README file for Preliminary Data Release
MIDUS Milwaukee Refresher Project 1 (Ages 25-64)
2/1/2017

The purpose of this memo is to provide basic information about the public release of the MIDUS Milwaukee Refresher Project 1 dataset and documentation being made available through ICPSR.

A. What Data Files Are Available?
The MIDUS Milwaukee Refresher dataset for public release is called:
MR_MKE_AGGREGATE DATA_N508_20160914.sav

A supplementary dataset contains coded responses to open-ended and text data from the Interview and SAQ instruments:
MR_MKE_P1_CODED TEXT DATA_N482_20160913.sav

B. What is the Structure of the MIDUS Milwaukee Refresher Datasets?
The survey data are contained in a rectangular SPSS dataset (SAS and Stata versions are also available) with 508 cases and 2,454 variables from the in-person interview and self-administered questionnaire (SAQ). Variables have been named according to the Refresher 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 and value labels can be found in the naming conventions document.
MR_M3_Naming and Coding Conventions_ChangesAccepted_20170103.docx

The text dataset includes 482 cases (those whose data contained text responses) and 138 variables. Details about the procedures and coding of the text dataset can be found here:
MR_MKE_P1_Documentation of Coded Text Data_20160825.docx

C. Other important information
Codebook. A DDI-created codebook of the survey data is available at ICPSR and included in the MIDUS Portal (http://midus.colectica.org).

Field Report. A complete report about the fielding of the Survey and Cognitive data collection projects conducted by the University of Wisconsin Survey Center is available. It contains information on procedures, dates, and response rates.

IDs. A respondent identification system called MRID is contained in the MIDUS Milwaukee Refresher data. This ID system can link all publicly-available MIDUS Refresher datasets at the case level.

Other MIDUS project data. Respondents to the Milwaukee Refresher survey also had the opportunity to participate in other MIDUS Refresher data collection projects (Cognitive, Daily Diary, Biomarker, and Neuroscience). These data will eventually be available via ICPSR and the MIDUS Portal. The MIDUS Refresher datasets can all be linked via MRID variable.

Age. Participant age ranged from 25 to 64 and was calculated by subtracting birthdate from the

date of the interview and rounding the result down (age at last birthday).

Constructed scales. A variety of psycho-social scales and constructed variables are included in the dataset. These variables are documented in the following file:
MR_MKE_P1_Documentation of Psychosocial Constructs and Composite Variables_20140609.docx

Roster variables. Original household roster variables in the phone dataset have been transposed so that each individual in the household is represented in the aggregate dataset by a series of variables instead of being indexed by a single variable. There are 18 series of these variables (corresponding to each of 18 potential household members).

Occupation and industry variables. The University of Wisconsin Survey Center created coded Occupation and Industry variables using the Census 2010 Alphabetic Index of Industry and Occupation. These codes were derived from verbatim responses to a series of open-ended questions about respondent's career(s). These constructed variables replace the original occupation measures administered in the phone interview.

Variable crosswalk. A variable crosswalk spreadsheet is available to facilitate longitudinal and cross-cohort analysis of the survey variables. It lists the variables in all Project 1 datasets (except MIDJA) and is ordered according to the variable sequence in the M2P1 dataset. Further, it includes a field called "Comparability Notes" that describes any differences that occur among versions of the same variable.
MIDUS_P1_ConcordanceTable_PublicRelease_20170103.xlsx

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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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