ATUS Exercise: Spouse Characteristics

Learning goals

- [fill in]

Summary

The aims of this exercise are to become familiar with 1) thinking about how to leverage the rich information available in the ATUS about respondents and household members, 2) creating couple-level variables, and 3) analyzing couple-level data. While the ATUS only collects time use information for one member of each surveyed household, sociodemographic information is obtained for all the members of the household. ATUS-X provides the following characteristics about the ATUS respondent's spouse: age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, educational attainment, spouse employed, employment status, usual work hours and weekly earnings. *Note that when analyzing couple-level characteristics from the ATUS, you may need to keep in mind whether the respondent is male or female.*

Part 1: Create Extract and Descriptive Statistics

Create a rectangular extract including ATUS respondents and household members for the 2012 sample along with the following variables: time spent in household activities (ACT_HHACT), individual characteristics (AGE, SEX, EDUC, EMPSTAT), and spouse characteristics (SPOUSEPRES, SPAGE, SPSEX, SPSPEDUC, SPEMPSTAT).

Get the characteristics of the sample.

How many couples are in the sample? _____ _

How many respondents are male? _____ Female? _____ _

What proportion of respondents are employed? _____ _

What proportion of spouses are employed? _____ _

What proportion of couples both members have the same educational attainment (1: less than HS diploma, 2: HS diploma, no college, 3: Some college, 4: college degree or higher)? _____ _

Only for heterosexual couples, create couple-level variables based on the age, employment status, and educational attainment of both members of the couple.

Couple-level variables:

CAGE: male is 5 years older than female, difference is less than 5 years, female is 5 years older than male

CEMPSTAT: both employed (dual-earner couples), only male is employed (male breadwinner couple), only female is employed (female breadwinner couple), neither is employed

CEDUC: male has more education than female (hypergamy), both have same level of education (homogamy), female has more education than male (hypogamy)

How many dual earner couples are there in the sample? _____ Male breadwinner? _____ _

In how many couples is the male older than the female by 5 or more years? _____ _

How many hypergamous couples are there in the sample? _____ Hypogamous? _____ _

(Hypergamous- men have more education than women; hypogamous- women have more education than men)

Compare time spent in household activities based on the characteristics of the couples.

What is the mean number of minutes spent in household activities for:

men in dual-earner couple arrangements? _____ _

women in dual-earner couple arrangements? _____ _

What is the difference between men's and women's time spent in household activities when:

men are older than their wives? _____ _

wives are older than their husbands? _____ _

husbands and wives are within five years of one another? _____ _

men are more educated than their wives? _____ _

women are more educated than their husbands? _____ _

husbands and wives have the same level of education? _____ _

Part 1 Answers: Get the characteristics of the sample.

How many couples are in the sample? 6378
How many respondents are male? 3101   Female? 3277
What proportion of respondents are employed? 61%
What proportion of spouses are employed? 64%
What proportion of couples both members have the same educational attainment (1: less than HS diploma, 2: HS diploma, no college, 3: Some college, 4: college degree or higher)? 56.9%

Only for heterosexual couples, create typologies of couples according to the age, employment status and educational attainment of both members of the couple.

How many dual earner couples are there in the sample? 3173   Male breadwinner? 1558
In how many couples is the male older than the female by 5 or more years? 1181
How many hypergamous couples are there in the sample? 1201   Hypogamous? 1405
(Hypergamous- men have more education than women; hypogamous- women have more education than men)

Compare time spent in household activities according to the characteristics of the couples.
What is the mean number of minutes spent in household activities for:
men in dual-earner couple arrangements? 77.77
women in dual-earner couple arrangements? 122.3
What is the difference between men's and women's time spent in household activities when:
men are older than their wives? 90.92-153.29=-62.37
wives are older than their husbands? 70.16-152.48=-82.32
husbands and wives are within five years of one another? 90.35-157.62=-67.27
men are more educated than their wives? 80.57-163.04=-82.47
women are more educated than their husbands? 94.76-144.97=-50.21
husbands and wives have the same level of education? 90.72-169.29=-78.57