

2008 Survey of Active Duty Spouses

SURVEY OVERVIEW

The *2008 Survey of Active Duty Spouses (2008 ADSS)* utilized both modes of administration—the Web as well as paper-and-pen—and was designed to assess the attitudes and opinions of active-duty spouses on a wide-range of quality of life issues.¹ Data were collected by mail and Web, between March 24 to June 10, 2008.² The sample consisted of 49,368 active duty spouses. Completed surveys (defined as 50% or more of the survey questions asked of all participants being answered, including the two critical questions, Q1 and Q2) were received from 13,423 eligible respondents (9,016 DoD and 4,407 Coast Guard). The overall weighted response rate for eligible returns, corrected for nonproportional sampling, corrected for nonproportional sampling, was 28% (28% for DoD and 32% for Coast Guard).

1. *Background Information*—Marital status, length of marriage, race/ethnicity, age, dependents, and member’s active duty status.
2. *Permanent Change of Station (PCS) Moves*—Number of spouse moves, length of time since most recent PCS move, and programs or services that would have helped in obtaining employment after a PCS move.
3. *Your Spouse’s Deployments*—Financial steps taken to prepare for deployments; member’s deployment status over the past 3 years; spouse adjustment to multiple deployments; member’s current deployment status; number of days deployed and combat exposure in the past 12 months; impact of deployment on spouse and family life, expenses, and spouse employment; coping; member’s post-deployment behavior; difficulty of spouse’s readjustment to member’s return; and reunion/reintegration support services.
4. *Effect of Deployments on Children*—Use of “drop-in” child care during deployments, age and gender of child(ren) most impacted by deployments, emotional/behavioral impact of deployment on child(ren), and ways child(ren) cope with deployments.
5. *Military OneSource*—Use of Military OneSource and usefulness of Military OneSource features/services.
6. *Education and Employment*—Spouse education level and goals, current academic enrollment status and barriers to pursuing further education, spouse employment status, reasons for not looking for work, hours worked per week, preferred and current career field, use of Career Advancement Accounts, and importance of working.

¹ The survey was administered via the Web and paper-and-pencil questionnaires. Question numbering differed between the Web and paper questionnaires. Variable naming follow the order of items used on the Web administration.

² The Web survey instrument allows us to have a soft opening and closing for the survey. The survey instrument was open and available to take survey responses between March 21 and August 4, 2008. The e-mail notifications and reminders stated that the field opened on March 24 to June 10, 2008 on a date.

7. *Financial Well-Being*—Total household monthly earnings and spouse’s monthly earnings; financial problems experienced, saving habits, emergency savings, and Federal Thrift Savings Program (TSP) participation; general financial condition; and financial goals.
8. *Health and Well-Being*—Perceptions of stress and social support, marital satisfaction, and spouse height and weight.
9. *Feelings About Military Life*—Overall satisfaction with military way of life, spouse’s support to stay on active duty, nights away in past 12 months, impact of member’s time away on spouse’s support for member’s military career, likelihood of member being deployed in the next year, member’s work/life balance, and spouse commitment to the military.

The target population for the 2008 ADSS consists of spouses drawn from the sample frame constructed from DMDC's September 2007 *Active Duty Master Edit File*, September 2007 *Family Database*, September 2007 *Active Duty Pay File*, September 2007 *Basic Allowance for Housing Population File*, and November 2007 *Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) Medical Point-in-Time Extract (PITE)*. Spouses of the sample became ineligible if they indicated in the survey or by other contact (e.g., telephone calls to the data collection contractor) that they were divorced, widowed, or their husband or wife was no longer on active duty as of the first day of the Web survey, March 24, 2008 (0.69% of sample). The final sample consisted of 49,368 individuals; ultimately 13,423 spouses provided usable survey responses. Responses were weighted to population totals, adjusting for differential sampling and response rates in demographically homogenous groups. The overall weighted response rate was 28 percent for the survey.

Figure 1 shows the tree of files on this CD-ROM. The remainder of this README documentation discusses which files are required to view the documentation and to access the dataset.

Figure 1.

Tree Directory with File Size (KB)

```

ROOTDIR
|  Readme.doc
|  Readme.pdf
|
+---DATA_OS
|  ADSS08B.dat
|
+---DATA SAS
|  ExampleAnalysis.sas
|  FORMATS.sas7bcat
|  ADSS08B.sas7bdat
|
+---DATA_SPSS
|  ADSS08B.por
|
+---PDF
|  DMDC_2008-042_Codebook_and_Appendices_A-L-but_not_H.pdf
|  DMDC_2008-042_Appendix_H.pdf
|  DMDC_2008-041.pdf

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DOCUMENTATION

2008 Survey of Active Duty Spouses: Administration, Datasets, and Codebook (Report No. 2008-042)

Two files are required for the report prepared on survey administration and datasets for *ADSS 2008*. The descriptive text of the report is contained in one file along with many appendices that address issues in the analysis of the survey data. In a second file, Appendix H (the codebook portion of the report) provides frequency and percentage distributions for variables for both the basic survey dataset and the confidential dataset.

RESULTS

2008 Survey of Active Duty Spouses: Tabulations of Responses (Report No. 2008-041)

The *ADSS 2008* was designed to measure the attitudes and opinions of spouses regarding a wide-range of issues including demographic information, spouse's activations/deployments, effects of deployments on children, feelings about military life, use of military programs and services, education and employment, financial well-being, and health and well-being. Results are tabulated by member Service, member paygrade, member Service by paygrade, member deployment status, spouse gender, spouse race/ethnicity, spouse employment, spouse education, spouse age, family status, and Coast Guard demographics.

DATA FILES

This CD-ROM contains data from the *ADSS 2008*. Multiple-platform compatibility for the basic survey data file is achieved by providing the data in three files types: SAS, SAV and DAT.

SAS System Files

The basic survey file contains a record for each person in the sample and all variables required for analysis—that is, all survey data, weights and selected administrative record variables thought to be reasonably required for analysis, that do not violate respondent confidentiality under the Privacy Act. The SAS system files for the survey is:

ADSS08B.SAS7BDAT	(basic survey file)
FORMATS.SAS7BCAT	(format catalog)

When analyzing the data in ADSS08B, make sure the format catalog and the SAS dataset (ADSS08B) are in the drive and directories referenced in your SAS program. For example, if the SAS format catalog is in the root directory of your E:\ drive, your first two lines of SAS code would be:

```
libname LibRef 'E:\';
libname library 'E:\';
```

The basic survey CD also contains a SAS program providing examples that can be used to verify that the dataset has been properly imported. ExampleAnalysis.SAS is a SAS application program providing examples of PROC SURVEYMEANS and PROC SURVEYREG analyses using data from ADSS08B.SAS7BDAT.

ASCII Files

An ASCII flat file was prepared from the SPSS system file. The ASCII file is:

ADSS08.DAT	Basic survey file
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The file layout is contained in Appendix I of DMDC (2008-042).

SPSS Files

SPSS users can access the variable labels and value labels; however, all special missing values established for the *2008 ADSS* SAS data file will be converted to the SPSS missing value.

ADSS08.por	SPSS system data file
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References

Microsoft Windows 2000 [Computer software]. (2000). Redmond, WA: Microsoft Corporation.

SAS Institute Inc. (2001). SAS/STAT User's Guide, Version 8. Cary, NC: Author.

SPSS® for Windows™ [computer software]. (1993). Chicago, IL: SPSS, Inc.