MIDUS

Midlife in the United States

A National Study of Health & Well-Being

README file for Public Data Release
MIDUS 3 Project 1 (Survey)

This document outlines a number of revisions, improvements, and updates that have been made to the MIDUS 3 (M3) survey (Project 1) data and documentation since its original publication at ICPSR in 2015.

1. What data files are available?

a. An updated M3 survey dataset contains all responses to the Phone interview and Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ). It is a rectangular data file with 3,294 cases and 2,613 variables:
   M3_P1_SURVEY_N3294_20181219.sav

b. Two additional updated datasets accompany this release:
   M3_P1_CODED_TEXT_N3137_20180717 – this dataset contains coded open-ended text variables from the Phone and SAQ, updated to include the new SAQ data.
   M3_P1_DISPOSITION_CODES_N7108_20180928 – this dataset provides final disposition or outcome codes to the M3 survey's phone interview effort. Slight changes to the final name only have been made.

2. Changes to the Datasets

a. The primary change in the M3 dataset is additional SAQ data for 192 respondents. In early 2017 MIDUS undertook a re-fielding effort (called M3 Re-fielding or M3RE) to collect data from those M3 participants who failed to complete a SAQ during regular fielding in 2015. This effort was completed in early 2018 and the existing M3 dataset was updated with these new SAQ data.
   - The M3RE cases can be identified and/or filtered with the C1STATUS or M3RE_FILTER variables.
   - Note that a few SAQ variables needed to be updated because the M3RE data collection occurred 3-4 years after the original M3 fielding. The wording of some temporally-anchored questions about past employment status (SAQ Section F)

Page 1 of 3
X:\Administrative Database\DBS\MIDUS 3\Project 1\PublicRelease\Updates\January2019\M3_P1_README_20220531.docx

12/19/2018

required new variables to represent their slightly different response options. Thus there are separate versions of 21 variables for those M3RE respondents in this section of the dataset.
- The Coded Text data has also been updated with responses from the M3RE SAQ respondents.

b. A series of 10 post-stratification weight variables (C1PWGHT1 through C1PWGHT10) for the Main RDD sample were added to this dataset. These correspond to similar post-stratification weights that are included in the M2 P1 dataset.

c. A new occupation variable (C1PSOC) for respondent's current occupation was added. This new variable is based on Standard Occupation Classification system.

d. 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: C1PAA2I1 C1PAA2J1 C1PAA2K1 C1PAA2L2 C1PB16 C1PB40. This variable had a ceiling set at $50,000: C1SG21.

3. <u>What additional files are available?</u>

<u>Survey instruments.</u> The complete M3 phone and SAQ instruments are available.

<u>Documentation.</u> Additional documentation about the survey variables and administration:
- <u>UPDATED Field report.</u> A field report describes details about the M3 and new M3RE sample and fielding:
  M3_P1_FieldReport_20180417
- <u>UPDATED Constructed scales.</u> A variety of psycho-social scales and constructed variables are included in the dataset. These include data from the M3RE effort. These variables are comparable to M1 and M2 constructed scales and their construction and background are documented in the following file:
  M3_P1_DocumentationOfPsychosocialConstructsAndCompositeVariables_20181217
- <u>UPDATED Coded text documentation.</u> Documentation regarding the verbatim text coding that is updated to reflect the M3RE effort is available in this file:
  M3_P1_DocumentationOfCodedTextData_20180723
- <u>NEW Documentation of weights.</u> A new series of post-stratification weights has been included in the aggregate survey data. Details about the construction of these variables is available in this file:
  M3_P1_DocumentationOfWeights_20181219
- <u>Naming and Coding Conventions.</u> 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:
  MR_M3_NamingAndCodingConventions_20181217

- Details of the final M3 disposition codes is available here:
  M3_P1_DocumentationOfPhoneDisposition_20181217

4. <u>Other important information.</u>

<u>ID system.</u> The M3 dataset uses the M2ID variable to identify individual respondents. This variable can be used to merge any MIDUS datasets derived from the original longitudinal sample.

<u>Occupation and industry variables.</u> The University of Wisconsin Survey Center created Occupation and Industry code variables using the Census 2010 Alphabetic Index of Industry and Occupation. These variables were derived from verbatim responses to a series of open-ended questions about respondent's (or spouse's or parent'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.

<u>DDI Codebook.</u> M3 survey data codebooks that adhere to the Data Documentation Initiative metadata standard are available (in a variety of formats) on the MIDUS Portal (http://midus.colectica.org/). This Portal can also be used to access all the publicly-available MIDUS data and created customized data extracts using variables from across all MIDUS datasets.

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