



Introducing the Multinational Time Use Study (MTUS) and the American Heritage Time Use Study (AHTUS)

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MTUS origins in the 1970s

- Jonathan Gershuny discovered minimally used time use surveys – stored in collections of uncatalogued floppy disks, box files, and paper diaries stored in bags
 - BBC Audience Research Unit
 - Szalai materials
 - Young & Wilmott symmetrical family
 - Mass Observation
- Idea for **harmonised archive** - MTUS



What is MTUS?

- Multinational Time Use Study

www.timeuse.org/MTUS

- Most comprehensive harmonised time use data
- Cross-time, 1960s to 2010s
- Cross-national – 25 countries
- Created by Jonathan Gershuny with help of Sally Jones in early 1980s
- Evolving iterations



Episode File Coverage

- Austria 1992 (2008-09 coming)
- Australia 1974 (1987, 1992, 1997, 2006 coming)
- Finland (1979, 1987, 1999, 2010 coming)
- France 1998-99, 2009-10 (1966, 1974-75, 1986 coming)
- Germany 1991-92, 2000-01
- Italy 1989 (2002-03, 2010 coming) / Israel 1991-92
- Netherlands 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005
- Republic of Korea 2009 (2004, 2014 coming)
- South Africa 2000 (2010 we hope to negotiate access)
- Spain 02-03, 09-10 (Basque region 92-3 98-9 02-3 08-9)
- UK 1974-75, 1983-87, 1995, 2000-01, 2005 (1961+2014-15)
- USA 1965-66, 1975-76, 1985, 1992-95, 1998-01, 2003-13



Other Countries

- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Hungary
- India
- Norway
- Serbia
- Slovenia
- Sweden
- In negotiation for other data
- 1920-1950s USA + UK



Early MTUS

- Designed for time budget analysis (summary time in detailed main activities), mostly for gender and national accounting purposes
- Summary time over 24 hours in 41 and 20 main activities + limited set of background variables
- Each row case represented a diary, no consideration of households & multi-diaries
- Ages 18-60 only (for analysis of care of children, activities of working aged people, full economy)



American Heritage Time Use Study - Origins

- Initiated by Yale University as a part of a Program on Non-Market Accounts funded by the Glaser Progress Foundation in 2006
- CTUR commissioned to harmonise major USA time use surveys from the 1960s, the 1970s, the 1980s and the 1990s with the 2003 initial American Time Use Survey
- Served as a trial run to make the episode files in the MTUS



AHTUS – MTUS differences

- All USA datasets in AHTUS also are in MTUS
- AHTUS has some different background variables, though there are more variables in MTUS than in the AHTUS
- AHTUS includes more activity codes (92) compared to MTUS 69; AHTUS also more who else was present categories
- MTUS has marker for use of internet / internet enabled devices not in the AHTUS



AHTUS – MTUS differences

- AHTUS has main files for adults aged 18+ and from main surveys, with supplementary files for the spouse element of the 1975-76 survey and supplementary files for diaries from children aged <18
- MTUS also has aged 18+ and aged<18 files, but integrates all diaries collected from each survey, including merging spouse diaries with main respondent diaries in the 1975-76 survey



MTUS

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AHTUS

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Multinational Time Use Study

www.timeuse.org/mtus

Professor Jonathan Gershuny first developed the Multinational Time Use Study (MTUS) in the mid 1970s. While working at the University of Bath with Sally Jones, Professor Gershuny developed a single dataset with common series of background variables and total time spent per day in 41 activities. The original MTUS allowed comparison of British time use data with the 1965 Szalai Multinational Time Budget Study and data from Canada and Denmark. The MTUS since has grown to offer harmonised episode and context information and to encompass over 60 datasets from 25 countries, including recent data from the HETUS, ATUS, and other national level time use projects. Professor Gershuny and Dr Kimberly Fisher presently manage the study in collaboration with other time use scholars.

This site provides access to the MTUS data and documentation, and offers advice on the use of this dataset.

In July 2013, we have:

- Renamed the W60 file to Harmonised Episode File (HEF) - the new name more clearly marks the file content
- Renamed the W58 file to Harmonised Aggregate File (HAF) - the new name more clearly marks the file content
- Offered a new Harmonised Simple File (HSF). This file covers a more limited range of person-level, household level and diary variables, and includes summary time in 25 time use categories. All files in the HEF and HAF also appear in this file. We temporarily have moved all files presently included in all older versions of the MTUS into this new format, until we can upgrade the older surveys properly. We will add some new datasets only in this format.
- added the 2012 American Time Use Survey in the Harmonised Episode File and Harmonised Aggregate File
- added Spain 2009-2010 in the Harmonised Episode File and Harmonised Aggregate File
- added Denmark 2001 in the Harmonised Simple File
- added Republic of Korea 2009 in the Harmonised Simple File
- added a region supplement for France
- upgraded the USA 1998-99 and combined this with the USA 1999-2001 into the Harmonised Episode File and Harmonised Aggregate File
- corrected some coding errors in the location variables in the first and last episodes of Israel 1991-92
- corrected some coding errors and added the East/West distinction in Germany 2001-02
- corrected errors in the assignment of the travel categories in the Basque country data for 2002-03 and 2008
- corrected errors in the original UK 2000-01 data reflecting the date and order diaries were kept



MTUS

▸ [Multinational Time Use Study](#)

AHTUS

▾ [American Heritage Time Use Study](#)

- [Co-Ordination and Funding](#)
- [Acknowledgements](#)
- [Online Documentation](#)
- [Access the AHTUS Data](#)
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Information

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American Heritage Time Use Study

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www.timeuse.org/ahtus

The American Heritage Time Use Study, a database of national time-diary samples collected over six decades, includes harmonised background, activity, location, mode of transport and who else was present variables. The AHTUS is suitable for a wide range of investigative purposes.

As these data are freely available to the research community, we ask the help of users to make programmes and publications developed using this data available to other users. Kindly email such material to the [AHTUS Team](#).

The initial development of this project allowing release 1 in May 2006 was conducted under an agreement with [Yale University](#) (Program on Non-Market Accounts), and was sponsored by the [Glaser Progress Foundation](#). Some amendments to this dataset made from December 2005 through December 2010 were funded by the [Economic and Social Research Council](#).

In July 2013, we have:

Released the 2012 American Time Use Study data

Amended errors in the recording of secondary eating in the 2006-2008 American Time Use Study data

Released the 1998-2001 Family Interaction, Social Capital, and Trends in Time Use Study (FISCT) and National Survey of Parents (NSP) data

In August 2012, we have:

- corrected minor errors in the 2007 and 2007 datasets, released the 2011 ATUS data

In future, you will be able to find emotions and affect supplements on the [MTUS supplements page](#).

We also plan to add the 2006 PATS data to the AHTUS at a future point and USDA diaries collected in the 1920s to 1930s.

Publications

[Publications using this dataset](#)



MTUS files

- Harmonised simple file (HSF)
 - Summary time in 25 main activities (row=diary)
 - Most surveys, fewest variables
 - 1 file with all surveys (some not upgraded)
- Harmonised aggregate file (HAF)
 - Summary time in 69 main activities (row=diary)
 - More detailed survey & demographic variables
 - Separate adult & child files
- Harmonised episode file (HEF)
 - Row = change in dimension of diary
 - Separate adult & child files

File Edit View Data Transform Analyze Direct Marketing Graphs Utilities Add-ons Window Help

Visible: 52 of 52

	empinlcm	edcat	sleep	eatdrink	selfcare	paidwork	educatn	foodprep	cleane
1	6	2	420	60	30	595	0	0	
2	6	2	500	100	60	480	0	0	
3	-7	1	435	105	40	0	0	85	
4	6	2	460	50	65	525	0	5	
5	4	2	485	80	25	569	0	30	
6	-7	2	470	100	15	0	0	135	
7	-7	2	445	95	20	0	0	65	
8	-7	2	720	65	45	0	0	30	
9	7	2	485	160	45	350	265	0	
10	1	3	730	35	30	0	90	0	
11	-7	2	530	55	35	400	0	120	
12	-7	2	560	60	25	450	0	75	
13	-7	1	575	110	25	485	0	90	
14	-7	2	485	35	35	0	0	115	
15	8	3	335	55	20	375	0	10	
16	-7	3	600	70	50	0	0	140	
17	-7	1	440	80	35	170	0	250	
18	9	1	500	75	40	510	0	0	
19	-7	2	490	75	25	0	0	85	
20	-7	2	530	55	45	300	0	105	
21	7	2	360	40	35	635	0	0	

Data View Variable View

Aggregate File

File Edit View Data Transform Analyze Direct Marketing Graphs Utilities Add-ons Window Help



2 : main1 0 Visible: 165 of 165

	main1	main2	main3	main4	main5	main6	main7	main8	main9
1	0	420	0	30	30	30	300	0	
2	0	500	0	60	20	80	445	0	
3	0	435	0	40	0	105	0	0	
4	0	460	0	65	35	15	510	0	
5	0	485	0	25	45	35	249	185	
6	0	470							
7	0	445							
8	0	720							
9	0	485							
10	0	730							
11	0	530							
12	0	560							
13	0	575							
14	0	485							
15	0	335							
16	0	600							
17	0	440							
18	0	500							
19	0	490							
20	0	530							
21	0	360							

Variables [X]

Variable	Variable Information:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rushed	main4 Label: wash, dress, care for self Type: F4 Missing Values: none Measurement Level: Scale Value Labels: -9 could not be created for study
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> health	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> carer	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> disab	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> main1	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> main2	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> main3	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> main4	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> main5	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> main6	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> main7	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> main8	

Episode File

File Edit View Data Transform Analyze Direct Marketing Graphs Utilities Add-ons Window Help



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	time	clockst	start	end	epnum	main	sec	av	inout
1	70	.00	0	70	1	paid work-mai...	no recorded a...	paid work	in
2	40	1.10	70	110	2	travel to/from ...	listen to radio	travel to/from ...	in vel
3	10	1.50	110	120	3	pet care (not ...	no recorded a...	odd jobs	in
4	10	2.00	120	130	4	read	no recorded a...	read paper/ma...	in
5	10	2.10	130	140	5	meals or snac...	no recorded a...	meals, snacks	in
6	5	2.20	140	145	6	wash, dress, ...	no recorded a...	dress/persona...	in
7	420	2.25	145	565	7	sleep and naps	no recorded a...	sleep	in
8	25	9.25	565	590	8	wash, dress, ...	physical, med...	dress/persona...	in
9	20	9.50	590	610	9	meals or snac...	read	meals, snacks	in
10	55	10.10	610	665	10	travel to/from ...	no recorded a...	travel to/from ...	in vel
11	295	11.05	665	960	11	second or oth...	no recorded a...	second job	location un
12	30	16.00	960	990	12	paid work-mai...	meals at work...	paid work	in
13	20	16.30	990	1010	13	shop, person/...	no recorded a...	domestic travel	in vel
14	15	16.50	1010	1025	14	shop, person/...	no recorded a...	domestic travel	out
15	20	17.05	1025	1045	15	purchase goods	no recorded a...	shopping	in
16	15	17.25	1045	1060	16	worship and r...	no recorded a...	religious activity	in
17	10	17.40	1060	1070	17	other travel	no recorded a...	free time travel	out
18	85	17.50	1070	1155	18	cinema, theatr...	no recorded a...	cinema, theatre	out
19	20	19.15	1155	1175	19	other travel	no recorded a...	free time travel	out
20	20	19.35	1175	1195	20	receive or visit...	no recorded a...	visit friends	in
21	15	19.55	1195	1210	21	travel to/from	meals or snac	travel to/from	in vel



AHTUS files

- Questionnaire file – 1 row per person per wave
 - Person-level variables
 - Household and region level variables
- Summary file – 1 row per diary
 - Summary time in 10 main activity categories (sum 1440 min)
 - Summary time in 92 main activities (sum 1440 min)
 - Summary time in 92 main activities where diarist also reported secondary child care
- Episode file – 1 row per episode
 - Row = change in dimension of diary

Questionnaire File

File Edit View Data Transform Analyze Direct Marketing



	pid	state	regionc	regione	urban	ownhome	age	sex	ethnic
1	20030112020914	CALIFORNIA	WEST	PACIFIC	URBAN	owner or buyi...	36	FEMALE	White
2	20030504030648	ARKANSAS	SOUTH	SOUTH CEN...	URBAN	rent	81	FEMALE	White
3	20030907030858	CALIFORNIA	WEST	PACIFIC	URBAN	owner or buyi...	40	FEMALE	Some other ra...
4	20031211030810	CALIFORNIA	WEST	PACIFIC	URBAN	rent	32	MALE	White
5	20031109030849	CALIFORNIA	WEST	PACIFIC	URBAN	owner or buyi...	52	FEMALE	White
6	20030303030548	ALABAMA	SOUTH	SOUTH ATLA...	URBAN	owner or buyi...	46	FEMALE	White
7	20031009030599	ARIZONA	WEST	PACIFIC	URBAN	rent	37	FEMALE	White
8	20030302030543	ALASKA	WEST	SOUTH ATLA...	URBAN	owner or buyi...	37	MALE	White
9	20030111020730	CALIFORNIA	WEST	PACIFIC	URBAN	owner or buyi...	42	MALE	Asian
10	20030808030780	CALIFORNIA	WEST	PACIFIC	URBAN	rent	24	FEMALE	White
11	20031009033334	TEXAS	SOUTH	SOUTH CEN...	URBAN	owner or buyi...	28	MALE	White
12	20030302031266	FLORIDA	SOUTH	SOUTH ATLA...	URBAN	owner or buyi...	81	FEMALE	White
13	20030212020805	CALIFORNIA	WEST	PACIFIC	URBAN	owner or buyi...	36	MALE	White
14	20030504030805	CALIFORNIA	WEST	PACIFIC	URBAN	rent	47	MALE	Asian
15	20030808031363	GEORGIA	SOUTH	SOUTH ATLA...	URBAN	rent	50	FEMALE	Black
16	20031009031341	GEORGIA	SOUTH	SOUTH ATLA...	URBAN	owner or buyi...	43	FEMALE	White
17	20030706033262	TEXAS	SOUTH	SOUTH CEN...	URBAN	owner or buyi...	35	FEMALE	Some other ra...
18	20030302032119	MISSISSIPPI	SOUTH	SOUTH ATLA...	URBAN	owner or buyi...	36	MALE	White

Summary File



99 : tsc5 -9 Visible: 227 of 227 Variables

	main93	tmain94	tmain95	tmain96	tmain97	tmain98	tsc1	tsc2	tsc3	tsc4	tsc5
77	30	0	0	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	not present in ...
78	0	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	not present in ...
79	0	0	95	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	not present in ...
80	0	0	0	0	10	10	0	60	0	0	not present in ...
81	30	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	not present in ...
82	25	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	not present in ...
83	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	not present in ...
84	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	not present in ...
85	0	0	25	40	0	49	0	0	0	0	not present in ...
86	0	0	12	4	0	6	0	0	0	0	not present in ...
87	15	0	40	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	not present in ...
88	0	0	0	0	0	180	0	0	0	0	not present in ...
89	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	not present in ...
90	0	0	30	0	0	55	0	0	0	0	not present in ...
91	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	not present in ...
92	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	not present in ...
93	0	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	not present in ...
94	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	not present in ...
95	125	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	not present in ...
96	50	0	0	25	0	15	0	0	0	0	not present in ...
97	22	0	2	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	not present in ...
98	16	0	5	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	not present in ...
99	0	0	5	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	not present in ...

Episode File



	year	time	clockst	start	end	epnum	main	sec	inout	eloc	mtra
1	2003	60	400	0	60	1	sleep	no secondary ...	inside	own home	not tra
2	2003	1	500	60	61	2	care of infants	no secondary ...	inside	own home	not tra
3	2003	45	501	61	106	3	wash, dress, ...	no secondary ...	inside	own home	not tra
4	2003	2	546	106	108	4	food preparati...	no secondary ...	inside	own home	not tra
5	2003	10	548	108	118	5	other meals &...	no secondary ...	inside	own home	not tra
6	2003	5	558	118	123	6	general care ...	no secondary ...	inside	own home	not tra
7	2003	2	603	123	125	7	other domesti...	no secondary ...	inside	own home	not tra
8	2003	15	605	125	140	8	travel to/from ...	no secondary ...	in a vehicle	travelling	car/truck/r
9	2003	25	620	140	165	9	receive or visi...	no secondary ...	inside	workplace	not tra
10	2003	360	645	165	525	10	main paid wor...	no secondary ...	inside	workplace	not tra
11	2003	10	1245	525	535	11	travel to/from ...	no secondary ...	in a vehicle	travelling	car/truck/r
12	2003	2	1255	535	537	12	wash, dress, ...	no secondary ...	inside	other	not tra
13	2003	5	1257	537	542	13	travel related t...	no secondary ...	in a vehicle	travelling	car/truck/r
14	2003	15	1302	542	557	14	other child care	no secondary ...	outside	other	not tra
15	2003	15	1317	557	572	15	travel related t...	no secondary ...	in a vehicle	travelling	car/truck/r
16	2003	2	1332	572	574	16	other child care	imputed travel	in a vehicle	travelling	other or v
17	2003	15	1334	574	589	17	travel related t...	no secondary ...	in a vehicle	travelling	car/truck/r
18	2003	30	1349	589	619	18	other meals &...	general care ...	inside	own home	not tra



MTUS access

- Data accessed after first signing an agreement
- Get a log-in for the website, access large files



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Home » Multinational Time Use Study » Downloading Files

Downloading Files [Restricted Access]

Please register as an MTUS user to access the MTUS.

Once you have received confirmation that your application has been approved and process files by clicking on the filenames, then entering the username and password (sent in confirm so.

Heritage simple files

Simple - all ages simple files (summary time in 25 activity categories) - July 2013

- MTUS zipped flat text simple file
- MTUS zipped SPSS simple file

Adult aggregate and episode files

Episode - adult episode files - July 2013

- MTUS zipped adult flat text episode file
- MTUS zipped adult SPSS episode file

Aggregate - adult detailed aggregate files - July 2013

- MTUS zipped adult flat text detailed aggregate file
- MTUS zipped adult SPSS detailed aggregate file

Child aggregate and episode files

Episode - child (aged under 18) episode files - July 2013

- MTUS zipped child flat text episode file
- MTUS zipped child SPSS episode file

Aggregate - child (aged under 18) detailed aggregate files - July 2013

- MTUS zipped child flat text detailed aggregate file
- MTUS zipped child SPSS detailed aggregate file

If you have further questions regarding the MTUS, please contact us.

APPLICATION TO REGISTER AS AN AUTHORISED USER OF THE MULTI-NATIONAL TIME USE STUDY DATA FILES

TITLE:	
NAME:	
INSTITUTION:	
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:	
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INTENDED USE OF THE MTUS DATA:

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In registering as an authorised user of the MTUS, I agree to abide by the following conditions:

- I agree not to try to identify any individuals who completed diaries or to attempt to compromise the anonymity of the entries in the data files.
- In the interests of anonymity and performing quality analysis, I agree not to publish any result which has a cell size of fewer than 30 diary days (unweighted). Where weights should be used in analysis, the unweighted diary day number should be checked before interpretations are made.
- I agree to consider the possible impacts of the methodological differences between the original studies on the results I produce, and I will mention the variations between the original studies in footnotes in documents I produce using this data.
- I assume full responsibility for the conclusions I draw from results I produce using MTUS data, and I agree to include the following citation in any publication, including limited circulation internal reports:
This document presents results drawn from the Multinational Time Use Study (MTUS); but the interpretation of this data and other views expressed in this text are those of the author. This text does not necessarily represent the views of the MTUS team or any agency which has contributed data to the MTUS archive. The author bears full responsibility for all errors and omissions in the interpretation of the MTUS data.
- I agree not to represent results I produce using MTUS data as though these results were official estimates produced by national statistical agencies.
- I agree not to suggest that the MTUS data show support for the use of any specific brand or product, or to use results from the MTUS in the advertising of any brand, product or service.
- I agree to return to the study any improved versions of the data files that I create.
- I agree to consider the statistical significance and standard errors of results. I will treat results which are marginally statistically significant and have large standard errors with extreme caution, and not to draw firm conclusions from such results.
- I agree to provide the MTUS database co-ordinators with the citations and copies of publications I produce using MTUS data.
- I agree not to give MTUS data to any third party without the written or e-mailed permission of an MTUS database co-ordinator.
- I note that each person proposing to use any element of data connected with the MTUS needs to apply separately for permission to use the data. A list of the names of research assistants should be sent separately to the database co-ordinators.

Please sign above _____ Date _____

Print name and address here _____

Return your completed form to:
Multinational Time Use Study User Team
Centre for Time Use Research
Department of Sociology, University of Oxford
Manor Road Building, Manor Road, Oxford OX1 3UQ, United Kingdom
Fax: +44 (0) 1865 286171
Email: mtus@news.ox.ac.uk

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:
APPLICATION APPROVED: ___ yes ___ no MTUS USER NUMBER: _____
APPROVAL DATE: _____



AHTUS access

- Create a log-in for the website, access large files

Centre for Time Use Research
- information gateway

Home MTUS AHTUS Information Team Research Contact

Home > American Heritage Time Use Study > Access the AHTUS Data

Access the AHTUS Data

We will periodically release revised versions of this data which may include corrections.

We advise users to check that they have downloaded the latest version of the AHTUS when working with this data.

Please note that this site enables you to download zipped files containing SPSS data files. Users should use these files in accordance with the terms of the license.

- o **American Time Use Survey (ATUS)**
Date range: 2003-2012 [edit]
Main files:
 - Diaries from ages 18 and olderSupplementary Files :
 - Diaries from ages 15-17
 - episodes in 2011-12 with both secondary elder & child care (zip)
- o **1998-99 FISCT and 1999-01 NSP combined dataset**
Date range: 1998-2001 [edit]
These data files combine two small surveys which have been used together in a number of publications.
Main files:
 - Diaries from ages 18+Supplementary Files :
 - Alternative weights for the 1998-01 surveys
- o **National Human Activity Pattern Survey (NHAPS)**
Date range: 1992-1995 [edit]
Main files:
 - Diaries from ages 18+, 1992-94
 - Diaries from ages 18+, 1994-95Supplementary Files :
 - Diaries from ages 0-17, 1992-94
- o **American's Use of Time**

Time use publication search

Anywhere

Search More options

User login

Username: *

Password: *

Math question: *
14 + 6 =

Solve this simple math problem and enter the result. E.g. for 1+3, enter 4.

Log in

- o Create new account
- o Request new password



MTUS supplements

- Region and ethnicity supplements
- UK extra variables supplement
- Future emotion supplement for surveys where this dimension is available
- Variable/value labels in English and in Spanish
- Collaboration with TUS-X to extract individual variables from a subset of the data
- <https://www.atusdata.org/index.shtml>



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Supplementary Files

Diaries from Children and Young People

Documentation for the diaries from children and young people
[Data files on main MTUS downloads page](#)

Region and Ethnicity Supplements

Documentation for the region and ethnicity supplements

France : [SPSS](#) | [STATA](#) | [TEXT](#)

Israel : [SPSS](#) | [STATA](#) | [TEXT](#)

Italy : [SPSS](#) | [STATA](#) | [TEXT](#)

Netherlands : [SPSS](#) | [STATA](#) | [TEXT](#)

Spain : [SPSS](#) | [STATA](#) | [TEXT](#)

UK : [SPSS](#) | [STATA](#) | [TEXT](#)

USA : [SPSS](#) | [STATA](#) | [TEXT](#)

Additional Variables for the United Kingdom

Documentation for the additional variables for the United Kingdom

UK 1974-1975 : [SPSS](#) | [STATA](#) | [TEXT](#)

UK 1983-1984 : [SPSS](#) | [STATA](#) | [TEXT](#)

UK 1987 : [SPSS](#) | [STATA](#) | [TEXT](#)

UK 1995 : [SPSS](#) | [STATA](#) | [TEXT](#)

UK 2000-2001 : [SPSS](#) | [STATA](#) | [TEXT](#)

UK 2005 : [SPSS](#) | [STATA](#) | [TEXT](#)

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MTUS User Guide

This User's Guide explains the development and potential for use of the MTUS. Information on other time use surveys not included in the harmonized dataset can be found elsewhere on this site.

Summary:

This User Guide is publicly available. Access to the main data requires registration, and access to some included datasets is restricted and requires additional authorisation.

Kimberly Fisher, Jonathan Gershuny

With contributions from: Evrim Altintas and Anne H. Gauthier

With further contributions from:

Authors:

Alyssa Borkosky, Anita Bortnik, Michael Corey, Donna Dosman, Cara Fedick, Tyler Frederick, Thomas Grund, Sally Jones, Jiweon Jun, Ladislav Kozak, Aaron Lai, Qianhan Lin, Tingting Lu, Fiona Lui, Leslie MacRae, Berenice Monna, José Ignacio Giménez Nadal, Monica Pauls, Cori Pawlak, Andrew Shipley, Cecilia Tinonin, Nuno Torres, Charlemagne Victorino and Oi-Ching Yeung.

Attachment	Size
Full MTUS User Guide	808.01 KB
Title and Table of Contents	39.31 KB
Acknowledgements	38.51 KB
Disclaimer	31.96 KB
Introduction	44 KB
Chapter 1: Overview of the MTUS	171.59 KB
Chapter 2: Historical Development of the MTUS	111.75 KB
Chapter 3: Activity Codes	160.41 KB
Chapter 4: Survey and Demographic Variables	178.43 KB
Chapter 5: Weights	51.16 KB
Chapter 6: Analysis of Time Use Data	63.89 KB
References	52.91 KB
Appendix 1: Variable and Value Labels English	113.61 KB
Apéndice 2: Variables y Etiquetas de Valores en Español	125.54 KB
Appendix 3: Notes on Variables from Surveys Yet to be Upgraded	74.9 KB
MTUS Coding Procedures	525.8 KB



AHTUS includes Excel concordance file

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Updated by Kimberly Fisher and Evrim Altintas, Centre for Time Use Research, University of Oxford, United Kingdom, 4 July 2013		1965-66		1975-76 (main and spouse)		1985		1992-94 + 1995		
2			code	category	code	category	2-digit code	3-digit code	category	code	category
3		18 - short course or training	51	attend special class or training session	519	other classes, lectures	51	519	course/lecture attended by non-student	51	other classes
4			52	attend occasional lecture							
5											
6		19 - occasional lectures and other education or training	55	reading for job/own instruction	569	other education	56		other education	55	using library
7			56	other education or training				568	day care or nursery education	56	other education
8			58	unlabelled education				569	other education		
9								360	using library		
10								887	music or singing lessons		
11								888	other lessons		
12											
13											
14		3 - unpaid domestic work and child care	10	prepare and cook food	109	meal preparation, cook or serve food	10		meal preparation, cooking, serve food	10	food preparation
15								108	meal preparation, cooking, fix lunches		
16								109	serve food/put away groceries/set table		
17											
18		21 - set table, wash/put away dishes	11	washing up, put away dishes	119	set/clear table, do dishes	11		meal clean-up, do dishes	11	food clean-up
19								118	do dishes, load dishwasher		
20								119	meal clean-up, unload dishwasher		
21											
22		22 - cleaning	12	indoor cleaning	129	routine indoor cleaning	12		clean house (indoors)	12	cleaning house
23			13	outdoor cleaning	139	routine outside cleaning		128	miscellaneous work around the house	13	outdoor cleaning
24								129	routine indoor cleaning & chores		
25								139	routine clean house (outside)		
26											
27											
28		23 - laundry, ironing, clothing repair	14	laundry, ironing	149	laundry, iron, fold, clothes care	14		laundry, ironing, clothes care	14	clothes care
29			15	repair, upkeep clothes & shoes				148	wash clothes		
30								149	iron, fold, put away clothes		
31											
32		24 - home repairs, maintain vehicle	16	other home repairs or upkeep	161	fix vehicle, home, furniture indoors	16		home repairs, car care, fix furniture	15	car repair/maintenance
33								161	repairs, maintenance indoors	16	other repairs
34								162	exterior repairs or maintenance		
35								163	car care, cleaning, tune up		
36								164	home improvements, remodelling		
37								165	repair appliances indoors		



MTUS / AHTUS harmonisation process: diary narratives

- Missing main activity not always missing
- Reading diary as a narrative
 - activity in sequences (following sleep or eating)

4:00-8:30	sleep	home
8:30-8:40		home
8:40-8:50	commute	walk
8:50-9:20	commute	train
9:20-12:30	paid work, main job	office



Harmonisation process

- Data cleaning and correction
 - Techniques to fix errors not available in past
 - Sequencing techniques relatively new, can enhance data as well as analyse data
- Create variables possible for a large number of national sample time use surveys
- Enhance files by moving information recorded by respondents to all relevant elements of diaries (can involve grouping as well as breaking down of original codes)



MTUS harmonisation process

- Make survey-level supplementary files (region & ethnicity, extra variable for UK and USA)
- Documentation
 - Main file over-all
 - Survey-specific variable comments
 - Survey specific code maps
 - Survey metadata summary
 - Annotated code files that start with original data files and end saving final MTUS files
- Publications database



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Surveys Included in the Harmonised Simple File Version of the MTUS Database

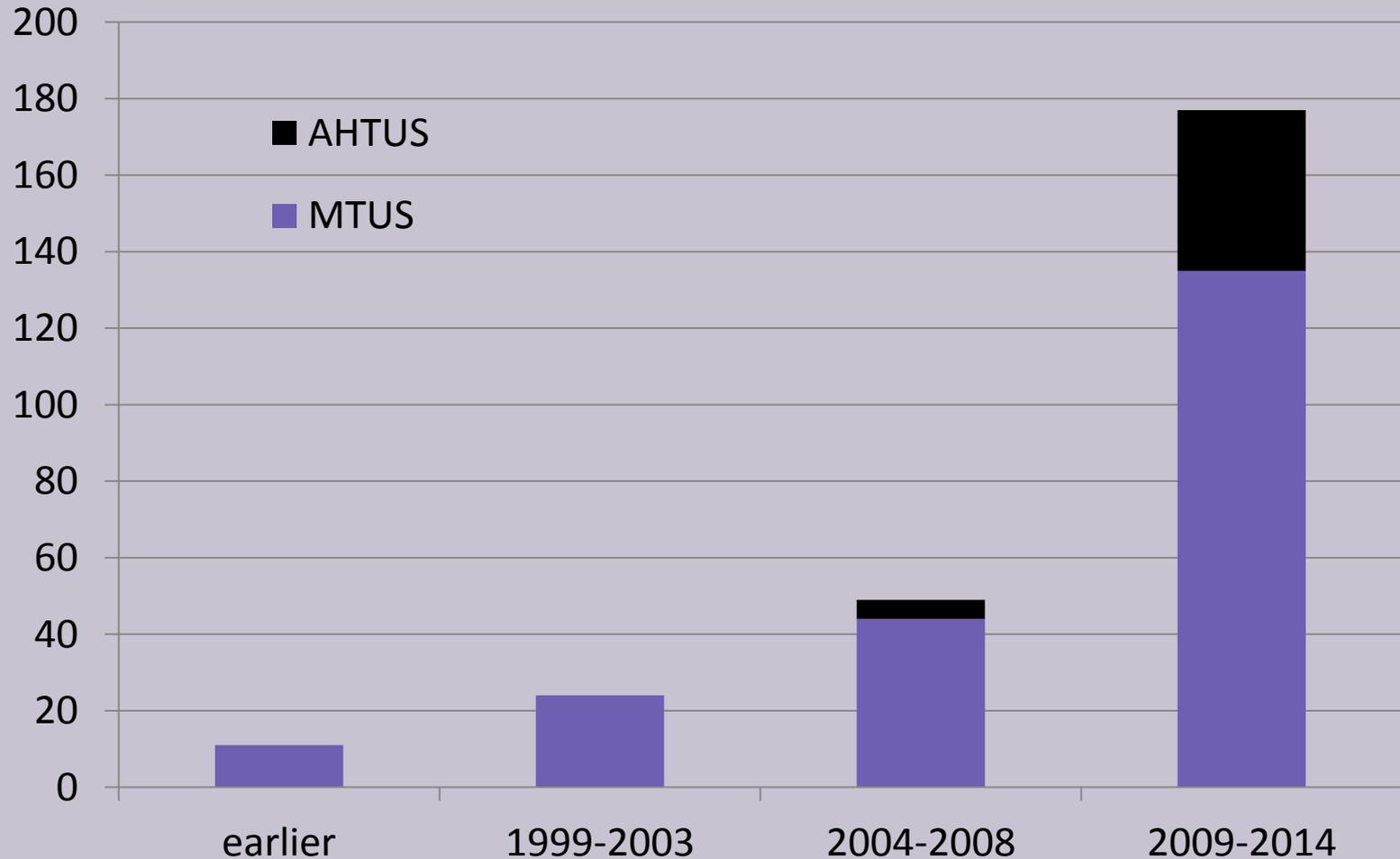
All surveys in this table are included in the Harmonised Simple File of the MTUS dataset. A smaller number of surveys also are available in an aggregate file with more variables and in a harmonised episode file format. Some surveys only are harmonised in the simple aggregate format. Some surveys originally converted into an earlier version of the MTUS have been adapted in an incomplete manner into the simple format. In future, we will upgrade these surveys.

To access survey-specific documentation and conversion programmes that generate the MTUS files, click on a country or on a survey year.

Country	Episode, Aggregate and Simple Files	Simple File Only	Simple File - Awaiting Upgrade
Australia	1974, 2006		1987, 1992, 1997
Austria	1992		
Belgium			1966
Bulgaria			1988
Canada			1971-1972, 1981, 1986, 1992, 1998
Denmark		2001	1964, 1987
Finland	1979		1987-1988, 1999-2000
France	1998-1999		1966, 1974-1975
Germany	1991-1992		1965-1966, 2001-2002
Hungary			1965, 1976-1977
Israel	1991-1992		
Italy	1989		1979-1980, 2002-2003
Korea, Republic of		2009	



Over 260 Publications Use MTUS and AHTUS





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Multinational Time Use Study

Professor Jonathan Gershuny first developed the Multinational Time Use Study (MTUS) in the mid 1970s. While working at the University of Bath with Sally Jones, Professor Gershuny developed a single dataset with common series of background variables and total time spent per day in 41 activities. The original MTUS allowed comparison of British time use data with the 1965 Szalai Multinational Time Budget Study and data from Canada and Denmark. The MTUS since has grown to offer harmonised episode and context information and to encompass over 60 datasets from 25 countries, including recent data from the HETUS, ATUS, and other national level time use projects. Professor Gershuny and Dr Kimberly Fisher presently manage the study in collaboration with other time use scholars.

This site provides access to the MTUS data and documentation, and offers advice on the use of this dataset.

In July 2013, we have:

- Renamed the W60 file to Harmonised Episode File (HEF) - the new name more clearly marks the file content
- Renamed the W58 file to Harmonised Aggregate File (HAF) - the new name more clearly marks the file content
- Offered a new Harmonised Simple File (HSF). This file covers a more limited range of person-level, household level and diary variables, and includes summary time in 25 time use categories. All files in the HEF and HAF also appear in this file. We temporarily have moved all files presently included in all older versions of the MTUS into this new format, until we can upgrade the older surveys properly. We will add some new datasets only in this format.

At present we are working on upgrading the remaining older surveys from Finland, Germany, South Africa, the UK and USA, and adding surveys from Finland, Spain and the Republic of Korea.

Publications

[Publications using this dataset](#)



www.timeuse.org/mtus



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Results

2009. [Society at a Glance 2009 - OECD Social Indicators](#). Paris, France: Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development. [URL](#)

Altintas, Evrim. 2012. [Parents' Time with Children: Micro and Macro Perspectives](#). Department of Sociology and Nuffield College. Oxford, UK: University of Oxford.

Andersen, Robert, James Curtis and Edward Grabb. 2006. [Trends in Civic Association Activity in Four Democracies: The Special Case of Women in the United States](#). *American Sociological Review* 71(3), 376-400. [URL](#)

Anderson, Ben (ed), Malcolm Brynin (ed), Jonathan Gershuny (ed) and Yoel Raban (ed). 2006. [Information and Communication Technologies in Society: E-living in a Digital Europe](#). London, UK: Routledge.

Belloni, Maria Carmen (ed). 2005. [Changes in Childrens Lives: a Study of Children Aged 5-13 in Turin](#). Torino, Italy: Archivio Storico della Città di Torino.

Bin, Yu Sun, Nathaniel S Marshall and Nicholas S Glozier. 2013. [Sleeping at the Limits: The Changing Prevalence of Short and Long Sleep Durations in 10 Countries](#). *American Journal of Epidemiology* 177(8), 826-833. [URL](#)



Publications

- o Books
- o Book chapters
- o Conference papers
- o CTUR technical papers
- o Departmental papers
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- o Reports
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- o eArticles

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Results

Altintas, Evrim. 2012. *Parents' Time with Children: Micro and Macro Perspectives*. Department of Sociology and Nuffield College. Oxford, UK: University of Oxford. [\[edit\]](#)

Archer, Edward, Robin P Shook, Diana M Thomas, Timothy S Church, Peter T Katzmarzyk, James R Hébert, Kerry L McIver, Gregory A Hand, Carl J Lavie and Steven N Blair. 2013. 45-Year Trends in Women's Use of Time and Household Management Energy Expenditure. *PLoS ONE* 8(2), e56620 1-8. [\[edit\]](#) [URL](#)

Dew, Jeffrey. 2009. Has the Marital Time Cost of Parenting Changed Over Time?. *Social Forces* 88(2), 519-542. [\[edit\]](#) [URL](#)

Fisher, Kimberly, Evrim Altintas and Jonathan Gershuny. 2013. *American Heritage Time Use Study (AHTUS) Codebook*. Oxford, UK: Centre for Time Use Research, University of Oxford. [\[edit\]](#) [URL](#)

Fisher, Kimberly, Evrim Altintas, Jonathan Gershuny, Muriel Egerton, Nuno Torres, Andreas Pollmann, Roger Patulny, John P Robinson and Anne H Gauthier. 2011. *American Heritage Time Use Study (AHTUS) Codebook*. Oxford, UK: Centre for Time Use Research, University of Oxford. [\[edit\]](#) [URL](#)

Fisher, Kimberly, Evrim Altintas, Jonathan Gershuny, Muriel Egerton, Roger Patulny, Nuno Torres, Andreas Pollmann, Anne H Gauthier and John P Robinson. 2009. *American Heritage Time Use Study*. [\[edit\]](#) [URL](#)

Fisher, Kimberly, Evrim Altintas, Jonathan Gershuny, Roger Patulny, Muriel Egerton, Nuno Torres, Andreas Pollmann, John P Robinson and Anne H Gauthier. 2009. *American Heritage Time Use Study (AHTUS) Codebook*. Oxford, UK: University of Oxford. [\[edit\]](#) [URL](#)

Fisher, Kimberly and John P Robinson. 2009. Average Weekly Time Spent in 30 Basic Activities Across 17 Countries. *Social Indicators Research* 93(1), 249-254. [\[edit\]](#) [URL](#)

Fisher, Kimberly and John P Robinson. 2010. *Daily Routines in 22 Countries: Diary Evidence of Average Daily Time Spent in Thirty Activities*. Oxford, UK: Centre for Time Use Research, University of Oxford. [\[edit\]](#)

Fisher, Kimberly and Jonathan Gershuny. 2009. *Updated Comparative Time Use Data Resources: Multinational Time Use Study (MTUS) and American Heritage Time Use Study (AHTUS) Datasets*. Presented at American Time Use Research Conference and Workshop 2009. 25-26 Jun 2009, Maryland, USA. [\[edit\]](#)



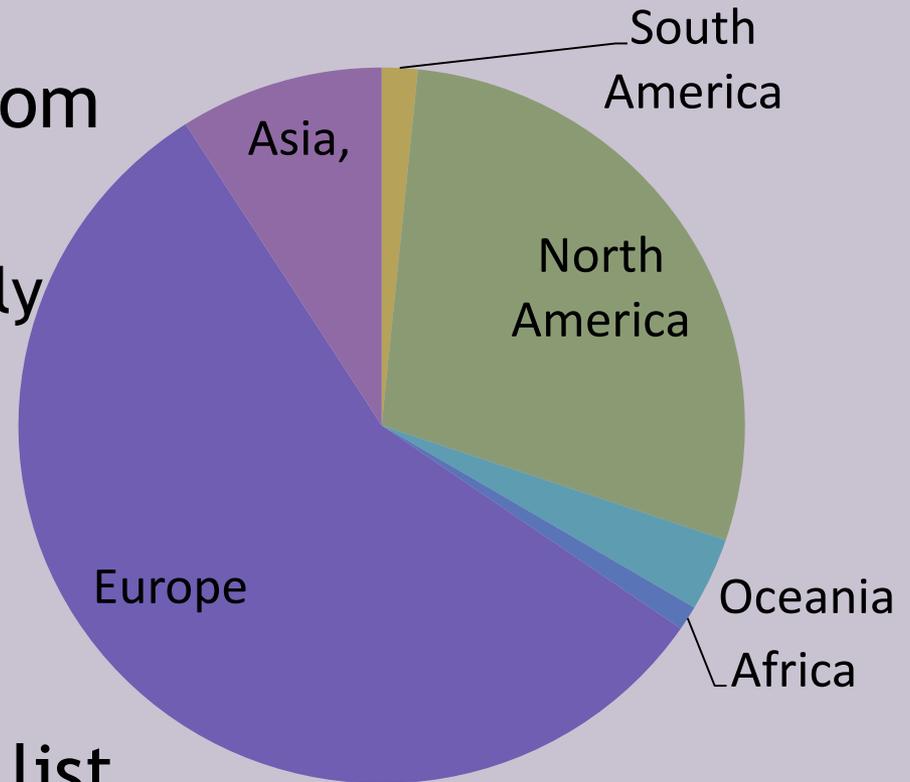
Uses of MTUS & AHTUS Include

- Adult care (valuation, time cost, who performs care but does not identify as a carer)
- Child care (valuation, trends, participation of fathers, balance of physical/interactive care)
- Education (homework, parental involvement)
- Environment (transport modes, time at home/inside)
- Leisure (trends, physical activity, quality)
- Paid work (hours of work, scheduling)
- Sleep (hours per week, deprivation, trends)
- Unpaid work (women's total economic contribution, hours, trends, sharing in households)
- Volunteering (valuation, trends)
- Work-life Balance



Over 900 MTUS Users

- 60 countries, most from
 - USA, UK, Canada
 - Australia, France, Italy
 - Germany, Finland
 - Republic of Korea
 - Spain, Sweden
- Gender balance
- Half on IATUR e-mail list
- 44% academics, 40% postgraduates
- 6% government & NGO; rest others





Distribution of MTUS & AHTUS

- Files free to researchers
- Data files released in SPSS, STATA, CSV
- In future will release some data through Maryland/Minnesota TUX-x extract system
- In future, we plan to offer some sample code for procedures in SPSS, STATA, and R
- Hour-minute converter for reporting results



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Time Calculator

Time calculator

Enter values for days, hours and minutes, leave blank if not required.

Days:

Hours:

Minutes:

Calculate

Days:

0 days 7 hours 53 minutes

Hours:

7 hours 53 minutes

Minutes:

473 minutes





Cite Resources

- Considerable aftercare and effort in the creation of the MTUS, AHTUS, and TUS-X
- Acknowledge this work by citing the databases and articles describing the databases in reference lists
- If you participate in collecting a national sample time use data, please lobby for the inclusion of this data in the MTUS & TUS-X