

Essential notes for using the 1998-99 and 1999-2001 data

While these surveys are largely similar, there are some minor differences in the coding of the diaries which may impact analysis for certain activities. The 1998-99 survey did not separately code naps from sleep, whereas the 1999-2001 survey did separately code these activities. The 1998-99 survey did not separately code walking, though the mode of transport can be used to identify walking. In the 1999-2001 survey, walking as a leisure activity is coded separately. The 1998-99 survey separately coded going to the theatre or concerts, while in 1999-01, this activities is collapsed with going to the cinema. The 1999-01 survey separated rest and naps from sleeping. While both surveys separately coded work breaks, they use different numbers for these activities. The 1998-01 survey also separated out codes for some activities, which nonetheless are coded into the same AHTUS code. These are:

- e-mail separated from other PC use;
- telephone conversations separated from and face to face conversations;
- watching videos and DVDs separated from watching TV.

All these points are noted in the concordance file.

The 1999-2001 sample only covers parents, whereas the 1998-99 survey is a true national sample. While we have adjusted the weights to account for the over-sample of parents, all diaries from 2000 and 2001 are only from parents and not the general population. Extreme care should be exercised using this survey to compare changes in activities for the whole population.

In contrast with previous surveys, these surveys collected up to two secondary activities. Over 95% of episodes have either no secondary activity or only one secondary activity. For the small proportion of episodes with two reported secondary activities, we checked to see if these codes spanned more than 2 AHTUS codes (in some instances, people code two different main job or watching TV activities as examples). If we could code two difference AHTUS codes, we did so. In a small number of episodes, the two reported secondary activities fall into three different AHTUS codes. For these cases, we split the episode into two episodes of equal length – or if the episode ends in an odd minute, we add the extra minute to the first episode. The two new episodes total the same time in the main activity as found in the original episode. The first new episode includes the first reported secondary activity, and the second new episode includes the second reported secondary activity. For this survey, all episodes where the diarist reported simultaneous activities can be identified, but there are some very small scale differences between the AHTUS and the original versions.

Participants did not record who else was present when they were asleep or engaged in personal care. In the original data, these cases are coded as always alone. In the AHTUS these are coded as no report of being alone, as there is no data to say if these people were alone or with someone while asleep or bathing. Also, the presence of others include persons the diarist may know (neighbours) and strangers. We code this code as with persons unknown, though in some cases, the people reported present may be known to the participant.

The survey team forgot to include the variable age. Most participants were contacted again after the diary to ask their age. The survey team managed to recontact many participants, but some diarists could not be reached. The AHTUS treats these cases as missing age, and hence not valid

diaries for analysis. John Robinson's survey team imputed ages for those people they could not recontact. The AHTUS team has released a supplement file with alternative weights recalibrated to assume that these imputed ages are relatively close to accurate (see the documentation on the supplement files at the end of this document). Robinson constructed weights for all surveys, and users who wish to use the good quality diaries completed by participants whose exact ages are not known. The code that makes the alternative weights is `convertUSA98TUV.sps` SPSS syntax code file.

The date variables in the original data are inconsistent with each other. Roughly 1/3rd of the FISCT diaries and 20% of the combination of the remaining FISCT diaries and all of the NSP diaries are listed as on a day of the week (and profile like that day of the week) that does not match of the day of the week associated with the date. For this reason, month and cday are set to not available. Should resources permit in the future, the CTUR team may try to recover the dates for these surveys.

There may be missing diaries from 2001, and the full week diaries collected as a part of the NSP seem only available in aggregate form. Should the full range of original NSP episode diary files become available in future, we will review upgrading this data.

Finally, users should note that the original survey teams reused some identification numbers between the two surveys. We retain the original person level identifiers unchanged, so that users can match back to the original data where required. Nevertheless, users should use both the variable **SURVEY** as well as **PID** when analysing this survey.