American Time Use Survey (ATUS) Data Dictionary:

2005 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 2005 Case History file and the 2005 Call History file.

This document lists all the variables available on these two files 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).

Three additional data dictionaries describe other ATUS public use data files. One describes the 2005 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(The information on the ATUS-CPS file was collected two to five months before the ATUS interview and in some cases was out of date at the time of the ATUS survey.)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 2005 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. The final data dictionary describes the 2005 Trips file. These additional data dictionaries are available on the ATUS website at http://www.bls.gov/tus/datafiles_2005.htm.

Important Note about Survey Methodology Files

In April 2005, ATUS migrated to the Census Bureau's standardized computer system for managing telephone interviews. The outcome codes and the outcome assignment methodology are slightly different between the two systems. Additionally, the interviewer identification code (TUINTID) was only captured for completed interviews during the conversion period. A modification capturing the TUINTID for all case transactions was added to the ATUS processing system in October 2005 and was fully implemented by January 2006.

The outcome codes of interview attempts that occurred prior to the conversion were reassigned using the outcome codes of the new system. While attempts were made to ensure consistency in the outcome codes, there are some discontinuities between cases coded using the old system and the new system. Since the coding processes were slightly different, there is a possibility that cases could have been coded differently in the two systems. Some outcome codes are more prevalent after the conversion whereas others are less prevalent.

Because of the conversion, the 2005 interview outcome codes are different from those used in 2003 and 2004. A crosswalk comparing 2005 and 2003-2004 outcome codes is attached in Appendix B.

Valid Values

Each variable has a number of valid values or a range of valid values. For example, the variable TUINTDQUAL has two valid values: 1 for "interview should be used" and 2 for "interview should not be used." The variable 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 (TUHINTID, TUINTID, TUA_ID, TUC_ID, and TUV_ID) do not list either valid values or a range of valid values.

2005 Case History File

This file contains case-specific variables collected in ATUS in 2005 (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 (TRFNLOUT), 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 TRFNLOUT. The actual ATUS Case History file contains additional variables and many more lines.

TUCASEID	TRFNLOUT	TUTOTACTNO	TUAVGDUR	TUINTID
20050101020210	001.001	27	42.4	AA01
20050101020211	001.001	16	90	AA02
20050101020212	194.001	-1	-1	BB01
20050101020213	188.001	-1	-1	AA01
20050101020214	001.001	31	46.5	BB01

2005 Call History File

This file contains call-specific variables collected in ATUS in 2005 (that is, variables for which there is one value per interview attempt). These include interviewer identifiers, call level outcome codes, and the date of each call attempt. 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 call attempt.

Below is a simplified example. The TUCASEID identifies each ATUS case and TUATTMPTNO identifies each call attempt. The example contains information from two cases selected to be in the ATUS sample. The first case (20050101020210) was called twice, and the second call attempt resulted in a complete interview. The second case (20050101020211) was called three times before resulting in a complete interview. The variable TRFNLCLL gives the outcome of each call. An anonymous interviewer identification number (TUHINTID) is associated with each call attempt. In general, the TUHINTID for the final call attempt will match the interviewer identification number for the case (TUINTID) on the Case History file, but not always. In some situations, an ATUS supervisor performs some action on the case after the final interview, causing the TUINTID to be the anonymous identification number of the supervisor rather than the final interviewer.

TUCASEID	TUATTMPTNO	TUATTMDATE	TRFNLCLL	TUHINTID
20050101020210	1	20050102	188.001	AA01
20050101020210	2	20050102	001.001	BB01
20050101020211	1	20050103	188.001	AA02
20050101020211	2	20050103	188.001	AA01
20050101020211	3	20050110	001.001	BB01

ATUS Naming Conventions and Definitions

ATUS variables are named according to specified rules. All variables on the two survey methodology files begin with “TU” or “TR,” which indicates that the variables were assigned or computed through the ATUS interview process. The remaining characters after the first two characters 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.

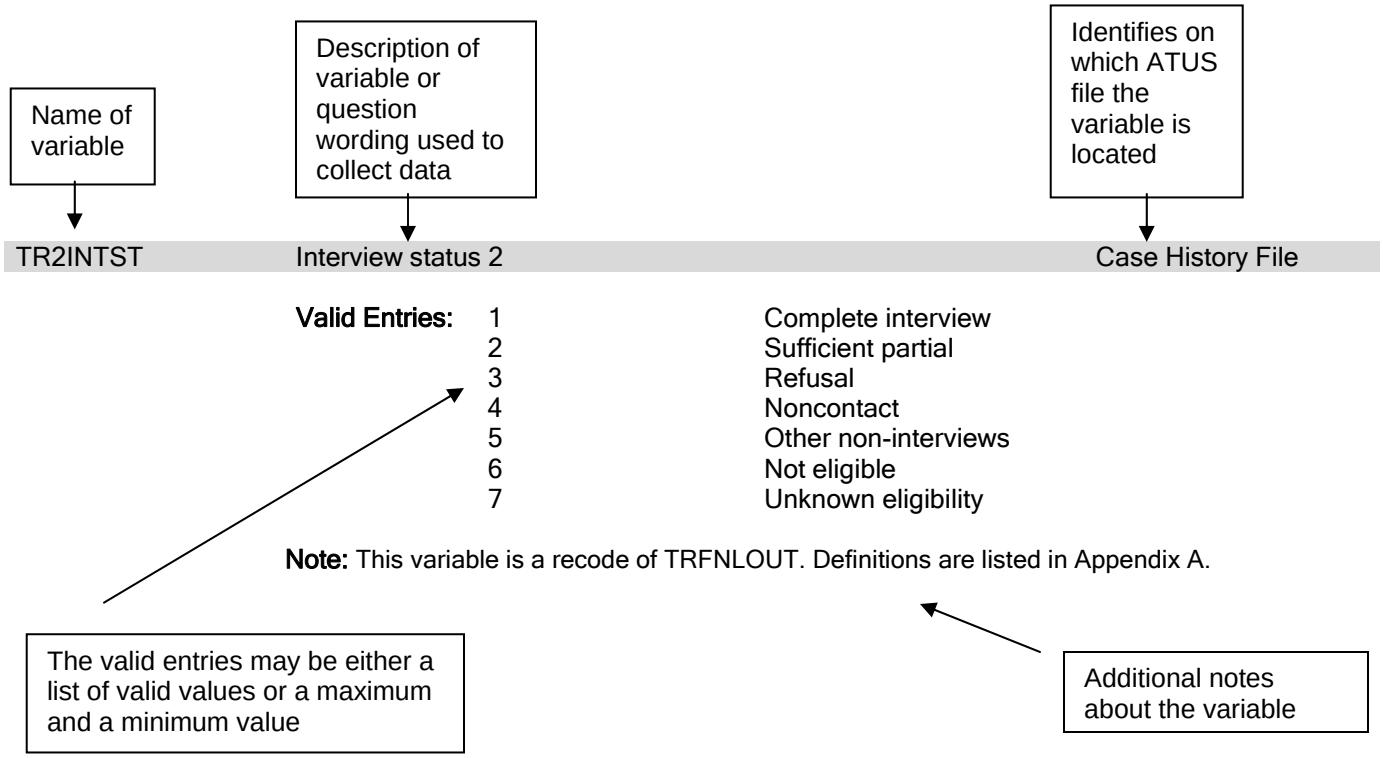
ATUS Interviewers and Coders

Four of the variables available on the Case History file and one of the variables on the Call History file are unique anonymous identification numbers: TUHINTID, 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 variable 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
Basic ATUS data files	
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
Additional ATUS data files	
Case History file	TUCASEID
Call History file	TUCASEID
Trips file	TUCASEID
Replicate Weights 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 2005 ATUS-CPS data dictionary.

2005 ATUS Data Dictionary: Public Survey Methodology Data

Name	Description	File
TR1INTST	Interview status 1	Case History File

Edited Universe: All cases

Valid Entries:

1	Complete interview 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 TRFNLOUT. Definitions are listed in Appendix A.

TR2INTST	Interview status 2	Case History File

Edited Universe: All cases

Valid Entries:

1	Complete interview
2	Sufficient partial
3	Refusal
4	Noncontact
5	Other non-interview
6	Not eligible
7	Unknown eligibility

*** Note:** This variable is a recode of TRFNLOUT. Definitions are listed in Appendix A.

TRFNLCLL	Final call outcome	Call History File

Edited Universe: All call attempts

Valid Entries:

001.001	Complete interview
002.001	Sufficient partial
020.011	Not eligible: designated person underage
020.015	Not eligible: designated person not a household member
020.007	Not eligible: vacant
020.005	Not eligible: not used as a regular residence
020.022	Not eligible: designated person in Armed Forces
021.001	Other: designated person institutionalized, unavailable through closeout
021.002	Other: designated person absent, ill, or hospitalized - unavailable through closeout
021.003	Not eligible: designated person moved out
022.002	Unknown eligibility: sample unit not found/unreached
024.001	Other: language barrier
172.001	Not eligible: removed from sample
172.002	Other: invalid input
176.001	Refusal: Congressional case
179.001	Refusal: hostile breakoff
181.001	Refusal: refusal by designated person or gatekeeper
183.001	Unknown eligibility: exceeded unproductive call maximum
185.001	Sufficient partial with planned callback
186.001	Refusal: pre-refusal based on explicit refusal or hostile breakoff
188.001	Noncontact: incomplete callbacks
188.002	Noncontact: temporarily unavailable (absent, ill, or hospitalized)
188.003	Not eligible: temporarily unavailable (institutionalized)

Name	Description	File

Edited Universe: All call attempts

Valid Entries:

191.001	Other: unresolved language barrier
192.001	Other: hearing barrier
193.001	Unknown eligibility: privacy detectors
194.001	Noncontact: never contacted, confirmed number
195.001	Unknown eligibility: never contacted, unconfirmed number
199.001	Unknown eligibility: never tried, no telephone number household

*** Note:** These are final call outcome codes introduced in 2005 and do not correspond to final call outcomes (TUOUTCOMECODE) from previous years

TRFNLOUT	Final outcome code	Case History File

Edited Universe: All cases

Valid Entries:

001.001	Complete interview
002.001	Sufficient partial
020.005	Not eligible: not used as a regular residence
020.007	Not eligible: vacant
020.011	Not eligible: designated person underage
020.015	Not eligible: designated person not a household member
020.022	Not eligible: designated person in Armed Forces
021.001	Other: designated person institutionalized, unavailable through closeout
021.003	Not eligible: designated person moved out
021.002	Other: designated person absent, ill, or hospitalized - unavailable through closeout
022.002	Unknown eligibility: sample unit not found/unreached
024.001	Other: language barrier
172.002	Other: invalid input
172.001	Not eligible: removed from sample
176.001	Refusal: Congressional case
179.001	Refusal: hostile breakoff
181.001	Refusal: refusal by designated person or gatekeeper
183.001	Unknown eligibility: exceeded unproductive call maximum
188.001	Noncontact: incomplete callbacks
188.002	Noncontact: temporarily unavailable (absent, ill, or hospitalized)
188.003	Not eligible: temporarily unavailable (institutionalized)
191.001	Other: unresolved language barrier
193.001	Unknown eligibility: privacy detectors
194.001	Noncontact: never contacted, confirmed number
195.001	Unknown eligibility: never contacted, unconfirmed number
199.001	Unknown eligibility: never tried, no telephone number household
230.001	Refusal: diary contains less than 5 activities
231.001	Refusal: don't know/refuse more than 180 diary minutes
232.001	Refusal: diary contains less than 5 activities and don't know/refuse more than 180 diary minutes
233.001	Refusal: other data quality issues

*** Note:** These are final outcome codes introduced in 2005 and do not correspond to final outcomes (TUFINALCODE) from previous years

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.	
TUATTMDATE	Date of call attempt	Call History File
	Valid Entries: 20041114 Min Value 20051231 Max Value *** Note:** Call attempt date is in YYYYMMDD format	
TUATTMPTNO	Call attempt number	Call History File
	Valid Entries: 1 Min Value 999 Max Value	
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 whether 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 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	
TUHINTID	Unique anonymous ATUS interviewer ID for each call attempt	Call History File
	*** Note:** 1st and 2nd digits AA-ZZ, 3rd and 4th digits 00-99	
TUINCENT	Incentive/non-incentive case	Case History File
	Valid Entries: 0 Non-incentive case 1 Incentive case	
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	
TUINTRODATE	Day of month in which the case was introduced (panel day)	Case History File
	Valid Entries: 0 Min Value 31 Max Value	

Name	Description			File
TUINTROPANMONTH	Month in which the case was introduced (panel month)			Case History File
	Valid Entries:	1	Min Value	
		12	Max Value	
TUINTROPANYEAR	Year in which the case was introduced (panel year)			Case History File
	Valid Entries:	2004	Min Value	
		2005	Max Value	
TUTOTACTNO	Total number of activities reported in diary			Case History File
	Valid Entries:	1	Min Value	
		91	Max Value	
	*** Note:** New values for TUTOTACTNO were introduced in 2005; For cases in 2005 and later, where total activities numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4, TUTOTACTNO = 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively.			
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

TR1INTST

TR1INTST	TR1INTST Definition	TRFNLOUT CODE Values	
1	Complete and sufficient partial	001.001	002.001
2	Eligible non-interview	021.001	021.002
		024.001	172.001
		176.001	179.001
		181.001	188.001
		188.002	191.001
		194.001	230.001
		231.001	232.001
		233.001	
3	Not eligible	020.005	020.007
		020.011	020.015
		020.022	021.003
		172.001	188.003
4	Unknown eligibility	022.002	183.001
		193.001	195.001
		199.001	

TR2INTST

TR2INTST	TR2INTST Definition	TRFNLOUT CODE Values	
1	Complete	001.001	
2	Sufficient partial	002.001	
3	Refusal	176.001	179.001
		181.001	230.001
		231.001	232.001
		233.001	
4	Noncontact	188.001	188.002
		194.001	
5	Other	021.001	021.002
		024.001	172.002
		191.001	
6	Not eligible	020.005	020.007
		020.011	020.015
		020.022	021.003
		172.001	188.003
7	Unknown eligibility	022.002	183.001
		193.001	195.001
		199.001	

Appendix B
Outcome Codes: Comparing 2005 and 2003-2004

In April 2005, the U.S. Census Bureau's telephone center converted to a new computer system for managing telephone interviews. Because of the conversion, the 2005 interview outcome codes are different from those used in 2003 and 2004. The new system has a different set of interview outcome codes than the old system, and the process through which codes are assigned is somewhat different in the two systems.

While attempts were made to ensure consistency in the outcome codes, there are some discontinuities between cases coded using the old system and the new system. Since the coding processes were slightly different, there is a possibility that cases could have been coded differently in the two systems. Some outcome codes are more prevalent after the conversion whereas others are less prevalent.

2005 Outcome	2003-2004 Outcome	2005 Description
Complete		
001.001	001	Complete interview
Sufficient partial		
002.001	002	Sufficient partial
185.001	115	Sufficient partial with planned callback
Refusals		
176.001	106	Congressional case
179.001	109, 110, 111, 112*	Hostile breakoff
181.001	109, 110, 111, 112*	Refusal
186.001	116	Pre-refusal based on explicit refusal or hostile breakoff
230.001	130	Diary contains less than 5 activities
231.001	131	Don't know/refuse more than 180 diary minutes
232.001	132	Diary less than 5 activities, don't know/refuse more than 180 minutes
233.001	133	Other data quality issues
Noncontact		
188.001	118	Incomplete callbacks
188.002	119	Temporarily unavailable (absent, ill, or hospitalized)
194.001	124	Never contacted, confirmed number
Other		
021.001	019	Designated person institutionalized, unavailable through closeout
021.002	018	Designated person absent, ill, or hospitalized – unavailable through closeout
024.001	021*	Language barrier
172.002	104	Invalid input
191.001	121*	Unresolved language barrier
192.001	021, 121*	Hearing barrier
Unknown eligibility		
022.002	022, 023	Sample unit not found/unreached
183.001	113	Exceeded unproductive call maximum
193.001	123	Privacy detectors
195.001	125	Never contacted, unconfirmed number
199.001	127	Never tried
Not eligible		
020.005	017*	Not used as a regular residence
020.007	015*	Vacant
020.011	014	Designated person underage
020.015	015*	Designated person not a household member
020.022	024	Designated person in Armed Forces
021.003	017*	Designated person moved out
172.001	100, 108	Removed from sample
188.003	120	Temporarily unavailable (institutionalized)

* Certain 2004 codes may map to more than one 2005 code