



# ATUS Exercise: Comparison of Stylized and Diary Reports of Meal Preparation among Same-Sex and Different-Sex Couples

## Learning goals

- Learn why MARST may not be the best variable to use to determine whether an ATUS respondent is married or partnered
- Locate and include spouse/partner characteristics in ATUS-X
- Compare stylized and diary reports of meal preparation

## Summary

In this exercise, you will analyze the relationship between gender, relationship type, and meal preparation as well as a comparison of individual reports of who usually does the meal preparation and the amount of time spent preparing meals on the diary day. To complete the exercise, you will need to find variables describing characteristics of the spouse or partner in the ATUS respondent households, include a measure of who usually prepares meals from the Eating and Health module, and include a time use variable (pre-created or that you create) to represent the number of minutes per day spent preparing meals. You will conduct a visual comparison between stylized and time diary estimates of the division of labor between couples.

## Part 1: Browse data and create an extract

1. What pieces of information do you need to distinguish between (married or partnered) same-sex and different-sex couples?  

---
2. Do the variables you need to distinguish same-sex and different-sex couples exist in ATUS-X? If so, what are the variable name(s)?  

---
3. Is MARST the best variable to use to determine whether an ATUS respondent is married or partnered? Explain.  

---
4. What activity code(s) represent meal preparation? Does a time use variable exist that is exclusively preparing meals?  

---
5. Which weight should you include in your extract? Why? *Hint:* see exercise 4 to determine which weight you should include.  

---
6. Which Eating and Health Module variable allows you to know whether an ATUS respondent completed the Eating and Health Module?  

---
7. Which Eating and Health Module variable asks about who usually does the meal preparation?  

---
8. Create an extract that includes Eating and Health Module data from all years it is available and the following variables: variables to distinguish same and different-sex couples (see questions 2 and 3), a time use variable that indicates time spent preparing meals ONLY, appropriate weight (see question 5), a flag for whether respondents participated in the module (see questions 6), a stylized question about who usually does the meal preparation (question 7).



## Part 2: Understand the data, construct and recode variables

9. How many ATUS respondents completed the Eating and Health Module?

---

10. Of the Eating and Health Module respondents, how many were partnered? Of those, how many were in same-sex arrangements and how many were in different-sex arrangements?

- a. Partnered: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Same-Sex Partner: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Different-Sex Partner: \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Men with Same-Sex Partner: \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Women with Same-Sex Partner: \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Men with Different-Sex Partner: \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Women with Different-Sex Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Recode variable about who usually does the meal preparation to eliminate missing data. How many Eating and Health Module respondents who were partnered had non-missing data?

---

12. Using weights, complete the table below showing who usually does the meal preparation by the sex and couple arrangement of the ATUS respondent. Because ATUS has a complex survey design, use the survey commands in your statistical package to generate weighted row percentages for usual meal preparation and weighted time spent preparing meals.

	Usual Meal Preparer			Minutes Spent Preparing Meals
	Yes	No	Split Evenly	
Man, Same-Sex Partner				
Man, Different-Sex Partner				
Woman, Same-Sex Partner				
Woman, Different-Sex Partner				

13. Individuals in which type of couple report the most equal sharing of meal preparation in the stylized question about how this labor is divided? Individuals in which type of couple report the most unequal sharing of meal preparation? Is this consistent with what we observe in the minutes spent preparing meals?

---



---



## Part 1 Answers: Browse data and create an extract

1. What pieces of information do you need to distinguish between (married or partnered) same-sex and different-sex couples? Sex of respondent and spouse/partner
2. Do the variables you need to distinguish same-sex and different-sex couples exist in ATUS-X? If so, what are the variable name(s)? SPOUSESPRES
3. Is MARST the best variable to use to determine whether an ATUS respondent is married or partnered? Explain. MARST is collected 2-5 months prior to the ATUS interview during the last CPS interview. SPOUSEPRES is collected at the time of the ATUS interview, so it captures changes that may have occurred since the CPS.
4. What activity code(s) represent meal preparation? Does a time use variable exist that is exclusively preparing meals? 020201; no
5. Which weight should you include in your extract? Why? *Hint: see exercise 4 to determine which weight you should include.* EHWT; the stylized measure of who usually prepares the meals is from the Eating and Health Module
6. Which Eating and Health Module variable allows you to know whether an ATUS respondent completed the Eating and Health Module? EH\_RESP
7. Which Eating and Health Module variable asks about who usually does the meal preparation? MEALPREP
8. Create an extract that includes Eating and Health Module data from all years it is available and the following variables: variables to distinguish same and different-sex couples (see questions 2 and 3), a time use variable that indicates time spent preparing meals ONLY, appropriate weight (see question 5), a flag for whether respondents participated in the module (see questions 6), a stylized question about who usually does the meal preparation (question 7).

## Part 2 Answers: Understand the data, construct and recode variables

9. How many ATUS respondents completed the Eating and Health Module? 69880
10. Of the Eating and Health Module respondents, how many were partnered? Of those, how many were in same-sex arrangements and how many were in different-sex arrangements?



- a. Partnered: 36332
- b. Same-Sex Partner: 232
- c. Different-Sex Partner: 36100
- d. Men with Same-Sex Partner: 98
- e. Women with Same-Sex Partner: 134
- f. Men with Different-Sex Partner: 17149
- g. Women with Different-Sex Partner: 18951

11. Recode variable about who usually does the meal preparation to eliminate missing data. How many Eating and Health Module respondents who were partnered had non-missing data? 36084

12. Using weights, complete the table below showing who usually does the meal preparation by the sex and couple arrangement of the ATUS respondent. Because ATUS has a complex survey design, use the survey commands in your statistical package to generate weighted row percentages for usual meal preparation and weighted time spent preparing meals.

	Usual Meal Preparer			Minutes Spent Preparing Meals
	Yes	No	Split Evenly	
Man, Same-Sex Partner	<u>34</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10.9</u>
Man, Different-Sex Partner	<u>19</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>19.0</u>
Woman, Same-Sex Partner	<u>47</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>29.2</u>
Woman, Different-Sex Partner	<u>77</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>46.8</u>

13. Individuals in which type of couple report the most equal sharing of meal preparation in the stylized question about how this labor is divided? Individuals in which type of couple report the most unequal sharing of meal preparation? Is this consistent with what we observe in the minutes spent preparing meals? Women in same-sex couples report most even division of labor. Women in different-sex couples report the most uneven division of meal preparation. This is consistent with what we see in the means where women in different-sex couples spend the most time in meal preparation.

