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National Survey of Midlife Development in the United States (MIDUS II): Cognitive Project, 2004-2006

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Readme File

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MIDUS II PROJECT 3: READ ME FIRST

General Introduction to the Cognitive Test Battery

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MIDUS

Midlife in the United States

This document serves as a general introduction for the reader to the cognitive testing data in MIDUS II. Cognitive testing was carried out using the Brief Test of Adult Cognition by Telephone (BTACT). Documentation includes two main parts: (1) the basic BTACT, which includes accuracy data for 6 subtests and a composite measure, and (2) the Stop & Go Switch Task (SGST), which is a dual executive-function reaction time test producing both accuracy and latency data.

Files associated with Project 3 include:

1. Data File Notes: Gives an overview of the BTACT and Stop & Go Switch Task *(M2_P3_COGBAT_Datafile-Notes_4-6-09.pdf)*
2. Variable Naming Document: Lists for each measure the specific variable name, ranges, and computational formula, if applicable *(M2_P3_COGBAT_Variable-Naming_4-6-09.pdf)*
3. BTACT Protocol *(M2_P3_COGBAT_BTACT-Protocol_4-6-09.doc)*
4. Codebook *(M2_P3_COGBAT_Codebook_4-6-09.spo)*
5. Data file *(M2_P3_COGBAT_Data_N=4512_1-26-10.sav)*

Sample notes:

1. Note that the data file contains the ID numbers for all participants who completed any of the cognitive tests, even if they did not have complete data for all tests. Thus, the total N may vary slightly from test to test.
2. For some analyses, it may be appropriate to exclude cases who report they only spoke a language other than English growing up (a1se5=4), or who report a stroke (b1pa6a=1), Parkinson's disease (b1pa6c=1), or other neurological disorder (b1pa6d=1).
3. The following 35 cases terminated the telephone interview during the cognitive testing. We have included them in the dataset to provide the largest possible sample for each specific test. If you would like to analyze the sample for those who completed the cognitive interview, you should omit the following cases from your analyses: 10727, 11379, 11774, 12039, 12815, 12854, 13668, 14456, 14573, 14963, 15489, 16309, 16497, 16855, 19052 12044, 12176, 12678, 12736, 12765, 12913, 13236, 13456, 15066, 15221, 15365, 15377, 15593, 15760, 16237, 16874, 17876, 17910, 18096, 19133.

For more information about the BTACT instrument see:

- Lifespan Lab Website*: http://www.brandeis.edu/projects/lifespan/btact.html*
    - Recent references: Lachman, M. E., & Tun, P. A. (2008). Cognitive testing in large scale surveys. Assessment by telephone. In S. Hofer & D. Alwin (Eds.), *Handbook of cognitive aging: Interdisciplinary perspective* (pp. 506–522). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Lachman, M. E., Tun, P. A., Murphy, C. L., & Agrigoroaei, S. (2009). Cognition in Midlife: Findings from the Brief Test of Adult Cognition by Telephone (BTACT) with the MIDUS National Sample. Working Paper, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA. [*http://www.brandeis.edu/projects/lifespan/btact.html*]

Tun, P. A., & Lachman, M. E. (2006). Telephone assessment of cognitive function in adulthood: The Brief Test of Adult Cognition by Telephone (BTACT). *Age and Ageing, 35*, 629–633.

Tun, P. A., & Lachman, M. E. (2008). Age differences in reaction time and attention in a national telephone sample of adults: Education, sex, and task complexity matter. *Developmental Psychology, 44*(5), 1421-1429.