**Documentation of Mortality Statistics and Cause of Death Codes
for MIDUS Refresher National and Milwaukee Samples**

June, 2022

This memo accompanies an updated mortality dataset containing 281 decedents from the MIDUS Refresher National and Milwaukee samples. In Spring 2022, all Refresher cases – regardless of prior decedent status – were submitted to the National Death Index (NDI) to find new decedents, confirm known decedents, and obtain cause of death information. Two NDI Plus[1] searches were performed: a Final Data Search for years 2011 through 2020; and an Early Release Data Search[2] for 2021, which contains approximately 95% of recorded U.S. deaths that occurred in 2021, according to NDI.

Information from 4,084 Refresher participants (3,577 National and 507 Milwaukee) with sufficient minimum matching criteria[3] were submitted to the NDI. Because some individuals are associated with multiple Social Security Number and/or multiple last names (e.g., hyphenated names), a total of 4,214 cases was submitted.

The updated dataset: MIDUS_Refresher_MortalityCauseData_N281_20220603.sav

The updated dataset adds 114 newly-identified decedents to the 167 decedents in the previous mortality dataset for a total of 281 decedent cases. These new decedents include those were found through processing of the Final (2011-2020) and Early Release (2021) NDI searches, as well as any cases found and confirmed during other contact with the Refresher sample or via the MIDUS Administrative Core's longitudinal sample maintenance efforts through early 2022. **Note that the decedent information through 2020 is considered "complete" due to the NDI Final Data search up to 2020, while any decedent data after 2020 is considered "close to complete" (for the deaths occurred in 2021, with identification of at least 95% of the decedents via the NDI Early Release search for 2021) or "partial" (for the deaths occurred in 2022)."**

This mortality dataset is a flat file containing 281 confirmed decedents and 7 variables that can be combined with or linked to other MIDUS Refresher datasets via the MRID variable. The focal variables are:

• DECEASED indicates decedent status.

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[1] Different from NDI Routine searches that only provide potential decedent matches, the NDI Plus search also provides the cause of death (ICD Codes).

[2] Death records for a particular calendar year will be available for NDI Routine searches when approximately 90+% of the year's death records have been received and processed, but no later than 6 months after the end of the calendar year.

[3] To be eligible for an NDI search, each record must contain at least one of the following combinations of data items: (a) First and last name and SSN, (b) First and last name and month and year of birth, or (c) SSN and full date of birth and sex.

• DOD_M and DOD_Y indicate the month and year of death.

• CAUSE_ICD10 contains the 10th revision of the ICD (International Classification of Diseases) codes (ICD–10) and are used by NDI Plus to classify deaths occurring in 1999 and afterwards.

▪ The ICD–10 code sets include approximately 72,000 procedures and 70,000 diagnoses. The complete ICD–10 coding manual as of FY 2019 is available from: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd/data/10cmguidelines-FY2019-final.pdf

▪ This variable contains underlying cause of death provided via the ICD–10 codes. The ICD–10 codes provided by the NDI Plus search have not been modified or changed in this dataset, but the MIDUS Administrative Core appended descriptive labels to each ICD–10 code using source material provided by NDI.

▪ Underlying cause of death is defined as "(a) the disease or injury which initiated the train of events leading directly to death, or (b) the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury" (World Health Organization; Manual of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death, based on the recommendations of the Ninth Revision Conference, 1975; Geneva; 1977). For more information about how NDI Plus provides cause of death information, see NDI user guide: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ndi/ndi_users_guide.pdf