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Midlife in the United States (MIDUS 2), 2004-2006

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Descriptions of MIDUS Samples

The purpose of this document is to explain the selection, composition, and response rates of each of the MIDUS samples (the baseline M1 sample, the longitudinal M2 sample, and the city-specific Milwaukee sample, also generated at Time 2). Each is described separately below. Detailed field reports about each sample are also available at ICPSR (http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/).

MIDUS 1

The first wave of the MIDUS study collected survey data from a total of 7,108 participants. The baseline sample was comprised of individuals from four subsamples: (1) a national RDD (random digit dialing) sample (n=3,487); (2) oversamples from five metropolitan areas in the U.S. (n=757); (3) siblings of individuals from the RDD sample (n=950); and (4) a national RDD sample of twin pairs (n=1,914). All eligible participants were non-institutionalized, English-speaking adults in the coterminous United States, aged 25 to 74. Data from the above samples were collected primarily in 1995/96.

The main RDD sample was selected from working telephone banks. For each household contacted, a list was generated of all people between 25 and 74 years old, and a random respondent was selected. Oversampling of older people and of men was achieved by varying the probability of carrying out the interview as a joint function of the age and sex of the randomly selected respondent. No other person in the household was selected if the selected respondent did not complete the interview. Oversampling of the five metropolitan oversamples was carried out in the same manner. These oversamples were chosen to advance targeted research agendas.

Of the RDD respondents who reported having one or more siblings, 529 people were randomly selected. Only siblings within a family that had the same biological mother and father were considered eligible. Using this method, 1,480 siblings were identified as eligible. Complete telephone interviews were obtained for 950 of these individuals, some of whom came from the same family.

Twin-pairs were recruited in a two-part sampling design. The first part of the twin sample design involved screening a representative national sample of approximately 50,000 households for the presence of a twin. This was done as part of ongoing national omnibus surveys. The 14.8% of respondents who reported the presence of a twin in the family were then asked whether it would be acceptable for the research team to contact the twins

to solicit their participation in the survey. The 60% of the respondents who gave such permission were then referred to the MIDUS recruitment process.

All respondents were invited to participate in a phone interview of approximately 30 minutes in length and to complete 2 self-administered questionnaires (SAQs), each of approximately 45 pages in length. In addition, the twin subsample was administered a short screening survey to assess zygosity and other twin-specific information.

Sample sizes, response rates, and select socio-demographic characteristics of the MIDUS 1 samples are provided below.

Table 1 below provides response rates for the various aspects of participation across the above samples.

Table 1. Sample Sizes and Response Rates for MIDUS 1.

Sample	# of Phone Respondents	Phone Response Rates	# of SAQ Respondents	SAQ Response Rates
- Main RDD	3,487	70%	3,034	87%
- City Oversamples	757	*	658	87%
- Sibling	950	64%	869	81%
- Twin	1,914	60%	1,764	92%
- *Full sample*	*7,108*	*	*6,329*	*89%*

* Response rates for the city oversamples were not provided in the original MIDUS I Technical Report. As such, overall response rates cannot be calculated.

Table 2 below provides a summary of select demographic characteristics (gender, age, education) for the original MIDUS I samples.

Table 2. Demographic Characteristics of the MIDUS 1 Samples.

	Gender	Age*		Education			
	Male	Range	Mean(SD)	Less than 12 yrs	12 yrs	13 to 15 yrs	16 + yrs
Main RDD	49%	24 – 74	46 (13.2)	11%	29%	31%	29%
City Oversamples	57%	24 – 74	46 (13.9)	5%	24%	26%	45%
Sibling	44%	24 – 75	49 (12.6)	7%	27%	32%	35%
Twin	45%	25 – 75	45 (12.0)	11%	32%	31%	27%
Full sample	*48%*	*24 – 75*	*46 (13.0)*	*10%*	*29%*	*30%*	*31%*

*Values provided exclude 10 cases lacking complete information on age.

The MIDUS dataset has two types of biological dependencies in the data – those existing among main sample respondents and their siblings, and those existing among twins. Table 3 shows the distribution of the Main RDD, Sibling and Twin samples based on the number of family members that are present in the MIDUS 1 dataset. For instance, of those MIDUS participants with only one family member represented, there are 2,958 main RDD respondents, while there are no siblings and 61 twins (these are twins for whom no data are available on their twin sibling) in this category. Likewise, there are only four families containing seven members (4 main RDD respondents and 24 siblings, summing to 28).

Table 3. Distribution of related participants at MIDUS 1.

# of family members in M1 data	Total # of individual cases		
	Main RDD	Sibling	Twin
1	2,958	0	61
2	272	272	1,726
3	146	292	9
4	75	225	100
5	23	92	0
6	9	45	18
7	4	24	0
Total	3,487	950	1,914

MIDUS 2

A longitudinal follow-up of the original MIDUS study was conducted in 2004/06. Every attempt was made to contact all original respondents and invite them to participate in a second wave of data collection. Monetary incentives were used to maximize participation and respondents who completed all phases of data collection received $60. (MIDUS 1 participants received $20 for completing data collection.)

Of the 7,108 participants in MIDUS 1, 4,963 were successfully contacted to participate in another phone interview of about 30 minutes in length. The average longitudinal follow-up interval was approximately 9 years and ranged from 7.8 to 10.4 years. The longitudinal retention rates and response rates (which are adjusted for respondent mortality) for the various MIDUS samples are provided in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Sample Sizes, Longitudinal Retention Rates, and Response Rates for MIDUS 2.

Phone Interview Sample	# of MIDUS 1 Respondents	# of MIDUS 2 Respondents	Longitudinal Retention Rates	Response Rates (adjusted for mortality)
- Main RDD	3,487	2,257	65%	71%
- City Oversamples	757	489	65%	71%
- Sibling	950	733	77%	83%
- Twin**	1,914	1,484	78%	82%
- *Full Sample*	*7,108**	*4,963*	*70%*	*75%*

*UWSC fielded 7,105 cases at MIDUS 2 because contact information was unavailable for 3 cases.
 **Approximately 85% of the twin sample participated at MIDUS 2 with their twin pair intact.

MIDUS 2 also included two self-administered questionnaires (SAQs), each of about 55 pages in length, which were mailed to participants, and when completed, returned by mail. Response rates for completion of the MIDUS 2 SAQs, across the above samples, are summarized in Table 5 below.

Table 5. Completion Rates for the MIDUS 2 SAQs.

Sample	# of Complete SAQs	Completion Rates (% of Phone Participants)
- Main RDD	1,805	80%
- City Oversamples	386	79%
- Sibling	637	87%
- Twin	1,204	81%
- *Full Sample*	*4,032*	*81%*

A third aspect of data collection in MIDUS 2 involved a cognitive battery, which was completed via a second telephone interview of approximately 20 minutes in length. Response rates for completion of the cognitive battery across the above samples are provided in Table 6 below.

Table 6. Participation Rates for the MIDUS 2 Cognitive Battery.

Sample	# of Complete Cognitive Batteries	Completion Rates (% of Phone Participants)*
- Main RDD	1,846	83%
- City Oversamples	417	87%
- Sibling	661	91%
- Twin	1,262	86%
- *Full Sample*	*4,186*	*86%*

* Completion rates do not include 71 cases who, after completing the telephone interview, indicated they did not wish to participate in future MIDUS research.

With regard to socio-demographic characteristics, the gender of MIDUS 2 participants who completed the telephone interview was 47% male and 53% female. Age ranged from 32 to 84 with a mean of 55. More than 67% had more than a high school education, while 27% had a high-school degree or equivalent, and 6% had less than a high school education. This information was quite comparable across the MIDUS 2 subsamples, as detailed in Table 7 below.

Table 7. Demographic Characteristics of the MIDUS 2 Samples.

	Gender	Age		Education			
	Male	Range	Mean (SD)	Less than 12 yrs	12 yrs	13 to 15 yrs	16 + yrs
Main RDD	48%	34 – 84	56 (12.7)	7%	27%	30%	36%
City Oversamples	55%	34 – 84	56 (13.2)	3%	20%	25%	52%
Sibling	43%	32 – 83	57 (12.2)	4%	26%	32%	38%
Twin	45%	34 – 84	54 (11.6)	6%	30%	31%	33%
Full sample	*47%*	*32 – 84*	*55 (12.4)*	*6%*	*27%*	*30%*	*37%*

Table 8 presents the final disposition codes for the full longitudinal sample and the four sub-samples. Among the 30% of respondents who did not complete the MIDUS 2 phone interview, the top two reasons for non-response were Refusals and Non-working Numbers. Lower percentages of the sample were deceased, or unable to participate for health or other related reasons. Deceased cases were confirmed by linking to the National Death Index for the years 2004 through 2006.

Table 8. Final Sample Disposition Codes for MIDUS 2 Phone Survey.

	Complete	Deceased	Refusal	Unable to participate	Non-working number	Total #
Main RDD	65%	7%	13%	3%	12%	3487
City Oversamples	65%	7%	13%	3%	12%	757
Sibling	77%	4%	9%	3%	7%	950
Twin	78%	4%	9%	2%	7%	1914
Full sample	70%	6%	12%	3%	10%	7108

Further details are available in an extensive Field Report prepared by the University of Wisconsin Survey Center.

With regard to biological dependencies in the MIDUS 2 data, Table 9 shows the distribution of the Main RDD, Sibling and Twin samples based on the number of family members present.

Table 9. Distribution of related participants at MIDUS 2.

# of family members in M2 data	Total # of individual cases		
	Main RDD	Sibling	Twin
1	1,793	0	27
2	239	202	1,363
3	128	226	6
4	66	182	74
5	21	67	0
6	8	36	14
7	2	20	0
Total	2,257	733	1,484

Milwaukee African-American Sample

A specific aim of the MIDUS 2 was to recruit a new city-specific oversample of African Americans to participate in a field interview and questionnaire that paralleled the main sample instruments. Milwaukee was chosen in hopes of recruiting many of these respondents to the biological and neuroscience assessments (Projects 4 and 5) in Madison, WI.

The goal of this project was to complete interviews with 400 African Americans between 35 and 85 years of age. All respondents self-identified as black during the in-person screening process. The sample was to be stratified by age, gender, and SES, with 50 completed interviews the target in each of eight cells (Table 10). The final number of completed interviews was 592. Table 11 shows how participants were distributed across the three strata.

Table 10. Goal Sample Sizes by Stratum

	Median HH Income <40k		Median HH Income >=40k		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Age 35-54	50	50	50	50	**200**
Age 55-85	50	50	50	50	**200**
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**400**

Table 11. Completed Interviews using Income as Defined by Census Block (%)

	HH Income <40k		HH Income >=40k		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Age 35-54	70	117	69	101	**357**
Age 55-85	24	38	59	114	**235**
Total	**94**	**155**	**128**	**215**	**592**

Data were collected from the Milwaukee sample using the same protocol employed in the larger MIDUS study. Following successful completion of the in-person interview, participants were mailed a 50-page self-administered questionnaire (SAQ) to complete and return by mail. Participants who completed the SAQ were eligible for the cognitive telephone survey. Monetary incentives of $50 for the CAPI survey and $20 for the SAQ were used to increase participation. No incentive was used for the cognitive survey.

The response rate denominator for the CAPI survey reflects the total number of households (HH) screened for eligibility minus the number of those households that screened out or were eventually coded out when quota groups (by age and gender) were filled. Table 12 presents the response rates for each data collection phase.

Table 12. Response Rates by Instrument.

Type of Sample	Main CAPI Survey	SAQ Survey	Cognitive Survey
Milwaukee	70.7%	67.2%	51.8%

Table 13 below provides a summary of select demographic characteristics (gender, age, education) for the Milwaukee sample

Table 13. Demographic Characteristics of the Milwaukee Sample.

	Gender	Age		Education			
	Male	Range	Mean(SD)	Less than 12 yrs	12 yrs	13 to 15 yrs	16 + yrs
Milwaukee	38%	34 – 85	52 (11.89)	19%	36%	31%	13%