

List of Surveys Consulted during Postdoc Data Project

Surveys	Year	Description
NSF SRS Existing Surveys Consulted		
Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED)	2003; 2006	The Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) began in 1957–58 to collect data continuously on the number and characteristics of individuals receiving research doctoral degrees from all accredited U.S. institutions. The results of this annual survey are used to assess characteristics and trends in doctorate education and degrees. This information is vital for educational and labor force planners within the federal government and in academia.
Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR) (including the 2006 postdoc module)	2003; 2006	The Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR) gathers information from individuals who have obtained a doctoral degree in a science, engineering or health field (SEH). The SDR is conducted every 2 years and is a longitudinal survey that follows recipients of research doctorates from U.S. institutions until age 76. This group is of special interest to many decision makers, because it represents some of the highest educated individuals in the U.S. workforce. The SDR results are used by employers in the education, industry, and government sectors to understand and to predict trends in employment opportunities and salaries in SEH fields for graduates with doctoral degrees.
National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG)	2003	The National Survey of Recent College Graduates (NSRCG) provides information about individuals who recently obtained bachelor's or master's degrees in a science, engineering or health field. This group is of special interest to many decision makers, because it represents individuals who have recently made the transition from school to the workplace.
Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering (GSS)	2006; 2008	The NSF-NIH Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering (also known as the Graduate Student Survey or GSS), an annual survey of academic institutions in the United States, provides data on the number and characteristics of graduate students, postdoctoral appointees, and doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers in science and engineering (S&E) and health fields. The National Science Foundation (NSF) uses the results of this survey to assess shifts in graduate enrollment and postdoctoral appointments and trends in financial support.

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Survey of Federal Funds for Research and Development	2006	The annual Federal funds survey is the primary source of information about Federal funding for R&D in the United States. It is used by policymakers in the executive and legislative branches of the Federal Government in determining policies, laws, and regulations affecting science; it is also used by those who follow science trends in every sector of the economy, including university administrators and professors, economic and political analysts, R&D managers inside and outside the government, the science press, and leading members of the science community in the United States and around the world.

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Postdoc Studies Consulted		
The Committee on Science, Engineering and Public Policy (COSEPUP) of the National Academies	1999	COSEPUP surveyed 49 organizations who have postdoctoral scholars. Forty of the 49 organizations responded (82 percent response rate). Organizations included the top 25 academic institutions (in terms of the largest numbers of postdoctoral scholars) and five each of the following: smaller institutions (in terms of number of postdoctoral scholars), medical schools, historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), industry, research institutions, and government laboratories. The survey was conducted from November 1999 to April 2000.
National Research Council Assessment of Research Doctorate Programs	2003	A Guide to the Methodology of the National Research Council Assessment of the Doctorate Programs describes the purpose, data and methods used to calculate ranges or rankings for research-doctorate programs that participated in the NRC Assessment of Research-Doctorate programs. It is intended for those at universities who will have to explain the NRC Assessment to others at their university, to potential students, and to the press.
National Postdoc Association questionnaire drafts	2007; 2008	Draft questionnaires for the 2009 pilot study.
The Scientist 2009 Readership Survey on Best Places to Work for Postdocs	2009	Each year The Scientist surveys scientists worldwide to gather their assessments of their places of work, and publishes the results in The Scientist's Best Places to Work reports - one for postdocs, industry scientists, and academics.
NIH Fellows Committee on Mentoring, Survey of Postdocs	1998	In the summer of 1998, the NIH Fellows Committee conducted a web-based survey of postdoctoral fellows at NIH to assess the mentoring experiences of NIH fellows. The survey questionnaire, developed in consultation with outside experts, covered demographic characteristics, supervisor-fellow interactions, and promotion of professional development. Several strategies were used to inform the more than 2,300 postdoctoral fellows about the survey, including mailed and e-mailed flyers and notices posted on the Fellows' web site. Twenty percent of the postdoctoral population—465 fellows—responded anonymously to the survey.
Sigma Xi Survey		Sigma Xi Postdoc Survey was designed to improve the training and research environments for postdocs by providing a better understanding of their experiences. Survey results are expected to enable research institutions to benchmark their policies and practices against those at peer institutions.
Baylor School of Medicine Postdoc Survey		Institutional survey

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MIT Postdoc Survey		Institutional survey
Stanford Union of Postdocs Survey		Institutional survey
UNC Chapel Hill Postdoc Survey		Institutional survey
University of Chicago, Biological Sciences Division Postdoctoral Association (BSD-PDA)		Institutional survey
University of Massachusetts Amherst Postdoctoral Scholars Survey		Institutional survey
University of Nebraska Medical Center Postdoctoral Survey		Institutional survey

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Surveys	Year	Description
Studies with Relevant Demographic, Employment and Quality of Work Life Measures Consulted		
American Community Survey (ACS)	2007; 2008	ACS is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities a fresh look at how they are changing. It is a critical element in the Census Bureau's reengineered decennial census program. The ACS collects and produces population and housing information every year instead of every ten years.
Current Population Survey (CPS)	2007	CPS is a monthly survey of about 50,000 households conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPS is the primary source of information on the labor force characteristics of the U.S. population. The sample is scientifically selected to represent the civilian noninstitutional population. Respondents are interviewed to obtain information about the employment status of each member of the household 15 years of age and older.
The General Social Survey (GSS) Quality of Working Life Module	2006	GSS conducts basic scientific research on the structure and development of American society with a data-collection program designed to both monitor social change within the United States and to compare the United States to other nations.
The Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID)	2007	PSID is a longitudinal study of a representative sample of U.S. individuals (men, women, and children) and the family units in which they reside. It emphasizes the dynamic aspects of economic and demographic behavior, but its content is broad, including sociological and psychological measures.
Other Resources Consulted		
Wish List of Survey Items October 25, 2006 of representatives from federal agencies		A wish list of question items from a meeting of representatives at several federal agencies who were interested in studying graduate students and postdocs.
New Immigrant Survey (NIS)	2003	NIS is a multi-cohort prospective-retrospective panel study of new legal immigrants to the United States. The first full cohort (NIS-2003) sampled immigrants in the period May-November 2003. The baseline survey was conducted from June 2003 to June 2004. A survey pilot project (NIS-P) was carried out in 1996 to inform the fielding and design of the full NIS, and a follow-up is planned for the Summer of 2007.