Online Appendix for:

The Welfare Cost of Perceived Policy Uncertainty: Evidence from Social Security

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Online Appendix A: Appendix Tables
Online Appendix B: Survey Instrument

Appendix Table A1: Demographic Variables

Variable	(1) 2010 Current Population Survey: Ages 25-59	(2) Knowledge Network Survey Respondents: Ages 25-59	(3)
	Mean	Mean	Difference with CPS
Age	42.03	42.49	0.452**
Age: 25-34	0.282	0.257	-0.025***
Age: 35-49	0.434	0.442	0.008
Age: 50-59	0.284	0.301	0.017**
Female	0.507	0.464	-0.042***
White	0.657	0.702	0.045***
Black	0.119	0.103	-0.016***
Hispanic	0.154	0.154	0.000
Other Race/Ethnicity	0.070	0.041	-0.029***
High School Dropout	0.111	0.088	-0.023***
High School	0.301	0.286	-0.015*
Some College	0.275	0.229	-0.046***
Bachelor's Degree or More	0.314	0.397	0.083***
Married	0.614	0.643	0.029***
Widowed	0.017	0.013	-0.004*
Divorced	0.118	0.076	-0.042***
Separated	0.030	0.018	-0.011***
Never Married	0.222	0.157	-0.065***
Living with Partner	..	0.092	
Region: Northeast	0.182	0.174	-0.008
Region: Midwest	0.216	0.237	0.021***
Region: South	0.367	0.354	-0.013
Region: West	0.236	0.235	-0.001
Household size of one	0.111	0.123	0.011*
Household size of two	0.284	0.305	0.020**
Household size of three	0.211	0.198	-0.013*
Household size of four	0.213	0.218	0.005
Household size of five or more	0.181	0.157	-0.024***
Household Income: Below 25k	0.152	0.141	-0.011*
Household Income: 25k-50k	0.214	0.229	0.015*
Household Income: 50k-75k	0.201	0.207	0.005
Household Income: 75k-100k	0.151	0.157	0.006
Household Income: Above 100k	0.282	0.267	-0.015*
Observations	64,286	3,053	

Notes: * significant at 10%, ** significant at 5%, *** significant at 1%. Our sample consists of Knowledge Network panelists who completed our survey. To be eligible to take our survey, the respondent had to be between the ages of 25 and 59 and believe to be eligible for Social Security benefits under current law, either on his/her own earnings record or on the record of a spouse. Demographic characteristics are the values available in standard demographic profile variables at the time of the survey (June 2011). Knowledge Networks collects the standard demographic profile variables. CPS Data were collected in March 2010.

Table A2: Sample Comparisons on Confidence in Social Security

	(1) Very Confident	(2) Somewhat Confident	(3) Not too Confident	(4) Not at All Confident	(5) Mean Response	(6) N
Panel A : Entire Sample						
Greenwald et al. Phone Survey	10.5% (1.0%)	34.0% (1.5%)	36.3% (1.5%)	19.2% (1.3%)	2.36 (0.01)	983
Knowledge Networks Survey	3.2% (0.3%)	22.0% (0.8%)	45.5% (0.9%)	29.4% (0.8%)	1.99 (0.01)	2,932
Panel B: Females Only						
Greenwald et al. Phone Survey	9.1% (1.3%)	32.8% (2.1%)	39.5% (2.2%)	18.6% (1.7%)	2.32 (0.02)	516
Knowledge Networks Survey	3.6% (0.5%)	22.5% (1.1%)	46.9% (1.4%)	27.1% (1.2%)	2.03 (0.02)	1,348
Panel C: Males Only						
Greenwald et al. Phone Survey	12.0% (1.5%)	35.2% (2.2%)	32.8% (2.2%)	20.0% (1.9%)	2.39 (0.02)	466
Knowledge Networks Survey	2.8% (0.4%)	21.6% (1.0%)	44.3% (1.2%)	31.3% (1.2%)	1.96 (0.02)	1,584
Panel D: Ages 25-34						
Greenwald et al. Phone Survey	8.4% (1.8%)	21.9% (2.7%)	41.4% (3.2%)	28.3% (2.9%)	2.11 (0.03)	237
Knowledge Networks Survey	2.2% (0.5%)	13.7% (1.3%)	48.5% (1.8%)	35.6% (1.8%)	1.82 (0.03)	744
Panel E: Ages 35-49						
Greenwald et al. Phone Survey	8.7% (1.5%)	31.7% (2.4%)	41.0% (2.5%)	18.5% (2.0%)	2.31 (0.02)	378
Knowledge Networks Survey	3.0% (0.5%)	18.1% (1.1%)	44.8% (1.4%)	34.1% (1.3%)	1.90 (0.02)	1,308
Panel F: Ages 50-59						
Greenwald et al. Phone Survey	13.0% (2.1%)	46.0% (3.1%)	28.4% (2.8%)	12.6% (2.1%)	2.59 (0.03)	261
Knowledge Networks Survey	4.3% (0.7%)	34.8% (1.6%)	43.9% (1.7%)	17.0% (1.3%)	2.26 (0.03)	880

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. Knowledge Networks Survey data are from the June 2011 Social Security Political Risk Survey, designed by the authors and fielded by Knowledge Networks. The sample is restricted to individuals between the ages of 25 and 59 as of May 2011 who answered both the ball/bins questions and the certainty equivalent questions. For details on the Greenwald et al. phone survey data see Greenwald et al. (2010). The phone survey was a random-digit dial telephone survey. The Greenwald sample reported here imposes our age restriction (ages 25-59) and was graciously cross-tabulated for our purposes by Greenwald et al.

Table A3: Expectations about Social Security Taxes

	(1) Mean	(2) Median	(3) N
Panel A: Percent chance that the Social Security payroll tax rate will be raised above 12.4%…			
Sometime within the next 10 years?	57.5 (0.48)	59 (1.25)	2,884
By the time you turn 65?	63.6 (0.50)	69 (1.00)	2,792
Panel B: What do you expect the Social Security payroll tax rate to be…			
In ten years?	16.6 (0.11)	15 (0.04)	2,980
By the time you turn 65?	18.2 (0.13)	16 (0.20)	2,881
Panel C: Percent chance that lawmakers will raise the Social Security taxable earnings limit beyond the automatic adjustments for inflation sometime…			
Within the next 10 years?	57.7 (0.50)	59 (1.25)	2,915
By the time you turn 65?	61.9 (0.52)	64 (1.76)	2,815
Panel D: Percent chance that lawmakers will add a new source of revenue to fund Social Security…			
Within the next 10 years?	39.2 (0.46)	40 (0.49)	2,913
By the time you turn 65?	43.2 (0.48)	42 (1.26)	2,827

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses. See Q2.3, Q2.4, Q2.5, Q2.6, Q2.7, Q2.8, Q2.9, and Q2.10, respectively, for exact wording of the dependent variables. Data from the June 2011 Social Security Political Risk Survey, designed by the authors and fielded by Knowledge Networks. The sample is restricted to individuals between the ages of 25 and 59 as of May 2011.

Table A4: Robustness of Table 3 to Omitting "Other Control Variables"

	(1)		(2)		(3)	
	Dep. Variable: Expected Benefits		Dep. Variable: Standard Deviation of Benefits		Dep. Variable: Risk Premium	
Age	0.96***	(0.06)	-0.22***	(0.03)	0.31***	(0.06)
Black	7.4***	(2.0)	2.8***	(1.0)	10.6***	(2.1)
Hispanic	5.1***	(1.6)	1.6**	(0.8)	5.5***	(1.7)
Other	-0.9	(2.9)	1.9	(1.3)	-4.4	(2.7)
Highschool Dropout	-0.1	(2.3)	3.8***	(1.1)	2.8	(2.4)
Some College	0.6	(1.5)	-0.7	(0.7)	-1.6	(1.5)
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	3.3**	(1.4)	0.1	(0.7)	0.0	(1.3)
Ln Household Size	1.4	(1.6)	0.5	(0.8)	0.6	(1.5)
Ln Household Income	-2.7***	(0.8)	-0.9**	(0.4)	-1.8**	(0.9)
Widowed	8.5**	(4.0)	-0.7	(2.9)	6.2	(3.9)
Divorced	0.6	(2.1)	-0.1	(1.1)	-0.4	(2.1)
Separated	1.7	(3.7)	-0.3	(1.9)	7.3**	(3.3)
Never Married	2.8	(1.8)	-1.0	(0.9)	1.5	(1.7)
Lives With Partner	0.6	(2.0)	0.6	(0.9)	1.5	(2.1)
Female	-2.5***	(1.1)	0.0	(0.5)	2.5**	(1.1)
Owns House	-1.3	(1.3)	-1.3**	(0.7)	-1.9	(1.4)
Lives in Northeast	4.5***	(1.5)	0.1	(0.7)	-0.7	(1.4)
Lives in Midwest	2.2	(1.4)	0.1	(0.7)	-0.9	(1.3)
Lives in West	0.4	(1.5)	1.1*	(0.7)	-2.3	(1.5)
Lives in MSA	2.6*	(1.5)	-0.1	(0.7)	0.4	(1.5)
Kids in Household	-5.9***	(1.6)	0.2	(0.8)	-1.7	(1.5)
Retired	10.0**	(3.9)	-3.4*	(1.9)	10.7***	(3.5)
Disabled	-2.3	(3.9)	-1.3	(2.2)	-5.1	(4.1)
Unemployed	-1.5	(2.1)	-1.3	(1.0)	-0.7	(2.2)
Not Working	-0.7	(2.0)	1.9**	(0.9)	2.1	(2.0)
R^2	0.136		0.064		0.052	
N	2,960		2,960		2,939	

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses. * significant at 10%, ** significant at 5%, *** significant at 1%. This table is identical to Table 3 except that the "other control variables" (i.e., the subjective control variables) are omitted.

Appendix Table A5: Measures of Response Quality

		(1)	(2)	(3)
		Sample mean		
Variable name	Explanation	Entire sample	At least some college	At least bachelor's degree
Is not 100% sure to be alive at age 75 (Q6.9)	Dummy for giving a probability of being alive at age 75 that is strictly less than 100% (Q6.9)	0.914	0.925***	0.936***
Consistent probabilities in Q2.3/Q2.4	Dummy for giving probabilities that the payroll tax is increased that are weakly increasing with time horizon	0.723	0.759***	0.784***
Consistent probabilities in Q2.7/Q2.8	Dummy for giving probabilities that the SS taxable earning limit is increased that are weakly increasing with time horizon	0.731	0.763***	0.780***
Consistent probabilities in Q2.9/Q2.10	Dummy for giving probabilities that a new revenue source is used for SS that are weakly increasing with time horizon	0.727	0.758***	0.778***
Consistent probabilities in Q2.11/Q2.12	Dummy for giving probabilities that general SS benefits are cut that are weakly increasing with time horizon	0.766	0.807***	0.831***
Correct answer financial literacy Q6.13	Dummy for correct answer to the financial literacy question on basic numeracy	0.744	0.822***	0.872***
Correct answer financial literacy Q6.14	Dummy for correct answer to the financial literacy question on compound interest	0.568	0.664***	0.727***
Correct answer financial literacy Q6.15	Dummy for correct answer to the financial literacy question on inflation / money illusion	0.595	0.669***	0.723***
Correct answer financial literacy Q6.16	Dummy for correct answer to the financial literacy question on diversification	0.536	0.645***	0.727***
Benefit estimates differ by 10 ppt or less	Dummy for the point estimate of expected benefits being within 10 percentage points of the expectation of the distribution of benefits	0.423	0.453***	0.476***
Benefit estimates differ by 20 ppt or less	Dummy for the point estimate of expected benefits being within 20 percentage points of the expectation of the distribution of benefits	0.643	0.689***	0.709***
Survey duration is more than 10 minutes	Dummy for the respondent taking more than 10 minutes to complete the survey	0.905	0.907	0.889**
Survey duration is less than 40 minutes	Dummy for the respondent taking less than 40 minutes to complete the survey	0.812	0.821	0.828*
Number of observations		3,053	1,911	1,211

Note: Stars indicate the signicance level of the difference with the entire sample: * significant at 10%, ** significant at 5%, *** significant at 1%. The measure of answer quality labeled "consistent probabilities" equals one if the respondent assigns a weakly higher probability of a change occuring when the event is more distant in the future. The measure of response quality labeled "benefit estimates differ by ..." compares the point estimate of future benefits (based on Q3.2) to the expected benefits (based on the bin/ball questions, Q3.3-Q3.6). The median survey duration is 20 minutes. Hence, the measures for survey duration are set at half and double the median duration.

Table A6: Regression of Outcomes on Measures of Response Quality

	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)	
	Risk Premium		Expected Benefits		Certainty Equivalent		Standard Deviation of Benefits	
Starting Value (equal to 30 or 70)	-0.20***	(0.02)	-0.03	(0.02)	0.17***	(0.02)	0.01	(0.01)
Is not 100% sure to be alive at age 75	-0.7	(3.5)	0.1	(3.3)	0.7	(2.6)	4.2***	(1.3)
Consistent probabilities in Q2.3/Q2.4	2.2*	(1.3)	-0.6	(1.3)	-2.8**	(1.2)	0.1	(0.6)
Consistent probabilities in Q2.7/Q2.8	-2.3*	(1.3)	-1.0	(1.3)	1.3	(1.2)	-0.8	(0.6)
Consistent probabilities in Q2.9/Q2.10	1.5	(1.3)	1.8	(1.2)	0.3	(1.2)	-0.2	(0.6)
Consistent probabilities in Q2.11/Q2.12	-0.5	(1.4)	-1.2	(1.3)	-0.7	(1.3)	0.7	(0.7)
Correct answer financial literacy Q6.13	1.4	(1.4)	2.5*	(1.3)	1.1	(1.3)	-1.1	(0.6)
Correct answer financial literacy Q6.14	0.5	(1.1)	1.6	(1.1)	1.1	(1.1)	0.5	(0.5)
Correct answer financial literacy Q6.15	0.8	(1.2)	2.1*	(1.1)	1.2	(1.1)	0.6	(0.5)
Correct answer financial literacy Q6.16	-0.1	(1.1)	-0.9	(1.1)	-0.8	(1.1)	0.7	(0.5)
Benefit estimates differ by 10 ppt or less	-2.0	(1.2)	4.0***	(1.2)	6.0***	(1.2)	-6.0***	(0.6)
Benefit estimates differ by 20 ppt or less	2.8**	(1.4)	4.6***	(1.3)	1.8	(1.3)	-2.0***	(0.6)
Survey duration is more than 10 minutes	4.0*	(2.4)	1.9	(2.1)	-2.1	(2.1)	0.5	(1.1)
Survey duration is less than 40 minutes	1.9	(1.3)	1.0	(1.3)	-0.9	(1.2)	-0.7	(0.6)
Basic Demographic Characteristics	Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes	
Other Control Variables	Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes	
R^2	0.100		0.222		0.160		0.144	
N	2,939		2,939		2,939		2,939	
p-value on test that response quality measures are jointly zero	0.1721		0.0000		0.0000		0.0000	

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses. * significant at 10%, ** significant at 5%, *** significant at 1%. Each column reports the results of an OLS regression of the outcome variable listed in the column heading on the the variables listed in the rows. All regressions contain the same demographic and other control variables as in Table 3. Definitions of the response quality variables are provided in Table A5. For consistency with Table 5, the sample is limited to observations that have a nonmissing value for both expected benefits and the certainty equivalent.

ONLINE APPENDIX B: Social Security Policy Risk Survey Instrument

[SECTION 1: PRELIMINARIES]

[DISPLAY]

Q.1.1: [INTRO] Introduction

Hello, we are researchers at Dartmouth College who are interested in people's views of the future of Social Security. You have been selected by Knowledge Networks to take this survey. Some of the questions in this survey might be difficult to answer, or you might not have an exact answer in mind. That is perfectly okay! Even if you do not know the answer, we would appreciate your best guess. Thank you very much for your participation!

[SP]

Q.1.2: [SS_CONFIDENCE] Confidence in Social Security in general

How confident are you that the Social Security System will be able to provide you with the level of future benefits that you are supposed to get under current law?

(1) Very confident
(2) Somewhat confident
(3) Not too confident
(4) Not at all confident

[SP; PROMPT, TERMINATE IF SKIP AFTER PROMPT]

Q.1.2b: [SS_RECEIPT] Currently receiving Social Security

Do you currently receive Social Security benefits?

(1) Yes
(2) No

[IF SS_RECEIPT=1, THEN GO TO STANDARD CLOSE]

[CREATE A VARIABLE MRRG BASED ON PPMARIT.
MRRG=0 IF PPMARIT=5 OR 6 (NEVER MARRIED OR LIVING WITH PARTNER);
MRRG=1 IF PPMARIT=1 (MARRIED);
MRRG=2 IF PPMARIT=2, 3, OR 4 (WIDOWED, DIVORCED, OR SEPARATED).]

[SP; PROMPT, TERMINATE IF SKIP AFTER PROMPT]

Q.1.3: [ELGB] Does R think he will be eligible for Social Security benefits?

Under current law, workers become eligible for Social Security benefits by working and paying the Social Security payroll tax for a total of 10 years or more before they retire. Their spouses and former spouses are also eligible for benefits.

Under current law, are you or will you become eligible for Social Security benefits by the time you retire?

(1) Yes
(2) No

[SP;ASK Q.1.4 IF ELGB == 2, ELSE SKIP]

Q.1.4: [Y_NO_ELGB] Why R believes he will be ineligible for Social Security benefits
Why do you think you will not be eligible for Social Security benefits?
(1) My main job is not or was not covered by Social Security.
(2) I do not have or will not have a sufficient work history to receive Social Security benefits
(3) Other reason **[please give textbox]**_____

[SP; ASK IF (ELGB == 2 AND (MRRG == 1 OR MRRG == 2)]
[PROMPT, TERMINATE IF SKIP AFTER PROMPT]

Q.1.5: [SPS_ELGB] Prompt respondent who does not believe(s) he will get Social Security benefits to think about possible benefits from a past or current marriage.
Individuals who are not eligible for Social Security benefits based on their own work history often will be eligible to receive Social Security benefits based on the earnings of their spouse, late spouse, or ex-spouse. Do you think you will be eligible to receive Social Security benefits based on the past and expected future work history of your [**IF (MRRG == 1), display** "spouse" **ELSE IF (MRRG == 2) display** "prior spouse"]?
(1) Yes
(2) No

IF (SPS_ELBG == 2 OR (MRRG ==0 AND ELGB==2)), TERMINATE THE SURVEY IMMEDIATELY (GO TO STANDARD CLOSE)

[HORIZONTAL RATINGS THERMOMETER; RANGE:0-100; INTERVAL: 1]
[INCLUDING A NUMBER BOX NEXT TO THE SLIDER]

Q.1.6: [CHANCE_RAIN] Chance of rain example
Later in this survey, we would like to ask your opinion about how likely you think various events might be. When we ask such a question, we would like for you to respond with a number from 0 to 100, where '0' means that you think there is absolutely no chance, and '100' means that you think the event is absolutely sure to happen.

For example, no one can ever be sure about tomorrow's weather, but if you think that rain is very unlikely tomorrow, you might say that there is a 10 percent chance of rain. If you think there is a very good chance that it will rain tomorrow, you might say that there is an 80 percent chance of rain.

Let's try an example and start with the weather. What do you think are the chances that it will rain tomorrow?

0 |----------| 100
No Chance Absolutely Certain

[SECTION 2: PERCEPTIONS ABOUT EXPECTATIONS OF POLICY REPSONSE TO SOCIAL SECURITY SHORTFALLS]

[SP]

Q.2.1: [SHORTFALL_KNOW] Does the respondent know of SS shortfalls?

Do projections show that Social Security is facing a financial shortfall? A shortfall means that, in the future, Social Security is projected to pay more in benefits than it will have in the trust fund or receive in taxes.

(1) Yes
(2) No

[INSERT A NOBACK]

[SP]

Q.2.2: [SHORTFALL_FIX] How respondent thinks shortfalls will be fixed

Social Security is projected to face a long-term financial shortfall. To fix this, Social Security must either increase the amount of tax revenue it collects or decrease the amount of benefits it pays out. How do you think lawmakers will choose to fix this shortfall?

(1) They will fix the shortfall mostly or entirely through benefits cuts.
(2) They will fix the shortfall with a balanced mix of benefit cuts and tax increases.
(3) They will fix the shortfall mostly or entirely through tax increases.

[DISPLAY; SHOW ON A NEW SCREEN]

Under current law, the Social Security payroll tax rate is 12.4%, which is split evenly between the employer and the employee. Therefore, every time a worker is paid, Social Security taxes 6.2% of the worker's earnings, and the worker's employer pays an additional 6.2% of the worker's earnings to Social Security. This tax only applies to the first $106,800 of a worker's yearly pay. Earnings above $106,800 are not taxed.

[CREATE AND RANDOMLY SET A BINARY (0,1) VARIABLE, TEN_RET_ORDER]

[IF (TEN_RET_ORDER == 0), FIRST DISPLAY Q.2.3, THEN DISPLAY Q.2.4. ELSE, FIRST DISPLAY Q.2.4, THEN DISPLAY Q.2.3]

[HORIZONTAL RATINGS THERMOMETER; RANGE:0-100; INTERVAL: 1]
[INCLUDING A NUMBER BOX NEXT TO THE SLIDER]

Q.2.3: [PRT_RAISE_CHNC_10YR] Chance of payroll tax being raised in the next 10 years

What do you think is the percent chance that the Social Security payroll tax rate will be raised above 12.4% sometime within the next 10 years?

0 |----------| 100
No Chance Absolutely Certain

[HORIZONTAL RATINGS THERMOMETER; RANGE:0-100; INTERVAL: 1]
[INCLUDING A NUMBER BOX NEXT TO THE SLIDER]

[IF (AGE OF RESPONDENT == 55), SKIP Q.2.4]

Q.2.4: [PRT_RAISE_CHNC_RET] Chance of payroll tax being raised by age of 65
What do you think is the percent chance that the Social Security payroll tax rate will be raised above 12.4% by the time you turn 65?

0 |----------| 100
No Chance Absolutely Certain

[IF (TEN_RET_ORDER == 0), FIRST DISPLAY Q.2.5, THEN DISPLAY Q.2.6. ELSE, FIRST DISPLAY Q.2.6, THEN DISPLAY Q.2.5]

[NUMBER BOX; 0-50; PLEASE ALLOW TWO DECIMALS]
Q.2.5: [EXP_PRT_10YR] Expected payroll tax in 10 years
As we have mentioned, the Social Security payroll tax rate is 12.4% under current law. What do you expect the Social Security payroll tax rate to be in ten years?
____%

[NUMBER BOX; 0-50; PLEASE ALLOW TWO DECIMALS]
[IF (AGE OF RESPONDENT) == 55, SKIP Q.2.6]

Q.2.6: [EXP_PRT_RET] Expected payroll tax by age of 65
As we have mentioned, the Social Security payroll tax rate is 12.4% under current law. By the time you turn 65, what do you expect the Social Security payroll tax rate to be?
____%

[IF (TEN_RET_ORDER == 0), FIRST DISPLAY Q.2.7, THEN DISPLAY Q.2.8. ELSE, FIRST DISPLAY Q.2.8, THEN DISPLAY Q.2.7].

REGARDLESS OF ORDER, DISPLAY THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH ONLY ABOVE THE FIRST QUESTION.

As we have mentioned, the Social Security payroll tax is 12.4% under current law. This tax only applies to the first $106,800 of a worker's earnings. This amount is known as the Social Security taxable earnings limit and is automatically adjusted for inflation every year.

[HORIZONTAL RATINGS THERMOMETER; RANGE:0-100; INTERVAL: 1]
[INCLUDING A NUMBER BOX NEXT TO THE SLIDER]

Q.2.7: [PRTCAP_RAISE_CHNC_10YR] Expected payroll tax cap in 10 years
What do you think is the percent chance that lawmakers will raise the Social Security taxable earnings limit beyond the automatic adjustments for inflation sometime within the next 10 years?

0 |----------| 100
No Chance Absolutely Certain

[HORIZONTAL RATINGS THERMOMETER; RANGE:0-100; INTERVAL: 1] [INCLUDING A NUMBER BOX NEXT TO THE SLIDER]

[IF AGE OF RESPONDENT == 55, SKIP Q.2.8]

Q.2.8: [PRTCAP_RAISE_CHNC_RET] Expected payroll tax cap at age of 65
What do you think is the percent chance that lawmakers will raise the Social Security taxable earnings limit beyond the automatic adjustments for inflation by the time you turn 65?

0 |----------| 100
No Chance Absolutely Certain

[IF (TEN_RET_ORDER == 0), FIRST DISPLAY Q.2.9, THEN DISPLAY Q.2.10. ELSE, FIRST DISPLAY Q.2.10, THEN DISPLAY Q.2.9].

REGARDLESS OF ORDER, DISPLAY THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH ONLY ABOVE THE FIRST QUESTION.

As we have mentioned, Social Security is funded mainly through a payroll tax. These tax revenues, along with the existing trust fund, are used to fund current Social Security benefits. However, lawmakers could choose to fund Social Security using some new source of revenue.

[HORIZONTAL RATINGS THERMOMETER; RANGE:0-100; INTERVAL: 1]
[INCLUDING A NUMBER BOX NEXT TO THE SLIDER]

Q.2.9 [ALTREV_SRC_CHNC_10YR] Chance of a new revenue source in 10 years
What do you think is the percent chance that lawmakers will add a new source of revenue to fund Social Security within the next 10 years?

0 |----------| 100
No Chance Absolutely Certain

[HORIZONTAL RATINGS THERMOMETER; RANGE:0-100; INTERVAL: 1]
[INCLUDING A NUMBER BOX NEXT TO THE SLIDER]

[IF (AGE OF RESPONDENT == 55), SKIP Q.2.10]

Q.2.10: [ALTREV_SRC_CHNC_RET] Chance of a new revenue source in 10 years
What do you think is the percent chance that lawmakers will add a new source of revenue to fund Social Security by the time you turn 65?

0 |----------| 100
No Chance Absolutely Certain

[DISPLAY]

These next questions ask about what you think the general level of Social Security benefits will be. When answering these questions, please think of the Social Security benefits that everyone covered by Social Security will receive, not just the Social Security benefits you expect to receive.

[HORIZONTAL RATINGS THERMOMETER; RANGE: 0-100; INTERVAL: 1] [INCLUDING A NUMBER BOX NEXT TO THE SLIDER]

[IF (TEN_RET_ORDER == 0), FIRST DISPLAY Q.2.11, THEN DISPLAY Q.2.12. ELSE, FIRST DISPLAY Q.2.12, THEN DISPLAY Q.2.11]

Q.2.11 [GENLVL_DCLN_CHNC_10YR] Chance of decline in general level of benefits in the next 10 years

Thinking of the Social Security program in general and not just your own Social Security benefits, what is the percent chance that lawmakers will change Social Security so that it becomes less generous sometime in the next 10 years?

0 |----------| 100
No Chance Absolutely Certain

[HORIZONTAL RATINGS THERMOMETER; RANGE: 0-100; INTERVAL: 1] [INCLUDING A NUMBER BOX NEXT TO THE SLIDER]

[IF (AGE OF RESPONDENT == 55), SKIP Q.2.12]

Q.2.12: [GENLVL_DCLN_CHNC_RET] Chance of decline in general level of benefits at the age of 65

Thinking of the Social Security program in general and not just your own Social Security benefits, what is the percent chance that lawmakers will change Social Security so that it becomes less generous than now by the time you turn 65?

0 |----------| 100
No Chance Absolutely Certain

[HORIZONTAL RATINGS THERMOMETER; RANGE:0-100; INTERVAL: 1]
[INCLUDING A NUMBER BOX NEXT TO THE SLIDER]

Q.2.13: [OTHR_BNFT_CHNC] Chance of receiving benefits from other governmental program

If Social Security were to become less generous, what do you think is the percent chance that some other government program will provide regular benefits in place of the Social Security benefit reductions?

0 |----------| 100
No Chance Absolutely Certain

[SECTION 3: PERCEPTIONS ABOUT RESPONDENT'S OWN FUTURE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS AND TAXES]

[DISPLAY]

You just finished answering questions about your perceptions of Social Security's benefits and taxes in general, with regard to the entire system. For the next questions, we would like you to think of the Social Security benefits you specifically expect to receive.

[SP]

Q.3.1: [BNFT_CHNG_EXP] If respondent expects more of less when he receives benefits

Thinking about the Social Security benefits you specifically expect to receive, do you think that, by the time you start receiving benefits, you will receive more than, the same as, or less than you are supposed to get under current law?

(1) More
(2) The same
(3) Less

[IF (BNFT_CHNG_EXP == 2) SET PRCT_BNFT_CHNG_EXP to 100 AND SKIP Q.3.2]

[HORIZONTAL RATINGS THERMOMETER; RANGE: SEE GRAPHS BELOW; INTERVAL: 1] [INCLUDING A NUMBER BOX NEXT TO THE SLIDER]

Q.3.2: [PRCT_BNFT_CHNG_EXP]: Amount of benefit change expected

You answered that you think you will receive [**IF BNFT_CHNG_EXP = 1, display** "more." **Else IF BNFT_CHNG_EXP = 3 display** "less"] Social Security benefits than what you are supposed to get under current law. Please use the slider below to indicate how much you think your future Social Security benefits will be *as a percentage of the Social Security benefits you are supposed to get under current law.*

The farther you move the slider away from 100, the [**IF BNFT_CHNG_EXP = 1, display** "more." **Else, IF BNFT_CHNG_EXP = 3 display** "less"] you expect your future Social Security benefits will be compared to what you are supposed to get under current law.

[Display if BNFT_CHNG_EXP == 1]

100 |----------| 200+
Receive benefits you are supposed to get — Receive twice as much or more than you are supposed to get

[Display if BNFT_CHNG_EXP == 3]

0 |----------| 100
Receive nothing — Receive benefits you are supposed to get

[DISPLAY]

To help you answer some questions about your Social Security benefits, we will give you 20 balls that you can put in different bins, each bin representing possible outcomes. The more likely you think each

outcome is, the more balls you should put in that bin. To see how this works, an example is shown on the next screen.

[CREATE AND RANDOMLY SET A BINARY (0,1) VARIABLE, WIDE_NRW_EXMPL]

[NOTE TO KN PROGRAMMERS: We did this Bin/Ball format question previously in KN survey K2298 (SNO13460); you may wish to borrow and adapt the code used in that survey. See the attached figure for the graphic associated with the "bins and balls" question format. The graphic should be interactive (i.e. respondents should see the picture and be able to add/remove balls from each bin using +/- buttons that appear below each bin (one ball per click). Please also show a box with "balls remaining."]

[IF (WIDE_NRW_EXMPL == 0), DISPLAY BELOW]

This is an example that shows what we think the temperature will be in Boston at noon tomorrow. We don't know for sure how hot or cold it will get, but we have some guesses. The more likely we think that it will be a given temperature, the more balls we put in that bin.

We are sure that the temperature will not reach 70 °F (or higher) or drop to 54 °F (or lower) at noon, so we don't put any balls in those bins. We think that there is a 20 percent chance (4 out of 20) that it will be 55-59°F, so we put 4 out of 20 balls in that bin. We think that there is a 50 percent chance (10 out of 20) that it will be 60-64 °F, so we put 10 out of 20 balls in that bin. We think that there is a 30 percent chance (6 out of 20) that it will be 65-69 °F, so we put 6 out of 20 balls in that bin.

What do you think the temperature will be in Boston at noon tomorrow?

	oooo	oo oooo oooo	oo oooo					
54 or lower	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90 or higher
+-	+-	+-	+-	+-	+-	+-	+-	

[IF (WIDE_NRW_EXMPL == 1), DISPLAY BELOW]

This is an example that shows what we think the temperature will be in Boston at noon tomorrow. We don't know for sure how hot or cold it will get, but we have some guesses. The more likely we think that it will be a given temperature, the more balls we put in that bin.

We are sure that the temperature will not reach 90 °F (or higher) at noon, so we don't put any balls in that bin. We think that there is a 25 percent chance (5 out of 20) that it will be 65-69 °F, so we put 5 out of 20 balls in that bin. We think that there is a 15 percent chance (3 out of 20) that it will be 60-64 °F, so we put 3 out of 20 balls in that bin. We think that there is a 10 percent chance (2 out of 20) that the temperature will fall in each of the remaining bins, so we put 2 balls in each of the remaining bins.

What do you think the temperature will be in Boston at noon tomorrow?

---

oo	oo	ooo	o oooo	oo	oo	oo	oo	

54 or lower	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90 or higher
+-	+-	+-	+-	+-	+-	+-	+-	

Q.3.3: [NOTHING_BALLS, LESS_BALLS, SAME_BALLS, MORE_BALLS] Ball/bin distribution of above/below expectations

You have been given 20 balls to put in the following bins. Each bin describes a scenario that involves the Social Security benefits you are supposed to get. The more likely you think a bin is, the more balls you should put in that bin.

What do you think will happen to your Social Security benefits?

I will receive no benefits whatsoever	I will receive lower benefits than I am supposed to get under current law	I will receive the benefits that I am supposed to get under current law	I will receive higher benefits than I am supposed to get under current law
+-	+-	+-	+-

[IF LESS_BALLS == 0, SKIP Q.3.4. AND SET LESS_BIN1=0, LESS_BIN2=0, LESS_BIN3=0, LESS_BIN4=0, LESS_BIN5=0]

Q.3.4: [LESS_BIN1, LESS_BIN2, LESS_BIN3, LESS_BIN4, LESS_BIN5] Ball/bin distribution of future benefit decreases

[IF LESS_BALLS>1, DISPLAY:]

You put [**LESS_BALLS**] balls in the bin marked "I will receive less than I am supposed to get under current law". Please distribute those balls in the following bins. The more likely you think a bin is, the more balls you should put in that bin.

[IF LESS_BALLS==1, DISPLAY:]

You put 1 ball in the bin marked "I will receive less than I am supposed to get under current law". Please put that ball in the bin below that you think is most likely to occur.

[ALWAYS DISPLAY:]

What percentage of the Social Security benefits that you are supposed to get under current law do you think you will receive?

I will receive between 1%-19% of the benefits that I am supposed to get	I will receive between 20%-39% of the benefits that I am supposed to get under	I will receive between 40%-59% of the benefits that I am supposed to get under	I will receive between 60%-79% of the benefits that I am supposed to get under	I will receive between 80%-99% of the benefits that I am supposed to get under

under current law	current law	current law	current law	current law
+-	+-	+-	+-	+-

[IF MORE_BALLS == 0, SKIP Q.3.5. AND SET MORE_BIN1=0, MORE_BIN2=0, MORE_BIN3=0, MORE_BIN4=0, MORE_BIN5=0]

Q.3.5: [MORE_BIN1, MORE_BIN2, MORE_BIN3, MORE_BIN4, MORE_BIN5] Ball/bin distribution of future benefit increases

[IF MORE_BALLS>1, DISPLAY:]

You put [**MORE_BALLS**] balls in the bin marked "I will receive more than I am supposed to get under current law". Please distribute those balls in the following bins. The more likely you think a bin is, the more balls you should put in that bin.

[IF MORE_BALLS==1, DISPLAY:]

You put 1 ball in the bin marked "I will receive more than I am supposed to get under current law". Please put that ball in the bin below that you think is most likely to occur.

[ALWAYS DISPLAY:]

What percentage of the Social Security benefits that you are supposed to get under current law do you think you will receive?

I will receive between 101%-120% of the benefits that I am supposed to get under current law	I will receive between 121%-140% of the benefits that I am supposed to get under current law	I will receive between 141%-160% of the benefits that I am supposed to get under current law	I will receive between 161%-180% of the benefits that I am supposed to get under current law	I will receive more than 181% of the benefits that I am supposed to get under current law
+-	+-	+-	+-	+-

Q.3.6: [SUB_BIN1, SUB_BIN2, SUB_BIN3, SUB_BIN4, SUB_BIN5]

[SET LB=missing]
[IF LESS_BIN1 > 10, THEN SET LB=0 and SET NBALLS=LESS_BIN1]
[IF LESS_BIN2 > 10, THEN SET LB=20 and SET NBALLS=LESS_BIN2]
[IF LESS_BIN3 > 10, THEN SET LB=40 and SET NBALLS=LESS_BIN3]
[IF LESS_BIN4 > 10, THEN SET LB=60 and SET NBALLS=LESS_BIN4]
[IF LESS_BIN5 > 10, THEN SET LB=80 and SET NBALLS=LESS_BIN5]
[IF MORE_BIN1 > 10, THEN SET LB=101 and SET NBALLS=MORE_BIN1]
[IF MORE_BIN2 > 10, THEN SET LB=121 and SET NBALLS=MORE_BIN2]
[IF MORE_BIN3 > 10, THEN SET LB=141 and SET NBALLS=MORE_BIN3]
[IF MORE_BIN4 > 10, THEN SET LB=161 and SET NBALLS=MORE_BIN4]
[IF MORE_BIN5 > 10, THEN SET LB=181 and SET NBALLS=MORE_BIN5]

[IF LB≠missing, DISPLAY:]

You put [**NBALLS**] balls in the bin marked "I will receive between **[Max(1,LB)]**%-**[LB+19]**% of the benefits that I am supposed to get under current law". Please distribute those balls in the following bins. The more likely you think a bin is, the more balls you should put in that bin.

What percentage of the Social Security benefits that you are supposed to get under current law do you think you will receive?

I will receive between **[Max(1,LB)]**%- **[LB+3]**% of the benefits that I am supposed to get under current law	I will receive between **[LB+4]**%- **[LB+7]**% of the benefits that I am supposed to get under current law	I will receive between **[LB+8]**%- **[LB+11]**% of the benefits that I am supposed to get under current law	I will receive between **[LB+12]**%- **[LB+15]**% of the benefits that I am supposed to get under current law	I will receive between **[LB+16]**%- **[LB+19]**% of the benefits that I am supposed to get under current law
+-	+-	+-	+-	+-

Run this code below for ALL respondents even if Q.3.6 is skipped
[CREATE A NEW VARIABLE: BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP]

[SET BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP = [(LESS_BIN1*10 + LESS_BIN2*29.5 + LESS_BIN3*49.5 + LESS_BIN4*69.5 + LESS_BIN5*89.5 + SAME_BALLS*100 + MORE_BIN1*110.5 + MORE_BIN2*130.5 + MORE_BIN3*150.5 + MORE_BIN4*170.5 + MORE_BIN5*190.5)/20]

(Note to programmer: BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP should NOT be rounded to an integer yet)

[IF (NOTHING_BALLS + LESS_BIN1 + LESS_BIN2 + LESS_BIN3 + LESS_BIN4 + LESS_BIN5 + SAME_BALLS + MORE_BIN1 + MORE_BIN2 + MORE_BIN3 + MORE_BIN4 + MORE_BIN5) ≠ 20, THEN SET BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP TO MISSING]

[IF LB≠missing, THEN SET ADJ = SUB_BIN1*0.5*(Max(1,LB)+LB+3)/20
+ SUB_BIN2*(LB+5.5)/20
+ SUB_BIN3*(LB+9.5)/20
+ SUB_BIN4*(LB+13.5)/20
+ SUB_BIN5*(LB+17.5)/20
- NBALLS*0.5*(Max(1,LB)+LB+19)/20]

[IF LB≠missing AND BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP ≠ missing AND NBALLS==(SUB_BIN1 + SUB_BIN2 + SUB_BIN3 + SUB_BIN4 + SUB_BIN5), THEN REPLACE BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP = BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP + ADJ]

[ROUND BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP TO THE NEAREST WHOLE NUMBER]

[CREATE A NEW VARIABLE: NORISK]

[SET NORISK=0]
[IF NOTHING_BALLS==20, SET NORISK=1]
[IF SAME_BALLS==20, SET NORISK=1]
[IF MAXIMUM(SUB_BIN1, SUB_BIN2, SUB_BIN3, SUB_BIN4, SUB_BIN5)==20, SET NORISK=1]

[SECTION 4: PERCEIVED COSTS OF UNCERTAINTY]

[SP]

Q.4.1: [UNCRT_IMPT] Importance of uncertainty

How much does it matter to you that you do not know exactly how much you will get in Social Security benefits?

(1) Uncertainty matters very much.
(2) Uncertainty matters a fair amount.
(3) Uncertainty matters little.
(4) Uncertainty does not matter.

[CREATE AND RANDOMLY SET A BINARY (0,1) VARIABLE UNCRT_ORD MEANT TO TRACK IN WHICH ORDER THE OPTIONS IN 4.2 ARE PRESENTED.]

Note to programmers: Normally the randomization would be done inline, but the differences are so large that we have decided to write out two separate questions.

[GRID/SP]

Q.4.2: [UNCRT_BNFT_AMT_IMPT, UNCRT_BNFT_CHNG_IMPT, UNCRT_BNFT_OTHR_IMPT] Importance of various other factors contributing to benefit uncertainty

[DISPLAY IF UNCRT_ORD == 0]

You might be uncertain about your Social Security benefits for a variety of reasons. It is possible that Social Security could have a shortfall or program rules could be changed so that you do not receive what you are supposed to get under current law. Even if benefit levels are not changed, you might be uncertain about the Social Security benefits you are supposed to get under current law. Please show how much each of these issues matters to you below.

	Matters Very Much	Matters a Fair Amount	Matters Little	Does Not Matter
Uncertainty about possible changes to benefit levels				
Uncertainty about what you are supposed to get under current law				
Other (Please enter in text box below)				

Text box for other: _____

[DISPLAY IF UNCRT_ORD == 1]

You might be uncertain about your Social Security benefits for a variety of reasons. You might be uncertain about the Social Security benefits you are supposed to get under current law. Even if you know how much you are supposed to get under current law, it is possible that Social Security could have a shortfall or program rules could be changed so that you do not receive what you are supposed to get under current law. Please show how much each of these issues matters to you below.

	Matters Very Much	Matters a Fair Amount	Matters Little	Does Not Matter
Uncertainty about what you are supposed to get under current law				
Uncertainty about possible changes to benefit levels				
Other (Please enter in text box below)				

Text box for other: _____

[SP]

Q.4.3: [END, PR0, PR1, PR2, PR3, PR4, PR5, A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, L, U] Willingness to accept contract for certain amount and ultimate categorization

[SET END = 0]
[CREATE AND RANDOMLY SET A BINARY (1,2) VARIABLE PR0]

[THIS QUESTION WILL BE ASKED MUTLIPLE TIMES, CONTINUING AS LONG AS END = 0. THE WORDING FOR SUBSEQUENT QUESTIONS IS DIFFERENT FROM THE WORDING WHEN THE QUESTION IS ASKED THE FIRST TIME. PLEASE SEE THE SECTION BELOW THE FIRST QUESTION FOR THE SUBSEQUENT WORDING.]

[THE FIRST TIME RESPONDENT IS QUERIED, FILL IN THE PERCENTAGE WITH PR1 AND RECORD THE RESPONDENT'S ANSWER IN A1. THE SECOND TIME, FILL IN THE PERCENTAGE WITH PR2 AND RECORD THE ANSWER IN A2, ETC. A LOGIC PATTERN FOR VALUES OF PR# AND END IS SEEN BELOW.]

[Create and randomly set a binary (0,1) variable Q43_ORD to track in which order the two answer categories in Q.4.3 are presented. If Q43_ORD=1, the unbreakable contract is shown as the second option]

[CREATE NEW VARIABLE ALT_VERSION, and SET ALT_VERSION=0]
[IF NORISK=0 AND BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP≠missing, THEN SET ALT_VERSION=1]

[If ALT_VERSION==0, then display]
[PROMPT IF SKIPPED]

Imagine that you were offered a contract that guaranteed you a certain percent of the Social Security benefits you are supposed to get under current law. This contract is unbreakable and cannot be changed by anybody, even the United States government.

Would you rather have:

(1) Benefits as determined by an unbreakable contract that offers you [APPROPRIATE PR# INTERATION]% of the Social Security benefits you are supposed to get under current law

(2) Benefits as determined by Social Security when you claim benefits

[If ALT_VERSION==1, then display instead the following text the first time Q4.3 is asked:]

[PROMPT IF SKIPPED]

The way you put balls into various bins shows that you expect to receive **[BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP]**% of the Social Security benefits you are supposed to get under current law. It also shows that you could receive more or less than this **[BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP]**%. Let's call this distribution of possible benefits, as described by you using the bins and balls, your "uncertain benefits." So, your uncertain benefits are whatever level of benefits you get when you claim benefits.

Imagine a contract that instead guarantees you a certain percentage of the Social Security benefits you are supposed to get under current law. This is like having all 20 balls on this certain percentage. This contract is unbreakable and cannot be changed by anybody, even the United States government.

Would you rather have:

(1) Guaranteed benefits equal to [APPROPRIATE PR# INTERATION]% of the Social Security benefits you are supposed to get under current law

(2) Uncertain benefits around **[BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP]**% of the Social Security benefits you are supposed to get under current law

[ASK 4.3 FOR THE FIRST TIME USING PR1]

IF PR0 = 1, PR1 = 30
IF PR0 = 2, PR1 = 70

[NOTE TO PROGRAMMERS: If ALT_VERSION==0, SHOW BELOW WORDING FOR EVERY QUERY OF THE RESPONDENT AFTER THE FIRST]
[SP; PROMPT IF SKIPPED]

And how about the following choice? Would you rather have:

(1) Benefits as determined by an unbreakable contract that offers you [APPROPRIATE PR# INTERATION]% of the Social Security benefits you are supposed to get under current law

(2) Benefits as determined by Social Security when you claim benefits

[If ALT_VERSION==1, then display for the subsequent queries of Q4.3:]
[SP; PROMPT IF SKIPPED]

And how about the following choice? Would you rather have:

(1) Guaranteed benefits equal to [APPROPRIATE PR# INTERATION]% of the Social Security benefits you are supposed to get under current law

(2) Uncertain benefits around **[BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP]**% of the Social Security benefits you are supposed to get under current law

---

[IF END = 0, ASK 4.3 FOR THE SECOND TIME USING PR2]

IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 1, PR2 = 20
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2, PR2 = 60

IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1, PR2 = 40
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 2, PR2 = 80

[IF END = 0, ASK 4.3 FOR THE THIRD TIME USING PR3]

IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1, PR3 = 10
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 2, PR3 = 25
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 1, PR3 = 40
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2, PR3 = 80

IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1, PR3 = 20
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 2, PR3 = 60
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 1, PR3 = 75
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2, PR3 = 90

[IF END = 0, ASK 4.3 FOR THE FOURTH TIME USING PR4]

IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 1, PR4 = 05
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 2, PR4 = 15
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 1, SET **L = 20, U = 25, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 2, SET **L = 25, U = 30, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 1, PR4 = 35
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 2, PR4 = 50
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 1, PR4 = 70
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 2, PR4 = 90

IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 1, PR4 = 10
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 2, PR4 = 30
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 1, PR4 = 50
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 2, PR4 = 65
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 1, SET **L = 70, U = 75, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 2, SET **L = 75, U = 80, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 1, PR4 = 85
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 2, PR4 = 95

[IF END = 0, ASK 4.3 FOR THE FIFTH TIME USING PR5]

IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 1, SET **L = 0, U = 5, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 2, SET **L = 5, U = 10, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 1, SET **L = 10, U = 15, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 2, SET **L = 15, U = 20, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 1, SET **L = 30, U = 35, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 2, SET **L = 35, U = 40, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 1, PR5 = 45
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 2, PR5 = 55
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 1, PR5 = 65
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 2, PR5 = 75
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 1, PR5 = 85
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 2, PR5 = 95

IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 1, PR5 = 5
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 2, PR5 = 15
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 1, PR5 = 25
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 2, PR5 = 35
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 1, PR5 = 45
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 2, PR5 = 55
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 1, SET **L = 60, U = 65, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 2, SET **L = 65, U = 70, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 1, SET **L = 80, U = 85, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 2, SET **L = 85, U = 90, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 1, SET **L = 90, U = 95, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 2, SET **L = 95, U = 100, END = 1**

[4.3 IS <u>NOT</u> REPEATED A SIXTH TIME. RATHER, SET VARIABLES L, U, AND END ACCORDING TO RESULTS OF THE FIFTH ITERATION]

IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 1 & A5 = 1, SET **L = 40, U = 45, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 1 & A5 = 2, SET **L = 45, U = 50, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 2 & A5 = 1, SET **L = 50, U = 55, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 2 & A5 = 2, SET **L = 55, U = 60, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 1 & A5 = 1, SET **L = 60, U = 65, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 1 & A5 = 2, SET **L = 65, U = 70, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 2 & A5 = 1, SET **L = 70, U = 75, END = 1**

IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 2 & A5 = 2, SET **L = 75, U = 80, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 1 & A5 = 1, SET **L = 80, U = 85, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 1 & A5 = 2, SET **L = 85, U = 90, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 2 & A5 = 1, SET **L = 90, U = 95, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 1 & A1 = 2 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 2 & A5 = 2, SET **L = 95, U = 100, END = 1**

IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 1 & A5 = 1, SET **L = 00, U = 05, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 1 & A5 = 2, SET **L = 05, U = 10, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 2 & A5 = 1, SET **L = 10, U = 15, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 2 & A5 = 2, SET **L = 15, U = 20, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 1 & A5 = 1, SET **L = 20, U = 25, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 1 & A5 = 2, SET **L = 25, U = 30, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 2 & A5 = 1, SET **L = 30, U = 35, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 1 & A3 = 2 & A4 = 2 & A5 = 2, SET **L = 35, U = 40, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 1 & A5 = 1, SET **L = 40, U = 45, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 1 & A5 = 2, SET **L = 45, U = 50, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 2 & A5 = 1, SET **L = 50, U = 55, END = 1**
IF PR0 = 2 & A1 = 1 & A2 = 2 & A3 = 1 & A4 = 2 & A5 = 2, SET **L = 55, U = 60, END = 1**

Q4.3b: [A6] Narrowing of guaranteed/uncertain benefits for certain respondents
[Order of the answer categories be determined by **Q43_ORD]**

[SP; PROMPT IF SKIPPED]

[SET FIN_PR=missing]
[If ALT_VERSION==1 AND (BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP-2) ≤ L AND L < BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP, THEN SET FIN_PR= BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP]
[If ALT_VERSION==1 AND (BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP-6) ≤ L AND L < (BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP-2), THEN SET FIN_PR= BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP-2]
[If ALT_VERSION==1 AND (BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP-11) ≤ L AND L < (BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP-6), THEN SET FIN_PR= L+3]

[IF FIN_PR≠missing, THEN DISPLAY:]

And how about the following choice? Would you rather have:

(1) Guaranteed benefits equal to [**FIN_PR**]% of the Social Security benefits you are supposed to get under current law

(2) Uncertain benefits around **[BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP]**% of the Social Security benefits you are supposed to get under current law

Q4.3c [REASON] Opportunity for respondent to give textual feedback if difference between willingness to accept uncertain vs. guaranteed benefits is very low

[INSERT A NOBACK]

[If ALT_VERSION==1 AND BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP < L-5 THEN DISPLAY:]
[OPEN-ENDED TEXT BOX]

We are interested in better understanding why you chose uncertain benefits around **[BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP]**% of the Social Security benefits you are supposed to get under current law over guaranteed benefits equal to [**L**]% of the Social Security benefits you are supposed to get under current law.

Could you tell us the main reason for your choice?

[CREATE AND RANDOMLY SET THREE BINARY (0,1) VARIABLES: INCDEC_4_4, RSLW_4_4, AND TXCP_4_4. THE RANDOMIZATIONS SHOULD BE INDEPENDENT]

Note to programmers: Normally the randomization would be done inline, but the differences are so large that we have decided to write out two separate questions (just as in 4.2)

[GRID/SP]

Q.4.4: [UNCRT_PRT_RATE_IMPT, UNCRT_PRT_CAP_IMPT, UNCRT_PRT_OTHER_IMPT]
Importance of various other factors contributing to tax uncertainty

[IF (TXCP_4_4 == 0) DISPLAY BELOW]

You might be uncertain about the taxes that fund Social Security for a variety of reasons. For example, you could be uncertain about whether the current Social Security payroll tax rate will be [**IF INCDEC_4_4 == 0, display** "raised or lowered" **else display** "lowered or raised"]. Additionally, you could be uncertain about whether the Social Security taxable earnings limit will be [**IF RSLW_4_4 == 0, display** "raised or lowered" **else display** "lowered or raised"] (other than automatic adjustments for inflation). Please show how much each of these issues matter to you below.

	Matters Very Much	Matters a Fair Amount	Matters Little	Does Not Matter
Uncertainty about the Social Security payroll tax rate				
Uncertainty about the Social Security taxable earnings limit				
Other (Please enter in text box below)				

Text box for other: _____

[IF (TXCP_4_4 == 1, DISPLAY BELOW)]

You might be uncertain about the taxes that fund Social Security for a variety of reasons. For example, you could be uncertain about whether the Social Security taxable earnings limit will be [**IF RSLW_4_4 == 0, display** "raised or lowered" **else display** "lowered or raised"] (other than automatic adjustments for inflation). Additionally, you could be uncertain about whether the current Social Security payroll tax rate will be [**IF INCDEC_4_4 == 0, display** "raised or lowered" **else display** "lowered or raised"]. Please show how much each of these issues matter to you below.

	Matters Very Much	Matters a Fair Amount	Matters Little	Does Not Matter
Uncertainty about the Social Security taxable earnings limit				

Uncertainty about the Social Security payroll tax rate				
Other (Please enter in text box below)				

Text box for other: _____

[SECTION 5: SELF-REPORTED RESPONSES TO UNCERTAINTY IN SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS]

[CREATE AND RANDOMLY SET A BINARY (0,1) VARIABLE PRCNT_ORD_51]

[IF (PRCNT_ORD_51 == 0, SET PRCNT_OFFRD_51 = BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP]

[IF PRCNT_ORD_51 == 1, SET PRCNT_OFFRD_51 = 100]

[IF PRCNT_OFFRD_51 == MISSING, SET PRCNT_OFFRD_51= PRCT_BNFT_CHNG_EXP]
[IF PRCNT_OFFRD_51 == MISSING, SET PRCNT_OFFRD_51=75]
[GRID/SP]

Q.5.1: [UNCRT_RSPN_SVNG, UNCRT_RSPN_CLMAGE, UNCRT_RSPN_WRKAGE, UNCRT_RSPN_RTRMSPND, UNCRT_RSPN_PRE_RTRMWRK, UNCRT_RSPN_WILL]

[IF BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP≠ missing, THEN DISPLAY:]
The way you put balls into various bins shows that you currently expect to receive **[BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP]**% of the Social Security benefits you are supposed to get under current law. **[IF BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP≠ missing AND NORISK=0, THEN DISPLAY IN THE SAME PARAGRAPH]** It also shows that you think you could receive more or less than this **[BINBALL_BNFT_CHNG_EXP]**%.

[ALWAYS DISPLAY:]
Suppose that all of the uncertainty about possible changes to benefit levels is eliminated: you receive an unbreakable contract that guarantees you [**PRCNT_OFFRD_51**]% of the Social Security benefits you are supposed to get under current law. Unbreakable means that this contract cannot be changed by anybody, even the United States government.

How would your behavior change with your benefits guaranteed at this level? Would your …

	Significantly Decrease	Somewhat Decrease	No Change	Somewhat Increase	Significantly Increase
Saving before retirement					
Hours worked per year before retirement					
Spending during retirement					
Age when you stop working for pay					

Age when you start claiming Social Security Benefits					
Assets you leave to others					

[PLEASE MAKE SURE THE VARIABLE NAMES IN THE GRID CORRESPOND TO THE QUESTION ASKED AS FOLLOWS:]

Saving before retirement	UNCRT_RSPN_SVNG
Hours worked per year before retirement	UNCRT_RSPN_PRE_RTRMWRK
Spending during retirement	UNCRT_RSPN_RTRMSPND
Age when you stop working for pay	UNCRT_RSPN_WRKAGE
Age when you start claiming Social Security Benefits	UNCRT_RSPN_CLMAGE
Assets you leave to others	UNCRT_RSPN_WILL

[SECTION 6: RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS]

[SP]

Q.6.1: [JOB_GMBL1] Measures aversion to risk using lifetime-income gambles

Suppose that you are the only income earner in the family. Your doctor recommends that you move because of allergies, and you have to choose between two possible jobs.

The first would guarantee your current total family income for life.

The second is possibly better paying, but the income is also less certain. There is a 50–50 chance the second job would double your total lifetime income and a 50–50 chance that it would cut it by a third.

Which job would you take—the first job or the second job?
(1) The first job
(2) The second job

[SP]

[ASK ONLY IF (JOB_GMBL1 == 2)]

Q.6.2: [JOB_GMBL2] Measures aversion to risk using lifetime-income gambles

Thinking of the same scenario, what about these two jobs?

The first would guarantee your current total family income for life.

There is a 50–50 chance the second job would double your family income, and a 50–50 chance that it would cut it in half.

Which job would you take—the first job or the second job?
(1) The first job
(2) The second job

[SP]

[ASK ONLY IF (JOB_GMBL1 == 1)]

Q.6.3: [JOB_GMBL3] Measures aversion to risk using lifetime-income gambles

Thinking of the same scenario, what about these two jobs?

The first would guarantee your current total family income for life.

There is a 50–50 chance the second job would double your family income, and a 50–50 chance that it would cut it by 20 percent.

Which job would you take—the first job or the second job?
(1) The first job
(2) The second job

[SP]
[ASK ONLY IF (JOB_GMBL2 == 2)]

Q.6.4: [JOB_GMBL4] Measures aversion to risk using lifetime-income gambles

Thinking of the same scenario, what about these two jobs?

The first would guarantee your current total family income for life.

There is a 50–50 chance the second job would double your family income, and a 50–50 chance that it would cut it by 66 percent.

Which job would you take—the first job or the second job?
(1) The first job
(2) The second job

[SP]
[ASK ONLY IF (JOB_GMBL3 == 1)]

Q.6.5: [JOB_GMBL5] Measures aversion to risk using lifetime-income gambles

Thinking of the same scenario, what about these two jobs?

The first would guarantee your current total family income for life.

There is a 50–50 chance the second job would double your family income, and a 50–50 chance that it would cut it by 10 percent.

Which job would you take—the first job or the second job?
(1) The first job
(2) The second job

[CREATE AND RANDOMLY INTIALIZE A BINARY (0,1) VARIABLE WRKSTP_ORD]
[NUMBER BOX; RANGE: 0-120]

Q.6.6: [WRKSTP_AGE, NEVER_WORKED] (Expected) age of retirement, or lack of working history

At what age **[IF (WRKSTP_ORD == 0) DISPLAY** "did you stop working for pay or do you plan to stop working for pay?" **ELSE DISPLAY** "do you plan to stop working for pay or did you stop working for pay?"**]**

____ [**RANGE 0 … 120**]

☐ I never worked for pay **[SP]**

[Create a variable [NEVER_WORKED] that records whether people check the box "I never worked for pay"]

[NUMBER BOX; RANGE: 60-99]
Q.6.7: [CLCT_AGE_EXP] Expected age of benefit collection
At what age do you plan to start collecting Social Security benefits?

____ [RANGE 60…99]

[NUMBER BOX; RANGE: 0-6000]
SET CLAIM_AGE2=CLAIM_AGE
IF CLAIM_AGE2<62 OR CLAIM_AGE2=MISSING, SET CLAIM_AGE2=62

Q.6.8: [BNFT_EXPT] Expected level of benefits

In this question, we would like get your estimate of the Social Security benefits you are supposed to get under current law if you claim benefits at age [CLAIM_AGE2].

Even if you do not know exactly, please give your best guess.

(Please report any Social Security benefits paid to you yourself, not Social Security benefits paid to any other member in your household. Also, please give your answer in today's dollars, and ignore any inflation that may occur between today and when you collect Social Security benefits)

I believe the Social Security benefits I am supposed to get are roughly $_____ **[NUMBER BOX WITH RANGE 0-6000]** per month if I claim benefits at age [CLAIM_AGE2].

[HORIZONTAL RATINGS THERMOMETER; RANGE:0-100; INTERVAL:1] [INCLUDING A NUMBER BOX NEXT TO THE SLIDER]

Q.6.9: [LNGVTY_EXP] Longevity expectations by estimating chances of surviving to age 75

On a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 is no chance and 100 is absolutely certain, what is the percent chance that you will live to age 75 or older?

0 |----------| 100
No Chance Absolutely Certain

[SP]
Q.6.10: [BNFT_PCNT_RTRMTSPND] How important is Social Security to retirement spending?
Roughly, how important will the income that you are supposed to get from Social Security be relative to income from pensions, savings or other sources to pay for your household's spending during retirement?

(Please include in your answer any Social Security income that you or other members in your household are supposed to get from Social Security).

(1) Extremely important: Social Security would pay for more than 75% of spending
(2) Very important: Social Security would pay for 50% to 75% of spending
(3) Important: Social Security would pay for 25% to 50% of spending
(4) Not so important: Social Security would pay for less than 25% of spending

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[SP]
Q.6.11: [PLCTCL_TRST] Level of trust in the political system

How much do you agree with the following statement? *Most elected federal officials are trustworthy.*

Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree

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[GRID/SP]
Q.6.12: [OPTIMISM1, OPTIMISM2, OPTIMISM3, OPTIMISM4, OPTIMISM5, OPTIMISM6] Respondent's general level of optimism/pessimism
How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Question	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
If something can go wrong for me, it will.					

I am always optimistic about my future.					
In uncertain times, I usually expect the best.					
Overall, I expect more good things to happen to me than bad.					
I hardly ever expect things to go my way.					
I rarely count on good things happening to me.					

[DISPLAY]
Next, we would like to ask you some questions to find out how people use numbers in everyday life and how they make decisions involving money.

[NUMBER BOX; 0-2,000,000; PLEASE ADD COMMA FOR THE NUMBER]
Q.6.13: [FINLIT_LOTRY] Financial Literacy 1 – Lottery test
If 5 people all have the winning numbers in the lottery and the prize is two million dollars, how much will each of them get?
$_____

[SP]
Q.6.14: [FINLIT_CMPND] Financial Literacy 2 – Compound Interest
Suppose you had $100 in a savings account and the interest rate is 20% per year and you never withdraw money or interest payments. After 5 years, how much would you have in this account in total?
(1) More than $200
(2) Exactly $200
(3) Less than $200
(4) I don't know.

[SP]
Q.6.15: [FINLIT_INFLAT] Financial Literacy 3 – Inflation / Money Illusion
Suppose that in the year 2020, your after-tax income has doubled and prices of all goods have doubled too. In 2020, how much will you be able to buy with your income?
(1) More than today
(2) The same as today
(3) Less than today
(4) I don't know.

[SP]
Q.6.16: [FINLIT_MUTUAL] Financial Literacy 5 – Advanced Knowledge: Mutual Funds

True or false? Buying a company stock usually provides a safer return than a stock mutual fund.
(1) True
(2) False
(3) I don’t know.