

## **Title: Using ATUS 2020 Data to Investigate COVID-19 influences on Daily Behaviors and Interactions**

### **Organizers:**

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### **Description of workshop objectives, goals, and expected outcomes.**

The COVID-19 pandemic upended many aspects of our lives, including how we spend our time. Demographic and population science researchers are likely eager to use the ATUS to explore changes in daily behavior and interactions. However, data collection for the American Time Use Survey (ATUS), the most appropriate data source for measuring changes in time use in the United States, was interrupted by social distancing conditions related to the pandemic. This has created several challenges regarding data analysis. This workshop will provide 1) an introduction to the ATUS; 2) demonstrations of data access tools that streamline the research process; 3) **an overview of data analysis challenges related to the Covid-19 pandemic**; and 4) practice analyzing the 2020 ATUS. After the workshop, participants will be comfortable navigating IPUMS ATUS, a harmonized version of the original ATUS data, creating IPUMS customized data extracts, including creating custom variables that summarize different types of activities, using our online data analysis tool, and understanding data analysis challenges related to 2020 data.

### **Statement on how the workshop can benefit PAA 2022 attendees.**

Although media coverage of time use during the COVID-19 pandemic has offered suggestions of how people in the United States have been spending their time, the underlying data for many of these assertions is problematic. The data may not be nationally representative, often fail to capture the full range of activities people do on a daily basis and may not be available for the months and years that preceded the COVID-19 pandemic. The American Time Use Survey has been fielding annual time diary data since 2003. The data are nationally representative, utilize data collection and measurement approaches that are vetted, and offer a comparable pre-pandemic comparison. While the focus of the workshop is on the COVID-19 pandemic, the data and tools covered are relevant to a broad range of research questions.

IPUMS offers free, harmonized census and survey data from the U.S. and around the world for social science and health research. IPUMS ATUS helps researchers leverage time diary data from the American Time Use Survey (ATUS), an annual general-purpose time use survey sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics with annual data for 2003-forward. Workshop participants will learn about time diary data available through IPUMS ATUS and why these data are uniquely appropriate for assessing changes in time use in the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as how they can be applied to other research questions.

The workshop will provide hands-on demonstrations for two methods of accessing these data via IPUMS. The first is the IPUMS ATUS data extract system, which allows researchers to create and download customized ATUS data files that are ready for analysis in a statistical software package. The IPUMS ATUS data extract system offers a tool for creating

custom time use variables, where researchers specify combinations of activities and/or filters to create new variables reporting the number of minutes respondents spent on activities matching the specified criteria. The workshop will also demonstrate how to use the IPUMS ATUS online analysis tool, which allows researchers to analyze time diary data through an online interface rather than downloading a data file for use in a statistical software package.

The demonstrations will focus on comparisons between parental time use in 2020 and 2019, to highlight how these data and tools can be used to better understand how the COVID-19 pandemic affected time use for a particular group of people. It will feature information and discussion related to the 2020 sample weights and sampling frame. Participants will work collaboratively with organizers to answer a research question, e.g., how has parents time use changed following the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic? We will also provide an overview of the 2021 ATUS Health and Well-Being module, which is currently being collected.

Free, customized data files that are thoroughly documented can streamline the process for developing new research projects. The overview of the data and tools available via IPUMS ATUS is intended to help participants think about how to leverage these free resources for their research.

**Description of target audience and estimated number of participants (minimum and maximum).**

This workshop will be appropriate for graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, college and university faculty, and early-career scientists. We estimate 15-40 participants will attend.

**Preferred workshop day(s) to be held: Tuesday, April 5, Wednesday, April 6, or Saturday, April 9:** no preference.

**Proposed workshop duration (1/2 day, 1 day, 1.5 day, 2 day), format, activities, and schedule.**

We plan to hold a ½ day workshop with multiple formats including lecture, guided website tour, hands-on-practice, and one-one-one consultations (details follow).

1. Introductions: 20 minutes
2. Overview of IPUMS Time Use (lecture): 30 minutes
3. Overview of time-diary based data, 2020 data analysis challenges, and research on parental time use (lecture): 45 minutes
4. Break: 15 minutes
5. Navigating IPUMS Time Use data extraction systems (web-based tour and participant practice): 60 minutes
6. Hands-on analysis of IPUMS Time Use data (participant practice) and consultations with IPUMS Time Use experts (one-on-one): 60 minutes

**Whether or not you'd be willing to convert to an online workshop if necessary.**

Yes, we are willing to convert to an online workshop.

**A/V needs beyond what is provided (see below):** none

### Short biographical sketches of presenters.

Liana C. Sayer is Professor of Sociology, Faculty Affiliate of the Maryland Population Research Center, and Director, Maryland Time Use Laboratory, at the University of Maryland. Sayer's research examines how women's and men's paid work, household and care work, and leisure time vary over time, place, and generation, and how these patterns are linked with changes in family, workplaces, policies, and values. With comparative analyses of time diary data that provide detailed accounts of people's daily activities and social engagement, Sayer documents how time use is a key pathway of reinforcing and reconfiguring gender, race and SES inequality. She is the PI on the NICHD-funded effort to broaden access to and simplify use of time diary data for the study of health and well-being ([www.ipums.org/timeuse.shtml](http://www.ipums.org/timeuse.shtml)). She has conducted numerous workshops and given dozens of presentations on using time diary. Sayer's work has been published in numerous journals, including *Demography*, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *European Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*, and *American Journal of Sociology*. Sayer's CV can be viewed [here](#).

Sarah Flood is the Director of US Surveys at the IPUMS Center for Data Integration, and Associate Director, Life Course Center, at the University of Minnesota. She is Co-Principal on the NICHD-funded effort to broaden access to and simplify use of time diary data for the study of health and well-being ([www.ipums.org/timeuse.shtml](http://www.ipums.org/timeuse.shtml)). She has conducted numerous workshops and given dozens of presentations on using time diary data for demographic research. In addition to building and maintaining population data infrastructure, Flood is a social demographer whose research at the intersections of work, family, time use, and well-being across the life course has appeared in *Demography*, *American Sociological Review*, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, and *The Journals of Gerontology*. Flood's CV can be viewed [here](#).