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National Survey of Midlife Development in the United States (MIDUS), 1995-1996

Readme

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README file for MIDUS 1 Data (2011Release)

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

A number of revisions have been made to the MIDUS 1 data. This document outlines the revisions, deletions, and additions that have been made since the original release of the MIDUS 1 data.

Note: The revised data and documentation are intended to REPLACE all the files associated with previous releases of the MIDUS 1 data and documentation.

1. Organization of the Data

The original release of MIDUS 1 data had three separate data files for the Main RDD sample, Sibling sample, and Twin sample. This release combined all samples into one dataset. The three original subsamples can be identified using a new variable called SAMPLMAJ.

The data is still provided in one rectangular file. However, it has been reorganized in the following manner:

a. The 'Introduction Section' at the beginning of the file includes a few more demographic variables, along with the probability of selection variables, and survey completion variables.

b. All constructed variables and scale scores have been placed in the data immediately following the variables from which they were created.

c. The occupational characteristics variables (attached from the Hauser & Warren and Kilbourne & England files) have been placed in the data immediately following the variables with which they are associated. In addition, they have been positioned to correspond to the survey ordering of the person with whom they are associated (respondent, spouse, father, mother).

2. Changes in Status of Cases

a. At Time 2, the MIDUS CORE found two individuals who were not represented in the original MIDUS 1 data. These two cases are classified as Main respondents. The result is that the updated M1 Main data has two additional respondents (n=4,244).

b. CORE found a case in which the respondent was represented in the M1 data twice. This respondent somehow completed M1 twice, once as a Main respondent, and once (erroneously) as a Sibling. At Time 2, this respondent provided complete data only once. We decided to remove her "Sibling" response data from M1. The result is that the updated M1 Sibling data has one less respondent (n=950).

c. In the original release of the Twin data, 82 cases were missing all MIDUS Phone Interview and Mail Questionnaire data. These data have not been recovered and their cases have been removed from the study. The result is that the Twin data have 82 fewer respondents (n=1,914).

3. **Variables Revised in the Updated Version**

M2ID [MIDUS 2 ID number] – This is a new ID system that allows for the Time 1 data to be combined with the Time 2 data.

M2FAMNUM [MIDUS 2 Family number] – This is a number unique to each family. Respondents without other family members represented in the data also have their own unique Family number.

A1PAGE_M2 [M1 age computed by subtracting Date of Birth from M1 interview date] – Time 1 age was recomputed using updated information obtained at Time 2. See "M1M2_P1_Documentation of Age_11-02-06" for details.

A1PBAG1 thru A1PBAG10 [Age of Biological Child 1 thru Age of Biological Child 10] - Data were inaccurate in the Sibling data due to using the wrong year (1995) to calculate the ages. This has been corrected in the updated data using 1996.

A1PBAO1 thru A1PBAO10 [Age of Non-Biological Child 1 thru Age of Non-Biological Child 10] **-** Data were inaccurate in the Sibling data due to using the wrong year (1995) to calculate the ages. This has been corrected in the updated data using 1996.

A1PCHILD1 thru A1PCHILD18 [Number of Children in HH age 1 thru Number of Children in HH age 18] - Data were inaccurate in the Sibling data due to using the wrong year (1995) to calculate the ages. This has been corrected in the updated data using 1996.

A1PC06 [Any Children Aged 0-6] - Data were inaccurate in the Sibling data due to using the wrong year (1995) to calculate the ages. This has been corrected in the updated data using 1996. Also, original variable did not include children under age 1; reconstructed to include infants (A1PCHILD0) - equals the sum of children age 0 through 6.

A1PC713 [Any Children Aged 7-13] - Data were inaccurate in the Sibling data due to using the wrong year (1995) to calculate the ages. This has been corrected in the updated data using 1996.

A1PC1417 [Any Children Aged 14-17] - Data were inaccurate in the Sibling data due to using the wrong year (1995) to calculate the ages. This has been corrected in the updated data using 1996.

A1PC18 [Any Children Under 18] - - Data were inaccurate in the Sibling data due to using the wrong year (1995) to calculate the ages. This has been corrected in the updated data using 1996.

Also, original variable did not include children under age 1; reconstructed to include infants (A1PCHILD0) - equals the sum of children age 0 through 17.

A1PC3A5 [Reason Father/Male HH Did Not Work - Other] - this variable was originally A1PC3A10; it was renamed after the removal of A1PC3A5 through A1PC3A9, to restore the integrity of the survey order.

A1PC9A5 [Reason Mother/Female HH Did Not Work - Other] - this variable was originally A1PC9A10; it was renamed after the removal of A1PC9A5 through A1PC9A9, to restore the integrity of the survey order.

A1SRXMED [Prescription Medicine Taken Last 30 Days] - constructed from SA10 (a-k) - the original SAS code included the system-missing and missing cases as '0', indicating they are not taking prescription medicines; A1SRXMED has been reconstructed, excluding the system-missing and the missing cases.

A1SVITAM [Vitamin and Mineral Scale] - constructed from SA11 (a-d) - the original SAS code included the system-missing and the missing cases as '0', indicating they are not taking vitamins; A1SVITAM has been reconstructed, excluding the system-missing and the missing cases.

A1SBMI [Body Mass Index] - constructed from SA25 and SA27 - the original variable had some cases with BMI calculated that did not have HEIGHT reported in SA25; A1SBMI has been recalculated to exclude any cases that did not have both WEIGHT and HEIGHT.

A1SALTER [Alternative Medicines Used] - constructed from SA39 (a-p) - the original SAS code included the system-missing and the missing cases as '0', indicating they are not using alternative therapies; A1SALTER has been reconstructed, excluding the system-missing and the missing cases.

A1SCONST [Perceived Constraints] - constructed from SF1 (s, t, v, w, y, aa, bb, cc) - there was an error in the original SAS code, resulting in wrong system-missing cases for this variable; the code has been rewritten, and the variable reconstructed.

A1SKINPO [Extended Family Positive Scale] - scale was originally constructed by reverse coding and then calculating the mean of items SM1-SM5; However, SM1 is not conceptually the same as SM2 through SM5. For example, some respondents reported having very frequent contact with family (SM1), but, report little or no understanding, help, etc. from them. Thus, for these individuals, the A1SKINPO score is inflated. Also, the Likert scaling is different for SM1 than SM2 through SM5, which prohibits the use of a mean across the five items. This scale was reconstructed using only items SM2-SM5. (Note: This is consistent with the construction of A1SFDSPO [Friends Positive Scale] - constructed using only the four parallel items.)

A1SK12a thru A1SK12e [Providing Unpaid Assistance] - these variables were mislabeled in the original data; all labels have been corrected.

A1SK13a thru A1SK13f [Receiving Unpaid Assistance] - these variables were mislabeled in the original data; all labels have been corrected.

A1SJ8 thru A1SHHTOT [Income] – Two revisions were applied to the series of income questions: 1) All imputed values were removed from these variables; and 2) Errors in assigning midpoint values toward the upper range of the distributions have been corrected and all income amounts have been recomputed.

A1SE1A A1SE1B A1SE1C - Respondents actual birthdate has been removed. Birth year (**A1PBYEAR**) and age (**A1PAGE_M2**) at the time of M1 interview are still available.

A1PIDATE – Interview date has been removed; interview month (**A1PI_MO**) and year (**A1PI_YR**)have been added in accordance with time/date reporting conventions.

4. Variables Added in the Updated Version

A1STATUS [Status of Survey Completion] - variable that designates whether the respondent completed both the phone interview and the mail questionnaire, or only the phone interview

TOT_SIBS [Total Siblings including Main Respondent] - this variable is from the 'FOCALSIB' data set. It identifies the total number of siblings interviewed within a family, including the Main respondent.

CHILD0 [Number of Children in Household age 0] - variable that adds up the number of biological and non-biological children that are age 0 (less than 1 year old).

DISCRIM [Discrimination-Dichotomous SS13-SS14] - indicates whether the respondent reported any discrimination in questions SS13a-k or SS14a-i. Purpose of variable: Can be used as a flag - because not all respondents followed the skip pattern after question SS14 which told them to skip SS15 through SS17 if they had not experienced any discrimination.

The following constructed scales have been added to the M1 dataset. Detailed documentation can be found in *M1 Documentation of Scales and Constructed Variables*.

A1SCHROX [having any chronic conditions]
A1SCTRL [sense of control (mastery + constraints)]
A1SPOSWF [positive work to family spillover]
A1SNEGWF [negative work to family spillover]
A1SPOSFW [positive family to work spillover]
A1SNEGFW [negative family to work spillover]
A1SJCDA [decision authority (job characteristics)]
A1SJCDS [demands scale (job characteristics)]
A1SJCCS [coworker support (job characteristics)]
A1SJCSS [supervisor support (job characteristics)]
A1SGENER [loyola generativity scale]
A1SFAMSO [family affectual solidarity]

A1SFDSOL [friendship affectual solidarity]
A1SSPDIS [spouse/partner disagreement]
A1SSPSOL [spouse affectual solidarity]
A1SSPDEC [spouse/partner joint decision making]

5. Coding Changes

The following changes in coding have been made in the data and the codebook:

a. All responses of "No" that were originally coded '5' are now coded '2'

$$\begin{array}{lll}
\text{Original:} & \text{Yes} = 1 & \text{Yes} = 1 \\
& \text{No} = 5 & \text{No} = 0 \\
\\
\text{Revised:} & \text{Yes} = 1 & \\
& \text{No} = 2 &
\end{array}$$

b. Recoding of System-Missing Data - In the original data, when respondents were inapplicable for questions, (due to skip patterns) they were coded as system-missing. In the revised data, these type of system-missing data are coded as 9's for "Inapplicable", and the codebook identifies the reason for the respondent being inapplicable.

c. General Coding Scheme - The revised data and codebooks use the following coding:

$$\begin{array}{l}
7 = \text{Don't Know} \\
8 = \text{Refused/Missing} \\
9 = \text{Inapplicable}
\end{array}$$

6. Additional Notations Regarding Updated Data

It is important to note that in the original Telephone Interview, Section E was positioned before Section C. To maintain the integrity of the original survey flow, the survey, data, and documentation have been kept in this order. In addition, scattered throughout the survey, some of the items were positioned out of order, numerically. In these instances also, the survey, data, and documentation have been kept in their original order.

The following list identifies survey questions for which there were no corresponding variables in the original data:

- QA17 (type of heart procedure and relation)
- QA35 (type of treatment for high blood pressure)
- SS11a (country of citizenship)

7. <u>Additional MIDUS 1 Documentation</u>

a. **M1_Index of Scales & Constructed Variables** - This document provides information on the constructed variables in MIDUS 1. The original document has been reorganized to reflect the new order of the variables in the data. A table of contents has been added as a guide, including an alphabetized listing of the constructed variables. Notation has been added where errors were detected in the original SAS code. In some instances, additional text has been incorporated into the "Explanation" section to more fully describe the construction of the scale.

b. **M1_Documentation of Scales & Constructed Variables** - This document provides additional information on a number of psychosocial scales. Most of the scales presented in this document are present in the data. Some, however, are scales that have been constructed by users of the data. For each scale, items used to construct the scale, coding, and methods of scale construction are described. Information regarding psychometric properties, source articles, published studies that use the scale, and other important notes are also included.

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