



## **README file for Public Update MIDUS Refresher 1 (MR1) Project 1 (Survey) (April, 2025)**

**\*\*\* It is important to read through this document carefully \*\*\*  
\*\*\* prior to using the revised data and documentations. \*\*\***

This document outlines a number of revisions, improvements, and updates that have been made to the MIDUS Refresher 1 (MR1) survey (Project 1) data and documentation since its original publication at ICPSR in 2016.

Note: The revised data and documentations are intended to REPLACE all the files associated with previous releases of the MR1P1 data and documentations.

### **A. Changes to Datasets?**

- a. An updated MR1 survey dataset contains all responses to the Phone interview and Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ). It is a rectangular data file with 3,577 cases and 2,605 variables:  
*MR1\_P1\_SURVEY\_N3577\_20250407.sav*
- b. A supplementary dataset containing coded responses to text and open-ended questions from the CATI interview and SAQ instruments was also updated. (For details, see *MR1\_P1\_DocumentationOfCodedTextData\_20250331*).  
*MR1\_P1\_CodedTextData\_N3389\_20200124.sav*

### **B. Revisions in the Updated MR1 Datasets**

- a. The original weight variable MRCOMBWT was renamed to RA1WGHT. A series of new post-stratification weight variables (RA1PWGHT1 through RA1SWGHT8) for the Main RDD sample were added to this dataset. These weight variables coincide with the post-stratification weights created for the MIDUS Baseline (M1) sample. The MR1 weights use a transparent post-stratification scheme similar to that as M1, allowing both weighted datasets to be combined, compared, and analyzed.
- b. A new occupation variable (RA1PSOC) for respondent's current occupation was added. This new variable is based on Standard Occupation Classification system.

- c. A number of income/dollar variables were top-coded according to new standards that are being phased in across MIDUS survey datasets.
  - The following variables had ceilings set at \$300,000: RA1PAA2I1 RA1PAA2J1 RA1PAA2K1 RA1PAA2L2 RA1SH36 RA1SH45 RA1SH51 RA1SH55 RA1SH57 RA1SH61B RA1SH61C RA1SH61D;
  - The following variables had ceilings set at \$50,000: RA1SH21 RA1SH61E RA1SH61F RA1SH61G RA1SH61H RA1SH61I RA1SI13A RA1SI13B RA1SI13C RA1SI13D RA1SI13E RA1SI13F RA1SI13G RA1SI13H RA1SI14A RA1SI14B RA1SI14C RA1SI14D RA1SI14E RA1SI14F RA1SI14G;
  - The following variables had ceilings set at \$1,000,000: RA1SH29 RA1SH31 RA1SH33 RA1SH43 RA1SH61A;
  - The following variables had ceilings set at \$2,000,000: RA1SH47 RA1SH53;
  - The following variables had ceilings set at \$10,000,000: RA1SH42.
- d. Corrected variable name for RA1SIADL, changed to RA1SMADL (Intermediate Activity of Daily Living).
- e. Through MIDUS longitudinal sample maintenance process, small number of MR1 cases were identified who's age and/or birth year need to be updated. In this updated data file, the age (RA1PAGE) variable has been updated for 26 cases and birth year (RA1PBYEAR) variable has been updated for 22 cases.
- f. Reconstructed chronic condition variables RA1SCHRON and RA1SCHROX. For the inconsistent responses when R checked some conditions in items RA1SA11A to RA1SA11MM, and also check RA1S11NN (none of the above), we constructed number of conditions based on responses from RA1SA11A to RA1SA11MM.
- g. The variable labels and value labels for many MR1 variables have been updated in our effort to synchronizing the data across waves and to provide more descriptive information in labels.

### **C. Changes in Status of Cases**

- a. **New SAQ Data.** Two cases who previously did not have SAQ data now do. These cases returned their SAQs after MR1 original data release. Their MRIDs are: 30148 and 30780.
- b. **Cases removed from coded text data.** Five duplicated cases were removed. Their MRIDs are: 33897, 34286, 36155, 36867, and 39389.

### **D. Updated MR1 Documentation**

- a. Field report. A field report describes details about the MIDUS Refresher baseline sample and fielding:  
*MR1\_P1\_FieldReport\_20250319*

- b. Weights. Two documentations, one is the original technical report of sampling and weighting; the other one is for the newly created post-stratification weights.  
*MR1\_P1\_SamplingAndWeighting\_20250403*  
*MR1\_P1\_DocumentationOfPost-StratificationWeights\_20250409*
- c. Constructed scales. A variety of psycho-social scales and constructed variables are included in the dataset. These variables are comparable to the constructed scales in other MIDUS survey datasets and their construction and background are documented in the following file:  
*MR1\_P1\_DocumentationOfPsychosocialConstructsAndCompositeVariables\_20250404*
- d. Coded text. All open-ended verbatim responses to the MIDUS Refresher 1 phone and SAQ instruments were transformed into categorical numeric codes and are available in the separate dataset listed above. Documentation on the process for coding these text responses is available:  
*MR1\_P1\_DocumentationOfCodedTextData\_20250331*
- e. Naming and Coding Conventions. Variables have been named according to the MIDUS 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 data structure and metadata can be found in the conventions document:  
*MR1\_M3\_NamingAndCodingConventions\_20250409*

## **E. ID System**

Respondent ID. The MR1 dataset uses the MRID variable to identify individual respondents. This variable can be used to merge any MIDUS datasets derived from the Refresher sample datasets.

## **F. 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-related 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](mailto:midus_help@aging.wisc.edu)

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