Time Use, Gender and Family Caregiving

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Two Examples of Research Topics on Family, Gender, Time

- Nonstandard Work Hours and Family Time (with ATUS)

- Gender Differences in Quantity and Quality of Leisure Time (1998-99 Family Interaction, Social Capital and Time Use Survey)
Research Question:
Is Working Nonstandard vs. Standard Hours Associated with More or Less…

- Time with Children
- Time with Spouse
- Time for Oneself (e.g., leisure)


Challenges

- Choosing the Sample. We focus on:
  - EMPLOYSTAT employed
  - AGE ages 18-64
  - KIDUND18 Parents with at least one child under age 18 in the household
  - DAY sampled on a weekday
  - [CREATE]did some paid work on that diary
    Selection must be done in SAS/Stata
Challenges

- Define Nonstandard vs. Standard Work
  - ATUS offers diary day, not usual work schedules
  - Segment the day into three shifts
    - 8am to 4pm – standard daytime hours
    - 4pm to midnight (12pm) – evening hours
    - Midnight (12:01AM) to 8am – night hours
  - Note: This is easy in ATUS-X – more difficult for us

Creating Time of Day Variables

![Create New Time Use Variable](image)
Challenges

• Creating Time Use Variables
  – In ATUS-X might want flag for any paid work [for sample selection later]
  – Calculated total hours worked on diary day and hours worked in each of three periods [much easier in ATUS-X]
  – Assigned the individual work status – day**, evening, night – depending on which category included 50+% of work hours
  – Developed rules for ties (50/50) and no 50+%

Time with Spouse

• For married respondents:
  – Total minutes with spouse on diary day
  – Minutes alone with spouse on diary day
Time with Children (1)

• Remember what Betsy showed you, we used similar measures plus…:
  – Total minutes with children (excl. sleep) on diary day
  – Minutes alone with children (no other adults present)
  – Minutes in primary childcare (total, “routine,” and “engaged”) 
  – Minutes at home between 3pm and 6pm [again much easier in ATUS-X]

Time with Children (2)

• Additionally, we created binary (1,0) variables for activities that were somewhat infrequent. Did respondent spend any time on the diary day…
  – Helping a child with homework
  – Reading to/with a child
  – Engaging in children’s educational events or activities (E.g., conferences with teachers)
  – Eating breakfast with a child (e.g., any time eating with a child between 6am and 9am)
  – Eating dinner with a child (5pm to 8pm)
Time for Oneself

• For married respondents:
  – Total minutes of sleep
  – Total minutes of free time
    • Total minutes of TV watching
    • Total minutes exercising

Findings? Time with Children

• Mothers who work nights spend more time with children, eat more meals with children, are home during the 3-6pm period.

• For mothers, evening work cuts into reading to kids, eating dinner, doing education related activities, being home 3-6pm. More eating breakfast with kids.

• Fathers with either evening or night work spend more time alone with children (30 minutes) than fathers who work days and a little more time in routine care of children. Not as much education related activity with children when they work evenings.
Findings? Time for Spouse, Self

• Mothers and fathers who work evenings and nights spend less time with a spouse.
• Nonstandard work is correlated with a little less sleep and less TV watching. A little more exercise for mothers with evening shifts, a little less exercise for mothers with night shifts (compared to day).

Limitations

• ATUS provides opportunity for interesting description – especially when one begins to use the timing of activities

BUT...
• Limitations include the cross-sectional nature of the data, the single day diary, the single person per household respondent.
Research Question 2: Are there Gender Differences in Leisure?

Do women compared to men have...

- Less overall leisure time
- Lower “quality” leisure time
  - Less “pure”
  - More fragmented
  - More contaminated
  - Less “adult only”

Challenges

Conceptualizing “free time” or “leisure”:
- Free time as residual – not paid work, not unpaid work in the home, not personal care. We construct the following measures:
  - **Quantity**: Total minutes in “free time” activities on the diary day [seems easy in ATUS-X]
  - **Quality**: How easy would it be to construct our measures?
“Quality” of Free Time

- Fragmentation
  - Number of episodes of free time on diary day
  - Length of longest uninterrupted episode

- (Lack of) Contamination of Free Time
  - Pure free time (no secondary activity that was NOT free time [CANNOT DO COMPARABLE MEASURE WITH ATUS])
  - Free time with child present [POSSIBLE WITH ATUS – EITHER USING WITH WHOM OR ATUS ‘SECONDARY’ CHILD CARE]
  - Free time with children, no other adults

- Subjective – feeling rushed [NOT POSSIBLE WITH ATUS]

What did we find?

- Men had more free time (1/2 more per day)
- Women’s free time was NOT more fragmented than men’s (i.e., similar # episodes, length of longest episode)
- Women’s free time more “contaminated” than men’s (more secondary non-free time activity, more often had children present)
- Women felt more rushed
Other ATUS Topics

- Teenage Time Use (SSR)
- Single Mothers’ Time with Children (JMF)
- Race/Ethnic Differences in Gender Division of Housework (JFI)
- Second Shift and Gender (SF)
- Maternal Employment and Father Involvement