ATUS Exercise: Weekday and Weekend Time Diaries

Learning goals

- Become familiar with documentation about the ATUS interview day
- Learn how to analyze time diary variables by type of day
- Learn how and when to use weights to analyze time diary variables

Summary

In this exercise, you will browse the ATUS variable-level documentation about the ATUS interview day to help you become familiar with creating day type indicators. You will create an extract to compare unweighted and weighted time in Sports, Exercise and Recreation on weekdays and weekends in 2003 and 2017.

Part 1 Answers: Browse the ATUS interview variables available in ATUS-X

1. Review the documentation for DAY available under Person ➔ Technical Variables. How are diaries distributed across days of the week?

    _____

    _____

2. Review the documentation for the ACT_SPORTS time use variable available under Time Use ➔ Activity Coding Structure. What three activities are included in the ACT_SPORTS variable?

    _____

3. Using the weekday and weight variables you used in Exercise 4, get the *unweighted* mean number of minutes reported in ACT_SPORTS on WEEKDAYS and WEEKEND days.
    a. Mean number of minutes on weekdays in each sample year?

        2003_____   2017 _____

    b. Mean number of minutes on weekends in each sample year?

        2003_____   2017 _____

4. Using the weekday and weight variables you used in Exercise 4, get the *weighted* mean number of minutes reported in ACT_SPORTS on WEEKDAYS and WEEKEND days.
    a. Mean number of minutes on weekdays in each sample year?

        2003_____   2017 _____

    b. Mean number of minutes on weekends in each sample year?

        2003_____   2017 _____

5. Redo the analysis to produce *weighted* means, excluding respondents who did not report any time in ACT_SPORTS on their diary day.
    a. Mean number of minutes on weekdays in each sample year?

        2003_____   2017 _____

    b. Mean number of minutes on weekends in each sample year?

        2003_____   2017 _____

Part 1 Answers: Browse the ATUS interview variables available in ATUS-X

1. Review the documentation for DAY available under Person ➜ Technical Variables. How are diaries distributed across days of the week?
   Diaries are not equally distributed across days of the week. Weekend days are oversampled, accounting for about half of all diaries.

2. Review the documentation for the ACT_SPORTS time use variable available under Time Use ➜ Activity Coding Structure. What three activities are included in the ACT_SPORTS variable?
   Sports, Exercise, and Recreation

3. Using the weekday and weight variables you used in Exercise 4, get the *unweighted* mean number of minutes reported in ACT_SPORTS on WEEKDAYS and WEEKEND days.
   a. Mean number of minutes on weekdays in each sample year?
      2003   16.45   2017   15.68
   b. Mean number of minutes on weekends in each sample year?
      2003   23.68   2017   23.23

4. Using the weekday and weight variables you used in Exercise 4, get the *weighted* mean number of minutes reported in ACT_SPORTS on WEEKDAYS and WEEKEND days.
   a. Mean number of minutes on weekdays in each sample year?
      2003   17.44   2017   16.43
   b. Mean number of minutes on weekends in each sample year?
      2003   25.31   2017   25.38

5. Redo the analysis to produce *weighted* means, excluding respondents who did not report any time in ACT_SPORTS on their diary day.
   a. Mean number of minutes on weekdays in each sample year?
      2003   93.75   2017   82.97
   b. Mean number of minutes on weekends in each sample year?
      2003   139.77   2017   127.48