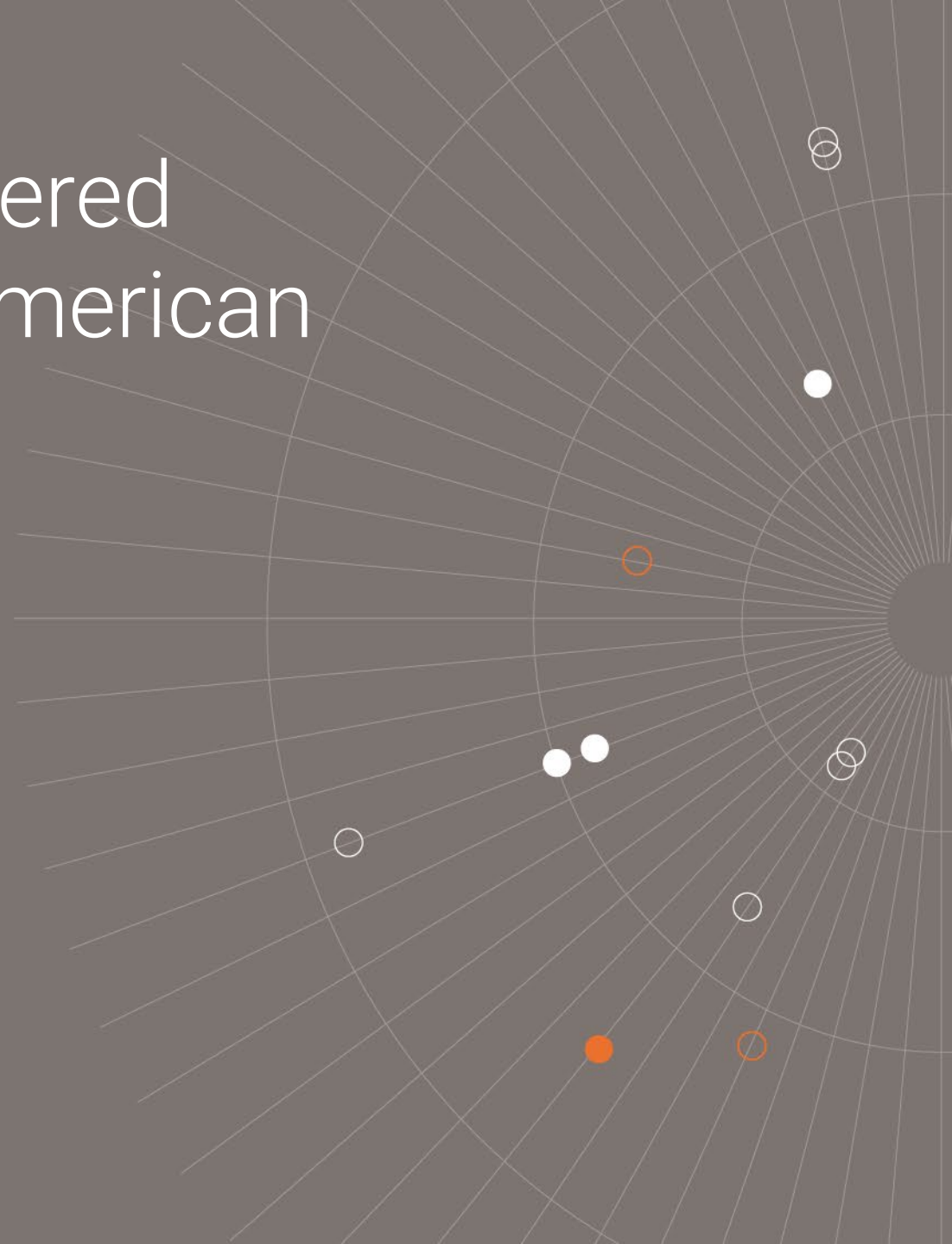


# Developing a Self-Administered Eldercare Module for the American Time Use Survey

10.27.22

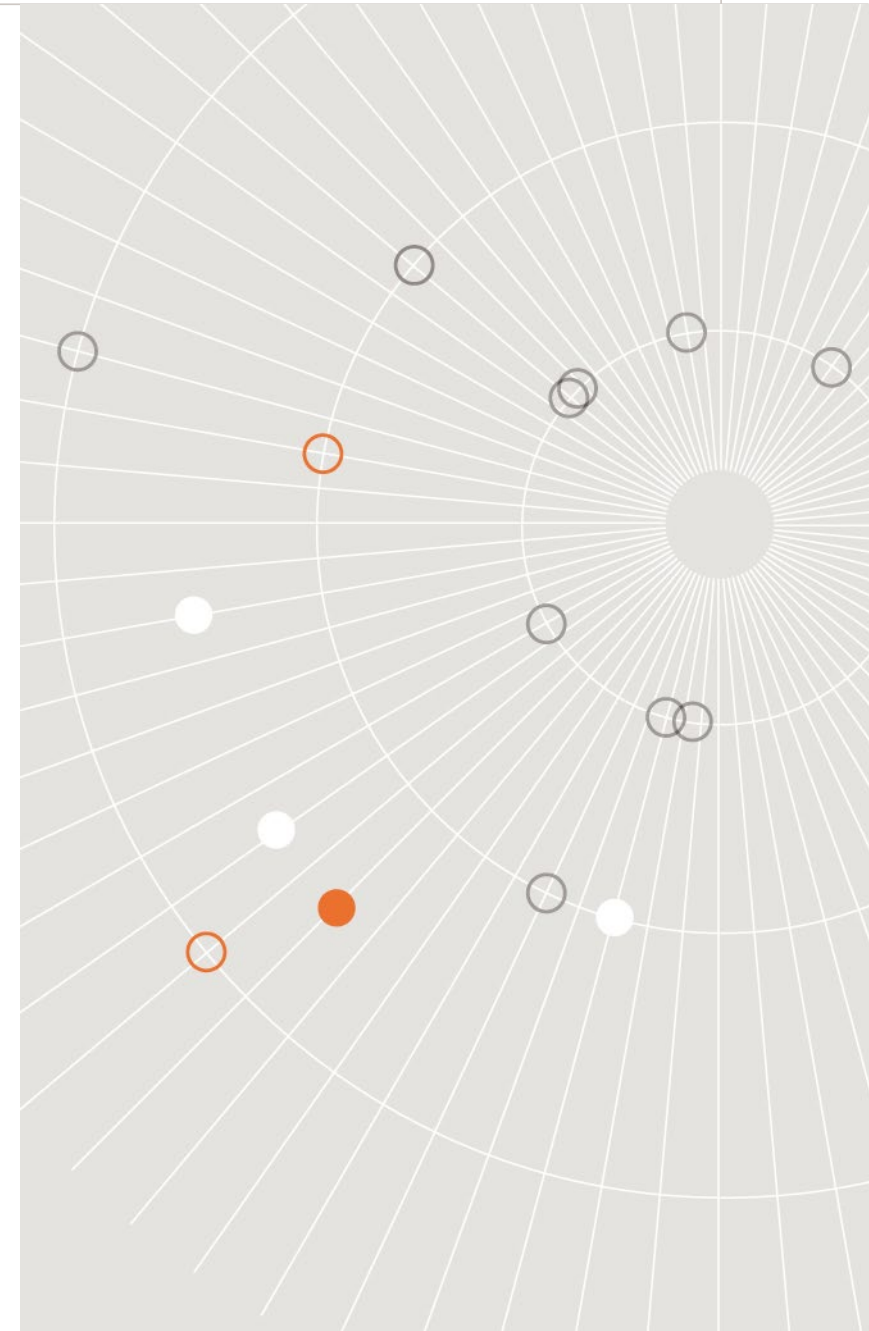
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# Background

## American Time Use Survey (ATUS)

- Sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and fielded by the Census Bureau
- Measures the amount of time Americans age 15 or older spend doing various activities, such as paid work, childcare, volunteering, and socializing.
- Contains a time diary where respondents report their main activities for a 24-hour period
- Has been conducted since 2003 as a CATI interview



# Background

## **Measuring Eldercare**

- Since 2011, the ATUS has included questions about eldercare to measure time spent providing unpaid care to older individuals
- For this task order, NORC designed and cognitively tested introductory language, questions, and screen layouts for collecting ATUS eldercare data in a self-administered web survey

## Overview of the Eldercare Module



# Methodology

## **Two rounds of cognitive interviewing**

- 50 interviews (27 in Round 1 and 23 in Round 2)
- Recruited from AmeriSpeak panel
- Included eldercare providers and non-eldercare providers
- Interviews focused on key elements to identifying caregivers, better understand how respondents think about and define caregiving, and how they report their own caregiving experiences
- Interviews conducted via Zoom with the respondent controlling the screen
- Questions and protocol were revised between rounds

## Research Questions

Can respondents, without the help of a telephone interviewer:

- Self identify as eldercare providers or non-eldercare providers?
- Exclude caregiving done for pay?
- Exclude caregiving for people with disabilities and dependent care?
- Identify which activities in their time diary were eldercare activities?

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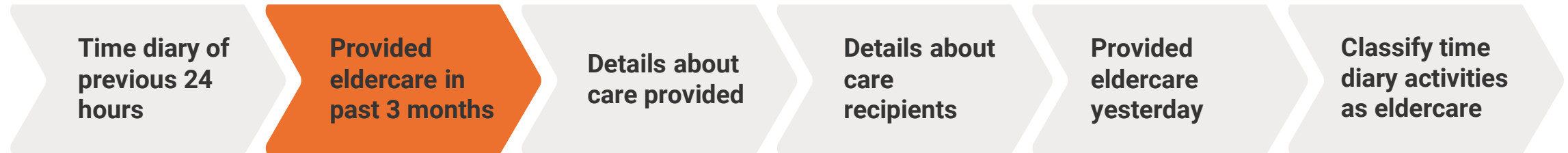
# Results from Cognitive Testing

## Key Challenges Observed in Round 1

1. Defining eldercare
2. Self-identifying as caregivers
3. Including care recipients who did not have conditions related to aging
4. Classifying time diary activities as eldercare



## Challenge 1: Defining eldercare



## Challenge 1: Defining eldercare

- To measure eldercare, we needed to provide a clear definition of it
- There is no standard definition
- Needed to distinguish eldercare from general care or dependent care

Now we would like to ask you about time you may have spent assisting or caring for an adult who needed help because of a [condition related to aging](#). These adults may live with you, in their own home, or at a care facility.

## Challenge 1: Defining eldercare

**Condition related to aging:** An ongoing physical or emotional condition that usually affects older people. Examples include: Becoming more frail; having trouble seeing, hearing, or moving; becoming more forgetful; tiring more quickly; or having a medical condition that is more common or gets worse among older people.

## Changes made in Round 2

- Merged definitions on to one page
- Deleted “usually”

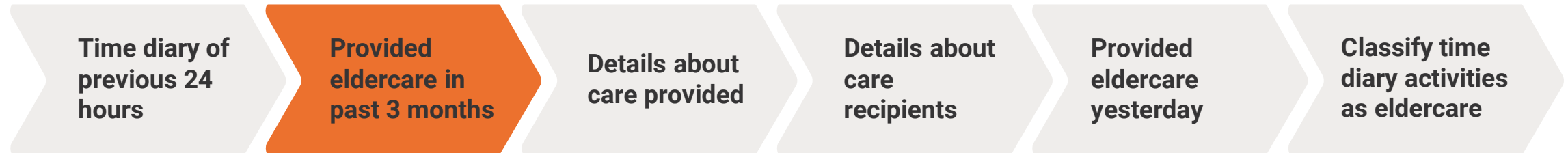
Now we would like to ask about time you may have spent caring for or assisting adults who needed help because of physical or mental **conditions related to aging**.

Example conditions include:

- Becoming more forgetful
- Difficulty seeing, hearing, or moving
- Becoming more frail
- Medical conditions that are more common or get worse among older people

These adults may live with you, in their own home, or at a care facility.

## Challenge 2: Self identifying as eldercare providers



## Challenge 2: Self identifying as eldercare providers

- Less intensive caregiving was missed
- “Financial assistance” was misinterpreted as financial management/administration

Sometimes, as people grow older, it becomes difficult for them to do things without help, such as bathing, dressing, driving, managing the household, taking medication, and other activities. Not including financial assistance you may have provided, since the 1st of [MONTH], have you provided any care or assistance for an adult who needed help because of a [condition related to aging](#)?

Yes

No

## Changes made in Round 2

- Changed order of question elements
- Changed “financial assistance” to “money”
- Reordered and added examples

Not including money you may have provided, since the 1st of January 2022, have you provided any care or assistance for an adult who needed help because of a condition related to aging?

Examples include help with bathing, dressing, driving, doing housework or yardwork, running errands, giving medication, and other activities.

Yes

No

## Challenge 3: Including care recipients who did not have conditions related to aging





## Challenge 3: Including care recipients who did not have conditions related to aging

- “This care” was vague
- Some respondents had difficulty deciding who to include in their answers

Since the 1st of November, did you provide this care for **anyone living in your household?**

Yes

No

Since the 1st of November, did you provide care for anyone who does **not** live in your household?

Yes

No

## Changes made in Round 2

### Round 1 wording:

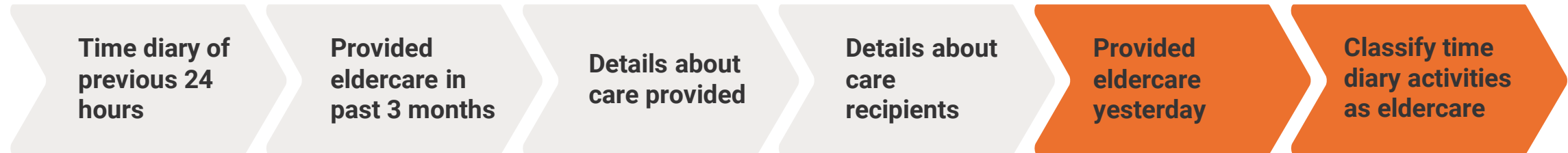
Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of [MONTH], did you provide this care for **anyone living in your household?**



### Round 2 wording:

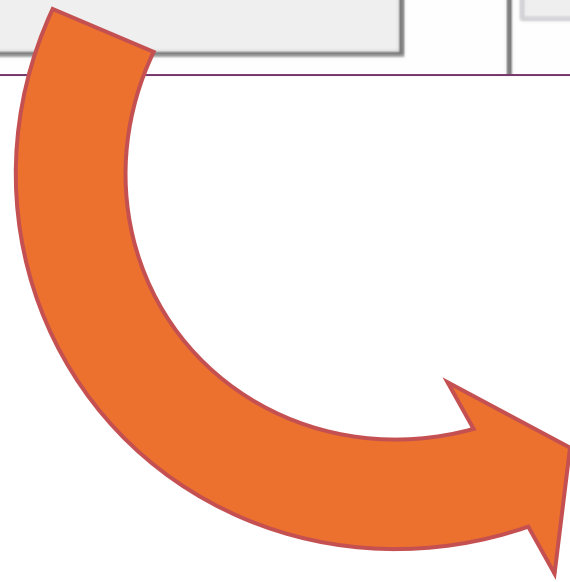
Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of [MONTH], did you provide care or assistance for an **adult living in your household** who **needed help because of a condition related to aging?**

## Challenge 4: Classifying time diary activities as eldercare



# Challenge 4: Classifying time diary activities as eldercare

	What time did you start?	What time did you end?
What were you doing at 4AM? <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
What did you do next? <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>



During which of your activities yesterday were you providing this care?

	Yes	No
Activity 1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Activity 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Activity 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Challenge 4: Classifying time diary activities as eldercare

- Most correctly classified their activities
- Some caregiving activities were not captured in the time diary
  - Activities forgotten during reporting
  - Small activities
  - Caregiving activities done concurrently with another activity

## Changes made in Round 2

- Revised the instructions to help respondents focus only on eldercare
- Added spaces for respondents to enter any forgotten activities
  - This was effective for capturing non-reported eldercare activities
  - All activities were concurrent with primary activities from time diary

During which of your activities yesterday were you providing care or assistance for an adult who needed help because of a condition related to aging?

	Yes
Activity 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activity 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activity 3	<input type="checkbox"/>

If there are care activities you did yesterday but forgot to include, please list them below.

What were you doing?	What time did you start?	What time did you end?
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

## Key Successes

- ✓ Respondents were able to correctly self-identify as eldercare providers
- ✓ Respondents were able to exclude non-relevant caregiving from reporting:
  - Childcare
  - Care for people with disabilities
  - Purely monetary assistance
  - Eldercare done for pay
- ✓ Respondents were able to classify their time diary entries as eldercare or not eldercare

## Areas for Further Exploration

- How to encourage the right level of detail in time use reporting so short but important eldercare activities are consistently reported
- How to effectively capture eldercare done concurrently with another activity






Thank you.

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 Research You Can Trust™

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