



README file for Public Update MIDUS 3 Survey Project (November 2025)

*** It is important to read through this document carefully ***
*** prior to using the revised data and documentations. ***

This document outlines a number of revisions, improvements, and updates that have been made to the MIDUS 3 (M3) Survey (Project 1) data and documentations since their last publication at ICPSR in 2019.

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_20251029.sav
- b. Two additional updated datasets accompany this release:
M3_P1_CodedTextData_N3120_20210923 – 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_20210706 – 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. Revisions in the updated Datasets

- a. The post-stratification weight variables (C1PWGHT1 through C1PWGHT10) for the Main RDD sample were re-constructed, make them correspond to the MIDUS 2 post-stratification weights. We used 3 categories for education instead of 4, regional location and race variables have also been updated.
- b. Twenty cases who previously did not have SAQ data now do. These individuals participated in Biomarker Project at UW-Madison and were asked to complete the Survey Project Re-fielding (or M3RE) SAQs at that time. The affected individual’s M2ID are: 10225, 10751, 10857, 10957, 11016, 11254, 12032, 12129, 12708, 13132, 14179, 14133, 14341, 14621, 14949, 16764, 17155, 17721, 17835, and 18941.
- c. Corrected variable name for C1SIADL, changed to C1SMADL (Intermediate Activity of

Daily Living).

- d. Reconstructed chronic condition variables C1SCHRON and C1SCHROX. For the inconsistent responses when R checked some conditions for items C1SA11A to C1SA11MM and also check C1S11NN (none of the above), we reconstructed total number of conditions variables based on responses from C1SA11A to C1SA11MM.
- e. The variable labels and value labels for many M3 variables have been updated in our effort to synchronize the data across waves and to provide more descriptive information in labels.

3. What additional files are available?

Survey Instruments. The complete M3 Phone and SAQ instruments are available:

M3_P1_PhoneInstrument_20150423

M3_P1_SAQs_20150608

Documentations. Additional documentations about the survey variables and administration:

- UPDATED Field Report. A field report describes details about the M3 and new M3RE sample and fielding:
M3_P1_FieldReport_20220531
- UPDATED Constructed Scales. A variety of psycho-social scales and constructed variables are included in the dataset. These include data from newly added SAQs. These variables are comparable to the constructed scales in other MIDUS survey datasets and their construction and background are documented in the following file:
M3_P1_DocumentationOfPsychosocialConstructsAndCompositeVariables_20251031
- UPDATED Coded Text Documentation. Documentation regarding the verbatim text coding that is updated to reflect the M3RE effort is available in this file:
M3_P1_DocumentationOfCodedTextData_20251030
- NEW Documentation of Weights. A new series of post-stratification weights has been included in the aggregate survey data. Details about the construction of these variables are available in this file:
M3_P1_DocumentationOfWeights_20251030
- Naming and Coding Conventions. 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:
MR1_M3_NamingAndCodingConventions_20251030
- Disposition Codes. Details of the final M3 disposition codes are available here:
M3_P1_DocumentationOfPhoneDisposition_20251030

4. ID System

Respondent ID. The MKE2 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.

5. 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 documentations and information from other MIDUS datasets and projects:

<http://midus.colectica.org/>

Please report any errors or inconsistencies you find in the data or documentation to

midus_help@aging.wisc.edu
