed the cost of living adjustment (COLA)

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing : 1,011/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	351	0	Not Selected
	86	1	Selected
	1,011	.	

SKIP PATTERN: Not asked unless Q17a=2 or Q17a=3 or Q17b=2 or Q17b=3 or Q17c=2 or Q17c=3 or Q17d=2 or Q17d=3 or Q17e=2 or Q17e=3

-----  
q19f

Pension actions: Decreased assumed rate of return for stock market  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its defined benefit and/or hybrid pension plans for any of its employees, elected officials, or retirees? (*check all that apply*) Decreased the assumed rate of return for stock market investments in the pension fund

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing : 1,011/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	400	0	Not Selected
	37	1	Selected
	1,011	.	

SKIP PATTERN: Not asked unless Q17a=2 or Q17a=3 or Q17b=2 or Q17b=3 or Q17c=2 or Q17c=3 or Q17d=2 or Q17d=3 or Q17e=2 or Q17e=3

-----  
q19g

Pension actions: Closed defined benefit pension to new individuals  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its defined benefit and/or hybrid pension plans for any of its employees, elected officials, or retirees? (*check all that apply*) Closed defined benefit pension to new individuals

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1

unique values: 2 missing .: 1,011/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	283	0	Not Selected
	154	1	Selected
	1,011	.	

SKIP PATTERN: Not asked unless Q17a=2 or Q17a=3 or Q17b=2 or Q17b=3 or Q17c=2 or Q17c=3 or Q17d=2 or Q17d=3 or Q17e=2 or Q17e=3

---

q19h

Pension actions: Converted to defined contribution

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its defined benefit and/or hybrid pension plans for any of its employees, elected officials, or retirees? (*check all that apply*) Converted to a defined contribution (IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type) plan

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 1,011/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	351	0	Not Selected
	86	1	Selected
	1,011	.	

SKIP PATTERN: Not asked unless Q17a=2 or Q17a=3 or Q17b=2 or Q17b=3 or Q17c=2 or Q17c=3 or Q17d=2 or Q17d=3 or Q17e=2 or Q17e=3

---

q19i

Pension actions: Converted to a hybrid

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its defined benefit and/or hybrid pension plans for any of its employees, elected officials, or retirees? (*check all that apply*) Converted to a hybrid (defined benefit and defined contribution) plan

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 1,011/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	377	0	Not Selected
	60	1	Selected
	1,011	.	

SKIP PATTERN: Not asked unless Q17a=2 or Q17a=3 or Q17b=2 or Q17b=3 or Q17c=2 or Q17c=3 or Q17d=2 or Q17d=3 or Q17e=2 or Q17e=3

-----  
q19j

Pension actions: Financed liability through bonds  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its defined benefit and/or hybrid pension plans for any of its employees, elected officials, or retirees? (*check all that apply*) Financed liability through bonds

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 1,011/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	430	0	Not Selected
	7	1	Selected
	1,011	.	

SKIP PATTERN: Not asked unless Q17a=2 or Q17a=3 or Q17b=2 or Q17b=3 or Q17c=2 or Q17c=3 or Q17d=2 or Q17d=3 or Q17e=2 or Q17e=3  
-----

q19k

Pension actions: Don't Know  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its defined benefit and/or hybrid pension plans for any of its employees, elected officials, or retirees? (*check all that apply*) Don't Know

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 1,011/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	374	0	Not Selected
	63	1	Selected
	1,011	.	

SKIP PATTERN: Not asked unless Q17a=2 or Q17a=3 or Q17b=2 or Q17b=3 or Q17c=2 or Q17c=3 or Q17d=2 or Q17d=3 or Q17e=2 or Q17e=3  
-----

q19l

Pension actions: Other  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its defined benefit and/or hybrid pension plans for any of its employees, elected officials, or retirees? (check all that apply)Other

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 1,011/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	390	0	Not Selected
	47	1	Selected
	1,011	.	

SKIP PATTERN: Not asked unless Q17a=2 or Q17a=3 or Q17b=2 or Q17b=3 or Q17c=2 or Q17c=3 or Q17d=2 or Q17d=3 or Q17e=2 or Q17e=3

-----  
q19other  
Pension actions: Other-specify  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its defined benefit and/or hybrid pension plans for any of its employees, elected officials, or retirees? (check all that apply) Other (please specify)

type: string (str239)

unique values: 57 missing "": 1,389/1,448

SKIP PATTERN: Not asked unless Q17a=2 or Q17a=3 or Q17b=2 or Q17b=3 or Q17c=2 or Q17c=3 or Q17d=2 or Q17d=3 or Q17e=2 or Q17e=3

CODEBOOK NOTE: This variable does not appear in the Stata dataset, because some versions of Stata do not support long string variables. Responses to q19other are available in the excel file 2015-Spring-Opens-Redacted.xlsx, and can be linked back to the original data using the variable respondent\_id, as well as the ID.date, ID.start, ID.endDate, and ID.end variables. Additionally, to protect respondent confidentiality, identifying information from responses was redacted. Redacted text was denoted [REDACTED]. The original responses are not available to secondary users of the data.

-----  
q20  
Effectiveness of juris.'s efforts at controlling retirement inc. benefits costs  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Overall, how effective would you say your jurisdiction's efforts, if any, have been at controlling costs related to its retirement income benefits?

type: numeric (byte)  
label: effective



range: [1,6] units: 1  
unique values: 6 missing .: 989/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	136	1	Very Effective
	190	2	Somewhat Effective
	74	3	Neither Effective nor Ineffective
	26	4	Somewhat Ineffective
	14	5	Very Ineffective
	19	6	Don't Know
	989	.	

SKIP PATTERN: Not asked unless Q17a=2 or Q17a=3 or Q17b=2 or Q17b=3 or Q17c=2 or Q17c=3 or Q17d=2 or Q17d=3 or Q17e=2 or Q17e=3

-----  
q21  
Jurisdiction's contributions to its pension fund during previous fiscal year  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: A jurisdiction's "actuarially required contribution" (ARC) to its pension fund is based on the benefits earned by employees in the current year, plus an amount to reduce any unfunded liabilities for past years. Some jurisdictions pay their ARC in full each year. Others do not, and may just pay as they go for only that year's pension costs.

Thinking specifically about defined benefit (i.e., traditional pensions) and/or hybrid plans, which of the following statements best describes your jurisdiction's contributions to its pension fund during its previous fiscal year?

type: numeric (byte)  
label: arcpension

range: [1,5] units: 1  
unique values: 5 missing .: 995/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	23	1	We made no contribution to our pension fund.
	84	2	We made some contribution to our pension fund, but not the full ARC.
	218	3	We made our full ARC contribution.
	69	4	We made a contribution larger than the ARC.
	59	5	Don't Know
	995	.	

SKIP PATTERN: Not asked unless Q17a=2 or Q17a=3 or Q17b=2 or Q17b=3 or Q17c=2 or Q17c=3 or Q17d=2 or Q17d=3 or Q17e=2 or Q17e=3

-----

q22

Are jurisdiction's pension obligations currently fully funded

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: To the best of your knowledge, are your jurisdiction's pension obligations currently fully funded?

type: numeric (byte)  
label: y\_n\_dk  
range: [1,3] units: 1  
unique values: 3 missing .: 989/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	165	1	Yes
	272	2	No
	22	3	Don't Know
	989	.	

SKIP PATTERN: Not asked unless Q17a=2 or Q17a=3 or Q17b=2 or Q17b=3 or Q17c=2 or Q17c=3 or Q17d=2 or Q17d=3 or Q17e=2 or Q17e=3

---

q23

Are jurisdiction's pension obligations a fiscal problem

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Regardless of whether or not your jurisdiction's defined benefit and/or hybrid plan pension obligations are currently fully funded, in your opinion, are these obligations a significant fiscal problem, somewhat of a problem, not much of a problem, or not a problem at all for your jurisdiction's fiscal health?

type: numeric (byte)  
label: problem  
range: [1,5] units: 1  
unique values: 5 missing .: 987/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	72	1	A Significant Problem
	151	2	Somewhat of a Problem
	119	3	Not Much of a Problem
	103	4	Not a Problem at All
	16	5	Don't Know
	987	.	

SKIP PATTERN: Not asked unless Q17a=2 or Q17a=3 or Q17b=2 or Q17b=3 or Q17c=2 or Q17c=3 or Q17d=2 or Q17d=3 or Q17e=2 or Q17e=3

---

q24

Concerned that jurisdiction will not be able to fulfill pension obligations

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Looking ahead, how concerned are you, if at all, that your jurisdiction will not be able to fulfill its pension obligations to its retirees?

```

type: numeric (byte)
label: concern

range: [1,5]
unique values: 5
units: 1
missing .: 989/1,448

```

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	37	1	Very concerned
	96	2	Somewhat concerned
	167	3	Not very concerned
	148	4	Not concerned at all
	11	5	Don't Know
	989	.	

SKIP PATTERN: Not asked unless Q17a=2 or Q17a=3 or Q17b=2 or Q17b=3 or Q17c=2 or Q17c=3 or Q17d=2 or Q17d=3 or Q17e=2 or Q17e=3

-----  
q25  
Juris. provides retiree health benefits to employees and/or elected officials  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Does your jurisdiction provide any kind of retiree health care benefits to any current or former employees and/or elected officials?

```

type: numeric (byte)
label: y_n_dk

range: [1,3]
unique values: 3
units: 1
missing .: 89/1,448

```

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	328	1	Yes
	1,009	2	No
	22	3	Don't Know
	89	.	

-----  
q26a  
Should juris. provide retiree health benefits: Curr. and/or retired employees  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Do you think your jurisdiction should be providing retiree health care benefits to... current and/or retired employees?

```

type: numeric (byte)
label: y_n_na_dk

range: [1,4]
unique values: 4
units: 1
missing .: 453/1,448

```

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	67	1	Yes
	791	2	No
	97	3	Not Applicable
	40	4	Don't Know

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=2

-----  
q26b

Should juris. provide retiree health benefits: Curr. and/or former elected  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Do you think your jurisdiction should be providing  
retiree health care benefits to... current and/or former elected officials?

type: numeric (byte)  
label: y\_n\_na\_dk

range: [1,4] units: 1  
unique values: 3 missing .: 535/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	36	1	Yes
	843	2	No
	34	4	Don't Know
	535	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=2

-----  
q27a

Retiree health care benefits: New hires  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: To which of the following groups does your jurisdiction offer  
retiree health care benefits? (*If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select  
"Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions.*) New hires

type: numeric (byte)  
label: offers

range: [1,4] units: 1  
unique values: 4 missing .: 1,142/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	154	1	Offers Benefits
	131	2	Does Not Offer Benefits
	15	3	Not Applicable
	6	4	Don't Know
	1,142	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q27b

Retiree health care benefits: Current employees  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: To which of the following groups does your jurisdiction offer retiree health care benefits? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions.) Current employees

type: numeric (byte)  
label: offers  
range: [1,4] units: 1  
unique values: 4 missing.: 1,136/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	267	1	Offers Benefits
	35	2	Does Not Offer Benefits
	8	3	Not Applicable
	2	4	Don't Know
	1,136	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q27c

Retiree health care benefits: Retired employees  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: To which of the following groups does your jurisdiction offer retiree health care benefits? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions.) Retired employees

type: numeric (byte)  
label: offers  
range: [1,4] units: 1  
unique values: 4 missing.: 1,136/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	273	1	Offers Benefits
	26	2	Does Not Offer Benefits
	12	3	Not Applicable
	1	4	Don't Know
	1,136	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q27d

Retiree health care benefits: Current elected officials  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: To which of the following groups does your jurisdiction offer retiree health care benefits? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions.) Current elected officials

type: numeric (byte)  
label: offers  
range: [1,4] units: 1

unique values: 3 missing .: 1,172/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	88	1	Offers Benefits
	184	2	Does Not Offer Benefits
	4	4	Don't Know
	1,172	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

---

q27e

Retiree health care benefits: Former elected officials

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: To which of the following groups does your jurisdiction offer retiree health care benefits? *(If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions.)* Former elected officials

type: numeric (byte)  
label: offers

range: [1,4] units: 1  
unique values: 4 missing .: 1,140/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	92	1	Offers Benefits
	170	2	Does Not Offer Benefits
	43	3	Not Applicable
	3	4	Don't Know
	1,140	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

---

q28a

Generosity of retirement health benefits: New hires

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Overall, do you consider your jurisdiction's retiree health care benefits – or lack thereof – for each of the following groups to be too generous, about right, or not generous enough? *(If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions.)* New hires

type: numeric (byte)  
label: generosity

range: [1,5] units: 1  
unique values: 5 missing .: 1,129/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	32	1	Too Generous
	198	2	About Right
	39	3	Not Generous Enough
	45	4	Not Applicable
	5	5	Don't Know
	1,129	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q28b

Generosity of retirement health benefits: Current employees  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Overall, do you consider your jurisdiction's retiree health care benefits – or lack thereof – for each of the following groups to be too generous, about right, or not generous enough? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions.) Current employees

type: numeric (byte)  
label: generosity

range: [1,5] units: 1  
unique values: 5 missing .: 1,128/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	69	1	Too Generous
	211	2	About Right
	17	3	Not Generous Enough
	18	4	Not Applicable
	5	5	Don't Know
	1,128	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q28c

Generosity of retirement health benefits: Retired employees  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Overall, do you consider your jurisdiction's retiree health care benefits – or lack thereof – for each of the following groups to be too generous, about right, or not generous enough? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions.) Retired employees

type: numeric (byte)  
label: generosity

range: [1,5] units: 1  
unique values: 5 missing .: 1,130/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	119	1	Too Generous
	155	2	About Right
	9	3	Not Generous Enough
	32	4	Not Applicable
	3	5	Don't Know
	1,130	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q28d

Generosity of retirement health benefits: Current elected officials

-----  
QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Overall, do you consider your jurisdiction's retiree health care benefits – or lack thereof – for each of the following groups to be too generous, about right, or not generous enough? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions.) Current elected officials

type: numeric (byte)  
label: generosity  
range: [1,5] units: 1  
unique values: 4 missing .: 1,231/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	17	1	Too Generous
	157	2	About Right
	18	3	Not Generous Enough
	25	5	Don't Know
	1,231	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q28e

Generosity of retirement health benefits: Former elected officials

-----  
QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Overall, do you consider your jurisdiction's retiree health care benefits – or lack thereof – for each of the following groups to be too generous, about right, or not generous enough? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions.) Former elected officials

type: numeric (byte)  
label: generosity  
range: [1,5] units: 1  
unique values: 5 missing .: 1,141/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	33	1	Too Generous
	114	2	About Right
	11	3	Not Generous Enough
	143	4	Not Applicable
	6	5	Don't Know
	1,141	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q29a

Health benefit actions: Actuarial valuation

-----  
QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its retiree health care benefits for any current or future



retirees? (*check all that apply*) In the process of or have completed actuarial study to determine/quantify liability

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 1,151/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	153	0	Not Selected
	144	1	Selected
	1,151	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q29b

Health benefit actions: Increased cost-sharing  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its retiree health care benefits for any current or future retirees? (*check all that apply*) Increased cost-sharing by retirees (e.g., higher premiums, co-payments, deductibles, etc.)

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 1,151/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	171	0	Not Selected
	126	1	Selected
	1,151	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q29c

Health benefit actions: Increased years of service and/or retirement age  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its retiree health care benefits for any current or future retirees? (*check all that apply*) Increased the years of service required and/or the age at which retirement benefits are available

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 1,151/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	233	0	Not Selected

64 1 Selected  
1,151 .

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q29d

Health benefit actions: Reduced/eliminated benefits for spouses/dependents  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its retiree health care benefits for any current or future retirees? (*check all that apply*) Reduced or eliminated benefits for spouses and/or dependents

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected  
range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 1,151/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	221	0	Not Selected
	76	1	Selected
	1,151	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q29e

Health benefit actions: Less expensive plan options  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its retiree health care benefits for any current or future retirees? (*check all that apply*) Introduced less expensive health care and/or prescription plan options

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected  
range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 1,151/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	127	0	Not Selected
	170	1	Selected
	1,151	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q29f

Health benefit actions: Wellness plan  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its retiree health care benefits for any current or future retirees? (*check all that apply*) Implemented a wellness plan (e.g., incentives for annual physicals, weight management, smoking cessation, etc.)

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing : 1,151/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	255	0	Not Selected
	42	1	Selected
	1,151	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q29g  
Health benefit actions: Converted to defined contributions/stipend  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its retiree health care benefits for any current or future retirees? (*check all that apply*) Converted to a defined contribution/stipend in place of a defined benefit health plan

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing : 1,151/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	242	0	Not Selected
	55	1	Selected
	1,151	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q29h  
Health benefit actions: Introduced HSA option  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its retiree health care benefits for any current or future retirees? (*check all that apply*) Introduced a retirement health savings account (HSA) option

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing : 1,151/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	189	0	Not Selected
	108	1	Selected
	1,151	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q29i

Health benefit actions: Financed liability through bonds  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its retiree health care benefits for any current or future retirees? (*check all that apply*) Financed liability through bonds

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 1,151/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	294	0	Not Selected
	3	1	Selected
	1,151	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q29j

Health benefit actions: Created or joined a qualified health care trust  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its retiree health care benefits for any current or future retirees? (*check all that apply*) Created or joined a qualified health care trust

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 1,151/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	276	0	Not Selected
	21	1	Selected
	1,151	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q29k

Health benefit actions: Transferred to a VEBA  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its retiree health care benefits for any current or future retirees? (*check all that apply*) Transferred retiree health care management to a Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Association (VEBA)

```
      type: numeric (byte)
      label: selected

      range: [0,1]
unique values: 2                               units: 1
                                                missing .: 1,151/1,448

      tabulation: Freq.   Numeric  Label
                  289       0    Not Selected
                  8         1    Selected
                  1,151     .
```

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q29l  
Health benefit actions: Don't Know  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its retiree health care benefits for any current or future retirees? (*check all that apply*) Don't Know

```
      type: numeric (byte)
      label: selected

      range: [0,1]
unique values: 2                               units: 1
                                                missing .: 1,151/1,448

      tabulation: Freq.   Numeric  Label
                  278       0    Not Selected
                  19        1    Selected
                  1,151     .
```

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q29m  
Health benefit actions: Other  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its retiree health care benefits for any current or future retirees? (*check all that apply*) Other

```
      type: numeric (byte)
      label: selected

      range: [0,1]
unique values: 2                               units: 1
                                                missing .: 1,151/1,448

      tabulation: Freq.   Numeric  Label
                  264       0    Not Selected
```

33 1 Selected  
1,151 .

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q29other  
Health benefit actions: Other-specify  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its retiree health care benefits for any current or future retirees? (*check all that apply*) Other (*please specify*)

type: string (str233)

unique values: 47 missing "": 1,299/1,448

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

CODEBOOK NOTE: This variable does not appear in the Stata dataset, because some versions of Stata do not support long string variables. Responses to q29other are available in the excel file 2015-Spring-Opens-Redacted.xlsx, and can be linked back to the original data using the variable respondent\_id, as well as the ID.date, ID.start, ID.endDate, and ID.end variables. Additionally, to protect respondent confidentiality, identifying information from responses was redacted. Redacted text was denoted [REDACTED]. The original responses are not available to secondary users of the data.

-----  
q30  
Effectiveness of juris.'s efforts to control retiree health care benefits costs  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Overall, how effective would you say your jurisdiction's efforts, if any, have been at controlling costs related to its retiree health care benefits?

type: numeric (byte)  
label: effective

range: [1,6] units: 1  
unique values: 6 missing .: 1,133/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	72	1	Very Effective
	156	2	Somewhat Effective
	37	3	Neither Effective nor Ineffective
	23	4	Somewhat Ineffective
	13	5	Very Ineffective
	14	6	Don't Know
	1,133	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1  
-----







range: [1,5] units: 1  
unique values: 5 missing .: 1,142/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	80	1	A Significant Problem
	105	2	Somewhat of a Problem
	62	3	Not Much of a Problem
	49	4	Not a Problem at All
	10	5	Don't Know
	1,142	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q36

Concern that juris. will not be able to fulfill health care benefit obligations  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Looking ahead, how concerned are you, if at all, that your jurisdiction will not be able to fulfill its health care benefit obligations to its retirees?

type: numeric (byte)  
label: concern

range: [1,5] units: 1  
unique values: 5 missing .: 1,140/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	42	1	Very concerned
	117	2	Somewhat concerned
	79	3	Not very concerned
	61	4	Not concerned at all
	9	5	Don't Know
	1,140	.	

SKIP PATTERN: not asked unless q25=1

-----  
q37a

Possible action: Prohibit providing retiree health benefits for future retirees  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Thinking about the following actions the State of Michigan could take to help local governments address retiree health care obligations, to what extent, if any, would you support or oppose the following possible state actions to help your jurisdiction better meet or reduce its retiree health care obligations Prohibit jurisdictions from providing retiree health care benefits for future retirees

type: numeric (byte)  
label: support\_oppose

range: [1,6] units: 1  
unique values: 6 missing .: 1,148/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
-------------	-------	---------	-------

33	1	Strongly Support
40	2	Somewhat Support
70	3	Neither Support nor Oppose
59	4	Somewhat Oppose
80	5	Strongly Oppose
18	6	Don't Know
1,148	.	

-----  
q37b

Possible action: Set hard caps on juris.'s contributions  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Thinking about the following actions the State of Michigan could take to help local governments address retiree health care obligations, to what extent, if any, would you support or oppose the following possible state actions to help your jurisdiction better meet or reduce its retiree health care obligations? Set hard caps (i.e., percentage or dollar figure) on jurisdictions' contributions to retiree health care costs

type: numeric (byte)  
label: support\_oppose

range: [1,6] units: 1  
unique values: 6 missing .: 1,152/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	51	1	Strongly Support
	87	2	Somewhat Support
	57	3	Neither Support nor Oppose
	30	4	Somewhat Oppose
	54	5	Strongly Oppose
	17	6	Don't Know
	1,152	.	

-----  
q37c

Possible action: Create state-wide VEBA  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Thinking about the following actions the State of Michigan could take to help local governments address retiree health care obligations, to what extent, if any, would you support or oppose the following possible state actions to help your jurisdiction better meet or reduce its retiree health care obligations? Create a state-wide Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Association (VEBA) or assist jurisdictions in creating VEBAs to shift control of retiree health care benefits to employees and/or retirees themselves

type: numeric (byte)  
label: support\_oppose

range: [1,6] units: 1  
unique values: 6 missing .: 1,148/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	35	1	Strongly Support
	96	2	Somewhat Support



1,152 .

---

q37f

Possible action: Create state-wide bonding pool

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Thinking about the following actions the State of Michigan could take to help local governments address retiree health care obligations, to what extent, if any, would you support or oppose the following possible state actions to help your jurisdiction better meet or reduce its retiree health care obligations? Create a state-wide bonding pool for funding retiree health care benefits

type: numeric (byte)  
label: support\_oppose

range: [1,6] units: 1  
unique values: 6 missing : 1,153/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	29	1	Strongly Support
	77	2	Somewhat Support
	68	3	Neither Support nor Oppose
	41	4	Somewhat Oppose
	47	5	Strongly Oppose
	33	6	Don't Know
	1,153	.	

---

q37g

Possible action: Ease credit-based restrictions so more juris. can issue bonds

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Thinking about the following actions the State of Michigan could take to help local governments address retiree health care obligations, to what extent, if any, would you support or oppose the following possible state actions to help your jurisdiction better meet or reduce its retiree health care obligations? Ease credit rating-based restrictions so more jurisdictions could issue bonds for funding retiree health care benefits

type: numeric (byte)  
label: support\_oppose

range: [1,6] units: 1  
unique values: 6 missing : 1,157/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	20	1	Strongly Support
	46	2	Somewhat Support
	102	3	Neither Support nor Oppose
	45	4	Somewhat Oppose
	47	5	Strongly Oppose
	31	6	Don't Know
	1,157	.	

---

q37h  
Possible action: Other

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Thinking about the following actions the State of Michigan could take to help local governments address retiree health care obligations, to what extent, if any, would you support or oppose the following possible state actions to help your jurisdiction better meet or reduce its retiree health care obligations?  
Other

type: numeric (byte)  
label: support\_oppose  
range: [1,6] units: 1  
unique values: 6 missing .: 1,397/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	5	1	Strongly Support
	2	2	Somewhat Support
	18	3	Neither Support nor Oppose
	4	4	Somewhat Oppose
	5	5	Strongly Oppose
	17	6	Don't Know
	1,397	.	

---

q37other  
Possible action: Other-Specify

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Thinking about the following actions the State of Michigan could take to help local governments address retiree health care obligations, to what extent, if any, would you support or oppose the following possible state actions to help your jurisdiction better meet or reduce its retiree health care obligations?  
Other (*please specify*)

type: string (str240)  
unique values: 16 missing "": 1,237/1,448

CODEBOOK NOTE: This variable does not appear in the Stata dataset, because some versions of Stata do not support long string variables. Responses to q37other are available in the excel file 2015-Spring-Opens-Redacted.xlsx, and can be linked back to the original data using the variable respondent\_id, as well as the ID.date, ID.start, ID.endDate, and ID.end variables. Additionally, to protect respondent confidentiality, identifying information from responses was redacted. Redacted text was denoted [REDACTED]. The original responses are not available to secondary users of the data.

---

q38  
You feel things in your jurisdiction are generally going...

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Do you feel things in your jurisdiction are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track?

```

      type: numeric (byte)
      label: track

      range: [1,3]
unique values: 3
units: 1
missing .: 100/1,448

```

```

tabulation: Freq.   Numeric  Label
             1,219     1   Right Direction
              81       2   Wrong Track
              48       3   Don't Know
             100       .

```

-----

q39

How would you rate the way your Juris.'s governing board is performing its job?

-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: How would you rate the way your jurisdiction's governing board is performing its job?

```

      type: numeric (byte)
      label: rating

      range: [1,5]
unique values: 5
units: 1
missing .: 89/1,448

```

```

tabulation: Freq.   Numeric  Label
             501     1   Excellent
             677     2   Good
             145     3   Fair
              31     4   Poor
               5     5   Don't Know
             89     .

```

-----

q40

You feel things in the state of Michigan are generally going...

-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Do you feel things in the state of Michigan are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track?

```

      type: numeric (byte)
      label: track

      range: [1,3]
unique values: 3
units: 1
missing .: 105/1,448

```

```

tabulation: Freq.   Numeric  Label
             632     1   Right Direction
             511     2   Wrong Track
             200     3   Don't Know
             105     .

```

-----

q41right

Main reason why things in the state of Michigan are going right direction

-----  
QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Please briefly tell us the main reasons why you think things in the state of Michigan are generally going that way.

type: string (str1823)

unique values: 344

missing "": 1,104/1,448

SKIP PATTERN: Not asked unless Q40=1

CODEBOOK NOTE: This variable does not appear in the Stata dataset, because some versions of Stata do not support long string variables. Responses to q4lright are available in the excel file 2015-Spring-Opens-Redacted.xlsx, and can be linked back to the original data using the variable respondent\_id, as well as the ID.date, ID.start, ID.endDate, and ID.end variables. Additionally, to protect respondent confidentiality, identifying information from responses was redacted. Redacted text was denoted [REDACTED]. The original responses are not available to secondary users of the data.

-----  
q4lwrong

Main reason why things in the state of Michigan are on wrong track  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: Please briefly tell us the main reasons why you think things in the state of Michigan are generally going that way.

type: string (str2045)

unique values: 339

missing "": 1,108/1,448

SKIP PATTERN: Not asked unless Q40=2

CODEBOOK NOTE: This variable does not appear in the Stata dataset, because some versions of Stata do not support long string variables. Responses to q4lwrong are available in the excel file 2015-Spring-Opens-Redacted.xlsx, and can be linked back to the original data using the variable respondent\_id, as well as the ID.date, ID.start, ID.endDate, and ID.end variables. Additionally, to protect respondent confidentiality, identifying information from responses was redacted. Redacted text was denoted [REDACTED]. The original responses are not available to secondary users of the data.

-----  
q42

How would you rate the way Rick Snyder is performing his job as MI's governor?  
-----

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: How would you rate the way Rick Snyder is performing his job as Michigan's governor?

type: numeric (byte)

label: rating

range: [1,5]

units: 1

unique values: 5 missing .: 109/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	139	1	Excellent
	586	2	Good
	392	3	Fair
	181	4	Poor
	41	5	Don't Know
	109	.	

---

q43

How would you rate the way the MI Legislature is performing its job?

---

QUESTIONNAIRE TEXT: How would you rate the way the Michigan Legislature is performing its job?

type: numeric (byte)  
label: rating

range: [1,5] units: 1  
unique values: 5 missing .: 111/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	10	1	Excellent
	294	2	Good
	474	3	Fair
	515	4	Poor
	44	5	Don't Know
	111	.	

---

q45

Gender

---

type: numeric (byte)  
label: gender

range: [1,2] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 174/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	734	1	Male
	540	2	Female
	174	.	

---

age\_category

Respondent Age

---

type: numeric (byte)  
label: age



range: [1,9] units: 1  
unique values: 9 missing .: 231/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	6	1	20s
	57	2	30s
	167	3	40s
	278	4	50s
	461	5	60s
	210	6	70s
	36	7	80s
	1	8	90s
	1	9	100+
	231	.	

CODEBOOK NOTE: A variable generated based on response to Q46 (not included in the restricted dataset). The original answers to Q46 are not available to secondary users of the data.

-----  
tenure  
Respondent's time in office  
-----

type: numeric (byte)  
label: tenure

range: [1,5] units: 1  
unique values: 5 missing .: 155/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	286	1	Two or less years
	237	2	Three to five years
	306	3	Six to ten years
	290	4	Eleven to twenty years
	174	5	More than twenty years
	155	.	

CODEBOOK NOTE: A variable generated based on response to Q47 (not included in the restricted dataset). The original answers to Q47 are not available to secondary users of the data.

-----  
q48  
Are you of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino descent  
-----

type: numeric (byte)  
label: y\_n

range: [1,2] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 186/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	14	1	Yes
	1,248	2	No
	186	.	



range: [0,0] units: 1  
unique values: 1 missing .: 208/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	1,240	0	Not Selected
	208	.	

---

q49e  
Race: Asian

---

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 208/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	1,239	0	Not Selected
	1	1	Selected
	208	.	

---

q49f  
Race: Multiracial

---

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 208/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	1,234	0	Not Selected
	6	1	Selected
	208	.	

---

q49g  
Race: Other

---

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,1] units: 1  
unique values: 2 missing .: 208/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	1,222	0	Not Selected
	18	1	Selected
	208	.	

---

q49h  
Race: Don't Know

---

type: numeric (byte)  
label: selected

range: [0,0] units: 1  
unique values: 1 missing .: 208/1,448

tabulation: Freq. Numeric Label  
1,240 0 Not Selected  
208 .

---

q50  
Highest level of education

---

type: numeric (byte)  
label: schooling

range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing .: 163/1,448

tabulation: Freq. Numeric Label  
44 1 12th grade or less, no diploma  
159 2 High school graduate or GED  
369 3 Some college, no degree  
167 4 Associate degree  
270 5 Bachelor's degree  
228 6 Master's degree  
48 7 Professional/Doctorate degree  
163 .

---

q51  
Political affiliation

---

type: numeric (byte)  
label: party

range: [1,4] units: 1  
unique values: 4 missing .: 220/1,448

tabulation: Freq. Numeric Label  
575 1 Republican  
372 2 Independent  
234 3 Democrat  
47 4 Something Else  
220 .

---

q51other  
Political affiliation: Something else

---

type: string (str240)  
unique values: 45 missing "": 1,306/1,448

---

q52  
Strength of political affiliation

---

type: numeric (byte)  
label: strength  
range: [1,3] units: 1  
unique values: 3 missing .: 665/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	333	1	Very Strong
	392	2	Not Very Strong
	58	3	Don't Know
	665	.	

---

q53  
As an Independent, which party are you closer to?

---

type: numeric (byte)  
label: political\_leaning  
range: [1,3] units: 1  
unique values: 3 missing .: 1,041/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	81	1	Democratic Party
	137	2	Republican Party
	189	3	Neither
	1,041	.	

---

q54  
Date hardcopy received

---

type: string (str10)  
unique values: 28 missing "": 1,345/1,448

---

partyid  
7-point partisanship scale

---

type: numeric (byte)  
label: partisanship

range: [1,7] units: 1  
unique values: 7 missing .: 316/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	241	1	Strong Republican
	279	2	Weak Republican
	137	3	Independent leaning Republican
	189	4	Independent
	81	5	Independent leaning Democrat
	113	6	Weak Democrat
	92	7	Strong Democrat
	316	.	

CODEBOOK NOTE: This variable is a recoded version of q51, q52, and q53, which measure political affiliation and strength of party affiliation.

-----  
threpty  
3-point partisanship scale  
-----

type: numeric (byte)  
label: partisanship2

range: [1,3] units: 1  
unique values: 3 missing .: 316/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	657	1	Republican
	189	2	Independent
	286	3	Democrat
	316	.	

CODEBOOK NOTE: This variable is a recoded version of q51 and q53, which measure political affiliation.

-----  
region  
MI regions  
-----

type: numeric (byte)  
label: soss\_reg

range: [1,6] units: 1  
unique values: 6 missing .: 0/1,448

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	157	1	Upper Peninsula
	247	2	Northern Lower Peninsula
	267	3	West Central Lower Peninsula
	265	4	East Central Lower Peninsula
	233	5	Southwest Lower Peninsula
	279	6	Southeast Lower Peninsula

CODEBOOK NOTE: Regional groupings by county, as developed by MSU's State of the State Survey.

1. Upper Peninsula - Alger, Baraga, Chippewa, Delta, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Luce, Ontonagon, Mackinac, Marquette, Menominee, Schoolcraft
  
2. Northern Lower Peninsula - Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Iosco, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Missaukee, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon, Wexford
  
3. West Central - Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa
  
4. East Central - Arenac, Bay, Clare, Clinton, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola
  
5. Southwest - Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Van Buren
  
6. Southeast - Genesee, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, Wayne

-----  
 juris\_rr  
 Jurisdiction-level Response Rate  
 -----

```

      type:  numeric (float)
      range:  [.53571427,1]           units:  1.000e-08
unique values:  42                   missing  .:  0/1,448

      mean:    .727127
      std. dev: .090998

percentiles:      10%      25%      50%      75%      90%
                  .629921  .678899  .727273  .769231  .85
  
```

CODEBOOK NOTE: Response rate used to calculate jurisdiction-level weights, jurisdictions in database compared with number of jurisdictions in sample frame.

-----  
 juris\_wgt  
 Jurisdiction-level Weight  
 -----

```

      type:  numeric (float)
  
```

```

range: [1,1.8666667]          units: 1.000e-07
unique values: 42             missing .: 0/1,448

mean: 1.39667
std. dev: .174317

percentiles:      10%      25%      50%      75%      90%
                  1.17647  1.3     1.375  1.47297  1.5875

```

CODEBOOK NOTE: Weights to be used when analyzing data at the jurisdiction level.

ind\_rr  
Individual-level Response Rate

```

type: numeric (float)

range: [.27755103,1]         units: 1.000e-08
unique values: 18           missing .: 1/1,448

mean: .407785
std. dev: .101402

percentiles:      10%      25%      50%      75%      90%
                  .2875   .364008 .382841 .445255 .578947

```

CODEBOOK NOTE: Response rate used to calculate individual-level weights, individual respondents in database compared with number of individual officials in sample frame.

ind\_wgt  
Individual-level Weight

```

type: numeric (float)

range: [0,3.602941]         units: 1.000e-07
unique values: 19           missing .: 0/1,448

mean: 2.5774
std. dev: .54491

percentiles:      10%      25%      50%      75%      90%
                  1.72727  2.2459  2.61205  2.74719  3.47826

```

CODEBOOK NOTE: Weights to be used when analyzing data at the individual level.

pop\_density  
Population Density

```

type: numeric (float)

range: [1,3]                units: 1
unique values: 3            missing .: 0/1,448

```



```
tabulation:  Freq.  Value
              705   1
              412   2
              331   3
```

CODEBOOK NOTE: The categories are based on the number of residents per square mile, as determined by the jurisdiction's 2010 US Census population and the jurisdiction's land area. Corrections have not been made for any annexations or incorporations that have occurred since 2010.

---

```
pop_township
Population Category: Township
```

---

```
      type:  numeric (byte)
      label:  pop_twp_city

      range:  [1,3]
unique values: 3                               units:  1
                                                missing .:  486/1,452
```

```
tabulation:  Freq.   Numeric  Label
              356     1    <1500
              507     2    1500-10000
              103     3    >10000
              486     .
```

CODEBOOK NOTE: This categorical population variable was created to allow for some analysis by population level, while reducing the risk of jurisdiction re-identification that is present when a single population variable is provided for all jurisdiction types. It is based upon the township's 2010 US Census population. Corrections have not been made for any annexations or incorporations that have occurred since 2010.

---

```
pop_city
Population Category: City
```

---

```
      type:  numeric (byte)
      label:  pop_twp_city

      range:  [1,3]
unique values: 3                               units:  1
                                                missing .:  1,219/1,452
```

```
tabulation:  Freq.   Numeric  Label
              27     1    <1500
              126     2    1500-10000
              80     3    >10000
              1,219   .
```

CODEBOOK NOTE: This categorical population variable was created to allow for some analysis by population level, while reducing the risk of jurisdiction re-identification that is present when a single population variable is provided for all jurisdiction types. It is based upon the city's 2010 US Census population. Corrections have not been made for any annexations or incorporations that have occurred since 2010.

-----  
pop\_village  
Population Category: Village  
-----

```
      type: numeric (byte)
      label: popvillage

      range: [1,2]                units: 1
unique values: 2                  missing .: 1,271/1,452

      tabulation:  Freq.  Numeric  Label
                   132      1    <1500
                   49      2    >/=1500
                   1,271    .
```

CODEBOOK NOTE: This categorical population variable was created to allow for some analysis by population level, while reducing the risk of jurisdiction re-identification that is present when a single population variable is provided for all jurisdiction types. It is based upon the village's 2010 US Census population. Corrections have not been made for any annexations or incorporations that have occurred since 2010.

-----  
pop\_county  
Population Category: County  
-----

```
      type: numeric (byte)
      label: popcounty

      range: [1,2]                units: 1
unique values: 2                  missing .: 1,380/1,452

      tabulation:  Freq.  Numeric  Label
                   28      1    </=30000
                   44      2    >30000
                   1,380    .
```

CODEBOOK NOTE: This categorical population variable was created to allow for some analysis by population level, while reducing the risk of jurisdiction re-identification that is present when a single population variable is provided for all jurisdiction types. It is based upon the county's 2010 US Census population.

Corrections have not been made for any annexations or incorporations that have occurred since 2010.



Q6. When does your jurisdiction's fiscal year end?

- March 31
- June 30
- September 30
- December 31
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't Know

Q7. Thinking about your jurisdiction's last fiscal year, were revenues and expenditures higher or lower than what they were projected to be in its originally adopted general fund budget?

	Significantly Higher	Somewhat Higher	As Originally Budgeted	Somewhat Lower	Significantly Lower	Don't Know
General fund revenues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General fund expenditures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q8. Different local jurisdictions manage their unreserved/unassigned general fund balances in different ways depending on their specific circumstances. Despite these differences, we're interested in tracking overall changes in these balances over time. Approximately what was your jurisdiction's unreserved/unassigned general fund balance as a percentage of general fund expenditures at the end of its last fiscal year?

- 0% or less
- 1-10%
- 11-20%
- 21-30%
- 31-40%
- 41-50%
- 51-60%
- 61-70%
- 71-80%
- 81-90%
- 91-100%
- Over 100%
- Don't Know

Q9. Thinking about your jurisdiction's fiscal needs, overall, do you consider your jurisdiction's unreserved/unassigned general fund balance to be too high, about right, or too low?

- Too High
- About Right
- Too Low
- Don't Know

Q10. In your opinion, is your jurisdiction's cash flow and its ability to pay bills in a timely manner a significant fiscal problem, somewhat of a problem, not much of a problem, or not a problem at all?

- A significant problem
- Somewhat of a problem
- Not much of a problem
- Not a problem at all
- Don't Know

Q11. Now, thinking about the overall fiscal stress in your jurisdiction today and what you expect it to be down the road — including any future financial obligations it may have — on a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is the best: perfect fiscal health and 10 is the worst: fiscal crisis, how would you rate your jurisdiction's overall fiscal stress...

	The Best: Perfect Fiscal Health										The Worst: Fiscal Crisis		Don't Know
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
... today?													<input type="checkbox"/>
... as you expect it to be five years from now?													<input type="checkbox"/>

Q12. What factor(s) were you thinking about when rating your jurisdiction's overall fiscal stress?

Q13. Regardless of whether or not your jurisdiction expects to have a budget surplus this year, in your opinion, what would be the highest priority for using any potential surplus (if it had one) according to the following groups or individuals? Do you think that they would prefer to spend the budget surplus on public services or infrastructure, save that money for future use, use it to pay down any debt your jurisdiction may have, or reduce taxes?

	Spend on public services or infrastructure	Save for future use	Pay down any debt	Reduce taxes	Don't Know
Majority of your jurisdiction's Board/Council would prefer to...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Majority of your jurisdiction's citizens would prefer to...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
You personally in your role as a local official would prefer to...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q14. Now, regardless of whether or not your jurisdiction expects to have a budget deficit this year, in your opinion, what would be the preferred method for eliminating any potential deficit (if it had one) according to the following groups or individuals? Do you think that they would prefer to cut costs/services, increase taxes, use any savings your jurisdiction may have, or increase debt (if legally allowable)?

	Cut costs/services	Increase taxes	Use any savings	Increase debt	Don't Know
Majority of your jurisdiction's Board/Council would prefer to...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Majority of your jurisdiction's citizens would prefer to...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
You personally in your role as a local official would prefer to...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Next, we have a number of questions about retirement income benefits that your jurisdiction may offer to its employees and/or elected officials.

**Q15.** First, does your jurisdiction offer any kind of retirement income benefits (defined benefit pensions, defined contribution plans such as an IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan, etc.) to any current or former employees and/or elected officials?

Yes (Skip to Q17)       No       Don't Know → (Skip to Q25)

**Q16.** (If you selected "no" in Q15) Do you think your jurisdiction should be providing retirement income benefits to...

	Yes	No	Not Applicable	Don't Know
... current and/or retired employees? <i>(If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable.")</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... current and/or former elected officials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

After answering Q16, skip to Q25.

**Q17.** (If you selected "yes" in Q15) There are a number of different types of retirement income benefits that local governments might offer personnel, including a defined contribution plan (i.e., IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type plan), a defined benefit plan (i.e., a traditional pension), or a hybrid plan (i.e., a plan that combines features of both defined benefit and defined contribution plans for an individual). Which type(s) of retirement income benefits, if any, does your jurisdiction offer to each of the following groups? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions. Check all that apply.)

	Defined Contribution	Defined Benefit	Hybrid	No Retirement Income Benefits	Not Applicable	Don't Know
New hires	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Current employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Retired employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Current elected officials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Former elected officials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q18.** (If you selected "yes" in Q15) Overall, do you consider your jurisdiction's retirement income benefits — or lack thereof — for each of the following groups to be too generous, about right, or not generous enough? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions.)

	Too Generous	About Right	Not Generous Enough	Not Applicable	Don't Know
New hires	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Current employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Retired employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Current elected officials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Former elected officials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you selected "defined benefit" or "hybrid" for any groups in Q17, continue with Q19. Otherwise, skip to Q25.

**Q19.** Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its defined benefit and/or hybrid pension plans for any of its employees, elected officials, or retirees? (check all that apply)

- Had an actuarial valuation of our defined benefit pension within the last 2 years
- Increased the years of service required and/or the age at which retirement benefits are available
- Increased employee contribution to defined benefit portion of the pension
- Reduced the multiplier that helps determine pension payments based on final average salary
- Reduced, eliminated, or postponed the cost of living adjustment (COLA)
- Decreased the assumed rate of return for stock market investments in the pension fund
- Closed defined benefit pension to new individuals
- Converted to a defined contribution (IRA, 401a, 457b, or 401k-type) plan
- Converted to a hybrid (defined benefit and defined contribution) plan
- Financed liability through bonds
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't Know

**Q20.** Overall, how effective would you say your jurisdiction's efforts, if any, have been at controlling costs related to its retirement income benefits?

Very Effective	Somewhat Effective	Neither Effective Nor Ineffective	Somewhat Ineffective	Very Ineffective	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q21.** A jurisdiction's "actuarially required contribution" (ARC) to its pension fund is based on the benefits earned by employees in the current year, plus an amount to reduce any unfunded liabilities for past years. Some jurisdictions pay their ARC in full each year. Others do not, and may just pay as they go for only that year's pension costs.

Thinking specifically about defined benefit (i.e., traditional pensions) and/or hybrid plans, which of the following statements best describes your jurisdiction's contributions to its pension fund during its previous fiscal year?

- We made no contribution to our pension fund.
- We made some contribution to our pension fund, but not the full ARC.
- We made our full ARC contribution.
- We made a contribution larger than the ARC.
- Don't Know

Q22. To the best of your knowledge, are your jurisdiction's pension obligations currently fully funded?

- Yes                       No                       Don't Know

Q23. Regardless of whether or not your jurisdiction's defined benefit and/or hybrid plan pension obligations are currently fully funded, in your opinion, are these obligations a significant fiscal problem, somewhat of a problem, not much of a problem, or not a problem at all for your jurisdiction's fiscal health?

- A significant problem    Somewhat of a problem    Not much of a problem    Not a problem at all    Don't Know

Q24. Looking ahead, how concerned are you, if at all, that your jurisdiction will not be able to fulfill its pension obligations to its retirees?

- Very concerned             Somewhat concerned             Not very concerned             Not concerned at all             Don't Know

Next, we have a number of questions about retiree health care benefits that your jurisdiction may provide. Many of these questions mirror previous questions about retirement income benefits.

Q25. Does your jurisdiction provide any kind of retiree health care benefits to any current or former employees and/or elected officials?

- Yes (Skip to Q27)                       No                       Don't Know → (Skip to Q38)

Q26. (If you selected "no" in Q25) Do you think your jurisdiction should be providing retiree health care benefits to...

	Yes	No	Not Applicable	Don't Know
... current and/or retired employees? <i>(If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable.")</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... current and/or former elected officials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

After answering Q26, skip to Q38.

Q27. To which of the following groups does your jurisdiction offer retiree health care benefits? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions.)

	Offers Benefits	Does Not Offer Benefits	Not Applicable	Don't Know
New hires	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Current employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Retired employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Current elected officials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Former elected officials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q28. Overall, do you consider your jurisdiction's retiree health care benefits — or lack thereof — for each of the following groups to be too generous, about right, or not generous enough? (If your jurisdiction has no employees, please select "Not Applicable" below on the employee-specific questions.)

	Too Generous	About Right	Not Generous Enough	Not Applicable	Don't Know
New hires	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Current employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Retired employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Current elected officials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Former elected officials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q29. Which of the following actions, if any, has your jurisdiction taken so far regarding its retiree health care benefits for any current or future retirees? (check all that apply)

- In the process of or have completed actuarial study to determine/quantify liability
- Increased cost-sharing by retirees (e.g., higher premiums, co-payments, deductibles, etc.)
- Increased the years of service required and/or the age at which retirement benefits are available
- Reduced or eliminated benefits for spouses and/or dependents
- Introduced less expensive health care and/or prescription plan options
- Implemented a wellness plan (e.g., incentives for annual physicals, weight management, smoking cessation, etc.)
- Converted to a defined contribution/stipend in place of a defined benefit health plan
- Introduced a retirement health savings account (HSA) option
- Financed liability through bonds
- Created or joined a qualified health care trust
- Transferred retiree health care management to a Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Association (VEBA)
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't Know

Q30. Overall, how effective would you say your jurisdiction's efforts, if any, have been at controlling costs related to its retiree health care benefits?

- Very Effective                      Somewhat Effective                      Neither Effective Nor Ineffective                      Somewhat Ineffective                      Very Ineffective                      Don't Know
-





Finally, we have a few questions regarding the overall state of affairs in your jurisdiction and in Michigan more broadly.

Q38. Do you feel things in your jurisdiction are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track?

- Right direction       Wrong track       Don't Know

Q39. How would you rate the way your jurisdiction's governing board is performing its job?

- Excellent       Good       Fair       Poor       Don't Know

Q40. Do you feel things in the state of Michigan are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track?

- Right direction       Wrong track       Don't Know *(skip to Q42)*

Q41. Please briefly tell us the main reasons why you think things in the state of Michigan are generally going that way.

Q42. How would you rate the way Rick Snyder is performing his job as Michigan's governor?

- Excellent       Good       Fair       Poor       Don't Know

Q43. How would you rate the way the Michigan Legislature is performing its job?

- Excellent       Good       Fair       Poor       Don't Know

Q44. CLOSUP will protect your privacy and anonymity to the full extent provided by law. We need to confirm your personal information such as name, email address, and phone number for tracking and administrative purposes only. Your personal information will not be shared with any outside sources. As with all of the questions in this survey, these are optional.

Please provide us with...

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Your email address \_\_\_\_\_

We would like to ask some demographic questions. As with all of the questions in this survey, these are optional. Responses will be reported in aggregate form only so that your individual responses will remain confidential.

Q45. What is your gender?     Male     Female

Q46. In what year were you born? 19 \_\_\_\_

Q47. How many years have you served in your current position? \_\_\_\_\_

Q48. Are you of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino descent?     Yes     No

Q49. Please check one or more categories below to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself to be. *(check all that apply)*

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiracial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know  |

Q50. What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12th grade or less/no diploma | <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's degree             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High school graduate or GED   | <input type="checkbox"/> Master's degree               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some college, no degree       | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional/Doctorate degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate's degree            |  |

Q51. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a...?

- Republican       Independent       Democrat       Something else *(please specify)* \_\_\_\_\_

Q52. *(If Republican or Democrat)* Would you consider yourself a strong or not very strong Republican/Democrat?

- Very strong       Not very strong       Don't Know

Q53. *(If Independent or something else)* Would you consider yourself closer to...?

- The Democratic Party       The Republican Party       Neither