



The ATUS: Operations and Output

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Research and Policy Conference:
Food and Eating Consequences of Time-Use
Decisions
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ATUS: Estimation objectives



- Annual estimates of time spent in variety of activities
- Measures for average weekday, weekend day, and week
- Data by demographics and labor force characteristics
- Continuously collected data
- Multiple years' data to increase pooled sample

ATUS: Sample



3-stage process: drawn from recently retired CPS:

1: CPS oversample in states is reduced; ATUS sample distributed in line with US states' populations

2: Stratified by household characteristics:

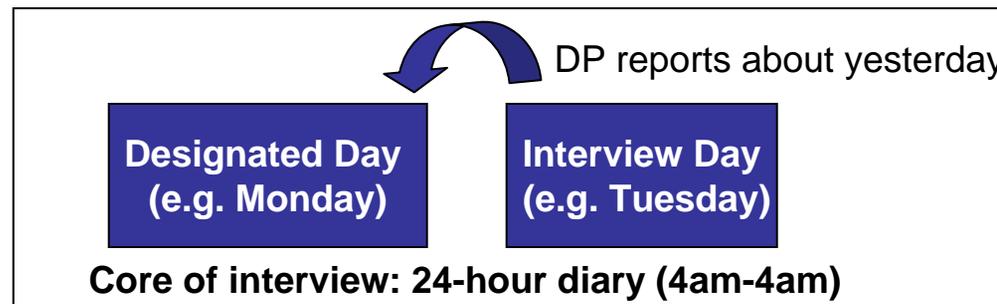
- Race (of CPS reference person)
- Ethnicity (of CPS reference person)
- Presence of children
- Number of adults in adults-only households

3: Eligible household member is randomly selected for ATUS (the “designated person”), or DP

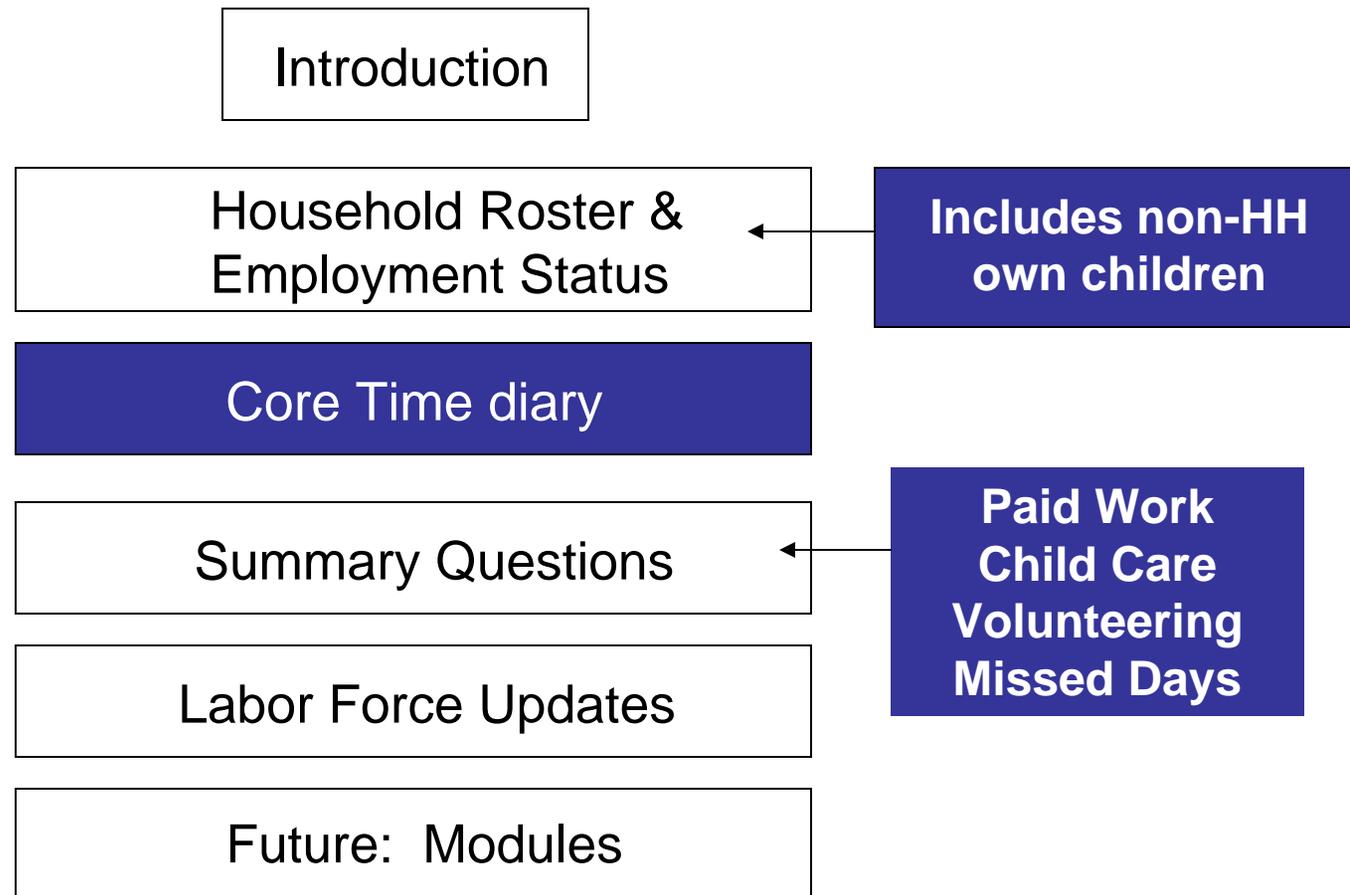
ATUS: Operations



- DP randomly assigned a designated day (DD) about which to report
- Advance materials sent directly to DP
- Contacted on interview day for up to 8 weeks to secure one interview
- Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI)
 - English or Spanish
 - Census Bureau interviewers in Jeffersonville, IN



ATUS: Structure of the survey



Diary software screenshot



American Time Use Survey Release 4.01

Forms Answer Navigate Options Help

ATUS | Household Roster | Eligible Days | Status | FAQ | S3 | S5 | S8 | Appointment

What did you do next?

- Use the slash key (/) for recording separate/simultaneous activities.
- Do not use precodes for secondary activities.

← **Question text**

1. Sleeping
2. Grooming (self)
3. Watching TV
4. Working at main job
5. Working at other job
6. Preparing meals or snacks
7. Eating and drinking
8. Cleaning kitchen
9. Laundry
10. Grocery shopping
11. Attending religious service
12. Don't know/Can't remember
13. Refusal/ None of your business

↓ **Activities**

	Start	ID	Activity	TIME	Hrs	Mins	Stop	Who	Who_2	Where	Where specify
[3]	6:00AM		Eating and drinking	1		20	6:20AM	0		1	Respondent's
[4]	6:20AM		Cleaning kitchen	1	1		7:20AM	0		1	Respondent's
[5]	7:20AM		Don't know/Can't remember	1		20	7:40AM				
[6]	7:40AM		Refusal/None of your business	1		30	8:10AM				
[7]	8:10AM		Working at main job	1		45	8:55AM				
[8]	8:55AM			1							
[9]											

00000001 | ACTIVITY | 10:46:49 AM | 1/10/03

Who was with the respondent?



- At home: “*Who was in the room with you?*”
- Away from home: “*Who accompanied you?*”

Who was in the room with you? / Who accompanied you?		
<u>On HH Roster</u>	<u>NonHH Family</u>	<u>Other NonHH</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 0. Alone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 51. Parents	<input type="checkbox"/> 54. Friends
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Justin Smith	<input type="checkbox"/> 52. Other non-HH family members < 18	<input type="checkbox"/> 55. Co-workers, colleagues, clients
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Jeremy Smith-anderson	<input type="checkbox"/> 53. Other non-HH family members 18 and older (incl. Parents-in-law)	<input type="checkbox"/> 56. Neighbors, acquaintances
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Amy Smith-anderson		<input type="checkbox"/> 57. Other non-HH children < 18
<input type="checkbox"/> 5.		<input type="checkbox"/> 58. Other non-HH adults 18 and older
<input type="checkbox"/> 6.		
<input type="checkbox"/> 7.		
<input type="checkbox"/> 8.		
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.		
<input type="checkbox"/> 10.		
<input type="checkbox"/> 60. All household members		

Where was the respondent?



Where were you while you were eating and drinking?	
<u>PLACE</u>	<u>MODE OF TRANSPORTATION</u>
<input type="radio"/> 1. Respondent's home or yard	<input type="radio"/> 12. Car, truck, or motorcycle (driver)
<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2. Respondent's workplace	<input type="radio"/> 13. Car, truck, or motorcycle (passenger)
<input type="radio"/> 3. Someone else's home	<input type="radio"/> 14. Walking
<input type="radio"/> 4. Restaurant/Bar	<input type="radio"/> 15. Bus
<input type="radio"/> 5. Place of worship	<input type="radio"/> 16. Subway/Train
<input type="radio"/> 6. Grocery store	<input type="radio"/> 17. Bicycle
<input type="radio"/> 7. Other store/Mall	<input type="radio"/> 18. Boat/Ferry
<input type="radio"/> 8. School	<input type="radio"/> 19. Taxi/Limousine Service
<input type="radio"/> 9. Outdoors away from home	<input type="radio"/> 20. Airplane
<input type="radio"/> 10. Library	<input type="radio"/> 21. Other (specify)
<input type="radio"/> 11. Other place (specify)	

Note: Each leg of a trip is recorded as a separate activity

Summary questions: Work



Some activities were **work** but weren't identified as such in the diary:

We are interested in measuring the amount of time people spend working both inside and outside their usual workplace.

You said that you were working from [• READ TIMES BELOW](#)

Were there any other activities that were done as part of your job?

Please do not include getting ready for work or commuting.

- Times: 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM
4:00 PM until 7:00 PM
- Enter "1" for activities done for job.
- Enter "97" for None/no more work activities.

Others were **income-generating activities** other than for one's job

ATUS	Household Roster	Eligible Days	Status	FAQ	S3	S5	S7	S8	Appointment
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You told me about the activities that were done as part of your job(s). Were there any other activities that you were paid for or will be paid for? Please do not include paid breaks at work or paid time off.

- [Read if necessary](#) This could include things like selling crafts or babysitting.
- [IF YES - Ask Which ones?](#)

Summary questions: Secondary child care



- Calculate duration of time respondent had child(ren) under 13 in his or her care while doing other things.

I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN WHO LIVE WITH YOU. A child was awake between 6:00 AM and 8:00 PM. At which times or during which activities during that time period was Kally Palmer in your care?

- Probe: Any other times or activities?
- Enter "1" for activities where child was in your care.
- Enter "98" for All day

Consistency rules:

- Respondent cannot be sleeping and providing care.
- Respondent cannot be providing primary and secondary care at the same time (no double-counting).
- Care must be done in the window between when first child under 13 got up and last child under 13 went to bed.

Summary questions: Volunteering

- Added to enable coders to distinguish volunteering for organizations from care activities for individuals
- Used CPS definition of volunteering

Now I'd like to ask you about volunteer activities, that is, activities for which people are not paid, except perhaps expenses.

Yesterday, did you do any volunteer activities for or through an organization?

Summary Question: Missed Days



Concern: 24-hour protocol means ATUS misses activities done on trips of 2 or more nights.

Knowing how many trips and what type provides a general idea what we are missing.

**How many times were you away from home in the month of March?
Only report times when you were away from home for 2 or more
nights in a row.**

* Enter 0 for none

**Let's start with the most recent trip you took in March.
What was the purpose of that trip? Choose as many as apply -
was it vacation or visiting others, business or work, or something else?**

* Enter '888' to delete a trip

ATUS Activity Coding



- Nearly every reported activity is assigned a 6-digit code.
- Each code represents 3 levels of detail.
- System was designed to be analytically flexible.
- Coders use all fields in diary to help them code.
- Activities are coded twice. They are sent to an adjudicator if there is disagreement between coders.

02 Household Activities
01 Housework
01 Interior cleaning
02 Laundry
03 Sewing, repairing, and maintaining textiles
04 Storing interior household items, including food
99 Housework, n.e.c.
02 Food and Drink Preparation, Presentation, and Clean-up
01 Food and drink preparation

Sample from ATUS lexicon

ATUS Activity Coding: First Tier



Activity: getting hh children ready for school Where: Respondent's home or yard

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> 1. Personal Care | <input type="radio"/> 5. Work & Work-Related Activities | <input type="radio"/> 10. Government Services & Civic Obligations | <input type="radio"/> 15. Volunteer Activities |
| <input type="radio"/> 2. Household Activities | <input type="radio"/> 6. Education | <input type="radio"/> 11. Eating and Drinking | <input type="radio"/> 16. Telephone Calls |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> 3. Caring For & Helping Household Members | <input type="radio"/> 7. Consumer Purchases | <input type="radio"/> 12. Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure | <input type="radio"/> 17. Traveling |
| <input type="radio"/> 4. Caring For & Helping NonHH Members | <input type="radio"/> 8. Professional & Personal Care Services | <input type="radio"/> 13. Sports, Exercise, and Recreation | <input type="radio"/> 77. Blank out the code |
| | <input type="radio"/> 9. Household Services | <input type="radio"/> 14. Religious and Spiritual Activities | <input type="radio"/> 88. Can not be determined now |
| | | | <input type="radio"/> 99. Data Codes |

	Start	Duration	Where	Who	Work	Activity	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Code
[1]	4:00 AM	3:00				Sleeping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	010101
[2]	7:00 AM	0:20	1	2,6		getting hh children ready for school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3			
[3]	7:20 AM	0:02	12	4,5,3,6		driving hh children to school	<input type="checkbox"/>			
[4]	7:22 AM	0:03	8	4,5,3,6		dropping hh children off at school	<input type="checkbox"/>			
[5]	7:25 AM	0:02	12	6		driving hh child to preschool	<input type="checkbox"/>			
[6]	7:27 AM	0:03	8	6		dropping off hh child at preschool	<input type="checkbox"/>			

ATUS Modules



- Can provide in-depth information on a time-use related issue
- 6-month minimum fielding
- All questions must be tested and shown to elicit information desired
- Suggested topics have included:
 - Food security
 - Travel & transportation
 - Child care (attitudes, concerns, expenditures)
 - Stress/experiences of “time crunch”
 - Health
 - Care of elders and/or disabled

Press release



- First estimates will first be released in a press conference/release
- Microdata files will follow
- Advance documentation available now:
 - User-friendly questionnaire document
 - Draft datafile codebook

Data file formats



- Microdata files delivered by Census for time-use estimation (subset provided to the public)

ATUS CPS File	Contains all public-use CPS month-in-sample 8 information for DP and household members. Includes all sampled households, regardless of whether they completed ATUS.
ATUS DP File	Contains variables collected in ATUS for which there is one value for each DP (e.g. employment status, total time providing secondary child care). Also person-level weights.
ATUS Roster File	Contains updated roster information--age, sex, and relationship to DP for each person in household. Plus non-household children under 18.
ATUS Activity (Episode) File	Includes activity-level information collected in ATUS (e.g. activity code, location, duration, start/stop times, if childcare was done during the activity).
ATUS Who File	Includes who was present during each activity. One record for activities done alone and multiple records for activities with multiple people present.

Data file formats



- Summary file developed by BLS from Census files

ATUS Summary File	Will contain summary-level activity information for each respondent (e.g. total time working) and major demographic variables.
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Data file formats



- Files for examining survey methodological issues

ATUS Missed Days File	Contains information collected in an ATUS summary question on # and purpose of trips (> 2 nights) away from home in the month prior to the first designated day. Data may be used to get at potential bias because ATUS asks about “yesterday” activities.
ATUS Case-level Operations Data File	Contains collection and coding data for which there is one value/case (e.g. final outcome code and interviewer length).
ATUS Call-level Operations Data File	Contains collection and coding data per call attempt (e.g. interim outcome codes, scrambled interviewer ID, and call time)

ATUS Contact information



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