

Best Practices for Working with Secondary Data

Jen D. Wong & Barbara T. Hodgdon

Secondary Data Experiences

 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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National Longitudinal Surveys

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BROWSE NLS

- NLS HOME
- NLS GENERAL OVERVIEWS
- NLS NEWS RELEASES
- NLS TABLES
- NLS PUBLICATIONS
- NLS FAQs
- CONTACT NLS

SEARCH NLS

NLS TOPICS

- NLSY97
- NLSY79
- NLSY79 CHILD & YOUNG ADULT
- NLS ORIGINAL COHORTS ▸
- OBTAIN DATA
- DOCUMENTATION

NEW

The **National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS)** are a set of surveys designed to gather information at multiple points in time on the labor market activities and other significant life events of several groups of men and women. For more than 4 decades, NLS data have served as an important tool for economists, sociologists, and other researchers.

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NLS General Overviews

- [National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 \(NLSY97\)](#)-- Survey of young men and women born in the years 1980-84; respondents were ages 12-17 when first interviewed in 1997.
- [National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 \(NLSY79\)](#)-- Survey of men and women born in the years 1957-64; respondents were ages 14-22 when first interviewed in 1979.
- [NLSY79 Children and Young Adults](#)-- Survey of the biological children of women in the NLSY79.
- [National Longitudinal Surveys of Young Women and Mature Women \(NLSW\)](#)-- The Young Women's survey includes women who were ages 14-24 when first interviewed in 1968. The Mature Women's survey includes women who were ages 30-44 when first interviewed in 1967. These surveys were discontinued in 2003.



Midlife in the United States

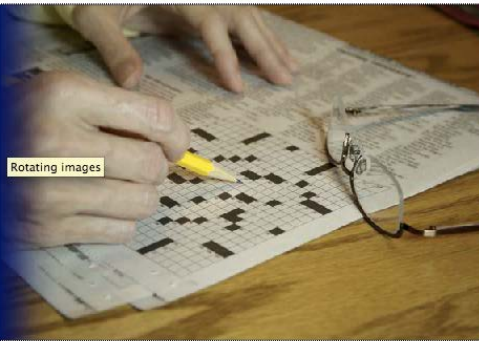
A National Longitudinal Study of Health & Well-Being

Funded by the National Institute on Aging

[Home](#) | [About The Study](#) | [For Researchers](#) | [For General Public](#)

MIDUS... IMPROVING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW AMERICANS AGE

MENTAL ABILITIES TEND TO DECLINE WITH AGE, BUT OLDER ADULTS WHO STAY MENTALLY ACTIVE (USE COMPUTERS, READ NEWSPAPERS, DO CROSSWORDS) DECLINE LESS.



Rotating images

Featured Publications

Wong, J. ... , 2017, Types of family caregiving and daily experiences in midlife and late adulthood: The moderating influences of marital status and age. , *Res Aging*

Schwartz, J. ... , 2017, Long-term physical health consequences of perceived inequality: Results from a twin comparison design. , *Soc Sci Med*

Owens, S. ... , 2017, Association between discrimination and objective and subjective sleep measures in the Midlife in the United States study. *Health Affairs*

In The News

• **AL.com** - Auburn study: Black Americans sleep less than whites, leading to health problems (2017-08-02)

• **DailyMail.co.uk** - Good news for hypochondriacs: Worrying about your health makes you live LONGER (2017-07-24)

• **DailyMail.com** - Age is just a number: Older people who feel 'young at heart' have better health (2017-07-24)

Quick Links

Pages of Interest

MIDUS Data Access
- Through ICPSR

MIDUS Findings
- A searchable publication database

MIDUS Colectica Metadata Portal
- Contains interactive codebooks

MIDUS Newsletters

MIDJA (Midlife in Japan)



Midlife in the United States

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MIDUS... IMPROVING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW AMERICANS AGE

MEN WHO HAD BETTER CHILDHOOD RELATIONS WITH THEIR FATHERS ARE CALMER WHEN FACED WITH STRESS.



Midlife in the United States

A National Longitudinal Study of Health & Well-Being

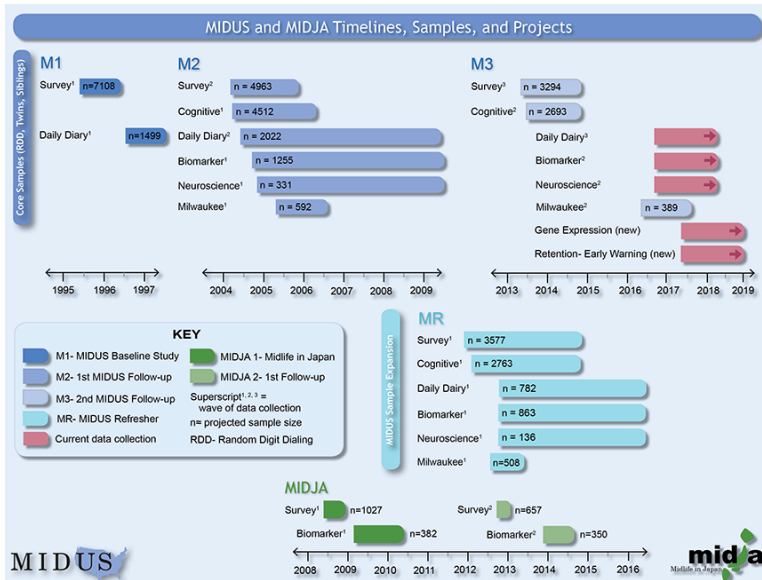
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MIDUS... IMPROVING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW AMERICANS AGE

LOWER EDUCATION LEVELS ARE RELATED TO UNHEALTHY LEVELS OF INFLAMMATION, BUT ONLY AMONG PEOPLE WHO ALSO HAVE LOW LEVELS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING.

education



Midlife in the United States

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MIDUS... IMPROVING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW AMERICANS AGE

THOSE WHO BELIEVE THEY ARE IN CONTROL OF THEIR LIVES HAVE BETTER MEMORY AS THEY AGE.



Featured Publications

Peckus, A. ... , 2017, Gene-environment interplay in depressive symptoms: Moderation by age, sex, and physical illness. *Psychol Med*

In The News

• **AL.com** - Auburn study: Black Americans sleep less than whites, leading to health problems

Quick Links

Pages of Interest
MIDUS Data Access



HRS Data Products

Listings of available HRS data products, with access instructions and policies.

Public Data

Public Survey Data

A listing of publicly available biennial, off-year, and cross-year data products.

RAND HRS Data

HRS data products produced by the RAND Center for the Study of Aging.

Contributed and Replication Data

Restricted/Sensitive Data

Biomarker and Health Data

Sensitive health data files available are from the public data portal after a supplemental agreement is signed.

Restricted Data

HRS restricted data files require a detailed application process, and are available only through remote virtual desktop or

More Info

Data Collection Path Diagram

A table of HRS data products arranged by data collection year.

Data Alerts

Notices of errors, corrections, or problems in HRS early and final public data releases and associated documentation.



Wisconsin Longitudinal Study

Shortcuts

[Learn about the WLS](#)

[Access WLS data documentation](#)

[Download WLS data](#)

[Browse WLS publications](#)

Related Links

[Participant website](#)

[WLS in the News](#)



Come visit us at IAGG in San Francisco July 23 through July 27. Look for us in the exhibit hall and attend our Symposium on Thursday July 27th from 8:00am-9:30am in Room 3003 (CC) SESSION 5005 (SYMPOSIUM) A PRIMER ON THE WISCONSIN LONGITUDINAL STUDY: 60 YEARS OF SOCIAL DATA COMBINED WITH GENETIC DATA

[See this pdf for known WLS presentations at IAGG](#)

The Wisconsin Longitudinal Study (WLS) is a long-term study of a random sample of 10,317 men and women who graduated from Wisconsin high schools in 1957. The WLS provides an opportunity to study the life course, intergenerational transfers and relationships, family functioning, physical and mental health and well-being, and morbidity and mortality from late adolescence through 2011. WLS data also cover social background, youthful aspirations, schooling, military service, labor market experiences, family characteristics and events, social participation, psychological characteristics and retirement.

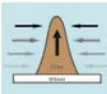
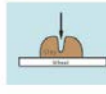

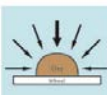
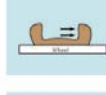
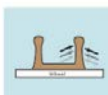
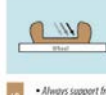
Survey data were collected from the original respondents or their parents in 1957, 1964, 1975, 1992, 2004, and 2011; from a selected sibling in 1977, 1994, 2005, and 2011; from the spouse of the original respondent in 2004; and from the spouse of the selected sibling in 2006. Please join the WLS listserv by sending an email to join-wlsannounce@lists.wisc.edu with a subject line of "Subscribe", and visit this site

Analogy for Working with Secondary Data



Wheel Throwing Cheat Sheet

By Alex Kolko

CENTERING	OPENING	PULLING
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throw down clay ball • Tap to center • Coning (Pressure on both sides) 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press hole into center • Leave 1/2 in. base 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply pressure only at 3 o'clock (9 for lefty's)
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cone Down (Pressure from top) 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pull walls outward 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Squeeze wall and lift, no torquing • Compress rim after each pull • Repeat pull and compression • Even out walls
<p>TIPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start with well wedged clay • Sit close to wheel • Anchor elbows to body • Brace hands together • Keep hands wet • Always remove pressure slowly 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compress base to prevent cracking <p>TIPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always support from both sides • Apply pressure with wet sponge 	<p>TIPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply less pressure with less surface area as walls become thinner • Inside hand should be slightly higher than outside hand • There are many different hand positions, so find what works for you

#1: What Do You Want To Do?

- Overall research goal (Why)
- Population of interest (Who)
- Areas of focus (What)
- Place (Where)
- Time frame (When)

#2: Data Access

- Access
 - Restrictions
 - Account
 - Proposal
 - IRB
 - Specific room
 - On-site access
 - Costs
 - File types
- Contact person



Access Notes

- The public-use data files in this collection are available for access by the general public. Access does not require affiliation with an ICPSR member institution.

Access Notes

- **One or more files in this data collection have special restrictions**; consult the [restrictions note](#) to learn more. Additional information can also be found in the [Use Agreement](#).

Any public-use data files in this collection are available for access by the general public. Access does not require affiliation with an ICPSR member institution.

#3: Getting To Know The Study

- Study Information
 - Design
 - Sample
 - Method
 - Response rate
 - Weights

Scope of Study

Subject Terms: [activities of daily living](#), [adults](#), [aging](#), [caregivers](#), [chronic illnesses](#), [discrimination](#), [education](#), [experience](#), [finance](#), [financial support](#), [health](#), [health problems](#), [health status](#), [household composition](#), [income](#), [life](#), [life satisfaction](#), [lifestyles](#), [living arrangements](#), [marital status](#), [mental health](#), [midlife](#), [neighborhood conditions](#), [neighborhoods](#), [neighbors](#), [occupational status](#), [occupations](#), [prescription drugs](#), [psychological wellbeing](#), [recession](#), [religion](#), [religious attitudes](#), [religious beliefs](#), [self concept](#), [sexual attitudes](#), [social indicators](#), [womens health care](#), [work](#)

Smallest Geographic Unit: none

Geographic Coverage: [United States](#)

Time Period:

- 2013-05--2014-11

Date of Collection:

- 2013-05--2014-11

Unit of Observation: individual, household

Universe: The noninstitutionalized, English-speaking population of the United States.

Data Type(s): survey data

Data Collection Notes:

The variable M2ID is the linking variable for the four datasets in this collection. The data in this collection can also be linked to all MIDUS data sets using the variable M2ID, including wave 1 (ICPSR 2760) and wave 2 (ICPSR 4652).

The P.I. Documentation found in this collection refers to the MIDUS Refresher data set. Please note that the data and corresponding documentation for this data set have not been deposited to ICPSR at this time.

Additional information about the Midlife Development in the United States study can be found at the [MIDUS](#) Web site.

The title of this study was changed from National Survey of Midlife Development in the United States (MIDUS 3), 2013-2014, to Midlife in the United States (MIDUS 3), 2013-2014, on May 9, 2017.

Methodology

Sample: All respondents who completed the M2 phone interview were eligible to participate in the M3 survey.

Time Method: Longitudinal

Weight: The data are not weighted. Since M3 was the third wave of a longitudinal survey, there was no sampling and so no sampling weights were created. Post-stratification weights for M3 (adjusted to population parameters) will be forthcoming.

Mode of Data Collection: computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI), cognitive assessment test, mail questionnaire

Description of Variables:

The Aggregate Data set contains 2575 variables and 3294 cases. This data set includes information about the following types of variables: recession experience, health, education, occupation, marital status, household roster, children, caregiving, living arrangements, race and ethnicity and life satisfaction.

The Mortality Data set contains 9 variables and 1299 cases. This data set includes the updated decedent status of MIDUS and Milwaukee participants as of October 2015.

The Disposition Codes data set contains 6 variables and 7108 cases. This data set contains final disposition codes for all 7,108 individuals who participated in the M1 baseline survey.

Response Rates: 77 percent of living longitudinal participants completed the M3 phone survey. Details of fielding and final disposition codes can be found in the Field Report.

Presence of Common Scales: For information regarding scales, please refer to the Psychosocial Constructs and Composite Variables.

Extent of Processing: ICPSR data undergo a confidentiality review and are altered when necessary to limit the risk of disclosure. ICPSR also routinely creates ready-to-go data files along with setups in the major statistical software formats as well as standard codebooks to accompany the data. In addition to these procedures, ICPSR performed the following processing steps for this data collection:

- Created online analysis version with question text.
- Checked for undocumented or out-of-range codes.

#3: Getting To Know The Data

- Investigators
 - Universities/organizations

- Funding

Midlife in the United States (MIDUS 3), 2013-2014 (ICPSR 36346)

Alternate Title: MIDUS 3

Principal Investigator(s): Ryff, Carol, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Almeida, David, Pennsylvania State University; Ayanian, John, University of Michigan; Binkley, Neil, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Carr, Deborah, Rutgers University; Coe, Christopher, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Davidson, Richard, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Grzywacz, Joseph, Florida State University; Karlamangla, Arun, University of California-Los Angeles; Krueger, Robert, University of Minnesota; Lachman, Margie, Brandeis University; Love, Gayle, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Mailick, Marsha, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Mroczek, Daniel, Northwestern University; Radler, Barry, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Seeman, Teresa, University of California-Los Angeles; Sloan, Richard, Columbia University; Thomas, Duncan, Duke University; Weinstein, Maxine, Georgetown University; Williams, David, Harvard University

NACDA

Program on Aging

This study is maintained and distributed by the [National Archive of Computerized Data on Aging](#) (NACDA), the aging program within ICPSR. NACDA is sponsored by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Funding

This study was funded by:

- United States Department of Health and Human Services. National Institutes of Health. National Institute on Aging (PO1AG020166)

#3: Getting To Know The Data

- Other websites/support

MIDUS Midlife in the United States
A National Longitudinal Study of Health & Well-Being
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Home | About The Study | For Researchers | For Gen...

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Rotating images

Featured Publications

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- Schwartz, J. ... , 2017, Long-term physical health consequences of perceived inequality: Results from a twin comparison design. , *Soc Sci Med*
- Owens, S. ... , 2017, Association between discrimination and objective and subjective sleep measures in the Midlife in the United States study adults.

In The News

- AL.com** - Auburn study: Black Americans sleep less than whites, leading to health problems (2017-08-02)
- DailyMail.co.uk** - Good news for hypochondriacs: Worrying about your health makes you live LONGER (2017-07-24)
- DailyMail.com** - Age is just a number: Older people who feel 'young at heart' have better sex

Quick Links

Pages of Interest

- MIDUS Data Access - Through ICPSR
- MIDUS Findings - A searchable publication database
- MIDUS Colectica Metadata Portal - Contains interactive codebooks
- MIDUS Newsletters
- MIDTA (Midlife in Japan)

Welcome

Welcome to the MIDUS Colectica Portal.

MIDUS

Based on the DDI metadata standard and powered by Colectica software.

TRANSLATE
bing

Midlife in the United States

Midlife in the United States (MIDUS) is a national longitudinal study of health and well-being. It was conceived by a multidisciplinary team of scholars interested in understanding aging as an integrated bio-psycho-social process. Since its inception in 1995 MIDUS has continued to grow, such that it now includes data from over 12,000 individuals, comprising thousands of variables in different scientific areas among distinct cohorts.

This website is a one-stop portal that provides MIDUS data and metadata (information about data) for exploration and analysis. As of 2016 the portal supports the following functions:

- **Home:** The home page still allows users to browse variables, read abstracts, download instruments and documentation, and search for variables with metadata. Complete individual datasets can still be downloaded from the official MIDUS website at NIMH.

#3: Getting To Know The Data

- Download statistics

Unique Users

	Total Unique Users	=	Faculty	Grad. Students	Undergrads	Univ. Staff	Other	Anon. Downloads
Any Datasets/Files	1620	=	148	273	17	34	31	1117
DS0: Study-Level Files	874	=	148	273	17	34	31	371
DS1: Aggregate Data	1383	=	138	263	16	34	26	906
DS2: Mortality Data	320	=	39	79	3	16	15	168
DS3: Disposition Codes	250	=	23	56	3	14	11	143
DS4: Coded Text Data	122	=	15	35	2	7	6	57

Notes

All numbers in the table above are the number of unique users who downloaded one or more files from this study/dataset in the time period specified.

"Anon. Downloads" refers to users who download anonymously. Users who browse/download documentation files (only) are not required to login; some of our topical archives do not require login.

Please note that the numbers above do not include distribution of restricted-use or public-use data that are not web downloadable. E.g., data distributed on CD-ROM.

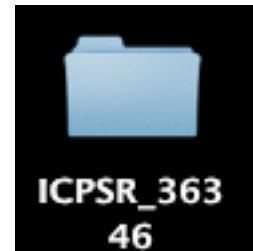
Downloads by Member Institutions

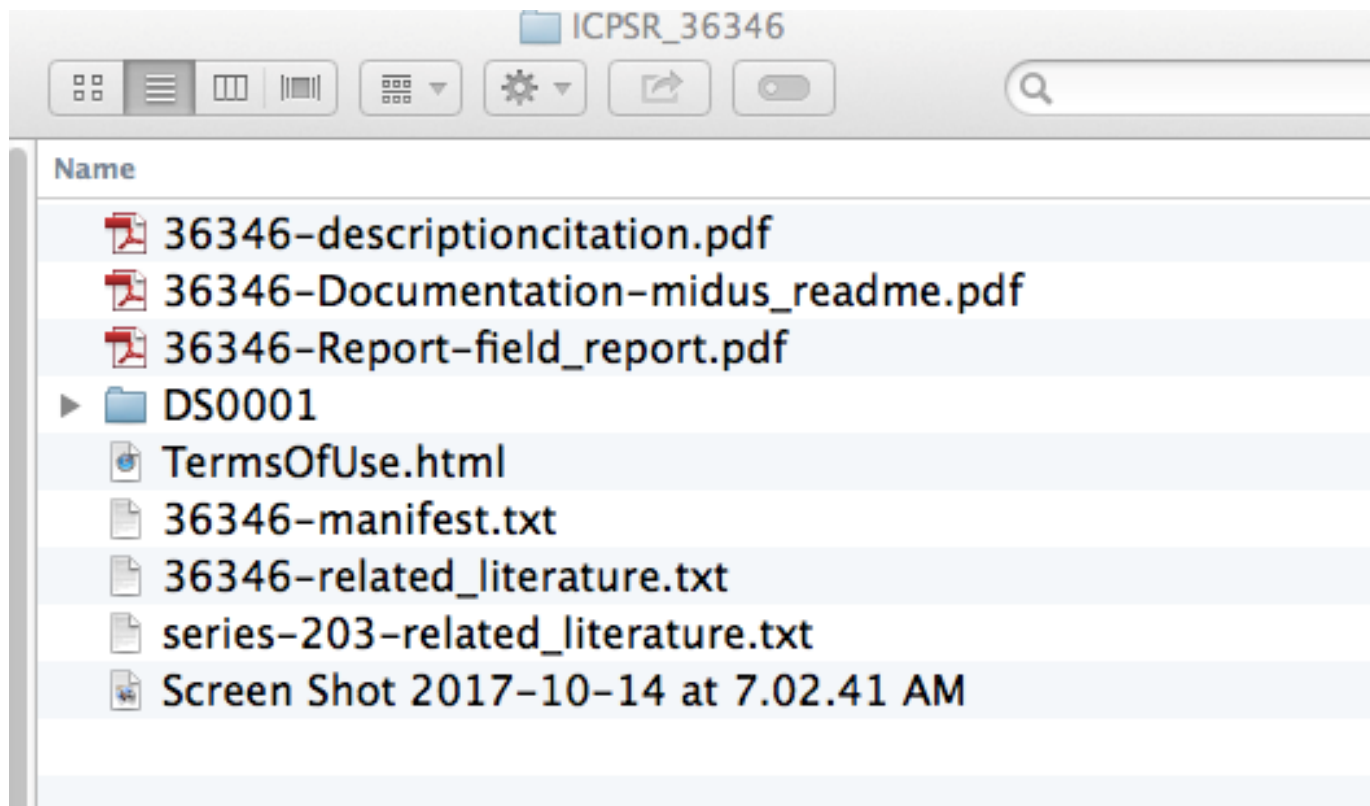
This study was downloaded by users at **126** institutions during the time period specified.

- Arizona State University
- Auburn University at Auburn

#3: Getting To Know The Data

- Do the prep work
- *Read user guides*
 - Purpose
 - Data structure
 - Variable information
 - Scale construction























DS0001

Navigation and utility icons: grid view, list view, compare view, view options, settings, share, and toggle switch. A search bar is located on the right side of the toolbar.

Name

-  36346-0001-Codebook-aggregate_data.pdf
-  36346-0001-Codebook-midus_ddi.pdf
-  36346-0001-Documentation-constructs.pdf
-  36346-0001-Documentation-naming_coding.pdf
-  36346-0001-Questionnaire-saq.pdf
-  36346-0001-Questionnaire-telephone_interview.pdf
-  36346-0001-Data.dta
-  36346-0001-Data.stc
-  36346-0001-Setup.dct
-  36346-0001-Setup.do
-  36346-0001-Setup.sas
-  36346-0001-Supplemental_syntax.do
-  36346-0001-Supplemental_syntax.sas
-  36346-0001-Data.tsv
-  36346-0001-Data.txt
-  36346-0001-Data.rda
-  36346-0001-Data.sav
-  36346-0001-Setup.sps

#3: Getting To Know The Data

- Key words
- Publication list

MIDUS Midlife in the United States
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MIDUS Publications Database Search

This search provides access to bibliographies of publications that use MIDUS data.

1. Search by Topic:

Affect	Obesity/Weight
Aging	Occupation & Employment
Allostatic Load	Perceived Discrimination
Altruism	Personality
Biomarkers and Neuroscience	Physical Health
Cancer	Psychological Well-being
Childhood/Early Life	Race & Ethnicity
Chronic & Acute Challenges	Religion & Spirituality
Cognitive Function	Resilience
Culture/Country	Sense of Control
Daily Stress	Sexuality
Gender	Social Inequalities/SES
Genetics & Twins	Social Relationships
Health Behaviors	Social Responsibility
Inflammation	Volunteering
Mental Illness	Work & Family
Non-Normative Parenting	

2. List all findings in our MIDUS database

3. Search by Field:

Search Text:

Search Field: Date Range: From to

Entries Per Page : Order Results By:

Related Publications

- [View citations for the entire series](#)

2017 Joshanloo, Mohsen . [Structural and discriminant validity of the tripartite model of mental well-being: Differential relationships with the big five traits](#). *Journal of Mental Health*.
Full Text Options: [DOI](#) [Worldcat](#) [Google Scholar](#)
Export Options: [RIS/EndNote](#)

2016 Robinette, Jennifer W., Charles, Susan T., Gruenewald, Tara L. [Vigilance at home: Longitudinal analyses of neighborhood safety perceptions and health](#). *SSM - Population Health*. 2, 525-530.
Full Text Options: [DOI](#) [Worldcat](#) [Google Scholar](#)
Export Options: [RIS/EndNote](#)

#5: Final Tips

- Check for updates
 - Email list/website
- Acknowledgments
- Workshops/webinars
- Be flexible
- Be persistent
- Seek support