

ICPSR 2760

Midlife in the United States (MIDUS 1), 1995-1996

Occupational Variables

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Midlife in the United States (MIDUS 1), 1995-1996

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OCCUPATIONAL VARIABLES

A series of occupational variables have been attached to each record in the MIDUS I data. These variables include SEI and DOT scores which pertain to one's occupation, and are based on the three-digit 1980 Census occupational codes. A brief description and the sources of these scores are outlined below.

A. Occupational Status Data - In the MIDUS I data, these variables range from *_TSEI80 to *_MEDUC. These data are based on the following:

* TOT_EDUC	Started logit of proportion of individuals in the employed civilian labor force who had completed at least some college as of 1990. This variable represents "occupational-education," an indicator devised by Hauser and Warren (1996). It is similar to a standard occupational status score, such as the Duncan SEI, yet breaks occupational status down into an educational component and an income component.
* TOT_EARN	Started logit of proportion of individuals in the employed civilian labor force who earned \$14.30 or more per hour in 1989. This variable represents "occupational-income," an indicator devised by Hauser and Warren (1996). It is similar to a standard occupational status score, such as the Duncan SEI, yet breaks occupational status down into an educational component and an income component.
* TSEI	Total-Based SEI Score
* MEN_EDUC	Started logit of proportion of men in the employed civilian labor force who had completed at least some college as of 1990
* MEN_EARN	Started logit of proportion of men in the employed civilian labor force who earned \$14.30 or more per hour in 1989
* MSEI	Male-Based SEI Score
* FEM_EDUC	Started logit of proportion of women in the employed civilian labor force who had completed at least some college as of 1990
* FEM_EARN	Started logit of proportion of women in the employed civilian labor force who earned \$14.30 or more per hour in 1989
* FSEI	Female-Based SEI Score

Note: $STARTED\ LOGIT = \ln((PROPORTION+.01)/(1-PROPORTION+.01))$.

For details concerning the design, construction, and external validation of these scores, please refer to:

Hauser, Robert M. and John Robert Warren. 1996. "Socioeconomic indexes for occupations : a review, update and critique." Working Paper #96-01. Center for Demography and Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Copies may be obtained from:
Center for Demography and Ecology
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Copies are also available online at <http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/cde/>

B. Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT) Codes

These DOT code data were created by Barbara Kilbourne and Paula England. They include variables that link SEI and DOT codes with job characteristics. In the MIDUS I data, these variables range from *_ABSCRE to *_WOMEN.

Summary

This collection provides average scores on selected variables from the dictionary of Occupational Titles for 1980 Census occupational categories. The dataset was prepared using a sample of individuals from the 1970 Census whose occupations had been coded with both 1970 and 1980 Census detailed occupational codes. This file, known as the Treiman file, was merged with selected variables from the FOURTH EDITION DICTIONARY OF OCCUPATIONAL TITLES, using 1970 occupational categories as the merge variable. A score on each Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT) variable was then computed for each 1980 occupational category. Included among the DOT variables were such characteristics as (1) level of complexity at which the worker functions in terms of data, people, and things, (2) training required to do the job, (3) verbal, numerical, spatial, and other aptitudes needed to perform the job, (4) percent of workers in the job with a preference for a specific type of job activity such as abstract and creative activity or activity requiring business contact with people, (5) temperamental attributes such as adaptability to performing under stress and adaptability to performing repetitive work, (6) physical demands of the job, and (7) environmental conditions under which the work is performed. Measures of mean hourly and annual earnings for both men and women in each occupation and number of men and women in each occupation also are included.

For more Information, please see the document:
"Occupational Measures from the Dictionary of Occupational Titles for 1980 Census Detailed Occupations" by Paul England and Barbara Kilbourne, ICPSR Study No. 8942.

Available online at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/index-medium.html>