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General Social Survey on Time Use: Cycle 19

Canada's General Social Survey on Time Use: Challenges and Potential



2005



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Statistics Canada
Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division

Canada's General Social Survey on Time Use: Challenges and Potential

2005

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Symbols

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.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0 ^s	value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
P	preliminary
r	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the <i>Statistics Act</i>
E	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published

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Abstract

The General Social Survey (GSS) is an annual survey that monitors changes and emerging trends in Canadian society. For the fourth time in Canada, the GSS has collected national level time use data. The GSS is funded through a government initiative aimed to fill data gaps for policy research. In this paper we present the policy framework that supports the survey, and discuss the impact of that framework on the content decisions that GSS has made. Following a brief review of the major findings from the first three cycles of time use data we discuss the lessons learned and best practices in the development, collection and processing of these data in Canada. Finally, we compare the methods and content of the Canadian time use survey with the US survey.

Presented at the IATUR, Halifax, November 2005

1 Introduction

The General Social Survey (GSS) is an annual survey that monitors changes and emerging trends in Canadian Society. The survey is cyclical, with repeated content approximately every five years. This survey structure enables us to focus on a number of different topics, including time use, families, victimization and retirement. Repeated cycles allow us to monitor trends in Canadian society over time, one of the main objectives of the GSS. In addition to monitoring trends we also are mandated to respond to new and emerging trends in Canadian society. For this reason, we looked at Access to and Use of Information Communication Technologies in 2000, and Social Engagement in 2003. Whether for monitoring trends or for responding to new issues, we aim to provide information to policy departments and researchers to enable them to develop evidence-based policy.

For the fourth time in Canada, the GSS has collected national level time use data. Time use data were also collected as part of the GSS in Canada in 1986, 1992 and 1998 (see Table 1). In addition to the time use diary, the 2005 questionnaire covers perceptions of the time crunch, social networks, transportation, and cultural and sports activities, all of which will be described more fully later in the paper.

Table 1 General Social Survey cycle topics

GSS cycle topics	Date of GSS (cycle no.)			
	1 st series	2 nd series	3 rd series	4 th series
Health	1985 (1)	1991 (6)	..	..
Time use	1986 (2)	1992 (7)	1998 (12)	2005 (19)
Victimization	1988 (3)	1993 (8)	1999 (13)	2004 (18)
Education, work and retirement	1989 (4)	1994 (9)	2002 (16)	2007 (21)
Family	1990 (5)	1995 (10)	2001 (15)	2006 (20)
Social support	1985 (1)	1990 (5)	1996 (11)	2002 (16)
Access to and use of information				
Communication technology	2000 (14)	..	..	..
Social support and aging	2002 (16)	2007 (21)	..	..
Social engagement	2003 (17)	..	..	..

The GSS is funded through a Canadian government initiative aimed to fill data gaps for policy research¹. In this paper we present the policy interests behind the survey and discuss the impact of those interests on the content decisions that GSS has made for the 2005 time use cycle. Following a brief review of some findings from earlier cycles of time use data we discuss the lessons learned and best practices in the development, collection and processing of these data in Canada. Finally, we compare the methods and content of the 2005 Canadian time use survey with the US survey.

¹ Policy Research Data Group, GAPS II.

1.1 Previous findings from GSS time use data

Some interesting findings have come out of previous time use cycles. The data have been widely used by researchers to look at questions of time crunch, family dynamics, stress, sports and leisure and work arrangements. Some highlights from research published in our Statistics Canada publication: "*Canadian Social Trends*" illustrates the range of issues that can be addressed through a time use survey.

- The 1998 time use data showed that although mothers spend more time with their young children, the gap in time spent by mothers and fathers with their children narrows as the child grows older. By the time children are aged 13-14 years, fathers spend as much time, on average, with their children as mothers. As one might expect, the total minutes spent together decreases as children move into adolescence. (Silver, 2000)
- Another study found that women who are satisfied with their quality of life average less time on household work. This was true when quality of life was measured by work-family balance, time crunch and life satisfaction measures (Frederick & Fast, 2001). This study also found that enjoying one's work reduces stresses on time and on work-family balance.
- Women tend to sleep longer than men and are less likely to cut back on their sleep when pressed for time (Williams, 2001). Although most employed Canadians of working age spend the largest part of their day doing paid work, high income workers spend on average 15% more time on their paid job than those with low income. Conversely, this study showed that those from low income households spend more time on such unpaid chores as housework and home maintenance than high income individuals (Williams, 2002).
- Looking at transportation, in 1998 the time use survey told us that on a typical weekday, 75% of the adult population went somewhere by car, up 5 percentage points from 1986. At that time, public transit use had declined – a potentially important issue for 2005 as gas prices increase and the environmental effects of gas emissions are becoming more evident (Clark, 2000).

The 2005 GSS presents further possibilities for research and analysis. The pilot survey for this most recent cycle took place in 2004 and collection of the main survey was conducted from January to December, 2005, with a much larger target sample size of approximately 20,000 (vs. 11,000 in 1998). The next sections discuss the process of consultation and development of the 2005 survey, outlining the new content as well as changes to the collection processes that have had an impact on the latest time use data for Canada.

2 Policy relevance

2.1 Overview of GSS consultation

Each step in the development of the GSS is done through consultations with our federal government partners. In particular, strong relationships have been built with Human Resources and Social Development Canada, Canadian Heritage, Justice Canada, Health Canada and others.

These departments rely heavily on the GSS for social information to better understand the lives and experiences of the Canadians they are mandated to serve. For example, Human Resources and Social Development Canada is mandated to help to strengthen Canada's social foundation by helping families with children, persons with disabilities and seniors. Canadian Heritage is responsible for national policies and programs that promote Canadian content, foster cultural participation and active citizenship. Justice Canada works to ensure that the Canadian justice system is fair, accessible and efficient. It also makes and reforms laws as needed. Health Canada's mission is to help Canadians maintain and improve their health.

In the early stages of development, GSS managers at Statistics Canada speak with other ministry contacts to better understand the emerging interests and needs of the policy departments. In line with these consultations and the need for time series data, Statistics Canada makes a presentation to the Policy Research Data Gaps (PRDG) group suggesting a topic for the next cycle. The PRDG is an interdepartmental forum for the identification of data gaps and for collaboration in the development of new data products of broad horizontal interest across several federal departments. It has provided part of the funding for the GSS since 1998, along with Statistics Canada. A consultation document is circulated to the policy departments through the Policy Research Initiative (PRI) to discuss the survey needs in more detail. The PRI conducts research in support of the Government of Canada's medium term agenda. (The PRDG is coordinated by the PRI.) At this point, all departments are asked to participate in bilateral consultations on the section (s) of the survey that are of most value to their priorities.

Through the development of the survey, these departments can play different roles. In the early stages of survey development, they usually indicate the policy and program areas that could be improved with better survey data. Later, they often play a subject matter specialist role and provide links to appropriate terminology and knowledgeable researchers. At the time of the qualitative testing and pilot test, interested departments are given a copy of the draft questionnaire for comments. Finally, they are informed of any changes that need to be made to the content after the pilot test, either because the survey is too long or a specific set of questions is not well understood by respondents.

The GSS also consults with its external advisory committees, academics and researchers. The provincial government focal points are also involved early in the consultation process to better understand provincial needs. The focal points are provincial statistical contacts who deliver information (including Statistics Canada data) to provincial government departments. As applicable, divisions within Statistics Canada are also consulted; for example, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics is very involved in the victimization cycles of the GSS.

2.2 Consultation on time use

As data on time use were last collected in 1998, the 2003 GSS would normally have been devoted to time use. Our federal government department partners, however, expressed a strong interest in the need for a survey on social capital. Time use was intended to be part of the 2003 GSS on social capital. Pilot testing showed, however, that collecting detailed social capital data and a time use diary created an unreasonable respondent burden. For policy relevant reasons, the decision was made to collect comprehensive social capital content and the time use content was deferred to the 2005 cycle.

The development of the 2005 cycle began in the fall of 2003. An initial meeting was held with the PRDG to discuss a proposal for the survey. It was outlined that there were growing calls for an up-to-date time use survey in Canada. Federal government departments had used the time use diary to see how Canadians juggle work, learning, care giving, leisure and other activities in a 24 hour period. It is an important source to better understand the characteristics and impact of unpaid work and time crunch. With the coming retirement of the baby boom generation, data on time use would also support policy discussions in the areas of the labour market, retirement activities and social support.

There was also the possibility of adding some short modules on other topics. In the previous two cycles on time use, the focus content was on cultural and sports participation.

Time use surveys were also important internationally in 2003. The U.S.A. was currently collecting national data for their first time survey and seventeen European nations were participating in the Harmonized European Time Use Survey.

In the late fall, a request was sent to the PRI participants inviting them to participate in discussions with respect to the development of the survey. It was emphasized that Statistics Canada was committed to providing time series comparability with data from the three previous cycles. And as with previous cycles, the survey would include a 24 hour diary that collected detailed information on the respondent's activities during the reference day as well as a complementary diary of child care activities. As with all GSS cycles, information on household characteristics and socio-economic indicators such as education, labour force participation and income would also be collected. Because of the complexity of the time use diary, it was expected that only five minutes of focus content could be added.

A similar message was sent to the provincial focal points at the same time. Input was also obtained from various academics who had done extensive research using time use data.

2.3 Policy relevant content development

The most important requirement that was voiced by all clients was the importance of maintaining time series integrity with the time use data that was collected in 1998 and 1992; and to a lesser extent, the first time use survey in 1986. The following outlines the data needs of the federal government departments who provided input to the consultation phase.

One of Health Canada's policy interests is the well-being of Canada's children. This department has used the 1986, 1992 and 1998 data to show that despite today's pressures, parents of young children are spending more time with them than a decade ago. Healthy living is another important policy objective for Health Canada. The information from the current and previous surveys is helpful to examine whether Canadians who participate in sports activities are

healthier. It is also useful in evaluating the relationship between leisure participation and health and well-being. They supported the inclusion of the module on sports and cultural activities.

Lastly, another of this department's responsibilities is the well-being of seniors. It will be using the 2005 data to examine the transportation mobility of seniors; that is to say, their ability to drive and availability of alternative transportation. Barriers to mobility cause loneliness, isolation and reduced quality of life. The addition of the transportation modules, therefore, was also of interest to their analysts.

As part of its responsibility to provide Canadians with the tools they need to prosper in the workplace, the Department of Human Resources and Social Development (HRSDC) is dedicated to establishing a culture of life-long learning. To support policy and program development in this area, the department asked that a series of questions be added on work-related training.

Sport Canada supports the development of the sport system to strengthen the contribution that sport makes to Canadian identity, culture and society. One of its specific goals is to increase the proportion of Canadians who participate in sports. The 1992 and 1998 surveys were the primary source of data for reports on sports participation in Canada. As the department planned to update this report, the maintenance of module on sports participation was important to them.

The modules on participation in cultural activities, amateur sports, voluntarism, sense of belonging and trust were of interest to Canadian Heritage in order to provide them information on social participation at different points in the life cycle. As the culture policies of the department are designed to enhance Canadians' participation in and access to cultural and recreational facilities and products, it uses the time use data to ensure that their policies are meeting changing consumer demands.

One of the recent major projects of the Policy Research Initiative (described above) is to investigate the relevance and usefulness of social capital for the purposes of developing and assessing government programs and policies. The measurability of the resources produced by social networks as a core element of social capital is an important aspect of this project. The PRI was particularly interested in the addition of modules on social networks in C19.

Part of Transport Canada's mandate is to help ensure Canadians have a reliable, safe and sustainable transportation system. The department was interested in questions on access to a vehicle, use of public transportation and reasons why respondents did not use public transportation. How access to transportation influences time use was also of interest.

3 New content

The GSS collection is done via CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interview) using BLAISE software. With CATI, interviews are conducted over the phone and simultaneously entered in a computer that guides the interviewer through the questionnaire. Telephone interviews for the 2005 GSS on Time Use are being made from Edmonton, Halifax, Winnipeg and Sherbrooke to private households across the 10 provinces.

To encourage participation in the Time Use survey, respondents were sent an introductory letter prior to data collection. The letter serves several other functions. It explains the purpose of the survey and assures the respondent that their information will be kept strictly confidential. It also

provides printed confirmation that the survey is being conducted by Statistics Canada and a toll-free number for any questions respondents might have.

3.1 Pilot test (new content)

The pilot test was conducted in July, 2004. In order to include more content in the main survey, it was decided to split the sample. Half of the respondents were asked the questions on cultural and sports activities and the other half, questions on social networks and transportation. To ensure that this would function well in the main survey, this aspect was tested in the pilot as well.

3.2 Time use diary

3.2.1 Collection of the diary

The first two cycles of time use data were collected using paper and pencil. Interviewers wrote the details of the episode, as described by the respondent, and a senior interviewer coded the activity after collection of the questionnaire. In 1998, Cycle 12 was the first time use cycle to use CATI. The interviewers were provided with screens to assist in categorizing the episode details to one of the activity codes. Although Cycle 19 has used a different CATI system (i.e., Blaise), the same methodology of providing screens to assist in coding the episode details is being used.

3.2.2 Activity coding structure

Over the course of the cycles of time use data, GSS has modified the coding structure for the activities reported in the diary.

In the first GSS time use survey, a total of 93 two-digit activity codes were used, along with 3 non-response codes (missing time gaps, refusal and activities not stated). These codes could then be collapsed into the 10 basic activity groups:

- Employed work
- Domestic work
- Care giving for household members
- Shopping and services
- Personal care
- School and education
- Organizational, voluntary and religious activity
- Entertainment (attending)
- Sports and hobbies (participating)
- Media and communication

Consultations for the second time use cycle expressed a need for the details of the amount and type of unpaid work provided by Canadians. As well, with the first inclusion of GSS focus content examining participation in organized sports, cultural and recreational activities, GSS expanded the coding structure to three-digit activity codes. GSS took care to insure, that for the most part, the new coding structure could be collapsed to that of the Cycle 2 structure, so that comparisons could be made between how Canadians spent their time in 1986 and 1992.

Seventy-two new codes were added for Cycle 7. Over a third of these new codes were added to the Sports and hobbies (participating) section. General computer use could now be identified. The time spent on domestic home crafts and hobbies which Canadians intended to sell or exchange, along with their associated travel time, were collected. The vast majority of the new codes in this section recognized the particular types of physical and outdoor activities (e.g., bicycling, swimming, team sports) in which Canadians participate.

The next major addition of codes was in identifying unpaid work activities for both inside and outside the household. The unpaid work activity of coaching, and its travel related code, was introduced in the Sports and hobbies (participating) section. In 1986, it had been grouped with participating in sports and physical exercise.

Nine new codes were added to the domestic work section. The single code for home repairs in Cycle 2 could now provide four separate estimates for interior and exterior maintenance and repair, vehicle maintenance, and for other home improvements. Activities previously coded to the other household work code now had two additional categories, household administration (e.g., bill paying, writing shopping lists) and stacking and cutting firewood. Cycle 12 also included a new code to this sub-category for unpacking groceries. After the collection of the Cycle 12 data, two additional codes (Packing or unpacking luggage and/or car and Packing and unpacking for a move of the household) were derived from the written specified answers.

In the Organizational, voluntary and religious activity section, eight new codes were created. These new codes would now provide estimates on the time Canadians spent performing housework and cooking assistance, house maintenance and repairs, transportation assistance and other types of care for people outside their household.

In Cycle 2, the 20's codes were used for estimates of care to children. GSS expanded this in 1992 to include all care giving for other household members. Personal care and medical care to other household adults' codes were created. These activities were included in the personal care codes in 1986. Unpaid babysitting also received its own code in 1992, while specific child care activities were provided their own codes (i.e., putting children to bed, getting children ready for school and personal care for children) in 1998.

The non-diary component of Cycle 7 collected weekly, monthly and yearly participation rates for Canadians attending selected cultural events. The diary activities in the Entertainment section were expanded to provide separate estimates for attendance at museums, art galleries and heritage sites. The pop music, fairs and concerts code used in 1986 was split into three codes (i.e., attending pop music and/or concerts, fairs and festivals, zoos).

The visiting and entertaining friends/relatives code in 1986 was split up to capture three distinct types of socializing in 1992. The first two codes represent socializing with friends and/or relatives at a private residence with a meal and without a meal. The third code provided estimates of socializing at a non-private residence. For Cycle 12 this code was further split to socializing at an institutional residence (e.g., hospital, retirement home) and socializing at a non-institutional and non-private residence (e.g., shopping mall). Cycle 12 also added a new code to the Entertainment section to provide estimates on attendance at casinos, bingos and arcades.

With this expansion in 1992, not only did unpaid work, sports and cultural activities provide more details, other major categories provided greater information. Separate estimates of work for pay were now accessible for those Canadians with more than one job. As well, estimates of time

performing overtime work, the time looking for work, and the time spent doing unpaid work in a family business or farm were available.

Minor changes were made to the Shopping and services section. The sub-category of 'Everyday shopping' was split into three new codes; shopping for groceries, shopping for everyday goods and products (e.g., clothing, gas), and ordering and waiting for takeout food. Cycle 12 also include a code for rental of videos within this sub-category. Individual estimates for financial services, government services and automotive maintenance and repair services were also now available.

In the Media and communication section, four different categories for television viewing were created for Cycle 7. As well, separate estimates for the time reading books and the time reading magazines could be produced.

As stated above, travel codes related to particular activities or groups of activities were created. Estimates of travel for restaurant meals, for religious services, for socializing, for attending sports and entertainment events, and for civic and voluntary activities were also available.

While Cycle 7 underwent the major expansion of the activity coding structure, Cycle 12 added 12 new codes and Cycle 19 has included 4 new codes. These new codes for 2005 include three categories designed to estimate the time spent using a computer for e-mail, in chat rooms, and for other Internet communications, such as MSN or ICQ. As well for Cycle 19, GSS re-introduced the activity code for waiting and queuing for services. In Cycle 12, this code had been dropped and interviewers were instructed to include the time spent waiting/queuing with the shopping or service.

After reviewing the specified answers in Cycle 19, it's possible that some new codes could be created.

Appendix 1 shows how the activity codes have been expanded over the GSS time use cycles.

3.3 Volunteer activities

The Cycle 12 questions were replaced by the "Volunteer and charitable giving" module used on C17 (Social engagement).

3.4 Health and activity limitations

This module was new to Cycle 19 and based on the standard set of questions used on the 2001 Census and the 2001 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey.

3.5 Adult training

In response to HRSDC's input, a module on courses and training programs related to a current or future job was included on the pilot test. These questions were taken from a Statistics Canada Survey on Adult Education and Training (AETS).

3.6 Social capital

Given the strong interest in social capital outlined above, two modules on social networks and a third containing questions about how respondents view other people were included on the pilot

test. The first of the two modules on social networks was "Close ties". The intent was to collect information on strong ties or relationships which offer the kind of assistance and support that come from affection, willingness to help and considerable knowledge of each other. Having close family and intimate friends helps with many things, from coping with everyday problems to living longer. Respondents were asked about people in their life they felt very close to who lived outside their household.

The second module was "Weak ties". Weak ties connect people to a wide range of potential resources that can assist them in work, health and civic engagement. Respondents were asked whether or not they knew someone in occupations ranging from high to low in prestige. The premise of these questions is that people in different occupations differ from each other in terms of education, family background and lifestyles. A person's occupation is a good indicator of one's social roles and resources and, therefore, the type of help they might be able to provide. The specific occupations were chosen to represent different sectors of the economy.

Finally, a module on "Trust" was included. Trust is factor that has been found to be a very important determinant of social engagement and well-being. A few questions which measure the "radius" of trust, from people who are close to the respondent, to strangers were asked. This module was a shorter version of the one used in Cycle 17, Social Engagement in Canada.

3.7 Physical activities

In response to input from Health Canada, a module on physical activities was added. These were activities related to leisure time activities; not related to work. This was a separate module from the Sports participation activities module.

3.8 Transportation

In response to input from time use researchers and Transport Canada, three modules regarding driver's license, access to a vehicle and use of public transportation were included.

3.9 Culture activities

Due to space constraints, the 1998 culture activities module was shortened for 2005, in collaboration with the Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

3.10 Sports participation activities

Based on input from Sports Canada, some minor changes were made to this module. These included asking respondents if they participated in a sport activity in a structured or unstructured environment; and for competition or recreation. Some sport activity descriptions were deleted, some added and some updated.

3.11 Content for main survey

As for the pilot test, the sample was split with one half of the respondents being asked questions on social networks and transportation and the other half asked questions on their cultural and sports participation.

Due to space constraints, the modules on Courses and training programs and Physical activities had to be dropped from the main survey. The Social networks weak ties module was also

dropped. While it was not on the pilot test, the Enjoyment module from C12 was included for the main survey. Minor changes were made to the Public transportation module.

4 Best practices

4.1 Initiatives to improve collection

Several initiatives were implemented which were intended to improve the collection of the data. The major ones are as follows.

The training provided to Senior Interviewers in the Head Office (Ottawa) and the regional office interviewers included an expanded presentation of the Reference Day concepts. Detailed explanations were included in the Interviewer's Manual and the Trainer's Manual. Jeopardy-like quiz questions were used to reinforce the training.

Examples of highlights from the Cycle 12 data were included in the training presentation and the Interviewer's Manual. Electronic versions of articles which Statistics Canada had published were sent to the regional offices. Information on how the data is used by governments and researchers was also provided. On two occasions during collection, additional information on uses of the data was sent to the offices.

For the collection of GSS, the total sample is normally distributed across seven distinct waves of an approximate eight week period each from January to December. For example, for the previous cycle, collection of the first wave started on January 19th and ended on March 7th, 2004. The second wave was from March 8th to April 17th. In order to distribute the work more evenly during collection, it was decided for Cycle 19 that each wave would be four weeks with four weeks overlapping. For example, the first wave started on January 12th and ended on March 8th. The second wave was from February 9th to April 5th. The intent for each wave was that the regional offices would go through as much of the sample as possible in the first four weeks and use the final four weeks to recall and finalize outstanding cases. This approach also allows the start of the collection of a new wave near the end of the previous wave and increases the number of cases available to the offices and interviewers. It improved the regional offices' flexibility in managing the survey and contributed to a more stable workforce of experienced interviewers through the collection period. This approach on the distribution of the waves was particularly useful given the unique aspect of the reference day methodology².

5 North American comparison

5.1 "Where were you" component

With the arrival of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistic's time use survey (ATUS), GSS has made modifications to the "Where were you" component of the diary episode to assist in the comparison of our data to that of our neighbour. The "Where were you" data element captures the respondent's location or the form of transit they were using during the episode.

² With respect to collecting activities for a twenty four hour period for the Time Use Diary, a specific reference day is systemically assigned to each telephone number. There are seven reference days (e.g. Sunday is the first reference day, Monday is the second, etc.). The reference day is the previous day from the day the interview takes place. For example, if the interview is started on a Friday, the reference date is Thursday. Cases for which the diary is started, but not completed are only eligible to be completed for a period of 2 days (48 hours) following a reference day. Once the diary is completed, the case is available to interviewers on any day.

In the first GSS time use cycle (Cycle 2) in 1986, three possible locations were used; the respondent's home, their place of work or other place. In 1992, Cycle 7 created a new location: someone else's home. These four locations were also used in 1998 for Cycle 12. For those episodes that were reported at another place, analysts could, at times, derive a possible location dependent upon the activity code (e.g., socializing at an institution, a restaurant meal).

For 2005 (Cycle 19), GSS expanded the list of locations to match that of the ATUS.

- 1 Respondent's home
- 2 Work place
- 3 Someone else's home
- 4 Restaurant/Bar
- 5 Place of worship
- 6 Grocery store
- 7 Other store/Mall
- 8 School
- 9 Outdoors away from home
- 10 Library
- 11 Other place

This expansion of locations will allow for the further verification of the activity code reported and the creation of new summary data elements examining the duration of time spent at these locations.

The other option of the "Where were you" data element has also undergone expansion over the cycles. In Cycle 2, four transit codes were available: car, walking, bus & subway, and other form of transit. Cycle 7 split the car category to capture whether the respondent was driving the car or was a passenger in the car. As well, the new category "Bicycle" was included. Cycle 12 used to same categories as Cycle 7, as well.

The list of forms of transit has been expanded for Cycle 19 to match the ATUS. Bus & subway have been split, and the new categories Boat/ferry, Taxi/limousine service and Airplane have been added. This expansion will allow for a better understanding of commuters and all the different forms of transit that a respondent may use during a trip to work and back. With the increase in sample size to 20,000, detailed analysis can now be provided comparing east and west coast respondents, who rely on boats, ferries and sea-based airplanes for some of their transit, and respondents who live near metropolitan areas in central Canada.

- 1 Car (driver)
- 2 Car (passenger)
- 3 Walk
- 4 Bus (includes street cars)
- 5 Subway/Train (includes commuter trains)
- 6 Bicycle
- 7 Boat/Ferry
- 8 Taxi/Limousine service
- 9 Airplane
- 10 Other

5.2 “Who was with you” component

The “Who was with you” component of the episode has also undergone changes since the first time use survey. Cycles 2 and 7 used six categories:

- Respondent was alone
- Spouse/Partner
- Child(ren) of household
- Other family member(s)
- Friend(s)
- Other person(s)

Cycle 12 had a major expansion of these categories. First of all, persons who were present during an activity with the respondent were identified as either living inside or outside the respondent's household.

Next, Cycle 12 identified children of the respondent who were living outside the household and partitioned these into ‘less than 15 years of age’ and ‘15 and older’. Cycles 2 and 7 would have identified these persons as “Other family members”. As well, the previous two cycles grouped all children of the household regardless of age. These children were also partitioned based on the same age categories for Cycle 12.

Thirdly, parent(s) or parent(s) in-law was identified. Parent had previously been included with “Other family member” in the first two cycles.

Cycle 12 “Who was with you” component

Living inside the household

- 11 Alone
- 12 Spouse/Partner
- 13 Child(ren) less than 15 years old
- 14 Parent(s) or parent(s) in-law
- 15 Other member(s) (include children of 15 and older)

Living outside the household

- 16 Child(ren) of the respondent less than 15 years old
- 17 Child(ren) of the respondent 15 or older
- 18 Parent(s) or parent(s) in-law
- 18 Other family member(s)
- 20 Friends
- 21 Other person(s)

For members living inside the household, the ATUS used the household roster to identify those persons who had social contact with the respondent during the activity. Unlike the GSS household roster, the ATUS household roster does not contain the inter-relationships between the household members (i.e., the ATUS household roster includes information about how household members are related to the respondent only and does not include additional information about how household members are related to each other).

Even without these inter-relationships, the household members can be collapsed to the 5 GSS “Living in household” categories.

The ATUS household has the following relationships:

How is this person related to you? (Roster File: TERRP)

ATUS relationships

- 18 Self
- 19 Self
- 20 Spouse (husband/wife)
- 21 Unmarried partner
- 22 Own household child
- 23 Grandchild
- 24 Parent (mother/father)
- 25 Brother/Sister
- 26 Other related person (aunt, cousin, nephew)
- 27 Foster child
- 28 Housemate/Roommate
- 29 Roomer/Boarder
- 30 Other non-relative
- 40 Own non-household child

Unfortunately, the non-household ATUS categories don't collapse as well to the 6 GSS "Living outside the household" categories. The non-household ATUS categories for the "Who were you with" component are:

Non-household family

- Parents
- Other non-household family members < 18
- Other non-household family members 18 and older (incl. parents-in-law)

Other non-household

- Friends
- Co-workers, colleagues, clients
- Neighbours, acquaintances
- Other non-household children < 18
- Other non-household adults 18 and older

The one major difference between the ATUS and GSS time use surveys is the age at which each survey determines the age break for children. The ATUS uses 18 as its partition point for categorizing children, while GSS uses 15 as its partition point. Both the GSS time use cycles and ATUS require respondents to be 15 years of age or older.

Table 2 Possible Collapse of ATUS non-household members to GSS categories

ATUS	GSS
Non-household family	
Parents	Parent(s) or parent(s) in-law
Other non-household family members < 18	Child(ren) of the respondent less than 15 years old Child(ren) of the respondent 15 or older Other family member(s)
Other non-household family members 18 and older (incl. parents-in-law)	Child(ren) of the respondent 15 or older Parent(s) or parent(s) in-law Other family member(s)
Other non-household	
Friends	Friends
Co-workers, colleagues, clients	Other person(s)
Neighbours, acquaintances	Other person(s)
Other non-household children < 18	Other person(s)
Other non-household adults 18 and older	Other person(s)

6 Conclusions and timeline

The challenge for 2005 GSS on Time Use has been to meet the information needs of policy departments while maintaining comparability with previous time use cycles and keeping the interview to a reasonable length. It is somewhat ironic that the time it takes to complete the Time Use GSS has such an impact on content decisions. Nevertheless, this is a reality that has an impact on our response rates, completion rates and our commitment to keeping respondent burden to a minimum.

Despite the challenges faced in developing the survey, some important new information is now available for users of the 2005 GSS. New modules such as those on transportation and close social network ties will allow researchers to answer many policy relevant questions to do with time crunch, families and the role of community and social ties in the lives of Canadians. In addition, the expansion of the activity codes for the 2005 GSS time diaries presents new possibilities for research on such topics as the impact of Internet use, email, chat and other kinds of electronic communication. New opportunities exist for comparing the time use of US residents with that of Canadians, given modifications to the 2005 GSS "where were you" component of the diary. And finally, the increased sample size from 11,000 to close to 20,000 opens many new possibilities for detailed analysis of smaller population sub-groups.

The data collection was completed in December 2005 and the data are released as of July 12, 2006. The way the whole population allocates time to key life activities affects current and future production, the quality of care provided to dependents, the quality of life of individuals and families, and the strength of the local community. Time use data in Canada will be used to better understand these issues.

Appendix 1

Activity	Cycle 2 codes	Cycle 7 codes	Cycle 12 codes	Cycle 19 codes
Employed work				
Work for pay	01	..	..	..
Work for pay at main job	..	011	011	011
Work for pay at other job(s)	..	012	012	012
Overtime/ looking for work	02	..	..	..
Overtime work	..	021	021	021
Looking for work	..	022	022	022
Unpaid work in a family business or farm	..	023	023	023
Travel during work	03	030	030	030
Waiting/delays at work	04	040	040	040
Meals/snacks at work	05	050	050	050
Idle time before/after work	06	060	060	060
Coffee/other breaks	07	070	070	070
Other work activity	08	080	080	080
Travel: to/from work	09	090	090	090
Domestic work				
Meal preparation	10	..	..	..
Meal preparation	..	101	101	101
Baking, preserving food, home brewing, etc.	..	102	102	102
Food (or meal) cleanup	11	110	110	110
Indoor cleaning	12	120	120	120
Outdoor cleaning	13	130	130	130
Laundry, ironing, folding	14	140	140	140
Mending	15	..	..	..
Mending/shoe care	..	151	151	151
Dressmaking and sewing (for self or household members)	..	152	152	152
Home repairs, maintenance	16	..	..	..
Interior maintenance and repair	..	161	161	161
Exterior maintenance and repair	..	162	162	162
Vehicle maintenance	..	163	163	163
Other home improvements	..	164	164	164
Gardening, pet care	17	..	..	..
Gardening/grounds maintenance	..	171	171	171
Pet care	..	172	172	172
Care of house plants	..	173	173	173
Other housework	18	..	..	..
Household administration	..	181	181	181
Stacking and cutting firewood	..	182	182	182
Other domestic/household work	..	183	183	183

Activity		Cycle 2 codes	Cycle 7 codes	Cycle 12 codes	Cycle 19 codes
***	Unpacking groceries	..	..	184	184
***	Packing or unpacking luggage and/or car	..	..	185	185
***	Packing and unpacking for a move of the household	..	..	186	186
Travel for domestic work		19	190	190	190
Care giving for household members					
Baby care/child care (infant to 4 years old)		20	200	200	200
Child care		21	210	..	..
	Putting children to bed	..	..	211	211
	Getting children ready for school	..	..	212	212
	Personal care for children of the household	..	..	213	213
Helping/teaching/reprimanding		22	220	220	220
Reading/talking/conversation with child		23	230	230	230
Play with children		24	240	240	240
Medical care - household children		25	250	250	250
	Unpaid babysitting	..	260	260	260
	Personal care - household adults	..	271	271	271
	Medical care - household adults	..	272	272	272
Other child care (unpaid babysitting)		28	..	..	..
	Help and other care - household children	..	281	281	281
	Help and other care - household adults	..	282	282	282
Travel: child care		29	..	..	..
	Travel: household child	..	291	291	291
	Travel: household adults	..	292	292	292
Shopping and services					
Everyday shopping		30	..	..	..
	Groceries	..	301	301	301
	Everyday goods and products (clothing, gas, etc.)	..	302	302	302
	Take-out food	..	303	303	303
***	Rental of videos	..	..	304	304
Shopping for durable household goods		31	310	310	310
Personal care services		32	320	320	320
Government and financial services		33	..	..	..
	Financial services	..	331	331	331
	Government services	..	332	332	332
Adult medical and dental care (outside home)		34	340	340	340
Other professional service (lawyer, veterinarian)		35	350	350	350
Repair services (cleaning, auto, appliance)		36	..	..	..
	Automotive maintenance and repair services	..	361	361	361

Activity		Cycle 2 codes	Cycle 7 codes	Cycle 12 codes	Cycle 19 codes
	Other repair services (e.g. T.V., appliance)	..	362	362	362
	Waiting, queuing for purchase	37	370	..	370 ³
	Other shopping and services	38	380	380	380
	Travel for goods and services	39	390	390	390
Personal care					
	Washing, dressing	40	400	400	400
	Adult medical care (at home)	41	..	..	..
	Personal medical care (at home)	..	410	410	410
** *	Private prayer, meditation and other informal spiritual activities	..	..	411	411
	Help and personal care to adults	42	..	..	..
	Meals at home/snacks/coffee	43	..	..	..
	Meals at home/snacks/coffee	..	430	430	430
	Other meals at another place	..	431	431	431
	Restaurant meals	44	440	440	440
	Night sleep/essential sleep	45	450	450	450
	Incidental sleep, naps	46	460	460	460
	Relaxing, thinking, resting, smoking	47	470	470	470
	Other personal care or private activities	48	480	480	480
	Travel : personal	49	..	..	..
	Travel to restaurant meals	..	491	491	491
	Travel for other personal activities	..	492	492	492
School and education					
	Full-time classes	50	500	500	500
	Other classes - part-time	51	..	..	..
	Other classes (part-time)	..	511	511	511
	Credit courses on television	..	512	512	512
	Special lectures: occasional	52	520	520	520
	Homework: course, career/self-development	53	530	530	530
	Meals/snacks/coffee at school	54	540	540	540
	Breaks/waiting for class	55	550	550	550
	Leisure and special interest classes	56	560	560	560
	Other study	58	580	580	580
	Travel for education	59	590	590	590
Organizational, voluntary and religious activity					
	Professional, union, general meetings	60	600	600	600
	Political, civic activity	61	610	610	610

³ This activity code wasn't available in Cycle 12.

Activity	Cycle 2 codes	Cycle 7 codes	Cycle 12 codes	Cycle 19 codes
Child, youth, family organizations	62	620	620	620
Religious meetings, organizations	63	630	630	630
Religious services/prayer/bible readings	64	..	..	..
Religious services/prayer/bible readings	..	640	640	640
*** Meal/snacks/coffee at religious services	..	..	642	642
Fraternal, social organizations	65	..	..	..
Fraternal and social organizations	..	651	651	651
Support groups	..	652	652	652
Volunteer work, helping	66	..	..	..
Volunteer work (organizations)	..	660	660	660
*** Meal/snack/coffee at place of volunteer work	..	..	661	661
Housework and cooking assistance	..	671	671	671
House maintenance and repair assistance	..	672	672	672
Unpaid babysitting	..	673	673	673
Transportation assistance	..	674	674	674
Care for disabled or ill	..	675	675	675
Correspondence assistance	..	676	676	676
Unpaid help for a business or farm	..	677	677	677
Other unpaid help	..	678	678	678
Other organizational, voluntary and religious activity	68	680	680	680
Travel: organizations	69	..	..	..
Travel for civic and voluntary activity	..	691	691	691
Travel for religious services	..	692	692	692
Entertainment (attending)				
Sports event	70	..	..	..
Professional sports event	..	701	701	701
Amateur sports events	..	702	702	702
Pop music, fairs, concerts	71	..	..	..
Pop music, concerts	..	711	711	711
Fairs, festivals, circuses, parades	..	712	712	712
Zoos	..	713	713	713
Movies, films	72	720	720	720
Opera, ballet, theatre	73	730	730	730
Museums and art galleries	74	..	..	..
Museums	..	741	741	741
Art galleries	..	742	742	742
Heritage site	..	743	743	743
Visits, entertaining friends/relatives	75	..	..	..
Socializing with friends/relatives (no meal)	..	751	751	751

Activity		Cycle 2 codes	Cycle 7 codes	Cycle 12 codes	Cycle 19 codes
	Socializing with friends/relatives (with meal)	..	752	752	752
	Socializing with friends/relatives (non-private and non-institutional residence)	..	753 ⁴	753	753
***	Socializing with friends/relatives institutional residence)	..	..	754	754
Socializing at bars, clubs (no meal)		76	760	760	760
***	Casino, bingo, arcade	..	..	770	770
Other social gatherings		78	780	780	780
Travel: entertainment		79	..	..	..
	Travel to sports and entertainment events	..	791	791	791
	Travel for socializing (between residences)	..	792	792	792
	Travel for other socializing	..	793	793	793
Sports and hobbies (participating)					
Sports, physical exercise, coaching		80	..	..	..
	Coaching	..	800	800	800
	Football, basketball, baseball, volleyball, hockey, soccer, field hockey	..	801	801	801
	Tennis, squash, racquetball, paddleball	..	802	802	802
	Golf, miniature golf	..	803	803	803
	Swimming, waterskiing	..	804	804	804
	Skiing, ice skating, sledding, curling, snowboarding	..	805	805	805
	Bowling, pool, ping-pong, pinball	..	806	806	806
	Exercises, yoga, weight lifting	..	807	807	807
	Judo, boxing, wrestling, fencing	..	808	808	808
	Rowing, canoeing, kayaking and wind surfing and sailing (competitive)	..	809	809	809
	Other sports (e.g. frisbee, catch)	..	810	810	810
Hunt, fish, camp		81	..	..	..
	Hunting	..	811	811	811
	Fishing	..	812	812	812
	Boating (motorboats and rowboats)	..	813	813	813
	Camping	..	814	814	814
	Horseback riding, rodeo, jumping, dressage	..	815	815	815
	Other outdoor activities/excursions	..	816	816	816
Walk, hike		82	..	..	..
	Walking, hiking, jogging, running	..	821	821	821
	Bicycling	..	822	822	822
Hobbies		83	..	..	..
	Hobbies done mainly for pleasure	..	831	831	831

⁴ In Cycle 7, this code also included "Socializing with friends/relatives (institutional residence)". It was split to its present codes in Cycle 12.

Activity		Cycle 2 codes	Cycle 7 codes	Cycle 12 codes	Cycle 19 codes
	Hobbies done for sale or exchange of items	..	832	832	832
Domestic home crafts		84	..	..	..
	Domestic home crafts done mainly for pleasure	..	841	841	841
	Domestic home crafts done for sale or exchange of items	..	842	842	842
Music, theatre, dance		85	850	850	850
Games, cards, arcade		86	..	..	..
	Games, cards, puzzle, board games	..	861	861	861
	Video games/computer games	..	862	862	862
	General computer use (excluding surfing the net or playing games)	..	863 ⁵	863	863
	Surfing the net (as leisure activity)	..	..	864	864
****	Computer use – e-mail	..	..	..	865
****	Computer use – chat rooms	..	..	..	866
****	Computer use – other Internet communications	..	..	..	867
Pleasure drives, sightseeing		87	..	..	..
	Pleasure drives, sightseeing (as a driver)	..	871	871	871
	Pleasure drives, sightseeing(as a passenger in a car)	..	872	872	872
	Other pleasure drives, sightseeing	..	873	873	873
Other sports or active leisure		88	880	880	880
Travel: sports, hobbies		89	..	..	..
	Travel for active sports	..	891	891	891
	Travel for coaching	..	892	892	892
	Travel for hobbies and crafts for sale	..	893	893	893
	Travel for other active leisure	..	894	894	894
Media and communication					
Listening to the radio		90	900	900	900
Television, rented movies		91	..	..	..
	Watching television (regular scheduled T.V.)	..	911	911	911
	Watching television (time-shifted T.V.)	..	912	912	912
	Watching rented or purchased movies	..	913	913	913
	Other television viewing	..	914	914	914
Listening to CD's, cassette tapes or records		92	920	920	920
Reading books, magazines		93	..	..	..
	Reading books	..	931	931	931
	Reading magazines, pamphlets, bulletins, newsletters	..	932	932	932
Reading newspapers		94	940	940	940

⁵ In Cycle 7, this code also included "Surfing the net (as leisure activity)". It was split to its present codes in Cycle 12.

Activity	Cycle 2 codes	Cycle 7 codes	Cycle 12 codes	Cycle 19 codes
Talking, conversation, telephone	95	950	950	950
**** Telephone conversation	..	..	..	951
Letters and mail	96	..	..	..
Reading mail	..	961	961	961
Other letter and mail	..	962	962	962
Other media or communication	98	980	980	980
Travel for media or communication	99	990	990	990
Residual codes				
Missing gap in time	26	001	001	001
Refusal	27	002	002	002
Activity not stated	97

*** New activity code for 1998 (Cycle 12)

**** New activity code for 2005 (Cycle 19)

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