

README file for MIDJA Survey Data (June 16, 2011)

***** It is important to read through this document
prior to using the data and documentation. *****

The purpose of this memo is to provide basic information about the MIDJA survey data and documentation that are publicly available via ICPSR.

A. What Data Files Are Available?

The MIDJA Survey dataset: *MIDJA_SURVEY_DATA_Public_01_6-13-11.sav*

B. What is the Structure of the MIDJA Survey Dataset?

The file is an SPSS (ver. 18) dataset comprised of survey data (self-administered questionnaire). The dataset has been initially cleaned, meaning that value ranges and skip patterns have been checked, and data entry errors corrected.

Variables have been named according to the MIDJA Short Variable Name (SVN) conventions. All variables include labels to aide interpretation. Value labels have been applied where appropriate. Discrete missing values have also been defined and the following labels applied: DON'T KNOW, REFUSED/MISSING, and INAPP. The following documents provide additional information about the data:

MIDJA Naming and Coding Conventions for Variables_6-30-09: Describes conventions for naming and coding variables.

MIDJA Survey Codebook: provides additional details about each variable (e.g. question text, notes, frequency distributions, etc.). The codebook was created according to DDI (Data Documentation Initiative) standards for linking data and metadata.

C. Instruments, Protocols, and Documentation Files

General Documents:

MIDJA Study Acknowledgement Text: Please include in all publications using data from the MIDJA study.

MIDJA Study Description: Project overview contains a description of the sample, and the data collection protocol along with information about sample selection and recruitment, and response rates.

Instruments:

The MIDJA Survey data were collected via a self-administered questionnaire (SAQ). The 45 page SAQ contains measures of:

- Physical and Mental Health (e.g. chronic conditions, medication use, positive and negative affect)
- Health Behaviors (smoking, alcohol)

- Work and Finances
- Psychosocial Factors (psychological wellbeing, sense of control, perceived stress etc.)
- Relationships with others (e.g. support received and given, interdependence & independence, social obligation).
- Demographic characteristics (e.g. gender, age, marital status, educational attainment)

Two versions of the SAQ are available:

MIDJA Survey – Japanese

MIDJA Survey – English

D. Additional Information

Constructed scales. Scale scores have been created for the psychosocial constructs assessed in the Self-Administered Questionnaire. In addition, other composite variables have been constructed (e.g. counts of conditions, use of prescription medications). These variables can be found at following the variables used to create the scale score or composite. Details about creating these variables can be found in:

Documentation of Scales and Constructed Variables

Other Issues. Most of the MIDJA items were taken from the MIDUS study. Some of these items were modified to accommodate cultural differences. The remaining items are unique to MIDJA. Information about these items and issues to be aware of in using these data (e.g. recoding, response or question text modifications) can be found in:

Readme MIDJA Data File Notes

E. Merging the MIDJA and MIDUS data

The MIDJA study was designed to facilitate comparisons of health and wellbeing among a Japan sample with health and wellbeing among a U.S. sample (i.e. MIDUS). The following documents can be used to identify variables of interest, create a merged data MIDJA-MIDUS dataset, and reformat variables as needed.

Guide to Merging the MIDJA and MIDUS Data: this file describes resources that can be used to identify variables of interest as well as tools for renaming/labeling variables into common formats. It also provides an overview of steps to take when merging data from the two studies.

MIDJA to MIDUS Survey Roadmap: this tabular file contains two columns of information, one for MIDJA and one for MIDUS. Each of these columns is subdivided to list question numbers, variable names and question text (in Japanese and English respectively) to help users identify variables of interest in the two data sets.

MIDUS data and documentation are publicly available at ICPSR (Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research) in the National Archive of Computerized Data on Aging (NACDA) at: <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NACDA/studies?archive=NACDA&q=MIDUS>