MIDUS Refresher 2 Survey Data Public Release
(October, 2025)

The purpose of this document is to provide basic information about the public release of the MIDUS Refresher 2 (MR2) Survey Project dataset and documentation being made available through MIDUS Colectica Portal (http://midus.colectica.org/) and ICPSR. Note that the file names assigned by ICPSR to MR2 files may differ from those referred to in this document.

A. What data files are available?

The MIDUS Refresher 2 Survey dataset (SPSS):
   MR2_P1_SURVEY_N2154_20251003.SAV

The MIDUS Refresher 2 Survey disposition codes to the phone interview effort:
   MR2_SURVEY_DispositionCodes_N3577_20251002.SAV

B. What is the structure of the MIDUS Refresher Survey Dataset?

This is a rectangular SPSS dataset with 2,154 cases and 2,493 variables from the phone and self-administered questionnaires (SAQs). Variables have been named according to the MIDUS Refresher 2 naming conventions. All variables include labels to aid interpretation. Value labels have been applied where appropriate and discrete missing values have been defined. Details about variable naming, value labels, and data formatting can be found in the naming and coding conventions document:
   MR2_NamingAndCodingConventions_20251006

C. What additional files are available?

Survey instruments. The complete Refresher 2 phone and SAQ instruments are available:
   MR2_Survey_PhoneInstrument_20250821
   MR2_Survey_SAQs_20250821

Documentations. Additional documentations about the survey variables and administration can be found in the following documents:
  * Field Report. The University of Wisconsin Survey Center created a detailed report about recruiting the MR2 sample and fielding the phone and SAQ instruments:
   MR2_Survey_FieldReport_20250923

- Weights. A series of post-stratification weight variables has been included in the survey data. These correspond to the post-stratification weights that are included in the MR1 dataset. Details about the construction of these variables is available in this file: ***MR2_Survey_DocumentationOfPost-StratificationWeights_20251003***

- Constructed scales. A variety of psycho-social scales and constructed variables are included in the dataset. These variables are comparable to MR1 constructed scales and their construction and background are documented in the following file: ***MR2_Survey_DocumentationOfPsychosocialConstructsAndCompositeVariables_20251003***

- MR2 disposition codes. Details of the final disposition codes is available: ***MR2_Survey_DocumentationOfPhoneDisposition_20251003***

- Variable crosswalk. A variable crosswalk (or concordance table) is available to facilitate longitudinal and cross-sample analysis of the survey variables. It lists the variables in all Survey project datasets (except MIDJA) and is ordered according to the variable sequence in the MIDUS 2 Survey project dataset. Further, it includes a field called "Comparability Notes" that describes differences that occur among versions of the same variable: ***MIDUS_Survey_ConcordanceTable_PublicRelease_20251006***

D. Other important information.

ID system. The MR2 dataset uses the MRID variable to identify individual respondents. This variable can be used to merge any MIDUS Refresher datasets derived from the Refresher sample.

Occupation variables. The University of Wisconsin Survey Center coded occupation variables using the 2018 Census occupation codes and 2018 SOC codes. These variables were derived from verbatim responses to a series of open-ended questions about respondent's (and/or spouse's) past and present work and employment. These constructed variables are released in lieu of the original open-ended data collected in the phone interview.

Online Data Portal. An interactive online data and metadata portal is available that includes concordance information and a variable crosswalk for the MIDUS survey variables. Custom MIDUS datasets can be downloaded, along with DDI codebooks (in both XML and PDF formats), from among all MIDUS projects. The searchable MIDUS portal also includes documentation and information from other MIDUS datasets and projects: **http://midus.colectica.org/**

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Please report any errors or inconsistencies you find in the data or documentation to
midus_help@aging.wisc.edu

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