American Time Use Survey (ATUS) Data Dictionary:

2003 Survey Methodology Data

Variables about ATUS

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The American Time Use Survey (ATUS) is sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics
and conducted by the Census Bureau.

Important Information about the ATUS Survey Methodology Data Dictionary

Introduction

The American Time Use Survey (ATUS) is sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and conducted by the Census Bureau. The purpose of this document is to provide information about the variables related to the quality and outcome of the interviews. This data dictionary describes the 2003 Case History file.

This document lists all the variables available on the Case History file and their valid values. It also provides directions on how to read the data dictionary. The ATUS User's Guide contains information about the sample selection, survey administration, data collection, and coding process (available on the ATUS website at http://www.bls.gov/tus/atususersguide.pdf).

Two additional data dictionaries describe other ATUS public use data files. One describes the 2003 ATUS-CPS file, which contains data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) public use files for persons selected to be surveyed for ATUS and members of their households. (The information on the ATUS-CPS file was collected two to five months before the ATUS interview and in some cases was out of date at the time of the ATUS survey.) The 2003 ATUS interview data dictionary describes the variables available on four files: the Roster file, the Activity file, the Who file, and the Respondent file. These variables are collected and assigned in the ATUS interview. These additional data dictionaries are available on the ATUS website at http://www.bls.gov/tus/datafiles_2003.htm.

Valid Values

Each variable on the Case History file has a number of valid values or a range of valid values. For example, TUINTDQUAL has two valid values: 1 for "interview should be used" and 2 for "interview should not be used." TUAVGDUR, on the other hand, has a range of valid values – any entry between 0 and 1440 is considered valid. Individual valid values or a range of valid values are listed under most variables in the data dictionary.

Many ATUS variables have the following possible valid values:

Value	Description
-1	Blank
-2	Don't know
-3	Refused

Since so many variables have these possible values, they are not shown as valid entries for each variable.

TUCASEID, the primary identifier for ATUS cases, does not list either valid values or a range of valid values. Also, variables that include both alpha and numeric characters (TUINTID, TUA_ID, TUC_ID, and TUV_ID) do not list either valid values or a range of valid values.

2003 Case History File

This file contains case-specific variables collected in ATUS in 2003 (that is, variables for which there is one value for each person selected to participate in ATUS). These include interviewer identifiers and case level outcome codes. The file also contains two data quality variables, TUINTDQUAL and TUDQUAL2, which were asked after each completed interview and used to assess the interviewer's perception of data quality. The file contains information about persons selected to participate in ATUS, including both those who completed the interview and those who did not. (Since only one person per household is selected to participate in ATUS, TUCASEID in this file identifies an individual.)

There is one record for each ATUS case.

Below is a simplified example. The TUCASEID identifies each ATUS case, so the example contains information from five cases selected to be in the ATUS sample. Each example case has associated variables listing the final

outcome code (TUFINALCODE), the total number of reported activities (TUTOTACTNO), the average duration of reported activities (TUAVGDUR), and an interviewer identification number (TUINTID). Note that two of the cases do not report information for TUTOTACTNO and TUAVGDUR; this is because they were noncontacts, as is indicated by the value of TUFINALCODE. The actual ATUS Case History file contains additional variables and many more lines.

TUCASEID	TUFINALCODE	TUTOTACTNO	TUAVGDUR	TUINTID
20030101020210	001	27	42.4	AA01
20030101020211	001	16	90	AA02
20030101020212	118	-1	-1	BB01
20030101020213	118	-1	-1	AA01
20030101020214	001	31	46.5	BB01

ATUS Naming Conventions and Definitions

ATUS variables are named according to specified rules. All variables on the Case History file begin with "TU," which indicates that the variables were either (1) collected or assigned during the ATUS interview, or (2) computed by the processing system. The remaining characters after the "TU" consist of a descriptive name.

Not all ATUS variables are on the public use files. Some variables are omitted to protect the confidentiality of ATUS respondents as required by law.

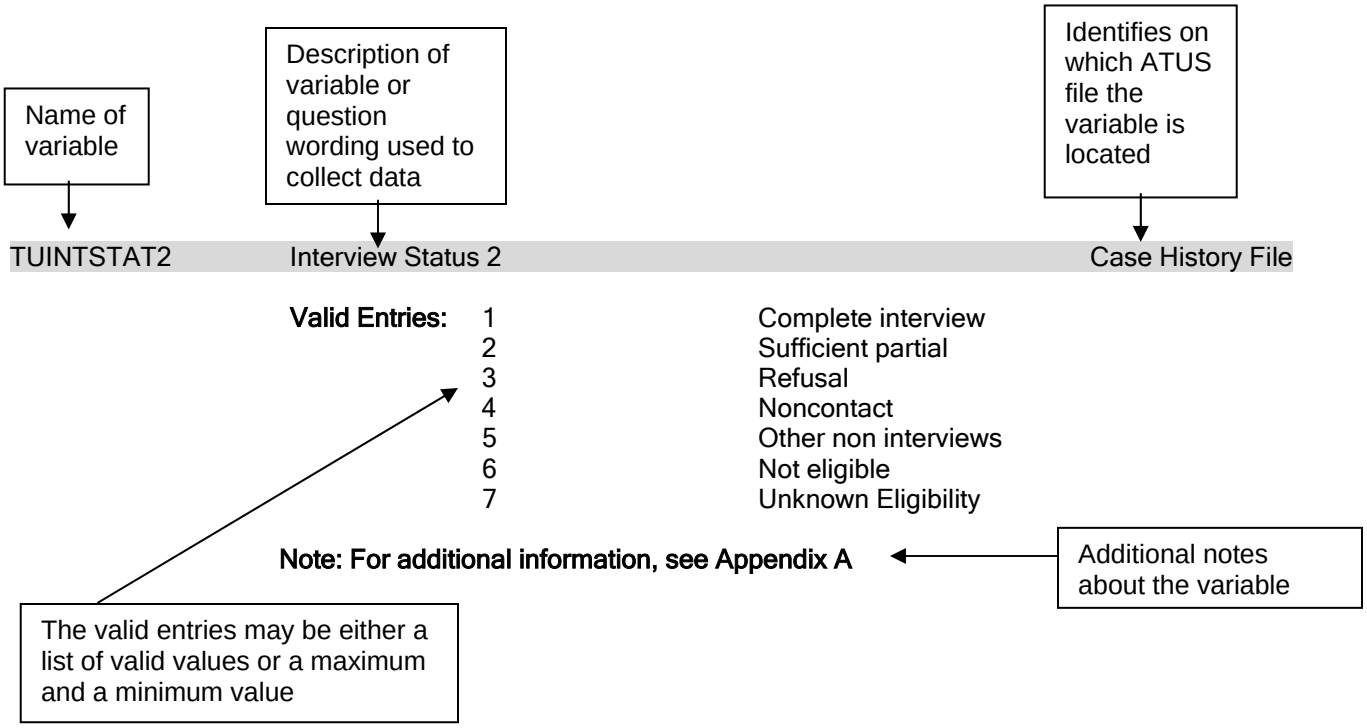
ATUS Interviewers and Coders

Four of the variables available on the Case History file are unique anonymous identification numbers: TUINTID, TUA_ID, TUC_ID, and TUV_ID. Every person who interviews or codes ATUS data is assigned a unique anonymous identification number, and each person can both interview and code. A case is never interviewed and coded by the same person. All cases are coded twice to ensure accuracy and consistency, and those cases that have been coded differently are resolved by an adjudicator. A person's unique identification number is always the same, whether that person is coding, interviewing, or adjudicating.

Organization of the Survey Methodology Data Dictionary

Variables are listed in the data dictionary in alphabetical order.

Below is a sample entry from the ATUS survey methodology data dictionary:



Linking ATUS Public Use Files

Each of the ATUS public use files contains useful information, but in order to produce most estimates, the files must be linked. All of the public use files contain the variables TUCASEID, which is the ATUS identification number. Two other variables that can be used for linking in conjunction with TUCASEID are TULINENO (person line number) and TUACTIVITY_N (activity line number).

File	Linking Variables
Case History file	TUCASEID
Respondent file	TUCASEID TULINENO (always equal to 1 on the Respondent file)
Roster file	TUCASEID TULINENO
Activity file	TUCASEID TUACTIVITY_N
Who file	TUCASEID TUACTIVITY_N TULINENO
ATUS-CPS file	TUCASEID TULINENO
Activity Summary file	TUCASEID

The ATUS public use files can also be linked to CPS public use files by using variables on the ATUS-CPS file. For more information about linking to the CPS public use files, refer to the 2003 ATUS-CPS data dictionary.

2003 ATUS Data Dictionary: Public Survey Methodology Data

Name	Description	File
TUA_ID	Unique anonymous adjudicator ID	Case History File
	*** Note:** 1st and 2nd digits AA-ZZ, 3rd and 4th digits 00-99. All cases are coded twice. TUA_ID is the identification number of the adjudicator who reviews cases that were coded differently.	
TUAVGDUR	Average duration of all reported diary activities (in minutes)	Case History File
	Valid Entries: 0 Min Value 1440 Max Value	
TUC_ID	Unique anonymous coder ID	Case History File
	*** Note:** 1st and 2nd digits AA-ZZ, 3rd and 4th digits 00-99. All cases are coded twice. TUC_ID is the identification number of the first coder.	
TUCASEID	ATUS Case ID (14-digit identifier)	All Files
TUCPSDP	Is the ATUS designated person the same as the CPS respondent?	Case History File
	Valid Entries: 1 Yes, same person 2 No, different person	
	*** Note:** The CPS respondent does not have to be the same for all eight months of CPS. TUCPSDP identifies only if the ATUS designated person is the same as the CPS respondent for the final (month 8) CPS interview.	
TUDQUAL2	Collected from interviewer after interview: why do you think the data from this interview should not be used?	Case History File
	Valid Entries: 1 Respondent intentionally providing wrong answer 2 Respondent trying to provide correct answer but could not correctly remember his/her activities 3 Respondent deliberately reported very long duration activities 4 Other	
	*** Note:** The interviewer is asked this question if TUINTQUAL = 1	
TUFINALCODE	Final outcome code from ATUS	Case History File
	Valid Entries: 001 Complete interview 002 Sufficient partial 014 Not eligible: designated person underage 015 Not eligible: designated person not a household member 017 Not eligible: designated person moved out 018 Other: designated person absent, ill, or hospitalized 019 Other: designated person institutionalized 021 Other: language barrier 022 Unknown eligibility: unpublished number or non-listed number 023 Unknown eligibility: incorrect phone number 024 Not eligible: designated person in Armed Forces 027 Unknown eligibility: privacy detector (used only in early 2003) 029 Other: other non-interview 100 Not eligible: miscellaneous 104 Other: invalid input 106 Refusal: Congressional case 108 Not eligible: case deleted as sample reduction 109 Refusal: hostile break-off, interview progress achieved 110 Refusal: by parent 111 Refusal: by individual	

Name	Description			File
	Valid Entries:	112	Refusal: by parent/guardian/gatekeeper	
		113	Unknown eligibility: unproductive call counter	
		116	Refusal: pre-refusal based on explicit refusal or hostile break-off	
		118	Noncontact: incomplete call back, unable to contact on call back	
		119	Noncontact: temporarily unavailable, absent, ill, hospitalization	
		120	Not eligible: temporarily unavailable, institutionalized	
		121	Other: unresolved language barrier	
		123	Unknown eligibility: privacy detectors	
		124	Noncontact: never contacted, confirmed number	
		125	Unknown eligibility: never contacted, unconfirmed number	
		126	Other: instrument error	
		127	Unknown eligibility: never tried, no telephone number household	
		130	Refusal: fewer than 5 activities	
		131	Refusal: don`t know/refuse equals more than 180 diary minutes	
		132	Refusal: diary contains less than 5 activities and don't know/refuse equals more than 180 diary minutes	
		133	Refusal: other data quality problem	
	*** Note:** If the ATUS designated person is deceased, the case is considered not eligible and is suppressed			
TUINTDQUAL	Collected from interviewer after interview: is there any reason this interview should not be used?			Case History File
	Valid Entries:	1	Yes	
		2	No	
TUINTID	Unique anonymous ATUS interviewer ID			Case History File
	*** Note:** 1st and 2nd digits AA-ZZ, 3rd and 4th digits 00-99			
TUINTSTAT1	Interview status 1			Case History File
	Valid Entries:	1	Complete or sufficient partial	
		2	Eligible non-interview (refusal, noncontact, other non-interview)	
		3	Not eligible	
		4	Unknown eligibility	
	*** Note:** This variable is a recode of TUFINALCODE. Definitions are listed in Appendix A.			
TUINTSTAT2	Interview status 2			Case History File
	Valid Entries:	1	Complete interview	
		2	Sufficient partial	
		3	Refusal	
		4	Noncontact	
		5	Other non-interviews	
		6	Not eligible	
		7	Unknown eligibility	
	*** Note:** This variable is a recode of TUFINALCODE. Definitions are listed in Appendix A.			
TUTOTACTNO	Total number of activities reported in diary			Case History File
	Valid Entries:	1	Min Value	
		90	Max Value	
TUV_ID	Unique anonymous verifier ID			Case History File
	*** Note:** 1st and 2nd digits AA-ZZ, 3rd and 4th digits 00-99. All cases are coded twice. TUV_ID is the identification number of the second coder.			

Appendix A

TUINTSTAT1

TUINTSTAT1	TUINTSTAT1 Definition	TUFINALCODE Values
1	Complete and Sufficient Partial	001, 002
2	Eligible Non Interview	018, 019, 021, 029, 104, 106, 109, 110, 111, 112, 116, 118, 119, 121, 124, 126, 130, 131, 132, 133
3	Not Eligible	014, 015, 017, 024, 100, 108, 120
4	Unknown Eligibility	022, 023, 027, 113, 123, 125, 127

TUINTSTAT2

TUINTSTAT2	TUINTSTAT2 Definition	TUFINALCODE Values
1	Complete	001
2	Sufficient Partial	002
3	Refusal	106, 109, 110, 111, 112, 116, 130, 131, 132, 133
4	Noncontact	118, 119, 124
5	Other	018, 019, 021, 029, 104, 121, 126
6	Not Eligible	014, 015, 017, 024, 100, 108, 120
7	Unknown Eligibility	022, 023, 027, 113, 123, 125, 127