



README file for Public Release

MIDUS Refresher 2 Milwaukee (MKER2) Survey Data

(October, 2025)

The purpose of this memo is to provide basic information about the public release of the MIDUS Milwaukee Refresher 2 Survey Project dataset and documentation being made available through ICPSR.

A. What Data Files Are Available?

The MIDUS Milwaukee Refresher 2 dataset for public release is called:

MR2_MKE_SURVEY_N327_20250925.sav

B. What is the Structure of the MIDUS Milwaukee Refresher Datasets?

The survey data are contained in a rectangular SPSS dataset with 327 cases and 2,335 variables from the in-person interview and self-administered questionnaire (SAQ). 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 variable naming and value labels can be found in the naming conventions document.

MR2_NamingAndCodingConventions_20250827.pdf

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.

MR2_MKE_FieldReport_Full_20250923.pdf

IDs. A respondent identification system called MRID is contained in the MIDUS Milwaukee Refresher 2 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 2 survey also had the opportunity to participate in other MIDUS Refresher 2 data collection projects (Cognitive, Daily Diary, Biomarker, and Neuroscience). These data will eventually be available via ICPSR and the MIDUS Portal. The MIDUS Refresher 2 datasets can all be linked via MRID variable.

Constructed scales. A variety of psycho-social scales and constructed variables are included in the dataset. These variables are documented in the following file:

MR2_MKE_P1_Documentation of Psychosocial Constructs and Composite Variables_20250819.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 12 series of these variables (corresponding to each of 12 potential household members).

Occupation variables. The University of Wisconsin Survey Center created coded Occupation variables using the 2018 Census occupation codes and 2018 SOC codes. These codes were derived from verbatim responses to a series of open-ended questions about respondent's (or spouse's) career(s). These constructed variables replace the original occupation measures administered in the phone interview.

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