**README file for Public Data Release**
**MIDUS Refresher (MR) Project 1**
**May, 2016**

The purpose of this README is to provide basic information about the public release of the MIDUS Refresher Project 1 (Survey) dataset and documentation being made available via ICPSR. Note that the names assigned by ICPSR to MR files may differ from those referred to in this document.

**A.  What data files are available?**
The MIDUS Refresher (SPSS) dataset is called:
>    *MR_P1_AGGREGATE_N3577_20160616*
>    *MR_P1_CodedTextData_N3394_20160321*


**B.  What is the structure of the MIDUS Refresher Project 1 Dataset?**
This is a rectangular SPSS dataset with 3,577 cases and 2,588 variables from the phone and self-administered questionnaires (SAQs). Variables have been named according to the MIDUS 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, value labels, and data formatting can be found in the conventions document.
>    *MR_M3_NamingAndCodingConventions_20160330*

**C. What additional files are available?**

Survey instruments. The complete Refresher phone and SAQ instruments are available:
>     *MR_P1_PhoneInstrument_20160114*
>    *MR_P1_SAQ1and2_20160519*

Documentation. Additional documentation about the survey variables and administration can be found in the following documents:

* Field Report. The University of Wisconsin Survey Center created a detailed report about recruiting the MR sample and fielding the phone and SAQ instruments:
  *MR_P1_FieldReport_20150219*

* Age. The procedure for calculating participant age is described in the following file:
  *MR_P1_DocumentationOfAge_20150217*

* Weights. A weight variable (MRCOMBWT) is included in this dataset and was created using a combination of sample-design and post-stratification weights. A detailed description of the MR sampling plan and the creation of the weight variable is available:
  *MR_P1_SamplingAndWeighting_20160616*

- Constructed scales. A variety of psycho-social scales and constructed variables are included in the dataset. These variables are comparable to M1 and M2 constructed scales and their construction and background are documented in the following file: *MR_P1_DocumentationOfPsychosocialConstructsAndCompositeVariables_20150212*

- Variable crosswalk. A variable crosswalk (or concordance table) is available to facilitate longitudinal and cross-sample 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 differences that occur among versions of the same variable: *MIDUS_P1_ConcordanceTable_PublicReleaseData_20150512*

- Coded text. All open-ended verbatim responses to the MIDUS Refresher 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: *MR_P1_DocumentationOfCodedTextData_20160323*

### D. Other important information.

ID system. A 5-digit respondent identification variable (MRID) has been created for MIDUS Refresher cases. This ID system is implemented to help maintain confidentiality of respondents and will be used throughout the publicly available MIDUS Refresher datasets.

Occupation and industry variables. 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 parents') past and present work and employment. These constructed variables are released in lieu of the original open-ended data collected in the phone interview.

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/*