

Occupational Prestige and SEI data from CATSLife1 based on 2010 census codes

For the longitudinal studies at IBG, starting with CAP in 1976, variations of SES scores derived from NORC (the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago) have been derived from occupational information provided by subjects. According to information provided in a GSS (General Social Survey) report – Appendix G, the history of two key measures (PRESTIGE and SEI) is as follows:

“The prestige scores assigned to occupations in this study were taken from rating systems developed at NORC in 1963-1965 in a project on occupation prestige directed by Robert W. Hodge, Paul S. Siegel, and Peter H. Rossi and updated on the 1989 GSS. The 1989 update scale was prepared by Robert W. Hodge, Judith Treas, and Keiko Nakao. This concept of prestige is defined as the respondents' estimation of the social standing of occupations.”

“SEI scores were originally calculated by Otis Dudley Duncan based on NORC's 1947 North-Hatt prestige study and the 1950 U.S. Census. Duncan regressed prestige scores for 45 occupational titles on education and income to produce weights that would predict prestige. This algorithm was then used to calculate SEI scores for all occupational categories employed in the 1950 Census classification of occupations. Similar procedures have been used to produce SEI scores based on later NORC prestige studies and censuses.”

At IBG, the Hawaii Family Study of Cognition was the first large study to rate occupational titles for prestige, using an updated version of NORC scoring. A history of SES coding for CAP, TIP, and LTS subjects can be found on the WIKI at: <https://ibg.colorado.edu/dokuwiki/doku.php?id=catslife:sesinfo>.

CATSLife1 participants have had their job titles scored based on two types of scoring: first to 2010 census codes and secondly, using O*Net to SOC (Standard Occupational Classification) 2019 codes. The codebooks for how these scores were derived are located on the WIKI at: https://ibg.colorado.edu/dokuwiki/doku.php?id=catslife:sesinfo#the_history_of_ses_coding_for_catslife_subjects

Original 2010 census codes were updated by Robin Corley prior to matching for Prestige and SEI scores. Additional scores were added for previously unscored data, scores were derived from O*Net scores when previously regarded as unscorable, and some scores revised based on previous work with occupational coding for COMN project. Discrepancies between original and updated scoring were noted for potential review based on education, Hollingshead occupational classification, and subsequent scoring in COMN or CATSLife2.