

# Time Use, Gender and Family Caregiving

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American Time Use Survey-X  
extract builder

## 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)

Wight, V. R., S. B. Raley, and S. M. Bianchi. 2008. "Time for Children, Spouse and Self Among Parents Who Work Nonstandard Hours."

*Social Forces*. 87 (September): 243-274

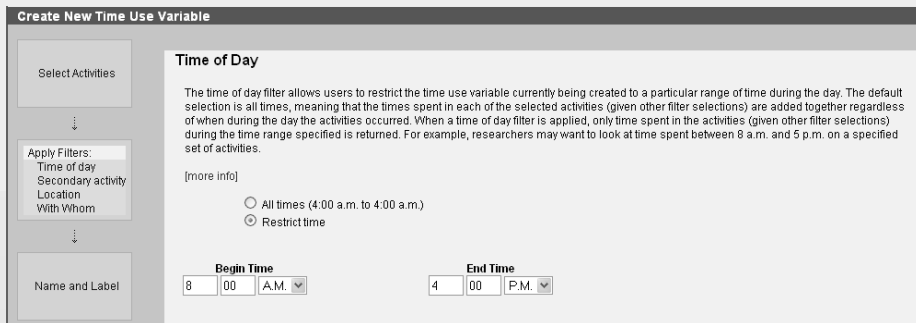
## Challenges

- 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 diarySelection 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 was is easy in ATUS-X – more difficult for us

# Creating Time of Day Variables



**Create New Time Use Variable**

Select Activities

Apply Filters:  
Time of day  
Secondary activity  
Location  
With Whom

Name and Label

**Time of Day**

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]

All times (4:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.)  
 Restrict time

**Begin Time** 8 00 A.M. **End Time** 4 00 P.M.

## 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]
- BUT**
- **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