

The Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study Data User Workshop: Making Nationally Representative Inferences from the PATH Study Data

Instructor(s):

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The Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study is a collaboration between the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Center for Tobacco Products (CTP), Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The PATH Study is a household-based, nationally representative, longitudinal cohort study of approximately 46,000 adults and youth (ages 12-17) in the United States. The PATH Study was launched in 2011 to inform the FDA's regulatory activities under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, which was signed into law in 2009.

Course Description: This workshop will utilize hands-on examples to better understand the PATH Study sample design and weighting. Specifically, attendees will gain a better understanding of how to conduct longitudinal analyses to estimate change over time, as well as pseudo-cross-sectional analyses to estimate prevalence.

The workshop will include a brief overview of the PATH Study and a detailed discussion of the sample design and weights for all PATH Study public-use data files available from Wave 1 - Wave 7 (including youth, adult, and special collections). Participants will gain hands-on experience working with the public-use data files and understanding the weighted results. Instructors will review the types of restricted-use data files that are available from the PATH Study, but these will not be utilized during the workshop.

This workshop will focus on understanding and using the PATH Study data files, not on a specific analytic approach. The workshop will combine lecture, discussion, and hands-on exercises. This workshop will only be offered virtually.

Target Audience: The course is designed for academic faculty, research professionals, and graduate students interested in tobacco regulatory science and/or prevention/translation research. Participants should be comfortable with data analysis software and quantitative research methods. This workshop will be most useful to analysts who do not have previous experience using PATH Study data for longitudinal analyses, though all are welcome. All examples and exercises will include example code for SAS, Stata, or R statistical software. The workshop will include two days of instruction and exercises. The content and exercises from this workshop are similar to those from previous workshops that used the PATH Study data.

Prerequisites: Participants should have a basic understanding of secondary data organization and manipulation, fundamental data analysis skills, and working knowledge of a statistical software package (e.g., SAS, Stata, and R). There will be several zoom sessions in the 2 weeks prior to the workshop that will cover how to download the necessary data files that you will be using to complete assignments. You will be required to attend one of these sessions, which will last approximately 30 minutes.

Equipment/Software: Please note that your software version will need to support processing large data files, i.e., 30,000+ observations, 2,500+ variables (Note: Stata/BE does not meet this requirement).

Application: Admission to this workshop is competitive. Enrollment is limited.

To apply, use the Registration tab from the course description. Provide your information, select the course and upload the following required documents via the registration portal:

1. Current curriculum vitae with a select list of publications (**Please highlight your research interests and any experience and/or coursework relevant to the PATH Study Summer Workshop, particularly prior experience with tobacco research and/or quantitative analytic methods**)
2. Cover letter – Your cover letter should be limited to 500-750 words and should address the following:
 - Your past or current experience with the PATH Study or other tobacco-related studies.
 - Your background and experience in statistical analysis, including proficiency with statistical software.
 - Study question(s) you plan to address using PATH Study data. This description can include context and/or theoretical background but should not exceed 150 words. Study questions do not have to be related to tobacco regulatory science specifically, but priority will be given to applicants whose planned study questions can be feasibly answered with PATH Study data.

Fee: There is no tuition fee for the workshop.

Application Open Period: May 20-June 30, 2025

Course Section

Online only

Location: Zoom

Date(s): August 13-14

Time: 9:00am – 3:30pm