**Work Schedules and Sleep Patterns of Railroad Train & Engine Service Employees in Passenger Operations: Description of the Survey Data**

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) sponsored a study of the work schedules and sleep patterns of railroad train and engine service (T&E) employees in passenger operations. The purpose of this document is to describe the study’s data files that are available at [www.fra.dot.gov](http://www.fra.dot.gov). A separate technical report describes the study methods and findings in detail (see reference below). The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved this collection of information under OMB control number 2130-0588 on December 2, 2009. Data collection for this study occurred in January/February 2010. These data were collected *exclusively* for statistical purposes and may not be used for any other purpose.

**Survey Methodology**

The study collected data from a random sample of actively working U.S. railroad T&E personnel in passenger operations. The study used two survey instruments, a background survey and a daily log. Copies of both instruments are a part of this document. The background survey gathered demographic information, descriptive data for the passenger T&E worker’s job type and work schedule, and a self-assessment of overall well-being. Study participants used the daily log to record sleep and work periods on both regular workdays and non-workdays for a 2-week period.

The response rate for the survey was 21 percent. The accompanying files contain data for the 256 usable responses.

**Data File and Description of Data Organization**

Data from each participant’s background survey and daily log are available in a single Excel workbook named “Passenger T&E Worker Data.xlsx.” The background survey data is in one worksheet of the Excel workbook while the sleep and alertness ratings as well as the daily log data are in two additional worksheets. A unique participant identification number appears in all three worksheets providing a common reference among the different worksheets. Another worksheet in the data file describes the contents and format of each data field.

**Adjustments to the Data**

Protecting the identity of the survey participants necessitated some modifications to the original dataset. A few categories of data are reported as ranges rather than as the raw reported data; an example of this is the age data. Some fields were recoded as yes or no fields. This is true for the marriage and children under 2 years fields. For others, such as years of experience, top coding was used to prevent identification of respondents; values were top coded for respondents with over 40 total years of experience and 35 years working with their present employer. Two data fields relating to sleep disorders were excluded to protect the respondents’ anonymity: fields indicating if the diagnosed sleep disorder was a disorder other than sleep apnea and if the sleep disorder was being treated medically. Comparison of the survey instruments, which appear on the following pages, with the data file will reveal where these adjustments were made. Blank fields indicate no response from the participant.

**Use of the Data**

These data files are the property of the FRA. The data is being made available for researchers and others who are interested in the safety and health of the study population and in the relationship between work schedules and fatigue. Use of the data in books, journal articles, dissertations, theses and other publications (print or electronic) is authorized provided that the data is cited as “Federal Railroad Administration. (2011). *Work schedules and sleep patterns of railroad train and engine service employees in passenger operations: Data file.* (Report No. DOT/FRA/ORD-xx/xx). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation.” and that the FRA is notified of the publication (ATTN: Thomas G. Raslear, Federal Railroad Administration, Mail Stop 20, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590).

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