

# Collecting codable data in the American Time Use Survey (ATUS)

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# What is the American Time Use Survey (ATUS)?

- Continuous survey, 2003 to present
- Sample is drawn from households that completed U.S. labor force survey
- One person per selected household completes a one-time, one-day diary for an assigned day of week
- Collected via phone (CATI)



# ATUS Lexicon

- Activity lexicon is designed to capture work activities, both paid and unpaid
- ATUS Activity lexicon has 17 major activity categories



# 17 major activity categories

01 Personal Care

02 Household Activities

03 Caring for and helping household members

04 Caring for and helping nonhousehold members

05 Work and Work-Related Activities

06 Education

07 Consumer Purchases

08 Professional and Personal Care Services



# 17 major activity categories

09 Household Services

10 Government Services and Civic Obligations

11 Eating and Drinking

12 Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure

13 Sports, Exercise, and Recreation

14 Religious and Spiritual Activities

15 Volunteer Activities

16 Telephone Calls

17 Traveling



# 3 levels of activity detail in lexicon

Major Categories	2nd-tier	3rd-tier	
<b>02</b>	<b>Household Activities</b>		
	01	Housework	
		01	Interior cleaning
		02	Laundry
		03	Sewing, repairing, & maintaining textiles
		04	Storing interior hh items, inc. food
		99	Housework, n.e.c.*
	02	Food & Drink Prep., Presentation, & Clean-up	
		01	Food and drink preparation
		02	Food presentation
		03	Kitchen and food clean-up
		99	Food & drink prep, presentation, & clean-up, n.e.c.*



# To collect codable activities, interviewers:

- Use conversational interviewing
- Use probing questions
- Ask summary questions about diary activities



# Conversational interviewing

## What did you do next?

♦ **Read if necessary:** An activity is anything you did during the day. Activities include both active tasks like socializing, preparing food, or eating; and more quiet tasks like thinking and relaxing. Right now, you are talking to me on the telephone. Talking on the telephone is one type of activity.

- |                              |                                 |                                    |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Sleeping                  | 8. Cleaning kitchen             | 30. Don't know/Can't remember      |
| 2. Grooming (self)           | 9. Doing Laundry                | 31. Refusal/ None of your business |
| 3. Watching TV               | 10. Grocery shopping            |                                    |
| 4. Working at main job       | 11. Attending religious service |                                    |
| 5. Working at other job      | 12. Paying household bills      |                                    |
| 6. Preparing meals or snacks |                                 |                                    |
| 7. Eating and drinking       |                                 |                                    |

	Start	ID	Activity	TIME	Hrs	Mins	Stop	Who	Who_2	Where	Where specify
1]	4:00AM		Sleeping	2	3	30	7:30AM				
2]	7:30AM		Grooming	1	1	30	9:00AM				
3]	9:00AM		Driving to restaurant	1	0	30	9:30AM	0		12	Car, truck, or motor
4]	9:30AM		Meeting for volunteer project	1	1	30	11:00AM	58		4	Restaurant/Bar
5]	11:00AM		Driving home	1		30	11:30AM	0		12	Car, truck, or motor
6]	11:30AM		Talking with family	1		15	11:45AM	50		1	Respondent's home
7]	11:45AM		Playing games with kids	1	3	0	2:45PM	3,4		1	Respondent's home



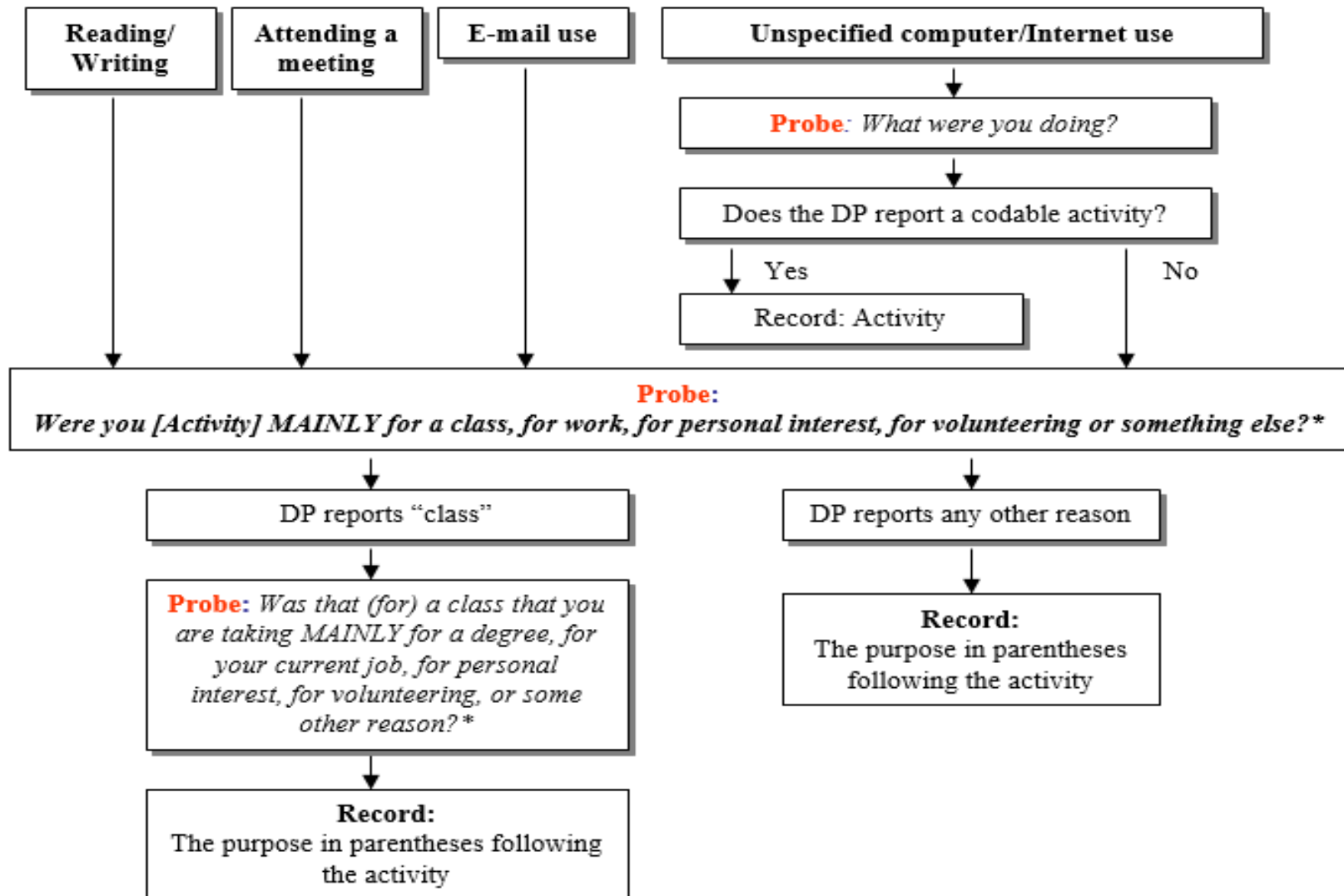


# Interviewers ask questions to collect codable activities

- To identify a purpose
- To clarify vague activities
- To collect more detail
- To identify work, income-generating, and volunteer activities



# Probing questions



# Use of probes

**Respondent:** “I was attending a meeting.”

**Interviewer:** “Were you attending the meeting mainly for a class, for work, for personal interest, for volunteering or something else?”

**Respondent:** “It was a neighborhood association meeting—I attended it out of personal interest.”

**Interviewer records:**  
“Attending meeting (personal interest)”

**Activity coded as:**  
Attending meetings for personal interest, 120202



# Attending a meeting

Can be coded in many places:

- 05 Work and Work-related activity
- 06 Educational activity
- 08 Professional and Personal Care Services
- 09 Household Services
- 12 Leisure activity
- 15 Volunteer activity
- or other categories



# Summary questions about diary activities

Ask questions to clearly identify:

- Work done for main job
- Work done for other job (if respondent has more than one job)
- Income-generating activities
- Volunteer activities



# Summary question: Work done for main job

Interviewer:

- “We are interested in measuring the amount of time people spend working both inside and outside their usual workplace. Were there any activities that were done as part of your main job? Please do not include getting ready for work or commuting.”



# “Were there any activities that were done as part of your main job?”

1. Select  
 97. None/no more work activities

	Start	Activity	Stop	Where	For main job
[1]	4:00AM	Sleeping	7:30AM		<input type="checkbox"/>
[2]	7:30AM	Grooming	9:00AM		<input type="checkbox"/>
[3]	9:00AM	Driving to restaurant	9:30AM	12	<input type="checkbox"/>
[4]	9:30AM	checking email	9:45AM	4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
[5]	9:45AM	Eating and drinking	11:00AM	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
[6]	11:00AM	Driving home	11:30AM	12	<input type="checkbox"/>
[7]	11:30AM	Talking with family	11:45AM	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
[8]	11:45AM	Playing games with kids	2:45PM	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
[9]	2:45PM	Grooming	2:55PM		<input type="checkbox"/>
[10]	2:55PM	Running with a friend	3:40PM	9	<input type="checkbox"/>



# Summary question: Work done for *other job*

“Were there any activities that were done as part of your *other job*?”

<input type="radio"/> 1. Select <input checked="" type="radio"/> 97. None/no more work activities							
	Start	Activity	Stop	Where	For main job	For other job	
[1]	4:00AM	Sleeping	7:30AM			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 97	
[2]	7:30AM	Grooming	9:00AM				
[3]	9:00AM	Driving to restaurant	9:30AM	12			
[4]	9:30AM	checking email	9:45AM	4	1		
[5]	9:45AM	Eating and drinking	11:00AM	4	97		
[6]	11:00AM	Driving home	11:30AM	12			
[7]	11:30AM	Talking with family	11:45AM	1			
[8]	11:45AM	Playing games with kids	2:45PM	1			
[9]	2:45PM	Grooming	2:55PM				
[10]	2:55PM	Running with a friend	3:40PM	9			
[11]	3:40PM	Grooming	4:10PM				





# Summary question:

## Income-generating activities

- “You told me about the activities that were done as part of your job(s). Were there any other activities that you were paid for or will be paid for? Please do not include paid breaks at work or paid time off.”



# “Were there any activities you were paid for or will be paid for?”

1. Select  
 97. None/no more paid activities

	Start	Activity	Stop	Where	For main job	For other job	For pay
[1]	4:00AM	Sleeping	7:30AM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
[2]	7:30AM	Grooming	9:00AM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
[3]	9:00AM	talking to family	9:30AM	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
[4]	9:30AM	Eating and drinking	9:45AM	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
[5]	9:45AM	painting landscapes	12:00PM	1	97	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
[6]	12:00PM	reading newspaper (perso	12:30PM	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
[7]	12:30PM	Talking with family	12:45PM	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
[8]	12:45PM	Playing games with kids	3:45PM	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
[9]	3:45PM	Grooming	3:55PM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
[10]	3:55PM	Running with a friend	4:40PM	9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



# Summary question: Volunteer activities

- “Now I’d like to ask you about volunteer activities, that is, activities for which people are not paid, except perhaps expenses. Yesterday, did you do any volunteer activities for or through an organization?”
- If yes: “Which of the activities that you told me about were volunteer activities?”



# “Which of the activities that you told me about were volunteer activities?”

1. Select  
 97. No more volunteer activities

	Start	Activity	HourDur	MinDur	Who	Which volunteer activities
[1]	4:00AM	Sleeping	3	30		<input type="checkbox"/>
[2]	7:30AM	Grooming	1	30		<input type="checkbox"/>
[3]	9:00AM	Eating and drinking	0	20	3,4	<input type="checkbox"/>
[4]	9:20AM	Drove to work	0	30	0	<input type="checkbox"/>
[5]	9:50AM	Working at main job	6	15	62	<input type="checkbox"/>
[6]	4:05PM	Talked to co-workers		30	61	<input type="checkbox"/>
[7]	4:35PM	Walked to restaurant		5	61	<input type="checkbox"/>
[8]	4:40PM	Met to discuss volunteer p	1	15	61	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1
[9]	5:55PM	Walked to car		5	0	<input type="checkbox"/>
[10]	6:00PM	Drove home		30	0	<input type="checkbox"/>



# Information used to assign codes

- Activity recorded in diary
- Responses to summary questions
- Household composition
- Employment information about respondent
- Diary context, who was present, where the activity took place
- Interviewer notes



# Mapping ATUS to ICATUS 2016

- ATUS lexicon seemed to map fairly well to ICATUS 2016
- Used class of worker variable to identify employment in corporations, government, and non-profit institutions



# Mapping ATUS to ICATUS 2016

- Used activity detail plus respondent's class of worker variable, TEI1COW:

Description		
Edited: individual class of worker code (main job)		
<b>Edited Universe:</b>	TELF5 = 1 or 2	
<b>Valid Entries:</b>	1	Government, federal
	2	Government, state
	3	Government, local
	4	Private, for profit
	5	Private, nonprofit
	6	Self-employed, incorporated
	7	Self-employed, unincorporated
	8	Without pay



# Contact Information

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