

# Overview of the Public Use File Documentation for the Survey Data for the TAA Evaluation

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## Overview of the Public Use File Documentation

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program is the linchpin of Federal efforts to help America's manufacturing workers rebound from job separation experienced as a consequence of foreign competition. The program's goal is to help affected workers obtain reemployment at a suitable wage replacement ratio by providing training, wage subsidies, and temporary income support, among other services. In 2010, the program served 199,238 participants.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) funded Social Policy Research Associates (SPR) and its subcontractor, Mathematica Policy Research (Mathematica), to conduct a comprehensive study—the *Evaluation of the TAA Program*—that included: (a) a quasi-experimental impact evaluation, (b) a cost-benefit study, and (c) an implementation study. This document provides an overview of the public use files for two rounds of telephone survey data that were used for the impact evaluation.

The impact evaluation obtained samples of eligible TAA workers and matched comparison samples to obtain unbiased estimates of the impact of TAA on participants' employment-related outcomes. The TAA and matched comparison samples were selected from 26 randomly selected states. The primary TAA sample included the following workers: (1) those whose names appeared on TAA-certified worker lists obtained by states from employers as part of the mandatory worker notification process for petitions certified for TAA by the U.S. Department of Labor, and (2) those who were unemployment insurance (UI) claimants. The matched comparison sample included UI claimants from the manufacturing sector who had similar characteristics to and came from the same local areas as the TAA samples, except that they were not eligible for TAA services. The matching was initially conducted using demographic information in the UI claims files and data on local area characteristics. The matching for the survey sample was subsequently refined using detailed baseline information on workers and their employment histories from the telephone surveys. The design of the evaluation is discussed in detail in the study impact report (Schochet et al., 2011a) and the associated methodological notes (Schochet et al., 2011b).<sup>1</sup>

Two rounds of telephone surveys were conducted with the TAA and comparison worker samples, and these data were the main data source for the impact analysis. Initial (baseline) interviewing took place by telephone between March 2008 and April 2009. Across the 26 study states, interviews were completed with 8,026 sample members: (1) 1,974 TAA participants, (2) 3,394 of their matched comparisons, (3) 886 eligible TAA nonparticipants, and (4) 1,722 of their matched

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<sup>1</sup> Schochet, P. Z., R. D'Amico, J. Berk, S. Dolfin, and N. Wozny (2011a). The Impacts of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program on Participants' Outcomes; Schochet, P. Z., R. D'Amico, J. Berk, and N. Wozny (2011b). Methodological Notes on the Impact Analysis. Reports submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration Office of Policy Development and Research, Washington, D.C.

comparisons. The initial interviews were completed an average of about 29 months after job loss. Initial interviews were conducted with a comparison sample that was about twice as large as the treatment sample to allow for a second stage of matching prior to the follow-up interviews, using the richer variables from the initial survey.

Follow-up interviews were conducted with TAA participants and their matched comparisons (for both those who completed initial interviews and those who did not), but not with TAA nonparticipants or their matched comparisons. Follow-up interviewing took place by telephone between June 2010 and December 2010. Across the 26 study states, 3,000 treatments and 3,000 of their matched comparisons were released for follow-up interviews, and interviews were completed with 2,054 TAA participants and 2,026 comparisons. The follow-up interview sample was the primary analysis sample used for the impact analysis. Follow-up interviews were typically conducted about 23 months after the initial interviews. The impact and methodological notes reports (Schochet et al., 2011a,b) provide details on the survey design, including a detailed survey nonresponse analysis.

Table 1 summarizes the SAS datasets in the public use files that contain raw survey data and constructed variables for the impact analysis. The data pertain to 8,438 sample members who completed either the initial or follow-up interview. The table displays the names of the SAS datasets, provides a brief description of the information in the datasets, and provides the names of the codebook documentation files and associated survey instruments. ***All files contain one record per sample member and can be linked using the unique sample member identifier, MPRID.*** Some survey variables (such as geographic identifiers, names of employers and training programs, and exact dates that events occurred) were excluded from the file to protect sample member confidentiality. For the same reason, some variable categories with small cell counts were merged with other categories.

The codebooks are in .pdf format and have the same name as the associated SAS datasets. Each codebook provides the following information for each variable in the SAS files:

- Name, label, and position in the data file
- Format (numeric or character)
- The number of observations with valid (nonmissing) values
- Mean, minimum, and maximum values
- Description of codes and frequencies of each code (including refusals, “don’t know” responses, missing value codes, imputation codes, and so on)
- Notes on how the variable was constructed using the raw survey data and intermediate constructed variables

**Table 1: Overview of SAS Datasets in the Public Use File**

Name	Description	Name of Codebook File and Notes
taa_key_var	<p>Contains <i>key crosscutting information and subgroup impact analysis variables</i> for the 8,438 sample members who completed either an initial or follow-up interview:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Completion status to each interview</li> <li>2. Research status (TAA participant; comparison to a TAA participant; eligible TAA nonparticipant; comparison to an eligible TAA nonparticipant)</li> <li>3. Whether the comparison worker was found later to have received TAA services from TAA program records (crossover status)</li> <li>4. Key baseline demographic and local area variables used to estimate subgroup impacts</li> <li>5. UI claim year and quarter (to define time “0” for the impact analysis)</li> <li>6. Whether the TAA participant received TAA-funded training or only TRA benefits</li> <li>7. Whether the worker received WIA services according to WIA administrative records data</li> <li>8. Variables for the sensitivity analysis presented in Chapter VII of the impact report that were used to estimate impacts on employment and earnings (actual recall status, exhausted UI, was in a firm that was certified for TAA prior to job loss)</li> </ol>	<p>taa_key_var.pdf</p> <p>See the impact and methodological notes reports (Schochet et al. 2011a,b) for more information on the definition and data sources for the variables used for the subgroup and sensitivity analyses</p> <p>Some eligible TAA nonparticipants (and their comparisons) with SURVEYGROUP = ‘C’ (‘D’) completed follow-up interviews, because they were found to have received TAA services after the initial interview, and were reclassified as TAA participants (see the impact report for a discussion of these “switchers”)</p>
taa_baseline	<p>Contains <i>raw initial interview data</i> on 8,026 sample members (1,974 TAA participants, 3,394 of their matched comparisons, 886 eligible TAA nonparticipants, and 1,722 of their matched comparisons). The coverage period started with the UI claim date associated with the trade-related job separation. The data contain information on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The job that led to the UI claim</li> <li>2. Prior jobs, earnings, and income</li> <li>3. Notification of TAA eligibility</li> <li>4. Knowledge of TAA services</li> <li>5. Application for TAA services</li> <li>6. The receipt of TRA, ATAA, and HCTC services</li> <li>7. The receipt of reemployment services</li> <li>8. The receipt of education and training services</li> <li>9. Jobs held since the UI claim date</li> <li>10. Other sources of income</li> <li>11. Household structure</li> <li>12. Health status and health insurance</li> <li>13. Demographic information</li> </ol>	<p>taa_baseline.pdf</p> <p>The initial (baseline) survey instrument is in the file <b>taa_baseline_instrument.pdf</b></p> <p>The variable names in the raw data file are <i>identical</i> to the variable names in the survey instrument that are highlighted in yellow</p>

Name	Description	Name of Codebook File and Notes
taa_followup	<p>Contains <i>raw follow-up interview data</i> on 4,080 sample members (2,054 TAA participants and 2,026 of their comparisons) who completed a follow-up interview. For the 457 completers who did not complete the initial interview, the follow-up survey questionnaire was identical to the initial survey questionnaire, and the coverage period started with the UI claim date associated with the trade-related job separation. For the 3,623 workers who completed the initial interview, the follow-up survey questionnaire was very similar to the initial questionnaire except that it excluded questions about the characteristics of the pre-UI job, background characteristics at the time of job loss, the receipt of Rapid Response services, notification of TAA eligibility, and knowledge of TAA services.</p>	<p>taa_followup.pdf</p> <p>There are two follow-up survey instruments: one for those who completed the initial (baseline) survey and one for those who did not. The names of the files that contain these instruments are:</p> <p>taa_followup_instrument_baseline_completers.pdf</p> <p>taa_followup_instrument_baseline_noncompleters.pdf</p> <p>The variable names in the raw data file are <i>identical</i> to the variable names in these survey instruments that are highlighted in yellow</p>
taa_constructs	<p>Contains <i>all constructed outcome variables used in the impact analysis</i> (see Schochet et al. 2011a). The dataset contains information on 8,438 sample members who completed either the initial or follow-up interview, although the main analysis sample for the impact report included those who completed a follow-up interview. The outcome variables cover the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reemployment services</li> <li>2. Education and training</li> <li>3. Employment and earnings</li> <li>4. Characteristics of the most recent job</li> <li>5. Other income sources (UI receipt, public assistance benefits, pension benefits, spouse and partner income, total income)</li> <li>6. Health status, health insurance, and medical expenditures</li> </ol>	<p>taa_constructs.pdf</p> <p>The variables in the constructs file parallel the outcomes shown in the tables in Schochet et al. (2011a) that present the impact results</p>
taa_timeline	<p>Contains <i>weekly timelines for each job and training program</i> that sample members held during the follow-up period. There are 10 job and 10 training program timelines (corresponding to the employment and training program grids in the survey instruments). These timelines were used to construct the key employment and training outcomes for the impact analysis. The dataset contains information on 8,438 sample members who completed</p>	<p>taa_timeline.pdf</p>

Name	Description	Name of Codebook File and Notes
	either the initial or follow-up interview. In the timelines, Week 1 refers to the first week after the UI claim date and the last week varies depending on the date of the last interview that the sample member completed.	
<b>taa_weight_var</b>	<p>Contains <i>weights that adjust for the sample design, survey nonresponse, and kernel matching (for comparison group members)</i>. The weights fall into the following categories (see Schochet et al., 2011a,b):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Weights for the primary impact analysis using the follow-up interview sample</b> (WGT_FU_DSGN_NR_KM, WGT_FU_DSGN_NR_KM_12, WGT_FU_DSGN_NR_KM_16)</li> <li>2. <b>Weights for the sensitivity analyses shown in Table VI.2 of the methodological notes report</b> (WGT_FU_DSGN_NR_KM1, WGT_FU_DSGN_NR_NN, WGT_FU_DSGN_NR_KM_LBW, WGT_FU_DSGN_NR_KM_HBW, WGT_FU_DSGN_NR_KM_UNIF, WGT_FU_DSGN_NR_KM_UI)</li> <li>3. <b>Weights for the sensitivity analyses discussed in Chapter VIIC of the impact report</b> (WGT_EXHAUST, WGT_PREUI_DET, WGT_RECALL)</li> <li>4. <b>Weights for subgroup analyses based on TAA participants' program experiences</b> (WGT_SAMEOCC, WGT_TRAINEE, WGT_TRAONLY, WGT_INSTAFFWIA, WGT_NOSTAFFWIA, WGT_TRAINEE_STAFFWIA, WGT_TRAINEE_NOSTAFFWIA)</li> <li>5. <b>Weights for the initial (baseline) interview samples</b> (WGT_BL_PART_DSGN_NR_KM, WGT_BL_NPART_DSGN_NR_KM)</li> </ol>	<p><b>taa_weight_var.pdf</b></p> <p>Chapters VI and VII of the methodological notes report (Schochet et al. 2011b) discuss the construction of the weights</p> <p>A weight is missing for sample members who are not part of the analysis sample that pertains to that weight. For example, WGT_EXHAUST is missing for treatments and comparisons who did not exhaust their UI benefits.</p>
<b>taa_covariate</b>	<p>Contains <i>covariates pertaining to the pre-UI period</i> that were used to match treatments to comparisons and to obtain regression-adjusted impact estimates. The file contains information on 8,003 sample members who completed either an initial or follow-up interview (it excludes comparison group crossovers who received TAA services).</p>	<p><b>taa_covariate pdf</b></p> <p>Chapters VI and VII of the methodological notes report (Schochet et al. 2011b) discuss the kernel matching procedure and the estimation of TAA impacts using regression models</p>