

Course Syllabus




Exploring Monitoring the Future Data - Session 1 [Online]

Dates: July 9-11, 2025

Times: 10:00am - 1:00pm ET Wednesday through Friday, with office hours available from 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Instructor:

- Joy Bohyun Jang, PhD, University of Michigan
- Deborah D. Kloska, M.A, University of Michigan

The Monitoring the Future (MTF) project (<http://monitoringthefuture.org/> ) (<http://monitoringthefuture.org/>) is a long-term epidemiologic and etiologic study of substance use among the nation's youth and adults. Funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse since 1975, the MTF project has collected data annually from nationally representative samples of high school seniors. Beginning in 1991, similar surveys of nationally representative samples of 8th and 10th graders have been collected as well. In all, approximately 50,000 students annually respond to about 100 drug use and demographic questions, as well as to about 200 questions on subjects such as attitudes toward government, social institutions, race relations, changing gender roles, educational aspirations, occupational aims, and marital plans.

The MTF project also includes a longitudinal panel study component, now spanning ages 19-65. For the young adults (ages 19-30), biennial follow-up mail surveys have been conducted with subsamples of about 2,400 respondents from each senior year class since 1976. Each subsample is randomly split in half, to be followed every other year, meaning that one-half begins its first follow-up the very next year at modal age 19, and the other half of the sample begins its first follow-up in the second year at modal age 20. Beginning of age 35, MTF reaches out to the panel respondents to obtain their continued participation at 5-year intervals from age 35 through age 65. A single form of the MTF survey is presented at each middle adult age covering many of the same topics as the age 19-30 surveys and including additional questions on life events, drug use, and health.

This workshop will introduce participants to the MTF cross-sectional data (public-use and restricted-use) and the restricted-use longitudinal panel data available from the ICPSR/NAHDAP. The workshop will consist of a brief overview of the MTF Cross-sectional and Panel studies and a detailed discussion of the content of MTF public release and restricted-use data, data management, and analysis planning including a complex sample design. The workshop will include lecture, discussion, and hands-on exercise. Participants will gain hands-on experience working with the public-use files. The restricted cross-sectional data and panel data will be reviewed, but they will not be utilized during the workshop.

The focus of the workshop will be on understanding and using the MTF data and documentation, not on a specific analytic approach.

Prerequisites: Strong interest in using MTF data for publication in peer-reviewed journals or similar reports; basic understanding of descriptive and regression analysis techniques; and demonstrated ability to use SAS, Stata, R, or SPSS software for data management and data analysis.

Eligibility: The workshop is designed for researchers who have an active interest in the MTF public- and/or restricted-use data who wish to increase their understanding of the MTF data and documentation.

Software: The course data management and analysis examples will be shown using Stata. We anticipate that users of other software can generalize to their statistical software of choice.

Zoom

Please see the Zoom links below:

<https://umich.zoom.us/j/92454501754> ➞ <https://umich.zoom.us/j/92454501754>

Meeting ID: 924 5450 1754

Passcode: mtf1

Office Hour

Sign-up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0549AAAB2AAAF5CF8-57412438-mtfworkshop> ➞ <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0549AAAB2AAAF5CF8-57412438-mtfworkshop>

A Zoom link (with passcode) will be sent to individuals.

Files

Workshop slides and other documents are available for download under **Files**.