



A Primer on Using Time Use Data

Dr. Jocelyn S. Wikle
Brigham Young University

Outline

- What information is typically found in time use data?
- Previous research: Family studies and human development applications
- How can I get started doing research with these exciting data sets?

What is Time Use Data?

- Self reported accounts of daily activities
 - Actual time use, rather than typical time use
- Includes information about
 - Activities
 - Timing and duration of activities
 - Who else was present (including age, gender, and relationship of family members)
 - Where activity took place
- Usually covers one 24-hour period

Diary example

So let's begin. Yesterday, Monday, at 4:00 AM, what were you doing?

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

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Sleeping | 8. Cleaning kitchen | 30. Don't know/Can't remember |
| 2. Grooming (self) | 9. Laundry | 31. Refusal/ None of your business |
| 3. Watching TV | 10. Grocery shopping | |
| 4. Working at main job | 11. Attending religious service | |
| 5. Working at other job | 12. Paying household bills | |
| 6. Preparing meals or snacks | 13. Caring for animals and pets | |
| 7. Eating and drinking | | |

	Start	ID	Activity	TIME	Hrs	Mins	Stop	Who	Who_2	Where	Where specify
[1]	4:00AM		Sleeping	2	8	0	12:00PM				
[2]	12:00PM		Preparing meals and snacks	1	1	0	1:00PM	0		1	Respondent's home
[3]	1:00PM		playing with kids	1		1	1:01PM	2		1	Respondent's home
[4]	1:01PM		Grooming	1	2	0	3:01PM				

Activity information is coded by refined and broad categories

- Personal Care
- Household activities
- Caring/helping household member
- Caring/helping non-household member
- Work and related activities
- Education
- Consumer purchases
- Professional and personal care services
- Household services
- Government services and civic obligations
- Eating and drinking
- Socializing, relaxing, leisure
- Sports, exercise, recreation
- Religious and spiritual activities
- Volunteer activities
- Telephone calls
- Traveling

“With whom” information valuable in many research contexts

- Shared time
 - Children
 - Spouse or partner
 - Sibling
 - Family time
 - Parents, elder care
 - Non-resident parent, stepparent
 - Extended family
 - Friends
 - Adult neighbors, mentors

“With whom” information valuable in many research contexts

- Shared time
 - Gender and age aspects of a dyad
 - Family size and birth order
 - Non-nuclear homes
 - Cultural context
 - Family employment context

“Where” information:

- Time at home vs away
- Time in social activities with family members

Well-being supplemental information:

- Immediate well-being rated during some activities
 - Meaning
 - Happy
 - Tired
 - Sad
 - Stress

Elder-care supplemental information:

- For whom/by whom is care given
- How often is care given
- What is done during care
- Gender, age, relationship considerations of the dyad

Eating and Health supplemental information:

- Food purchase and preparation
- Eating out
- Soda consumption
- School lunch consumption
- BMI
- Exercise habits

Advantages

- Inside view of family life in naturalistic settings
- Large Samples
 - American Time Use Survey adds 14,000 observations annually
- Nationally representative
- Standardized variables for cross-national comparisons and historic comparisons

Advantages

- High Quality Data
- Free (exception, Australian data carries a minimal fee)
- No data collection needed

Disadvantages

- Most are cross-sectional observations
 - Exceptions: PSID, Longitudinal study of Australian Children, Health and Retirement Survey
- Can't address every research question
 - Example: We can observe TV time. We don't know what they watch.
- One observation per household
 - Exception: Health and Retirement Survey
- Rough geographic information

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- Many of the data sets were designed to focus on employment activities rather than family and development measures

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- Many of the data sets were designed to focus on employment activities rather than family and development measures
- Focus on individuals, requiring creativity to unearth hidden gems on families
- It's messy data

We can uncover important information using
Time Use Data

Typical morning for a SFL professor

8:00am Arrive at office, login

8:05am Article accepted at JMF, no revisions

8:10am Wrote \$40 million dollar grant proposal

9:00am Breakfast with President Worthen

10:00am Teach

11:00am Data collection in the research lab

Unnamed adolescent girl in my neighborhood

3:00pm Art class

4:00pm Chinese tutoring at the Wikle's

5:00pm Mow the lawn

6:00pm Family dinner

Mother or Father?

Activity

6:00pm	Physical care for child
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Activity

6:00pm	Physical care for child
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Mother or Father?

Activity

6:00pm	Physical care for child
6:10pm	“ “

Activity

6:00pm	Physical care for child
6:10pm	Play soccer with child

Mother or Father?

Activity

6:00pm	Physical care for child
6:10pm	“ “
6:30pm	School paperwork for child

Activity

6:00pm	Physical care for child
6:10pm	Play soccer with child
6:30pm	Help child with homework

Mother or Father?

Activity

6:00pm	Physical care for child
6:10pm	“ “
6:30pm	School paperwork for child
6:45pm	Talking with child

Activity

6:00pm	Physical care for child
6:10pm	Play soccer with child
6:30pm	Help child with homework
6:45pm	Play with toys with child

Mother Recent Immigrant or Native?

Activity

3:00pm	Walk to elementary school
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Activity

3:00pm	Walk to elementary school
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Mother Recent Immigrant or Native?

Activity

3:00pm	Walk to elementary school
3:15pm	Parent teacher conference

Activity

3:00pm	Walk to elementary school
3:15pm	Parent teacher conference

Mother Recent Immigrant or Native?

Activity

3:00pm	Walk to elementary school
3:15pm	Parent teacher conference
3:45pm	Walk to town center

Activity

3:00pm	Walk to elementary school
3:15pm	Parent teacher conference
3:45pm	“ “

Mother

Recent Immigrant or Native?

Activity

3:00pm	Walk to elementary school
3:15pm	Parent teacher conference
3:45pm	Walk to town center
4:15pm	Dental appointment

Activity

3:00pm	Walk to elementary school
3:15pm	Parent teacher conference
3:45pm	“ “
4:15pm	Walk to town center

Mother

Recent Immigrant or Native?

Activity

3:00pm	Walk to elementary school
3:15pm	Parent teacher conference
3:45pm	Walk to town center
4:15pm	Dental appointment
5:00pm	Mail a package

Activity

3:00pm	Walk to elementary school
3:15pm	Parent teacher conference
3:45pm	“ “
4:15pm	Walk to town center
5:00pm	Grocery shop

Mother

Recent Immigrant or Native?

Activity

3:00pm	Walk to elementary school
3:15pm	Parent teacher conference
3:45pm	Walk to town center
4:15pm	Dental appointment
5:00pm	Mail a package
5:15pm	Shoe shopping

Activity

3:00pm	Walk to elementary school
3:15pm	Parent teacher conference
3:45pm	“ “
4:15pm	Walk to town center
5:00pm	Grocery shop
5:15pm	“ “

Mother

Recent Immigrant or Native?

Activity

3:00pm	Walk to elementary school
3:15pm	Parent teacher conference
3:45pm	Walk to town center
4:15pm	Dental appointment
5:00pm	Mail a package
5:15pm	Shoe shopping
5:45pm	Grocery shopping

Activity

3:00pm	Walk to elementary school
3:15pm	Parent teacher conference
3:45pm	“ “
4:15pm	Walk to town center
5:00pm	Grocery shop
5:15pm	“ “
5:45pm	“ “

Mother

Recent Immigrant or Native?

Activity

3:00pm	Walk to elementary school
3:15pm	Parent teacher conference
3:45pm	Walk to town center
4:15pm	Dental appointment
5:00pm	Mail a package
5:15pm	Shoe shopping
5:45pm	Grocery shopping
6:30pm	Return home

Activity

3:00pm	Walk to elementary school
3:15pm	Parent teacher conference
3:45pm	“ “
4:15pm	Walk to town center
5:00pm	Grocery shop
5:15pm	“ “
5:45pm	“ “
6:30pm	Return home

Adolescent boy 15 years old: Traditional nuclear family or working single mom?

Activity

Who else present

Activity

Who else present

3:00pm

Eat snack

3:00pm

Eat snack, talking

Mother

Adolescent boy 15 years old

Traditional nuclear family or working single mom?

Activity

Who else present

3:00pm	Eat snack	
3:15pm	Homework	

Activity

Who else present

3:00pm	Eat snack, talking	Mother
3:15pm	Homework	Mother

Adolescent boy 15 years old

Traditional nuclear family or working single mom?

Activity

Who else present

	Activity	Who else present
3:00pm	Eat snack	
3:15pm	Homework	
3:45pm	Help sibling with homework	12-yr-old brother

Activity

Who else present

	Activity	Who else present
3:00pm	Eat snack, talking	Mother
3:15pm	Homework	Mother
3:45pm	Help sibling with homework	12-yr-old brother

Adolescent boy 15 years old

Traditional nuclear family or working single mom?

Activity

Who else present

	Activity	Who else present
3:00pm	Eat snack	
3:15pm	Homework	
3:45pm	Help sibling with homework	12-yr-old brother
4:10pm	Play basketball	

Activity

Who else present

	Activity	Who else present
3:00pm	Eat snack, talking	Mother
3:15pm	Homework	Mother
3:45pm	Help sibling with homework	12-yr-old brother
4:10pm	Play basketball	Friend

Adolescent boy 15 years old

Traditional nuclear family or working single mom?

Activity

Who else present

	Activity	Who else present
3:00pm	Eat snack	
3:15pm	Homework	
3:45pm	Help sibling with homework	12-yr-old brother
4:10pm	Play basketball	
5:00pm	Dinner prep	12-yr-old brother

Activity

Who else present

	Activity	Who else present
3:00pm	Eat snack, talking	Mother
3:15pm	Homework	Mother
3:45pm	Help sibling with homework	12-yr-old brother
4:10pm	Play basketball	Friend
5:00pm	Video games	Friend

Adolescent boy 15 years old

Traditional nuclear family or working single mom?

Activity

Who else present

	Activity	Who else present
3:00pm	Eat snack	
3:15pm	Homework	
3:45pm	Help sibling with homework	12-yr-old brother
4:10pm	Play basketball	
5:00pm	Dinner prep	12-yr-old brother
5:30pm	Eat dinner	12-yr-old brother

Activity

Who else present

	Activity	Who else present
3:00pm	Eat snack, talking	Mother
3:15pm	Homework	Mother
3:45pm	Help sibling with homework	12-yr-old brother
4:10pm	Play basketball	Friend
5:00pm	Video games	Friend
5:30pm	Eat dinner	Father, Mother, 12-yr-old brother

Adolescent boy 15 years old

Traditional nuclear family or working single mom?

Activity

Who else present

	Activity	Who else present
3:00pm	Eat snack	
3:15pm	Homework	
3:45pm	Help sibling with homework	12-yr-old brother
4:10pm	Play basketball	
5:00pm	Dinner prep	12-yr-old brother
5:30pm	Eat dinner	12-yr-old brother
6:00pm	Clean up dinner	12-yr-old brother

Activity

Who else present

	Activity	Who else present
3:00pm	Eat snack, talking	Mother
3:15pm	Homework	Mother
3:45pm	Help sibling with homework	12-yr-old brother
4:10pm	Play basketball	Friend
5:00pm	Video games	Friend
5:30pm	Eat dinner	Father, Mother, 12-yr-old brother
6:00pm	Clean up dinner	12-yr-old brother

Adolescent boy 15 years old

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Who else present

	Activity	Who else present
3:00pm	Eat snack	
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3:45pm	Help sibling with homework	12-yr-old brother
4:10pm	Play basketball	
5:00pm	Dinner prep	12-yr-old brother
5:30pm	Eat dinner	12-yr-old brother
6:00pm	Clean up dinner	12-yr-old brother
6:30pm	Talking	Mother, brother

Activity

Who else present

	Activity	Who else present
3:00pm	Eat snack, talking	Mother
3:15pm	Homework	Mother
3:45pm	Help sibling with homework	12-yr-old brother
4:10pm	Play basketball	Friend
5:00pm	Video games	Friend
5:30pm	Eat dinner	Father, Mother, 12-yr-old brother
6:00pm	Clean up dinner	12-yr-old brother
6:30pm	Go to museum	Father, Mother, brother

Parent

Neuro-typical child vs special needs child

Parent

Neuro-typical child vs special needs child

- Medical Care
- Therapy (in home, out of home)
- Physical care of child
- School meetings
- Homework help
- Shadowing the child
- Shorter outings, fewer outing
- Limited scope for outings

Whose company lowers stress?

- Adolescent boy, age 15
 - Resident parent
 - Stepparent
 - Non-resident parent
 - Older sibling
 - Younger sibling

Whose company lowers stress?

- Adolescent boy, age 15
 - Resident parent
 - Stepparent
 - ★ Non-resident parent
 - ★ Older sibling
 - Younger sibling

Previous Time Use Research

Previous Time Use Research

- Spouse relationships
 - Time for Each Other: Work and Family Constraints Among Couples (Flood & Genadek 2016)
 - Spending Time Together—Changes Over Four Decades in Leisure Time Spent with a Spouse (Voorpostel, van der Lippe, & Gershuny 2010)
 - Spouse ‘Together Time’: Quality Time Within the Household (Glorieux, Minnen, & van Tienoven 2010)
 - When Does Gender Trump Money? Bargaining and Time in Household Work (Bittman, England, Sayer, Folbre, & Matheson 2003)

Previous Time Use Research

- Parent-Child shared time
 - Are Parents Investing Less in Children? Trends in Mothers' and Fathers' Time with Children (Sayer, Bianchi, & Robinson, 2004)
 - Parent-child quality time: Does birth order matter? (Price, 2007)
 - Signs of Change? At-Home and Breadwinner Parents' Housework and Child-Care Time (Chelsey & Flood, 2016)
 - Decomposing the increase in men's time on childcare during the great recession (Gorsuch, 2016)

Previous Time Use Research

- Mothers
 - Mothers Time with Children and Subjective Well-Being (Flood, Meier, & Musick, 2013)
 - Who Experiences Leisure Deficits? Mothers Marital Status and Leisure Time (Passias, Sayer, & Pepin, 2015)
 - Mothers' Transitions to the Empty Nest Phase (Thorn, 2012)

Previous Time Use Research

- Fathers
 - Men's Family Involvement across Industrial Nations (Hofferth, Fisher, & Glorieux, 2015)
 - Family Structure and Trends in U.S. Fathers' Time with Children, 2003-2013 (Hofferth & Lee, 2015)

Previous Time Use Research

- Family time
 - Family dinner frequency, settings and sources, and body weight in US adults (Sobal & Hanson 2014)
 - The Family Leisure Dilemma: Insights from Research with Canadian Families (Shaw 2011)
 - Every kid (and family) in a park? Free National Parks admission for children and spillovers in family recreation (Wikle & Hodge, working paper)

Previous Time Use Research

- Siblings
 - Adolescent caretaking of younger siblings (Wikle, Jensen & Hoagland, forthcoming)

Previous Time Use Research

- Youth
 - How American Children Spend Their Time (Hofferth & Sandberg 2001)
 - Time use of youths of immigrant and native-born parents: ATUS results (Bianchi & Kofman 2012)
 - In good company: Adolescent well-being and shared time with family, mentors, neighbors and friends (Wikle & Hoagland, working paper)

Previous Time Use Research

- Elder care
 - Disability and activity-related emotion in later life: Are effects buffered by intimate relationship support and strain? (Carr, Cornman, & Freedman, 2017)
 - The impact of demographic change on transfers in the form of caregiving and the associated well-being (Zagheni, Ryan, & Dukhovnov, under review)
 - The Opportunity Costs of Informal Elder-Care in the United States: New Estimates from the American Time Use Survey (Chari, Engberg, Ray, & Mehrotra 2015)
 - Focus on Home: What Time-Use Data Can Tell About Caregiving to Adults (Michelson & Tepperman 2003)

Getting started with United States data!

American Time Use Survey (ATUS)

- One household member sampled from the Current Population Survey
 - Link to CPS household information
- 2003-2016



THREE RESOURCES TO STUDY TIME USE.

These projects provide free individual-level time use data for research purposes. The data extract systems make it easy to create data sets containing time use and other variables a user needs.

ATUS

AMERICAN TIME USE SURVEY EXTRACT BUILDER

Annual American Time Use Survey (ATUS) data from 2003 forward.

[GET DATA](#)

AHTUS

AMERICAN HERITAGE TIME USE STUDY EXTRACT BUILDER

Historical American time use data since 1965 harmonized for comparison over time, including the ATUS samples.

[GET DATA](#)

MTUS

MULTINATIONAL TIME USE STUDY EXTRACT BUILDER

MTUS is a project dedicated to making it easy for researchers to use data from around the world.

[GET DATA](#)



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Using rectangular data

- Each respondent has one line of data
- Each time use variable of interest is its own column

Using rectangular data

- Select household variables and individual variables of interest
 - Demographics
 - Family characteristics
- Add time use variables
- Select sample years

Custom Time Use Variables

- Can restrict by
 - One or multiple activities
 - Time of day
 - Secondary activities
 - Location
 - Other people present

ACTIVITY

TIME OF DAY

SECONDARY ACTIVITY

LOCATION

WITH WHOM

NAME AND LABEL

SUMMARY

Respondent activities are recorded as six-digit numbers ([ACTIVITY](#)). The first two digits correspond to a broad category, the middle two to a more detailed subcategory, and the final two to a specific activity within those categories. Users may select any combination of activities from the activity hierarchy to create time use variables.

[\[more info\]](#)

[expand all](#) | [collapse all](#)


- All**
- Personal Care (010000)
- Household Activities (020000)
- Caring for and Helping Household Members (030000)
- Caring for and Helping Non-Household Members (040000)
- Work and Work-Related Activities (050000)
- Education (060000)
- Consumer Purchases (070000)
- Professional and Personal Care Services (080000)
- Household Services (090000)
- Government Services and Civic Obligations (100000)
- Eating and Drinking (110000)**
 - Eating and Drinking (110100)**
 - Waiting Associated with Eating and Drinking (110200)**
 - Eating and Drinking, n.e.c. (119900)**
- Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure (120000)
- Sports, Exercise, and Recreation (130000)
- Religious and Spiritual Activities (140000)
- Volunteer Activities (150000)
- Telephone Calls (160000)
- Traveling (180000)
- Data Codes (500000)

ACTIVITY	TIME OF DAY	SECONDARY ACTIVITY	LOCATION	WITH WHOM	NAME AND LABEL	SUMMARY
----------	-------------	--------------------	----------	-----------	----------------	---------

The time of day filter allows users to restrict the time use variable currently being created to a particular range of time during the day. The default selection is all times, meaning that the times spent in each of the selected activities (given other filter selections) are added together regardless of when during the day the activities occurred. When a time of day filter is applied, only time spent in the activities (given other filter selections) during the time range specified is returned. For example, researchers may want to look at time spent between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on a specified set of activities.

[\[more info\]](#)

- Time Filter All Times (4:00 am to 4:00 am)
 Restrict Times

Time Range 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm


ACTIVITY	TIME OF DAY	SECONDARY ACTIVITY	LOCATION	WITH WHOM	NAME AND LABEL	SUMMARY
----------	-------------	--------------------	----------	-----------	----------------	---------

The location filter ([WHERE](#)) allows users to restrict the time use variable currently being created to a particular set of places or modes of transportation. The default selection is all locations, meaning that the times spent in each of the selected activities (given other filter selections) are added together regardless of where the activities occurred. When a location filter is applied, only times spent in the activities (given other filter selections) and locations specified are added together.

[\[more info\]](#)

Location Filter All Locations
 Specified Locations

Locations

All

- Place (0100)**
 - Respondent's home or yard (0101)
 - Respondent's workplace (0102)
 - Someone else's home (0103)
 - Restaurant or bar (0104)
 - Place of worship (0105)
 - Grocery store (0106)
 - Other store, mall (0107)
 - School (0108)
 - Outdoors away from home (0109)
 - Library (0110)
 - Bank (2004+) (0111)
 - Gym/health club (2004+) (0112)
 - Post Office (2004+) (0113)
 - Other place (0114)
 - Unspecified place (0115)
- Mode of Transportation (0200)**
 - Don't know (9997)
 - Refused (9998)
 - NIU (Not in universe) (9999)

ACTIVITY

TIME OF DAY

SECONDARY ACTIVITY

LOCATION

WITH WHOM

NAME AND LABEL

SUMMARY

The with whom filter allows users to restrict the time use variable currently being created to those that occurred alone or with specified others (see [RELATEW](#)). The default selection is no specifications, meaning that the times spent in each of the selected activities (given other filter selections) are added together regardless of who was present during the activities.

[\[more info\]](#)

- Who Filter
- Do not make any specifications
 - I want to specify others with whom the respondent did (or did not) spend time
 - I am only interested in time the respondent spent [\[alone\]](#).
- With Whom
- Include time spent during an activity with ANY of the people identified in the present column [\[?\]](#)
 - Include time spent during an activity with ALL of the people identified in the present column [\[?\]](#)

Present	Does Not Matter	Not Present	Relationship
Household members			
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Spouse
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Unmarried partner
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Own household child Cog go Specify Age and Sex
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Grandchild
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Parent
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Brother sister
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Other related person
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Foster child
<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Housemate, roommate
<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Roomer, boarder
<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Other nonrelative
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Own non-household child under 18

Using rectangular data

- Add variables to a data cart
- Datasets available in Stata, SAS, and SPSS formats
- Usually ready in 10 minutes or less

Using hierarchical data

Using hierarchical data

rectype	caseid	age	sex	activity	where	actline	start	stop	relatew	agew	sexw
2	14169	32	F								
3	14169			Reading for personal interest	R's home or yard	16	15:50:00	16:05:00			
4	14169								Alone		
3	14169			Washing, dressing and grooming oneself	NIU (Not in universe)	17	16:05:00	16:10:00			
4	14169								Blank		
3	14169			Physical care for hh children	R's home or yard	18	16:10:00	16:15:00			
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F
3	14169			Playing with hh children, not sports	R's home or yard	19	16:15:00	17:10:00			
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F
3	14169			Food and drink preparation	R's home or yard	20	17:10:00	17:40:00			
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F
3	14169			Eating and drinking	R's home or yard	21	17:40:00	18:25:00			
4	14169								Unmarried partner	32	M
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F
3	14169			Playing games	R's home or yard	22	18:25:00	18:45:00			
4	14169								Unmarried partner	32	M
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F

Using hierarchical data

rectype	caseid	age	sex	activity	where	actline	start	stop	relatew	agew	sexw
2	141			Person Record							
3	14169			Reading for personal interest	R's home or yard	16	15:50:00	16:05:00			
4	14169								Alone		
3	14169			Washing, dressing and grooming oneself	NIU (Not in universe)	17	16:05:00	16:10:00			
4	14169								Blank		
3	14169			Physical care for hh children	R's home or yard	18	16:10:00	16:15:00			
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F
3	14169			Playing with hh children, not sports	R's home or yard	19	16:15:00	17:10:00			
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F
3	14169			Food and drink preparation	R's home or yard	20	17:10:00	17:40:00			
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F
3	14169			Eating and drinking	R's home or yard	21	17:40:00	18:25:00			
4	14169								Unmarried partner	32	M
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F
3	14169			Playing games	R's home or yard	22	18:25:00	18:45:00			
4	14169								Unmarried partner	32	M
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F

Using hierarchical data

rectype	caseid	age	sex	activity	where	actline	start	stop	relatew	agew	sexw
2	14169			Person Record							
3	14169			Reading for personal interest	R's home or yard	16	15:50:00	16:05:00			
4	14169								Alone		
3	14169			Activity Record; dressing and grooming oneself	NIU (Not in universe)	17	16:05:00	16:10:00			
4	14169								Blank		
3	14169			Physical care for hh children	R's home or yard	18	16:10:00	16:15:00			
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F
3	14169			Playing with hh children, not sports	R's home or yard	19	16:15:00	17:10:00			
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F
3	14169			Food and drink preparation	R's home or yard	20	17:10:00	17:40:00			
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F
3	14169			Eating and drinking	R's home or yard	21	17:40:00	18:25:00			
4	14169								Unmarried partner	32	M
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F
3	14169			Playing games	R's home or yard	22	18:25:00	18:45:00			
4	14169								Unmarried partner	32	M
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F

Using hierarchical data

rectype	caseid	age	sex	activity	where	actline	start	stop	relatew	agew	sexw
2	14169			Person Record							
3	14169			Reading for personal interest	R's home or yard	16	15:50:00	16:05:00			
4	14169								Alone		
3	14169			Activity Record; dressing and grooming oneself	NIU (Not in universe)	17	16:05:00	16:10:00			
4	14169								Blank		
3	14169			Physical care for hh children	R's home or yard	18	16:10:00	16:15:00			
4	14169			With whom Record					Other nonrelative	2	F
3	14169			Playing with hh children, not sports	R's home or yard	19	16:15:00	17:10:00			
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F
3	14169			Food and drink preparation	R's home or yard	20	17:10:00	17:40:00			
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F
3	14169			Eating and drinking	R's home or yard	21	17:40:00	18:25:00			
4	14169								Unmarried partner	32	M
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F
3	14169			Playing games	R's home or yard	22	18:25:00	18:45:00			
4	14169								Unmarried partner	32	M
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F

Using hierarchical data

rectype	caseid	age	sex	activity	where	actline	start	stop	relatew	agew	sexw
2	14169	32	F								
3	14169			Reading for personal interest	R's home or yard	16	15:50:00	16:05:00			
4	14169								Alone		
3	14169			Washing, dressing and grooming oneself	NIU (Not in universe)	17	16:05:00	16:10:00			
4	14169								Blank		
3	14169			Physical care for hh children	R's home or yard	18	16:10:00	16:15:00			
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F
3	14169			Playing with hh children, not sports	R's home or yard	19	16:15:00	17:10:00			
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F
3	14169			Food and drink preparation	R's home or yard	20	17:10:00	17:40:00			
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F
3	14169			Eating and drinking	R's home or yard	21	17:40:00	18:25:00			
4	14169								Unmarried partner	32	M
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F
3	14169			Playing games	R's home or yard	22	18:25:00	18:45:00			
4	14169								Unmarried partner	32	M
4	14169								Other nonrelative	2	F

Using hierarchical data

- Use activity codes, start/stop times, where, and with whom information to create variables of interest
- “Rectangularize” the data by dropping unneeded record types after extracting information from them

Historic US Data

- American Heritage Time Use Survey (AHTUS)
- Combines time use data from surveys since 1965
- Standardized variables for comparisons
- Can be used to study trends and changes in family processes



THREE RESOURCES TO STUDY TIME USE.

These projects provide free individual-level time use data for research purposes. The data extract systems make it easy to create data sets containing time use and other variables a user needs.

ATUS

AMERICAN TIME USE SURVEY EXTRACT BUILDER

Annual American Time Use Survey (ATUS) data from 2003 forward.

[GET DATA](#)

AHTUS

AMERICAN HERITAGE TIME USE STUDY EXTRACT BUILDER

Historical American time use data since 1965 harmonized for comparison over time, including the ATUS samples.

[GET DATA](#)

MTUS

MULTINATIONAL TIME USE STUDY EXTRACT BUILDER

MTUS is a project dedicated to making it easy for researchers to use data from around the world.

[GET DATA](#)

Longitudinal US Data

- Panel Study of Income Dynamics
 - Child Development Supplement (children ages 12 and under)
 - Supplement on Disability and Use of Time (married people ages 60+ and their spouses)
- Health and Retirement Survey (couples ages 55+)

Cross National Data

- Multinational Time Use Study (MTUS)
- Combines time use data from many developed countries
 - Austria
 - Canada
 - Finland
 - France
 - Netherlands
 - Spain
 - UK
 - US
- Standardized variables for cross-national comparisons
- Can be used to study variation in family processes



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Please feel free to contact me

wikle@byu.edu