

## **APPENDIX M**

### **TRIP PURPOSE CODING AND TRIP PURPOSE VARIABLES**

#### **PURPOSE OF APPENDIX**

The NPTS is the only source of national data on the purposes of daily travel by members of U. S. households. As such, it is widely used to describe and analyze the reasons associated with trips and travel. This Appendix is included to provide information on how trip purposes are coded in the 1995 NPTS, and to describe the substantial changes made in trip purpose coding between the 1990 and 1995 NPTSs.

#### **OVERVIEW**

The trip purposes used in the 1995 NPTS are:

- Work
- Work-related
- Return to work (for work-based trips)
  
- Family and Personal Business
  - Shopping
  - Medical or dental
  - Take someone somewhere (dropoff)
  - Pick up someone
  - Other family & personal business
  
- School
- Religious activity
  
- Social & Recreational
  - Vacation
  - Visit friends and relatives
  - Out to eat
  - Other social and recreational
  
- Return Home
- Other

Each trip purpose is defined in the Glossary (Appendix D). The individual purposes are listed on the travel day and travel period files. Depending on the application, the user may want to aggregate the appropriate purposes into the major categories, Family and Personal Business and Social and Recreational.

The 1995 NPTS trip purpose, WHYTRP95, was determined by

question G.20 for each reported travel day trip. Question G.20 reads "What was the main purpose of the trip to (destination)?" There were 17 possible purpose codes, including to return home. Interviewers used purpose #15, change means of transportation, only when they couldn't determine another purpose for the trip. These change means trips were recoded or combined with adjacent trips during editing.

Each travel day trip was also assigned a FROM and TO purpose, WHYFROM and WHYTO, based on the responses to questions G.12 through G.21, the inventory of the day's trips and the purpose of each. These two variables, WHYFROM and WHYTO may be used to describe trips in another way. For example, a trip "from home to school", rather than a trip "to school".

**PURPOSE  
CHANGES IN  
1995**

The 1995 trip purposes represent a fairly significant departure from the purposes used in earlier NPTSs. For the typical user, the trip purpose changes were probably the most significant questionnaire content change in 1995.

The 1995 NPTS uses a FROM and TO concept of trip purposes of trip purposes, so if you went :

<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>1995 TRIP PURPOSE</b>
home	drop off child at school	Drop off
child's school	work	Work
work	lunch	Eat out
lunch	work	Return to work
work	grocery store	Shopping
grocery store	home	Return home

Notice that the 1995 trip purpose is descriptive of why you made the one-way trip. The reasons for this coding scheme are primarily:

- to obtain better data on trip chaining, i.e., stopping someplace on the way to or from your primary destination,

like stopping to drop off a child at school or stopping at the store on the way home from work

- to have a coding scheme that was more direct than the purpose coding used in the earlier NPTSs

- to have a coding scheme that did NOT require the interviewer to memorize and apply a page full of rules for when to code a trip to what category.

To get a better idea of the differences between the 1995 NPTS and the 1990 (and earlier) NPTSs, the table above is repeated, showing how these trips would have been coded in 1990.

<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>1995 PURPOSE</b>	<b>1990 PURPOSE</b>
home	drop off child at school	Dropoff	Other fam and pers
child's school	work	Work	Work
work	lunch	Out to eat	Other fam and pers
lunch	work	Return to work	Other fam and pers
work	grocery store	Shopping	Shopping
grocery store	home	Return home	Work

In looking at this table there are four items of note:

- the 1995 trip purposes are more direct

- the purpose "other family and personal business" has been split into:

- other family and personal business,
- take someone somewhere, and
- pickup someone.

- "eating out" has been made a separate own purpose. ( In 1990 it was included in "other family and personal business" if you went out to eat from work or school. All

other trips to eat out were coded as "other social and recreational").

- the 1990 trip purpose coding used a round-trip scheme, so that the trip to work and from work were both coded as "work". This was mainly done to assign both parts of the trip to the reason the travel was made, thus avoiding the use of "return home" or "return to work". If the return trips are still problematic for the user, the 1995 datafile contains several variable that allow a recode of the return trips.

**COMPARISON  
1995-1990**

The following comparison shows each of the trip purposes collected in 1995 and the corresponding purpose, if applicable, in 1990:

1995	1990
Work	Work
Work-related	Work-related
Return to work	* used reason for outgoing trip
Shopping	Shopping
School	School/church
Religious activity	School/church
Medical/dental	Medical/dental
Other family & personal	Other family & personal
Take someone somewhere	Other family & personal
Pick up someone	Other family & personal
Vacation	Vacation
Visit friends or relatives	Visit friends or relatives
Went out to eat	* if from work, Other family & personal
	* not from work, Other social/rec
Other social/rec	Other social/rec
Change means	* not collected
Other, specify	Other, specify
Return home	* used reason for outgoing trip

Note that Pleasure Driving was a trip purpose in 1990, but in 1995

trips for this reason are simply included in Other social and recreational.

**NEW  
PURPOSES**

The new purposes added in 1995 are:

- Return to work
- Take someone somewhere
- Pick up someone
- Went out to eat
- Return home.

**RECODING  
PROCESS**

The process of showing the 1990 trip purpose on the file, in addition to the 1995 purpose, required a considerable number of intermediate steps.

In the 1990 trip purpose scheme, if there was more than one trip before the return home trip, the main reason for the travel was the reason used for the return trip. Thus, one of the steps in the recoding process was to determine the main reason by creating trip chains and measuring the time spent at each destination. The chains were defined by travel ending at home, at work, or someplace else. The following variables on the NPTS Travel Day file were developed for this process:

CHAIN - trip chain number for this person - See Appendix J - Notes on Specific Variables for a more complete description of the chaining process.

NOTE THAT THE TRIP CHAINS ON THE 1995 NPTS FILE WERE CREATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECODING 1995 TRIP PURPOSES TO 1990 PURPOSES. GIVEN THIS, THERE ARE CHAINING CONVENTIONS THAT MAY NOT BE USED IN A TYPICAL TRIP CHAINING ANALYSIS.

CHAINTRP - sequential number of the trip within the chain

DWELTIME- time spent at the destination of the previous trip

FROM\_A and TO\_B - the origin or destination of the chain, in terms of home, work or someplace else

STRTTIME - starting time of the trip, which was used to put the trips in order before creating the chains

TRPNUM\_A and TRPNUM\_B - these are the trip numbers of the first and last trips in each chain

The data user should note that these trip chains were created to recode the 1995 trip purpose to the 1990 purpose scheme, and they include "chains" that would be excluded from most trip chaining analyses. There are an abundance of variables on the 1995 NPTS Travel Day file that can be applied to a user-defined trip chaining scheme.