

# **American Time Use Survey (ATUS) Coding Rules**

**2023**

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These rules provide guidance on how to code the activities collected in the American Time Use Survey.

Most activities (except sleeping, grooming, smoking, and unspecified work breaks) can be coded under more than one place in the coding lexicon. When an activity has an M or an O in the work column, code as work or work-related activities under category 05, Work and Work-related Activities. When an activity has a P in the work column, code as income-generating activities under category 05 Work and Work-related Activities. When an activity has a V in the work column, code under category 15 Volunteer Activities. Refer to desk aids and training exercises for further guidance.

## Miscellaneous Rules

1. Passive activities: waiting, watching, having a care activity done to respondent by someone else

Waiting—There are “waiting” categories under most tiers in the lexicon. Where there are no waiting categories, code under associated activity. For example, “waiting for floor to dry so I can wax it” should be coded under Household Activities/Housework/Interior cleaning.

Waiting done while on the way to someplace should be coded as travel related to [purpose]. **Exception:** Waiting done for or with someone should be coded according to Miscellaneous Rule #5. (Updated: Sept2020)

When it is clear the respondent is “waiting for a ride [from someone]” or “waiting to be picked up [by someone],” code the waiting episode as part of the travel activity. (Added: Sept2020)

Here are some examples:

Verbatim	Where	Activity Code	Coded Activity
1 Driving to the train station	Car (driving)	180501	Travel related to work
2 Waiting in the car	Train station	180501	Travel related to work
3 Riding train to work	Train	180501	Travel related to work
4 Walking to office	Walking	180501	Travel related to work
5 Waiting in line at security	Workplace	050103	Security procedures related to work
6 Being searched at security	Workplace	050103	Security procedures related to work
7 Working (M)	Workplace	050101	Work, main job
1 Waiting to be picked up by friend	Home	181301	Travel related to participating in sports/exercise/recreation
2 Riding to gym	Car (passenger)	181301	Travel related to participating in sports/exercise/recreation
3 Taking a yoga class	Gym	130136	Doing yoga
1 Riding to high school	Car (passenger)	180601	Travel related to taking class
2 Waiting in car (Mom takes sister into day care)	Day care center	180601	Travel related to taking class

3 Riding to high school	Car (passenger)	180601	Travel related to taking class
4 Attending class (degree)	School	060101	Taking class for degree, certificate, or licensure

(Updated: Sept2020)

Watching—If the reported primary activity is watching someone else do something, code under a waiting category. For example, “watching the plumber fix the sink” should be coded under Household Services/Home Maintenance, Repair, Decoration, and Construction (not done by self)/Waiting associated with home maintenance, repair, decoration, and construction (090202). **Exceptions:**

- Watching household or nonhousehold adults doing something (other than participating in sports practices/games/events) should be coded under Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Relaxing, thinking (120301). (Updated: Sept2020)
- Watching a child’s event should be coded under Caring For and Helping Household Members/Caring For and Helping Household Children/Attending household children’s events (030110) or Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Members/Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Children/Attending nonhousehold children’s events (040110). (Updated: Sept2020)
- Watching a sporting event should be coded under Sports, Exercise, and Recreation/Attending Sporting or recreational events/relevant event (1302xx).
- Watching household or nonhousehold adults participating in sports practices/games/events should be coded under Sports, Exercise and Recreation/Attending Sporting/Recreational Events/relevant sport (1302xx). (Added: Sept2020)
- Watching children or adults as an unpaid supervisory activity should be coded under the appropriate caring activity (030109, 030402, 040109, 040402). See Miscellaneous Rule 13 on activities lasting longer than 30 minutes for exceptions. (Added: Jan2018)

Other passive activities—Unpaid activities involving grooming or personal activities, even if the R did not perform the activity him/herself, should be coded as grooming or personal activities, respectively. Some examples of other passive activities are:

“Mom braided my hair” = Personal Care/Grooming/Grooming, n.e.c.

“Friend rubbed suntan lotion on me” = Personal Care/Grooming/Grooming, n.e.c.

“Spouse gave me a massage” = Personal Care/Personal Activities/Personal/Private activities

(Updated: Jan2007)

2. If R is a child (under 18) and reports talking, playing games or sports, doing arts and crafts or other activities with children (under 18), then code according to the following table:

Condition	Coding Action
Activities with HH children under 13	Code to the appropriate childcare activity (0301xx, 0302xx, 0303xx, 0401xx, 0402xx, or 0403xx)
Activities with HH children, ages 13-17	Code to the appropriate non-childcare activity
Activities with friends, co-workers, or neighbors (WHO=54, 56, 61)	Code to the appropriate non-childcare activity
Activities with non-HH children (WHO=52, 57)	Code to the appropriate non-childcare activity. <b>Exception:</b> If the verbatim indicates a physical care activity or a helping activity, (such as “reading to” or “looking after”) then code to the appropriate care activity.

**Exception:** If the activity involves picking up, dropping off, and waiting for someone, then see Rule 5. (Updated: July 2013)

3. If R is an adult (18 or over) and reports doing activities with others younger than age 18, code as childcare (0301xx, 0302xx, 0303xx, 0401xx, 0402xx, or 0403xx). **Exception:** If verbatim makes clear R was doing the activity with peers (such as “friends,” “girlfriends,” “boyfriends,” “neighbors,” or “co-workers”), not “children,” code to the non-childcare activity. (Example: 19-year old R is playing tennis with 17 year-old girlfriend.) (Added: Feb2004; Updated: Nov2004)

Verbatim	Who	Activity Code	Coded Activity
Played cards with my girlfriend	57	120307	Playing games
Talked to some friends	57	120101	Socializing & communicating with others
Played softball with co-workers	57	130127	Playing softball

4. Use the following hierarchy to code caring for and helping household and nonhousehold members:

Activity with:				Code to:
Household		Nonhousehold		
Adults	Children	Adults	Children	
			X	Non-hh children
	X		X	HH children
	X	X	X	Non-hh adults
X	X	X	X	HH adults

(Updated: Jan2007)

5. Picking up, dropping off, or waiting for someone are always coded as Caring for and Helping activities (major category 03 or 04). **Exceptions:**
- When respondents report waiting for a ride or to be picked up as part of a travel activity (from a family member, friend, other adult, taxi or transportation service), code the activity as travel related to [purpose]. See Miscellaneous Rule 1 on passive waiting activities. (Added: Sept2020)
  - When respondents report waiting for someone who provides a service to them, such as waiting for a doctor, barber, plumber, or childcare provider, then these activities should be coded to the relevant non-Caring for and helping activities. (See the lexicon examples for additional guidance in coding “waiting for someone” when it involves waiting for a service-provider.) Use the following table to code these activities when they are Caring for and helping activities:

<b>Picking up, dropping off, or waiting for:</b>	<b>R is under 18</b>	<b>R is 18 or older</b>
	<b>Code to:</b>	<b>Code to:</b>
Friends (WHO=54) Co-workers (WHO=61) Neighbors, acquaintances (WHO=56)	Appropriate non-HH child caring or helping activity	Appropriate non-HH adult caring or helping activity
Non-HH member <18 (WHO=52, 57)	Appropriate non-HH child caring or helping activity	Appropriate non-HH child caring or helping activity
Non-HH member >18 (WHO=53, 58)	Appropriate non-HH adult caring or helping activity	Appropriate non-HH adult caring or helping activity
HH member < 18	Appropriate HH child caring or helping activity	Appropriate HH child caring or helping activity
HH member > 18	Appropriate HH adult caring or helping activity	Appropriate HH adult caring or helping activity
Persons who are both under 18 and 18 or older	Code according to hierarchy table in miscellaneous rule #4	

(Modified: March 2016)

6. If the WHERE code for an activity does not make sense (e.g., verbatim clearly indicates travel but WHERE code is a place, or vice versa), ignore the WHERE code and code to the verbatim. **Exception:** If the sequence of verbatims does not make sense because a travel/destination episode is missing and the coder notes do not explain the inconsistency, assign data code 500103. (Modified: Jan2007)

**Examples of consecutive activities:**

Activity Verbatim	WHERE	Coder notes	Activity Code	Reasoning
1. Picking up dry cleaning	Bus		090103	Ignore where code per misc. rule #6
2. Putting away groceries	Home		500103	The WHERE code makes sense, but the sequence of activities does not make sense; missing travel (see rule for data code 500103)
1. Buying groceries	Restaurant		070101	Ignore where code per misc. rule #6
2. Driving home	Restaurant		180701	Ignore where code per misc. rule #6
3. Putting away groceries	Home		020104	
1. Driving to grandma's	Car (driver)		500103	The WHERE code makes sense, but the sequence of activities does not make sense; missing destination and no explanation in coder notes (see rule for data code 500103)
2. Driving to grocery store	Home		180701	Ignore where code per misc. rule #6
3. Buying milk	Grocery store		070101	
1. Driving to grandma's	Car (driver)	grandma wasn't home, so R did not stop	189999	The sequence of activities does not make sense because there is a missing destination. The coder notes explain the situation and thus a miscellaneous travel code is assigned.
2. Driving to store	Home		180704	Ignore where code per misc. rule #6
3. Shopping	Grocery store		070104	Ignore where code per misc. rule #6
1. Driving to work	Home		180501	Ignore where code per misc. rule #6
2. Work (main job)	Workplace		050101	
3. Driving home	Car (driver)		180501	
4. Sorting laundry	Car (driver)		020102	Ignore where code per misc. rule #6

7. Childcare: Determining when an activity should be coded as childcare (0301xx, 0302xx, or 0303xx) can be difficult. Neither the presence of a child during the respondent's activity nor a child's participation in the respondent's activity is sufficient alone to code the activity as childcare:



- ❖ Watching cartoons with my child = watching television (Respondent can watch television—even cartoons!—without the child)
- ❖ Shopping for school clothes with Susie = shopping (Respondent can shop for Susie’s school clothes without the child)
- ❖ Watching the Lion King play with my son = arts and entertainment (Respondent can go to the play without the child)
- ❖ Playing Monopoly with wife and daughter = relaxing/playing games (Respondent can still play Monopoly with wife if child isn’t playing)
- ❖ Talking to my neighbor and her children = socializing and communicating with others (Respondent can talk even if children are not there)

When the respondent is directly watching or interacting with a child only, or accompanying a child to an activity that has no purpose outside the child, then code as childcare:

- ❖ Playing Monopoly with my kids = childcare (Respondent can’t play if children are not playing)
- ❖ Keeping an eye on my child = childcare (without the child, this activity wouldn’t even be mentioned) **Exception:** See Miscellaneous Rule 13 on activities lasting longer than 30 minutes. (Modified: Jan2018)
- ❖ Attending my son’s Boy Scout function = childcare (it is the child’s activity; without the child, respondent has no purpose in attending function)

8. Simultaneous activities. If simultaneous activities are recorded in the diary, assign an activity code to the first recorded activity. **Exception:** Travel is always the primary activity if reported as a simultaneous activity. (Modified: Jan2018)

9. Holiday activities. Most holiday-related activities, if probed and collected properly, can be coded under existing categories in the lexicon. Examples:

Verbatim	Activity Code	Coded Activity
Decorating outdoors for the holidays	020402	Exterior repair, improvements, and decoration
Attending a New Year's Eve party	120201	Attending or hosting parties/receptions/ceremonies
Opening Kwanzaa gifts	120101	Socializing and communicating with others
Celebrating Passover Seder	140102	Participation in religious practices
Putting up the Christmas tree	020301	Interior arrangement, decoration, and repairs
Hanging Christmas stockings	020301	Interior arrangement, decoration, and repairs
Dyeing Easter eggs	120309	Arts and crafts as a hobby
lighting Menorah candles	140102	Participation in religious practices

(Added: Feb2004; Updated activity names: May2006, Updated Passover Seder example: Sept2020)

- 10. Helping activities for household adults.** Determining when an activity should be coded as a helping or caring activity vs. another activity can be difficult. Here are some rules to keep in mind:

If the verbatim mentions doing a **household activity** for a household adult, code as the household activity, not caring for or helping household adults. The exception to this rule is **household management activities** that were done **solely** for another adult (not the DP or the household in general). Examples:

Verbatim	Activity Code	Coded Activity
Mowing the lawn for my brother (hh adult)	020501	Lawn, garden, and houseplant care
Cooking dinner for my wife (hh adult)	020201	Food and drink preparation
Changing the oil on my wife's car (hh adult)	020701	Vehicle repair and maintenance (by self)
Taking care of paperwork	020902	HH & personal org & planning
Filling out insurance application for son (hh adult)	030501	Helping hh adults
Helping husband wash the car (hh adult)	020701	Vehicle repair and maintenance (by self)
Washing my husband's car (hh adult)	020701	Vehicle repair and maintenance (by self)
Washing the car for my husband (hh adult)	020701	Vehicle repair and maintenance (by self)

Underlying rationale: Household activities generally benefit an entire household, not one member. Mowing the lawn (whether done as a “favor” for another household adult or not) is a contribution to the household in general. Filling out paperwork or doing other household management activities (such as packing a suitcase) specifically for someone else benefits only the person being “helped.”

Also, division of household labor varies from household to household, so one DP might report that he washed the dishes as a favor for his wife because she (who normally does the dishes) was sick in bed, while another DP might just report that he washed the dishes. Both are kitchen clean-up for the household and should be coded as such.

If the verbatim mentions caring **for a child** for another household adult, code as child care, not caring for and helping household adults.

Examples:

<b>Verbatim</b>	<b>Activity Code</b>	<b>Coded Activity</b>
Bathing daughter for my wife so she could rest	030101	Physical care for HH children
Picking up the kids for my hh sister	030112	Physical care for HH children

Underlying rationale: The concept of what constitutes a helping activity has not been defined for DP’s, so their interpretation can vary significantly. Division of household labor varies from household to household, so one DP might report that he bathed his daughter as a favor for his wife because she (who normally does the childcare) wanted to rest, while another DP might just report that he bathed his daughter. Both are childcare and should be coded as such.

If the verbatim mentions **purchasing goods or professional, personal, or household services; volunteering; or making telephone calls** for another household adult, code to the lexicon activity, not caring for and helping household adults. Examples:

<b>Verbatim</b>	<b>Activity Code</b>	<b>Coded Activity (major categories)</b>
Baking cookies for my adult son's church fundraiser	150201	Volunteer Activities
Talking to the plumber for my roommate	090201	Household Services
Meeting with my son's attorney	080301	Professional and Personal Care Services
Calling my husband's boss to give him a message from my husband	160199	Telephone Calls
Picking up a prescription for my wife	070104	Consumer Purchases

(Added: Feb2004)

- 11. Helping activities for nonhousehold adults.** "Helping" activities done for nonhousehold adults are handled differently from those for household adults during coding. Whenever the verbatim mentions doing an activity specifically for a nonhousehold adult or helping a nonhousehold adult, code as caring and helping nonhousehold adults. Only do this if the DP is doing the activity solely for the other person. Examples:

<b>Verbatim</b>	<b>Activity Code</b>	<b>Coded Activity (major categories)</b>
Grocery shopping for my nonHH mother	040501	Caring for and Helping nonHH members
Grocery shopping for myself and a friend	070101	Consumer Purchases
Helping a friend move to a new house	040599	Caring for and Helping nonHH members

Helping activities that involve nonhousehold childcare. All reports of childcare activities involving nonhousehold children should be coded as nonhousehold childcare (0401xx, 0402xx, or 0403xx), even if the DP says the childcare was a helping activity for another adult. Example:

<b>Verbatim</b>	<b>Activity Code</b>	<b>Coded Activity (major categories)</b>
Kept an eye on my neighbor's daughter for her while neighbor took a break (Duration = 20 minutes)	040109	Caring for and Helping nonHH members

(Added: Feb2004, Modified: Jan2018)

- 12. Activities with an M or O in the work column.** If a DP is clearly traveling away from home for business and all daily activities have an M or O in the work column, code the activities as if the DP reported working while not on travel. That is, code actual working time as work, and code other activities to the appropriate non-work categories. Do not code daily activities, such as getting a haircut or making non-work related phone calls (e.g., "to wife") as work.

Diary example of a person who traveled on business so said that every single activity was done as part of his/her job:

Verbatim	Where	Work	Activity code	Coded Activity
Sleeping	-	M	010101	Sleeping
Grooming	-	M	010201	Washing, Dressing, and Grooming Oneself
Drinking coffee	Other	M	110101	Eating & drinking
Taking shuttle to conference	Bus	M	180501	Travel related to working
Working	Other	M	050101	Working, main job
Taking shuttle back to hotel	Bus	M	180209	Travel related to household management
Packing	Other	M	020902	HH and personal organization and planning
Checking out of hotel	Other	M	070104	Shopping except groceries, food, & gas
Taking cab to airport	Taxi	M	180704	Travel related to shopping, ex groc, food, & gas
Waiting in ticket check-in line at airport	Other	M	180704	Travel related to shopping, ex groc, food, & gas
Flying home	Airplane	M	180704	Travel related to shopping, ex groc, food, & gas
Driving home	Car (driver)	M	180704	Travel related to shopping, ex groc, food, & gas
Eating dinner	Home		110101	Eating and drinking

(Added: Feb2004) (Modified: Feb2012)

- 13. Special activities lasting longer than 30 minutes.** Certain single activities are coded differently if they last longer than 30 minutes. Activity verbatims with the words “getting ready,” “preparing for,” “looking after/supervising/watching (as a care activity) [child or adult],” “dropping off,” and “picking up” are given the data code “500101 Insufficient detail in verbatim” if the activity lasts longer than 30 minutes. **Exception:** If the verbatim contains the word “unspecified” in parentheses, then code the activity the same way that you would if its duration was 30 minutes or less.

Code the following activities according to the chart below:

<b>Verbatim</b>	<b>Code</b>	
	<b>30 minutes or less or “unspecified”</b>	<b>More than 30 minutes</b>
Getting ready	010201	500101
Getting ready to go out	010201	500101
Getting ready for bed	010201	500101
Preparing for bed	010201	500101
Getting ready for work	010201	500101
Getting ready for work (M in work column)	050101	500101
Getting ready for work (O in work column)	050102	500101
Getting ready for work (P in work column)	050399	500101
Getting household children ready	030101	500101
Getting nonhousehold children ready	040101	500101
Getting household children ready to go out	030101	500101
Getting nonhousehold children ready to go out	040101	500101
Getting household children ready for bed	030101	500101
Getting nonhousehold children ready for bed	040101	500101
Putting household children to bed	030101	500101
Putting nonhousehold children to bed	040101	500101
Dropping off/picking up household children	030112	500101
Dropping off/picking up nonhousehold children	040112	500101
Dropping off/picking up household adults	030503	500101
Dropping off/picking up nonhousehold adults	040507	500101
Dropping off/picking up household items	020902	500101
Looking after/supervising/watching (as a care activity) household children	030109	500101
Looking after/supervising/watching (as a care activity) household adults	030402	500101
Looking after/supervising/watching (as a care activity) nonhousehold children	040109	500101
Looking after/supervising/watching (as a care activity) nonhousehold adults	040402	500101

(Added: Jan2007) (Modified: Jan2018)

## 01 Personal Care

**Category definition:** This category captures time the respondent spends sleeping, grooming, providing self-care, and doing sexual activities. Respondents are not asked WHO they were with or WHERE they were for sleeping (0101xx), grooming (0102xx), and personal (sexual) activities (0104), as such information is sensitive for these activities. (Modified for clarity: Apr2006)

1. Exercising for medical conditions: If it is clear from the verbatim that physical therapy exercising is done specifically for medical reasons, code as health-related self care (010301). If the purpose is not clear, code as Sports, Exercise, and Recreation/Participating in Sports, Exercise, or Recreation/specific sport] (1301xx). For example, code weightlifting exercises as weightlifting. (Updated: Feb2004)
2. Insomnia: Code as Sleeplessness (010102). **Exception**: If the respondent mentions thinking or worrying, code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Relaxing, thinking (120301).
3. Kissing hello or goodbye: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Socializing and Communicating/Socializing and communicating with others (120101), not as Personal Care/Personal Activities.
4. Meditating: Code as Personal Care/Health-related Self Care/Health-related self care (010301). **Exception**: If verbatim specifically mentions Meditating for religious purposes, code as Religious and Spiritual Activities/Religious and Spiritual Practices/Participation in religious practices (140102).
5. Passive activities such as “my daughter trimmed my hair,” “my wife gave me a massage,” or “a friend rubbed suntan lotion on me” should be coded as personal care activities. **Exception**: Passive activities involving “waiting” and “watching” should be coded according to who the R was watching or waiting for. See Miscellaneous Rule 1 and Rule 5 for more information.
6. Resting: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Relaxing, thinking (120301).
7. Resting because of illness or injury: Code as Personal Care/Health-Related Self Care/Health-related self care (010301), not as sleeping or relaxing.
8. Getting a haircut from spouse/friend/other (unpaid): Code as Personal Care/Grooming/Grooming, n.e.c. (010299). (Added: Nov2004, Updated: Jan2007)

## 02 Household Activities

**Category definition:** This category captures the typical activities done by the respondent to maintain his or her household, including housecleaning, cooking, yard care, pet care, vehicle maintenance and repair, and home repair and renovation. Household management activities—such as paperwork, mail, and e-mail are also included in this category. Obtaining or purchasing household services (09 Household Services) are **not** included in this category.

1. Opening gifts: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Socializing and Communicating/Socializing and communicating with others (120101). **Exceptions**: Code opening gifts alone or opening packages as Household Activities/Household Management/Household and personal organization and planning (020902). (Updated: Feb2004)
2. Animal care: Code pet and animal care, regardless of the WHERE code, under Household Activities/Animals and Pets/Care for animals and pets (not veterinary care) (020601). Code walking, exercising, or playing with animals as Household Activities/Animals and Pets/ Walking, exercising, or playing with animals (020602). **Exceptions**: Code pet or animal care done as a favor for a nonhousehold adult as Animal and pet care assistance for nonhousehold adults (040503). Code pet or animal care that is clearly part of a larger entertainment activity (e.g. “petting goats at the petting zoo”) as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Arts and Entertainment (other than sports)/relevant activity (1204XX). Code horseback riding as Sports, Exercise, and Recreation/Participating in Sports, Exercise, or Recreation/Participating in equestrian sports (130110) (Updated: Jan2008)
3. Buying food for pets: Code as Consumer Purchases/Shopping (Store, Telephone, and Internet) (0701xx).
4. Activities related to farm animals: Code as Household Activities/Animals and Pets/Care for animals and pets (not veterinary care) (020601).
5. Grooming a pet: Code as Household Activities/Animals and Pets/Care for animals and pets (not veterinary care) (020601) if done by respondent. Code as Household Services/Pet Services (not done by self, not vet)/Using pet services (090301) if not done by respondent or veterinarian.
6. Growing fruit, vegetables, or flowers: Code as Household Activities/Lawn, Garden, and Houseplants/Lawn, garden, and houseplant care (020501).
7. Food preparation: Code as Household Activities/Food and Drink Preparation, Presentation, and Clean-up/Food and drink preparation (020201). For example, if preparing a meal for children, code as Food Preparation. Do not code as childcare. **Exception**: If it’s clear that R



- prepared food as a favor for a nonhousehold adult, code under Caring For and Helping Nonhousehold Members/Helping Nonhousehold Adults/Housework, cooking, & shopping assistance for nonhousehold adults (040501).
8. Giving/serving children food/a meal: Code as Food presentation (020202). If the verbatim reads feeding children, then code as Caring for and Helping Household (or Nonhousehold) Members/Caring for and Helping Household (or Nonhousehold) Children/Physical care (030101 or 040101).
  9. Household management activities: If done by respondent for self or for the household, code as Household Activities/Household Management/[relevant activity] (0209xx). If respondent mentions doing these chores for a household member, code as Caring for and Helping Household Members (03xxxx). If respondent mentions doing these chores for a nonhousehold member, code as Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Members (04xxxx).
  10. Cleaning the house: Code under HH activities/Housework/Interior cleaning (020101). **Exception**: If the verbatim mentions exterior cleaning, code as HH activities/Exterior maintenance, repair, & decoration/Exterior cleaning (020401). (Updated Jan2007).
  11. Cleaning the kitchen: Code under Household Activities/Food and Drink Preparation, Presentation, and Clean-up/Kitchen and food clean-up (020203).
  12. Warming up the car: Code as part of the next travel episode (traveling related to XXX), even if the DP does other activities before the traveling episode. Example: “warming up the car” (180501), “packing lunch” (020201), “kissing husband goodbye” (120101), “driving to work” (180501), “working” (050101). **Exceptions**: If warming up the car for someone else to travel, code as Household Activities/Vehicles/Vehicles, N.E.C. (020799). If warming up the car is clearly not in preparation for any travel, but rather for a tune-up or to check engine oil, code as Household Activities/Vehicles/Vehicle repair and maintenance (by self) (020701).
  13. Looking for misplaced items: code as Household Activities/Household Management/Household and personal organization and planning (020902), regardless of whether the looking is related to work or home, or is done to locate an item belonging to the respondent or someone else.
  14. Packing or unpacking bags or suitcases for others: Code as Caring for and Helping Household (or Nonhousehold) Members/Caring for and helping [relevant household or nonhousehold member]/Organization and planning for [relevant member]. If packing or unpacking for self or household in general, code as Household Activities/Household

- Management/Household and personal organization and planning (020902).
15. Packing/unpacking for a journey/moving: If packing for self or the household in general, code as Household Activities/Household Management/Household and personal organization and planning (020902).
  16. Filling out paperwork: If respondents indicate “filling out paperwork,” whether for themselves, for children, or for the household, code as Household Activities/Household Management/Household & personal organization & planning (020902). If respondents specifically indicate they did or helped to do paperwork as a favor to someone else (other than a child), code as Caring for and Helping Household (or Nonhousehold) Members. **Exception**: Finance-related paperwork (e.g. tax forms) should be coded under Household Activities/Household Management/Financial management (020901) if done for self, child, or household in general.
  17. Checking, sending, reading, or writing e-mail: code as Household Activities/Household Management/HH & personal e-mail & messages (020904).
  18. Checking phone messages: Code as Household Activities/Household Management/HH & personal mail and messages (except e-mail) (020903).
  19. Using the computer: Code the activity the respondent did as the primary activity. For example, if the respondent used the computer to search for work, code as Job Search and Interviewing (0504xx). If the respondent used the computer to pay bills or for financial management, code as Household Activities/Household Management/Financial management (020901). If used for playing games, code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Playing games (120307). If used to write letters, code as Household Activities/Household Management/HH and personal mail and messages (except e-mail) (020903). If respondent reports computer use for leisure, or can't/won't specify the purpose, code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Computer use for leisure (exc. games) (120308).
  20. Respondent's education-related activities: Code as Education (06xxxx).
  21. Children's education-related activities: Code activities related to children's education as Caring for and Helping Household (or Nonhousehold) Members/Activities Related to Household (or Nonhousehold) Children's Education/[relevant activity] (0302xx or 0402xx). **Exception**: Code “filling out child's paperwork” as Household Activities/Household Management/Household and personal organization and planning (020902).

- 22. Paying bills:** Code as Household Activities/Household Management/Financial management (020901).
- 23. Picking up a paycheck:** Code as Household Activities/Household Management/Financial Management (020901). Code picking up unspecified papers/paperwork as Household Activities/Household Management/Household and Personal Organization and Planning (020902). (Updated: Feb2004)
- 24. Maintaining/repairing vehicles:** Code as Household Activities/Vehicles/Vehicle repair and maintenance (by self) (020701) if done by respondent. Code as Household Services/Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Services (not done by self)/Using vehicle maintenance or repair services (090501) if not done by respondent.
- 25. Making funeral arrangements:**  
With a funeral director or clergy (regardless of WHERE): Code as Professional and Personal Services, n.e.c. (089999) On one's own: Code as Household Activities/Household Management/Household and personal organization and planning (020902) If it is not known whether a funeral director or clergy was present during the activity, then code it as 020902. (Added: Nov2004; Updated Apr2008).
- 26. Washing windows:** Code as Household Activities/Housework/Interior cleaning (020101). **Exception:** If verbatim makes it clear that windows were washed from the outside, code as exterior cleaning (020401). (Added: Nov2004)
- 27. Unloading the groceries:** Sometimes respondents report "unloading the groceries" as a stand-alone activity. If a respondent reports "unloading the groceries" or "carrying in the groceries" ONLY, code as Household Activities/Household Management/Household and Personal Organization and Planning (020902). If a respondent reports "putting away the groceries" or "storing the groceries" ONLY, code as Household Activities/Housework/Storing interior hh items, inc food" (020104). However, if a respondent reports both activities ("unloading groceries" and "storing groceries") as separate activities, code "unloading the groceries" or "carrying in the groceries" as 020902 and "storing the groceries" or "putting away the groceries" as 020104. (Added: Jun2005)
- 28. Making reservations:** If the verbatim mentions "reserving" or "making reservations," such as "making dinner reservations," "reserving hotel rooms online," "reserving a rental car," or "making airline reservations," then code it as Household Activities/Household Management/Household and Personal Organization and Planning (020902). **Exception:** If the summary question responses indicate that the activity was done for work

or as a volunteer, then it should be coded in the appropriate work (050101 or 050102) or volunteer (150102) categories. ([Added: Mar2007](#))

## 03 Caring For and Helping Household Members

**Category definition:** This category captures activities the respondent did to care for or help any child or adult in the respondent's household, regardless of relationship, age, or physical or mental health status. Care for household children and adults is coded separately in sub-categories under 03. Household members are considered children if under the age of 18.

1. Talking with son/daughter/household child: Code as Caring for and Helping Household Members/Caring for and Helping Household Children/Talking with or listening to household children (030106).
2. Talking with a child *and* other adults: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Socializing and Communicating/Socializing and communicating with others (120101).
3. Talking with household child and nonhousehold child: Code as Caring for and Helping Household Members/Caring for and Helping Household Children/Talking with or listening to household children (030106).
4. Doing arts and crafts, playing games, and playing sports with household child: Code as Caring for and Helping Household Members/Caring for and Helping Household Children/relevant activity (0301xx). **Exception:** If the verbatim does not mention children ("playing Monopoly") but the WHO code indicates children were in the room, code as playing games under Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure. If the verbatim mentions doing these activities with both children and adults, code under the relevant activity (hobbies, playing games, participating in sports), not as childcare.
5. Giving gifts: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Socializing and Communicating/Socializing and communicating with others (120101). **Exception:** Giving gifts to children should be coded as Caring For and Helping Household or Nonhousehold Members/Caring For and Helping HH or Non-HH Children/Caring for and helping household or nonhousehold children, n.e.c. (030199 or 040199).
6. Packing or unpacking bags or suitcases for other household members: Code as Caring for and Helping Household Members/Caring for and Helping [relevant member]/Organization and planning for [relevant member] (03xxxx).
7. Household management activities specifically mentioned as being done for household adults: Code as Helping Household Adults (0305XX).
8. Household children's education-related activities: Code activities related to children's education as Caring for and Helping Household Members/Activities Related to Household Children's Education/[relevant activity] (0302xx). **Exceptions:** Code "filling out child's paperwork" as

Household Activities/Household Management/Household and personal organization and planning (020902). Code “teaching hh child to read” as Home Schooling of HH Children (030203). (Updated: Sept2020).

9. Filling out paperwork: If respondents indicate “filling out paperwork,” for themselves, the household, or a child, code as Household Activities/Household Management/Household and personal organization and planning (020902). If respondents specifically indicate they did or helped to do paperwork for another household adult, code as Helping Household Adults (030501).
  
10. Attending a household child’s performance or event: Code as Caring for and Helping Household Members/Caring for and Helping Household Children/Attending household children’s events (030110).
  
11. Watching a household child’s sporting event: Code as Caring for and Helping Household Members/Caring for and Helping Household Children/Attending household children’s events (030110). This includes times when the respondent reports watching a household child participate in a sporting competition and times the respondent is watching a household child participate in a sporting class, lesson, or practice. (Modified: March 2016)
  
12. Giving/serving household children food/a meal: Code as Food presentation (020202). If the verbatim reads feeding children, then code as Caring for and Helping Household Members/Caring for and Helping Household Children/Physical care for household children (030101).
  
13. Walking a household child to [someplace]: Code as Traveling/Traveling related to Caring for and Helping Household Members/Travel related to children (1803xx). If just strolling or taking a walk with a child, code as Caring for and Helping Household Members/Caring for and Helping Household Children/Playing sports with household children (030105).
  
14. Helping (or teaching) a household child to do something: Code under the appropriate child care category. Any helping or teaching activity that cannot be classified under an existing category should be coded as caring for and helping household children, n.e.c. (030199). (Added: Feb2004)  
For example:

<b>Verbatim</b>	<b>Activity Code</b>	<b>Coded Activity</b>
Helping my child wash his face	030101	Physical care for HH child
Helping HH child with a craft project (not related to education)	030104	Arts & crafts with HH children

15. Visiting a household child in the hospital: Code as Activities related to household child's health, n.e.c. (030399).  
(Added: Nov2004)
16. Visiting an adult (household or nonhousehold) in the hospital/nursing home: Code as Socializing and communicating with others (120101).  
(Added: Nov2004)
17. Praying with household child: Code as Participation in religious practices (140102). (Updated: Sep2012)
18. Looking after/supervising/watching (as a care activity) household children or adults: If the activity duration is 30 minutes or less or the verbatim contains the word "unspecified" in parentheses, code under the appropriate caring activity (030109, 030402). Unpaid babysitting also falls under this category. **Exceptions:** If the activity lasts longer than 30 minutes and does not contain "unspecified" in the verbatim, assign the data code "500101 Insufficient detail in verbatim." See Miscellaneous Rule 13 on activities lasting longer than 30 minutes. (Added: Jan2018)
19. Picking up, dropping off, or waiting for someone: Code as Caring for and Helping activities (major category 03 or 04). *Exceptions:* When respondents report waiting for a ride or to be picked up as part of a travel activity, code the activity as travel related to [purpose]. When respondents report waiting for someone who provides a service to them, such as waiting for a doctor, barber, plumber, or childcare provider, then these activities should be coded to the relevant non-Caring for and helping activities. See Miscellaneous Rule 5 on picking up, dropping off, or waiting for someone activities. (Added: Sept2020)

## 04 Caring For and Helping Nonhousehold Members

**Category definition:** This category captures activities the respondent did to care for or help any child or adult who is not part of the respondent's household, regardless of relationship, age, or physical or mental health status. Care for nonhousehold children and adults is coded separately in sub-categories under 04. Nonhousehold members are considered children if under the age of 18. This category does **not** include helping activities done for individuals by the respondent through organizations (16 Volunteer Activities).

1. Talking with a nonhousehold child: Code as Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Members/Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Children/Talking with or listening to nonhousehold children (040106).
2. Talking with a child and other adults: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Socializing and Communicating/Socializing and communicating with others (120101).
3. Talking with a household child and nonhousehold child: Code as Caring for and Helping Household Members/Caring for and Helping Household Children/Talking with or listening to household children (030106).
4. Doing arts and crafts, playing games, and playing sports with nonhousehold child: Code as Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Members/Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Children/relevant activity (0401xx). **Exception:** If the verbatim does not mention children ("playing Monopoly") but the WHO code indicates children were in the room, code as playing games under Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure. If the verbatim mentions doing these activities with both children and adults, code under the relevant activity (hobbies, playing games, participating in sports), not as childcare.
5. Giving gifts: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Socializing and Communicating/Socializing and communicating with others (120101). **Exception:** Giving gifts to children should be coded as Caring For and Helping Household or Nonhousehold Members/Caring For and Helping HH or Non-HH Children/Caring for and helping household or nonhousehold children, n.e.c. (030199 or 040199).
6. Packing or unpacking bags or suitcases for nonhousehold members: Code as Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Members/Caring for and Helping [relevant member]/Organization and planning for [relevant member] (04xxxx).
7. Household management activities specifically mentioned as being done for nonhousehold adults: Code as Helping Nonhousehold Adults (0405XX).



8. Nonhousehold children's education-related activities: Code activities related to nonhousehold children's education as Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Members/Activities Related to Nonhousehold Children's Education/[relevant activity] (0402xx). **Exceptions**: Code "filling out nonhousehold child's paperwork" as Household Activities/Household Management/Household and personal organization and planning (020902). Code "teaching nonhh child to read" as Home Schooling of NonHH Children (040203). (Updated: Sept2020).
9. Filling out paperwork: If respondents indicate "filling out paperwork," for themselves, the household, or a child, code as Household Activities/Household Management/Household and personal organization and planning (020902). If respondents specifically indicate they did or helped to do paperwork for a nonhousehold adult, code as Helping Nonhousehold Adults.
10. Attending a nonhousehold child's performance or event: Code as Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Members/Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Children/Attending nonhousehold children's events (040110).
11. Watching a nonhousehold child's sporting event: Code as Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Members/Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Children/Attending nonhousehold children's events (040110). This includes times when the respondent reports watching a nonhousehold child participate in a sporting competition and times the respondent is watching a nonhousehold child participate in a sporting class, lesson, or practice. (Modified: March 2016)
12. Giving/serving nonhousehold children food/a meal: Code as Food presentation (020202). If the verbatim reads feeding nonhousehold children, then code as Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Members/Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Children/Physical care (040101).
13. Walking a nonhousehold child to [someplace]: Code as Traveling/Related to Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Members/Caring for and helping nonhousehold children (1804xx). If just strolling or taking a walk with a nonhousehold child, code as Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Members/Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Children/Playing sports with nonhousehold children (040105).

14. Helping (or teaching) a nonhousehold child to do something: Code under the appropriate child care category. Any helping or teaching activity that cannot be classified under an existing category should be coded as caring for and helping nonhousehold children, n.e.c. (040199). (Added: Feb2004)

For example:

Verbatim	Activity Code	Coded Activity
Helping nonHH child wash his face	040101	Physical care for nonHH children
Helping nonHH child with a craft project (not related to education)	040104	Arts & crafts with nonHH children

15. Visiting a nonhousehold child in the hospital: Code as Activities related to nonhousehold child's health, n.e.c. (040399). (Added: Nov2004)
16. Visiting an adult (household or nonhousehold) in the hospital/nursing home: Code as Socializing and communicating with others (120101). (Added: Nov2004)
17. Praying with nonhousehold child: Code as Participation in religious practices (140102). (Updated: Sep2012)
18. Looking after/supervising/watching (as a care activity) nonhousehold children or adults: If the activity duration is 30 minutes or less or the verbatim contains the word "unspecified" in parentheses, code under the appropriate caring activity (040109, 040402). Unpaid babysitting also falls under this category. **Exception**: If the activity lasts longer than 30 minutes and does not contain "unspecified" in the verbatim, assign the data code "500101 Insufficient detail in verbatim." See Miscellaneous Rule 13 on activities lasting longer than 30 minutes. (Added: Jan2018)
19. Picking up, dropping off, or waiting for someone: Code as Caring for and Helping activities (major category 03 or 04). **Exceptions**: When respondents report waiting for a ride or to be picked up as part of a travel activity, code the activity as travel related to [purpose]. When respondents report waiting for someone who provides a service to them, such as waiting for a doctor, barber, plumber, or childcare provider, then these activities should be coded to the relevant non-Caring for and helping activities. See Miscellaneous Rule 5 on picking up, dropping off, or waiting for someone activities. (Added: Sept2020)

## 05 Work and Work-Related Activities

**Category definition:** This category captures time spent working, doing activities as part of one’s job, engaging in income-generating activities (not as part of one’s job), and looking for jobs and interviewing. The category is sub-divided to reflect these distinctions. “Working” includes hours spent doing the specific tasks required of one’s main or other job, regardless of location. Work done by self-employed as well as wage and salary workers is coded here. “Work-related activities” include activities that are not obviously work but are done as part of one’s job, such as having a business lunch or playing golf with clients. Activities are identified as done as part of the job by the respondent during the interview.

“Other income-generating activities” are activities often done “on the side” or under informal arrangement that are not part of the respondent’s regular job. Such activities might include selling homemade crafts, babysitting, and maintaining a rental property. Respondents identify these as activities they “are paid for or will be paid for.”

“Job search and interviewing” are activities undertaken to change jobs or find a job. These activities are identified by the verbatim description in the coding instrument.

**General rule:** For activities that are not pre-coded as work, use the information in the work column for assistance with coding. For most activities, when the respondent indicates that an activity was either done as part of one’s job or for one’s business (M or O), the activity should be coded as Work. **Exceptions** are socializing, relaxing, and leisure activities, eating and drinking activities, and sports, exercise, and recreational activities done as part of one’s job, which should be coded as work-related activities, and sleeping, grooming, and smoking, which should be coded as what they are (never work). When the respondent indicates that an activity was done for pay (P), the activity should be coded under Work and Work-related Activities/Other Income-generating Activities/[relevant activity] (0503xx).

1. **Hobbies:** If respondent is paid or expects to be paid for hobbies (as indicated by a P in the work column), code as Work and Work-related Activities/Other Income-generating Activities (0503xx). If unpaid, code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Relevant hobby (1203xx).
2. **Travel as part of job:** For taxi drivers (or Uber or Lyft drivers), bus drivers, chauffeurs, traveling sales workers, delivery drivers, and other workers for whom travel is an essential part of their job, code travel time as Work, unless travel reason is clearly not work.
3. **Where individuals’ occupations could be coded as others’ non-work activities**—such as golf pros playing golf for work and clergy being at

church for work—code their activities as Work if there is an M or O in the work column.

4. Looking for a job: Code as Work and Work-Related Activities/Job Search and Interviewing/[relevant activity] (0504xx), regardless of mode (telephone, Internet, newspaper) of search.
5. Reading for work: Code as Work and Work-Related Activities/Working/Work, main job or Work, other job (050101 or 050102).
6. Using the computer: Code the activity the respondent did as the primary activity. For example, if the respondent reports using the computer to search for work, code as Job Search and Interviewing (0504xx).
7. Eating and Drinking:

Verbatim	Work column	Who	Activity code
Eating and drinking (or taking a lunch break)	M or O	59, 60, 61, 62, and others	050202
Eating and drinking (or taking a lunch break)	M or O	0	050101 (M) or 050102 (O)
Eating and drinking (or taking a lunch break)	Blank	Any	110101

(Updated: July 2013)

8. Security procedures: If respondent reports undergoing security procedures (such as “passing through the metal detector,” “being searched at security checkpoint,” “opening bags for security search”) related to work, as part of their job, or related to job search and interviewing code under Security procedures related to work/as part of job/related to job search or interviewing, as appropriate.
9. “Work,” but no M, O, or P: If the verbatim mentions doing the activity for “work” or “business” but the summary questions do not include an M, O, or P, then assign 050101 Work, main job. **Exception**: If the activity involves socializing, relaxing, and leisure activities, eating and drinking activities, or sports, exercise, and recreational activities done as part of one’s job, then they should be coded as work-related activities. If the activity involves sleeping, grooming, and smoking, then they should be coded as what they are (never work). (Added: Mar2007)

## 06 Education

**Category definition:** Activities under this category refer to the respondent's non-work education only. Work-related educational activities should be coded under the Work category. Activities under the Education category include taking classes as well as doing other educational activities, including research and homework, administrative tasks, and extracurricular activities except sports. Activities are coded separately by whether the course was for a degree or for personal interest. (Updated: Feb2004)

**General rule:** The school day for high school students is treated like the work day for respondents who report going to work: individual activities during the day should not be collected/coded. However, before- and after-school extracurricular activities will be collected and should be coded under this category.

1. Respondent's education-related activities: Code as education (06xxxx).
2. Children's education-related activities: Code activities related to children's education as Caring for and Helping Household (or Nonhousehold) Members/Activities Related to Household (or Nonhousehold) Children's Education/[relevant activity] (0302xx or 0402xx). **Exception:** Code "filling out child's paperwork" as Household Activities/Household Management/Household and personal organization and planning (020902).
3. Reading for school: Code as Education/Research and Homework/[Type of class] (0603xx).
4. Walking from class to class: Code based on the activity that follows. For example, if the respondent reports attending class, walking to next class, attending class, then code to 180601, Travel related to taking class. If walking takes place within a building, use data code 500107 (unable to code activity at 1<sup>st</sup> tier), as interviewers should not record this type of travel. (Updated: Sept2020)
5. Attending own graduation ceremony: Code as Education/Education, N.E.C./Education, n.e.c. (069999).
6. Attending academic or honor society meetings: Code as Education/Extracurricular School Activities (Except Sports)/Extracurricular club activities (060201).
7. Taking sports or martial arts lessons: Code under Sports, Exercise, and Recreation/Participating in Sports, Exercise, or Recreation/[specific sport] (1301xx).

8. Before- and after-school extracurricular activities: Code as Education/Extracurricular School Activities (Except Sports)/[relevant activity] (0602xx).
9. Attending Sunday school or Bible study: Code as Religious and Spiritual Activities/Religious/Spiritual Practices/Religious education activities (140105). (Added: Feb2004, Updated: Jan2007)
10. Talking to teachers/professors: Code as Education/Taking Class/Type of Class] (0601XX). (Added: Nov2004)
11. Security procedures: If respondent reports undergoing security procedures (such as “passing through the metal detector,” “being searched at security checkpoint,” “opening bags for security search”) related to taking classes, code as Education/Taking Classes/Security procedures related to taking classes (060104).

## 07 Consumer Purchases

**Category definition:** This category captures nearly all purchases and rentals of consumer goods, regardless of mode or place of purchase or rental (in person, via telephone, over the Internet, at home, or in a store). Subcategories are provided for gasoline, grocery, and other food purchases. Home or apartment purchases or rentals (08 Professional and Personal Care Services) are **not** included here, nor are purchases of services (08 Professional and Personal Care Services, 09 Household Services).

1. Paying for things: If respondent paid for a specific item or consumer good when receiving it, code as Consumer Purchases/Shopping (Store, Telephone, Internet)/[relevant activity] (0701xx). If they report paying bills, code as Household Activities/Household Management/Financial management (020901).
2. Buying food for pets: Code as Consumer Purchases/Shopping (Store, Telephone, Internet)/[relevant activity] (0701xx).
3. Shopping over the telephone or the Internet: Code as Consumer Purchases/Shopping (Store, Telephone, Internet)/[relevant activity] (0701xx).
4. Purchasing/paying for meals, snacks, drinks (not groceries): Code as Consumer Purchases/Shopping (Store, Telephone, Internet)/Purchasing food (not groceries) (070103).
5. Talking with waiters and waitresses or restaurant cashiers: Code as Consumer Purchases/Shopping (Store, Telephone, Internet)/Purchasing food (not groceries) (070103). (Added: Feb2004)
6. Waiting in line to buy movie tickets: Code as Consumer Purchases/Shopping (Store, Telephone, Internet)/Waiting associated with shopping (070105). (Added: Feb2004)
7. Security procedures: If respondent reports undergoing security procedures (such as “passing through the metal detector,” “being searched at security checkpoint,” “opening bags for security search”) related to making consumer purchases, code as Security Procedures Related to Consumer Purchases (0703xx).
8. Multi-purpose shopping: Shopping activities should be coded according to the type of purchase, if specified by the respondent. For example, “Grocery shopping at Costco” should be classified as “070101 Grocery shopping.” If a respondent replies that he was “Shopping at [a multi-purpose warehouse store, such as Wal-Mart, or Costco, or a mall],” and

does not specify what was being purchased, code it as “070104 Shopping, except groceries, food, and gas.” ([Added Jan2007](#))



## 08 Professional and Personal Care Services

**Category definition:** Activities coded here refer to the respondent's time spent obtaining, receiving, and/or purchasing professional and personal care services provided by someone else. Professional services include child care, financial, legal, medical and other adult care, real estate, and veterinary. Personal care service activities include massages, haircuts, manicures, tanning at salons.

1. Talking to/meeting with providers of professional or personal care services: Code as Professional and Personal Care Services under the relevant service (08xxxx). **Exceptions**: If talking on the telephone is specified, then code as Telephone Calls (to or from) (1601xx). If the professional or personal care services were provided to someone other than the respondent, then code in the relevant Caring for & Helping Household Members (03xxxx) or Caring for & Helping Nonhousehold Members (04xxxx) category. (Updated: Feb2012)
2. Having a massage: Code as Professional and Personal Care Services/Personal Care Services/Using personal care services (080501). **Exceptions**: If respondent specifically mentions that the massage is for medical purposes (such as for physical therapy), code as Medical and care services (0804xx). If respondent mentions that a family member or friend gave the massage (clearly not an activity respondent paid for), code as Personal Care/Personal Activities/Personal activities, n.e.c. (010499)
3. Having a pet groomed: Code as Household Services/Pet Services (not done by self, not vet)/Using pet services (090301), even if grooming is done at a veterinary clinic or a pet hospital.
4. Driving around to look at houses to buy: Code as Travel related to using real estate services (180806). (Added: Feb2004)
5. Security procedures: If respondent reports undergoing security procedures (such as "passing through the metal detector," "being searched at security checkpoint," "opening bags for security search") related to obtaining or paying for professional or personal care services, code as Security Procedures Related to Professional and Personal Care Services (0808xx).

## 09 Household Services

**Category definition:** Activities coded here refer to the respondent's time spent obtaining and purchasing household services provided by someone else. Household services include yard and house cleaning, cooking, pet care, tailoring and laundering services, and vehicle and home repairs, maintenance, and construction. Watching someone else perform paid household activities (cooking, cleaning, repairing, etc.) should be coded here, provided "watching" was the respondent's primary activity.

1. Having a pet groomed: Code as Household Services/Pet Services (not done by self, not vet)/Using pet services (090301), even if grooming is done at a veterinary clinic or a pet hospital.
2. Talking to/with household service providers: Code as Household Services under the relevant service (09xxxx). **Exception:** If talking on the telephone is specified, then code as Telephone Calls (to or from) (1601xx).
3. Hiring household service providers: Code as Household Services under the relevant service (09XXXX). (Added: Nov2004)
4. Paying household service providers: Code as Household Services under the relevant service (09XXXX). (Added: Nov2004)

## 10 Government Services and Civic Obligations

**Category definition:** This category captures time spent using government services (police, fire, social services), purchasing government-required licenses or paying fines or fees, fulfilling government-required duties (jury duty, parole meetings, court appearances), and participating in activities that assist or impact government processes (voting, town hall meetings).

1. Court-related activities: Code all as Government Services and Civic Obligations/Civic Obligations and Participation/Civic obligations and participation (100201), including making an appearance in court with an attorney.
2. Paying for licenses, fees, fines, taxes, permits: Code under Government Services and Civic Obligations/Using Government Services/Obtaining licenses and paying fines, fees, taxes (100103). **Exception**: Code any fees and parking permits related to education under Education/Registration and Administrative Activities/[relevant activity] (0604XX).
3. Security procedures: If respondent reports undergoing security procedures (such as “passing through the metal detector,” “being searched at security checkpoint,” “opening bags for security search”) related to government services and civic obligations, code as Security Procedures Related to Government Services and Civic Obligations (1004xx).

## 11 Eating and Drinking

**Category definition:** This category captures all eating and drinking not done as work or a volunteer activity, whether the respondent was alone, with others, at home, at a place of purchase, in transit, or somewhere else. Purchasing and talking related to purchasing meals, snacks, and beverages are **not** coded here (07 Consumer Purchases).

**General rule:** Most eating and drinking is pre-coded during the interview. However, if the pre-code is not used, all eating and drinking activities should be coded here. **Exception:** See rule 5 below. **Exception:** If purchasing food or drink, or talking related to purchasing or picking up food or drink, code as Consumer Purchases/Shopping (Store, Telephone, Internet)/Purchasing food (not groceries) (070103).

1. Talking with waiters and waitresses or restaurant cashiers: Code as Consumer Purchases/Shopping/Purchasing food (not groceries) (070103). (Updated: Feb2004)
2. Talking with people who are present at a restaurant meal: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Socializing and Communicating/Socializing and communicating with others (120101).
3. Waiting for food to be delivered at home: Code as Eating and Drinking/Waiting associated with eating and drinking/Waiting associated with eating and drinking (110201). (Updated: Feb2004)
4. Waiting for a table in a restaurant: Code as Eating and Drinking/Waiting associated with eating and drinking/Waiting associated with eating and drinking (110201). (Updated: Feb2004)
5. Eating and drinking

Verbatim	Work column	Who	Activity code
Eating and drinking (or taking a lunch break)	M or O	59, 60,61, 62 and others	050202
Eating and drinking (or taking a lunch break)	M or O	0	050101 (M) or 050102 (O)
Eating and drinking (or taking a lunch break)	Blank	Any	110101

(Updated: July2013)

## 12 Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure

**Category definition:** This category captures social activities such as communicating with others and attending parties and meetings; and leisure activities such as relaxing, playing (passive) games (unless playing with children only), watching television, playing or listening to music, reading, writing, and all hobbies. Arts, cultural, and entertainment activities also are coded here, and include attending events or shows related to nature (zoo, arboretum), the arts (galleries, poetry readings), amusement (amusement parks, circus, sightseeing), and performance (plays, ballet). All activities that fall under this category are those done for personal interest or leisure.

1. Face-to-face talking with family, friends, neighbors, or acquaintances: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Socializing and Communicating/Socializing and communicating with others (120101).
2. Talking exclusively to nonhousehold child/children: Code as Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Members/Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Children/Talking with or listening to nonhousehold children (040106).
3. Talking with household child and nonhousehold child: Code as Caring for and Helping Household Members/Caring for and Helping Household Children/Talking with or listening to household children (030106).
4. Kissing hello or goodbye: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Socializing and Communicating/Socializing and communicating with others (120101), not as Personal Care/Personal Activities.
5. Talking with son/daughter/household child: Code as Caring for and Helping Household Members/Caring for and Helping Household Children/Talking with or listening to household children (030106) (if child is under age 18). Do not code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Socializing and Communicating/Socializing and communicating with others (unless talking to child and other adults).
6. Talking with waiters and waitresses or restaurant cashiers: Code as Consumer Purchases/Shopping/Purchasing food (not groceries) (070103). (Updated: Feb2004)
7. Talking with people who are present at a restaurant meal: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Socializing and Communicating/Socializing and communicating with others (120101).
8. Talking to/meeting with providers of professional or personal care services: Code as Professional and Personal Care Services under the relevant service (08xxxx). **Exceptions:** If talking on the telephone is

- specified, then code as Telephone Calls (to or from) (1601xx). If the professional or personal care services were provided to someone other than the respondent, then code in the relevant Caring for & Helping Household Members (03xxxx) or Caring for & Helping Nonhousehold Members (04xxxx) category. (Updated: Feb2012).
9. Accompanying someone while they run errands: Code under Socializing, Relaxing, and Communicating/Socializing and Communicating/Socializing and communicating with others (120101), unless R is also doing the errand, in which case code to the R's errand activity.
  10. Giving gifts: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Socializing and Communicating/Socializing and communicating with others (120101). **Exception**: Giving gifts to children should be coded as Caring For and Helping Household or Nonhousehold Members/Caring For and Helping HH or NonHH Children/Caring for and helping household or nonhousehold children, n.e.c. (030199 or 040199).
  11. Opening gifts: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Socializing and Communicating/Socializing and communicating with others (120101). **Exceptions**: Code opening gifts alone or opening packages as Household Activities/Household Management/Household and personal organization and planning (020902). (Updated: Feb2004)
  12. Attending meetings (respondent's own): Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Attending or Hosting Social Events/Attending meetings for personal interest (not volunteering) (120202). **Exceptions**: Attending meetings that are part of the respondent's extracurricular school activities should be coded under education.
  13. Insomnia: Code as Sleeplessness (010102). **Exception**: If the respondent mentions thinking or worrying, code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Relaxing, thinking (120301).
  14. Resting because of illness or injury: Code as Personal Care/Health-Related Self Care/Health-related self Care (010301), not as sleeping or relaxing.
  15. Singing: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Listening to or playing music (not radio) (120306). This includes "singing karaoke," "singing Christmas carols," and similar activities. (Added: Feb2004)
  16. Reading: Code reading for personal interest as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Reading for Personal Interest (120312). Code reading for school as Education/Research and Homework/[Type of

- class] (0603xx). Code reading for work as Work and Work-Related Activities/Working/Work, main or Work, other job (050101 or 050102).
17. Reading or studying the Bible/Koran/Torah/other Holy Scriptures/devotions: If the respondent reported “reading/studying the Bible” or “reading/studying the [Koran/Torah/other Holy Scriptures/devotions],” code as Religious and Spiritual Activities/Religious/Spiritual Practices/Participation in religious practices (140102). **Exception**: If the respondent reported reading/studying scriptures for a religious class, such as “reading the Bible for Sunday school,” code as Religious and Spiritual activities/Religious/Spiritual Practices/Religious education activities (140105). (Modified: Jan2007).
  18. Attending weddings: Code as Religious and Spiritual Activities/Religious or Spiritual Practices/Attending religious services (140101).
  19. Attending receptions (including wedding receptions): Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Attending or Hosting Social Events/Attending or hosting parties, receptions, or ceremonies (120201).
  20. Attending a household child’s performance or event: Code as Caring for and Helping Household Members/Caring for and Helping Household Children/Attending household children’s events (030110).
  21. Attending a nonhousehold child’s performance or event: Code as Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Members/Caring for and Helping Nonhousehold Children/Attending nonhousehold children’s events (040110).
  22. Watching/Streaming video/DVD movies at home or another’s home: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Television and movies (not religious) (120303).
  23. Watching movies at a theatre: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Arts and Entertainment (other than sports)/Movies and film (120403).
  24. Watching sports on TV: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Television and movies (not religious) (120303).
  25. Borrowing movies from the library or looking for movies at the library: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Television and movies (120303). (Added: Feb2004)
  26. Listening to the stereo: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Listening to/playing music (not radio) (120306).

27. Listening to music: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Listening to/playing music (not radio) (120306). **Exception**: If “radio” is mentioned, code as Listening to the radio (120305). (Added: Feb2004)
28. Participating in online chat rooms: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Computer use for leisure (exc. games) (120308). (Added: Feb2004, Modified: Jan2018)
29. Making videos/Videotaping: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Arts and crafts as a hobby (120309). (Added: Feb2004, Modified: Jan2018)
30. Listening to books on tape/audio books: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Reading for personal interest (120312). (Added: Feb2004, Modified: Jan2018)
31. Unpaid performance arts activities: If done by respondent, code as Volunteer Activities/Participating in Performance and Cultural Activities/Performing (150401).
32. Playing games on the computer (including Internet games): Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Playing games (120307).
33. Using the computer: Code the activity the respondent did as the primary activity. For example, if the respondent used the computer to search for work, code as Job Search and Interviewing (0504xx). If the respondent used the computer to pay bills or for financial management, code as Household Activities/Household Management/Financial management (020901). If used for playing games, code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Playing games (120307). If respondent reports computer use for leisure, or can't/won't specify the purpose, code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Computer use for leisure (exc. games) (120308).
34. Hobbies: If respondent is paid or expects to be paid for hobbies, code as Work and Work-related Activities/Other Income-generating Activities (0503xx). If unpaid, code the relevant hobby as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/[Relevant hobby category] (1203xx).
35. Security procedures: If respondent reports undergoing security procedures (such as “passing through the metal detector,” “being searched at security checkpoint,” “opening bags for security search”) related to arts and entertainment activities, code as Security procedures related to arts and entertainment (120405).



- 36. Visiting an adult (HH or nonHH) in the hospital/nursing home:** Code as Socializing and communicating with others (120101). (Added: Nov2004)
- 37. Writing music:** If a respondent reports “writing music,” and it is not clear whether they were writing lyrics or composing music, code it as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Writing for personal interest (120313). If the respondent reports “composing music,” code it as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Listening to/playing music (not radio) (120306). (Added: Mar2005)
- 38. Attending dance performance:** If a respondent reports “watching dance performance,” code it as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Arts and Entertainment (other than sports)/Attending performing arts (120401) unless the verbatim specifies that the dancing was considered a sport or competition. If that is the case, code it as Sports, Exercise, and Recreation/Attending Sporting/Recreational Events/Watching dancing (130209). (See Rules 20 and 21 if it is a household or nonhousehold child’s dance performance.) (Updated: Feb2012)
- 39. Book-related library activities:** If a respondent reports borrowing or checking out books from a library, returning books to a library, or browsing for books at a library, then assign the code for Reading for personal interest (120312). **Exception:** If the respondent identified the activity as a work, income-generating, or volunteer activity in the summary questions, then assign the appropriate work, income-generating, or volunteer code. (Added: March 2016)

## 13 Sports, Exercise, and Recreation

**Category definition:** This category captures the respondent's participation in sports, exercise, and recreational activities. (Recreational activities include those that are generally non-competitive in nature, such as pleasure boating, throwing a Frisbee, kite flying, or ballooning, and active, participatory outdoor games or activities, such as horseshoes, croquet, and paintball.) The category also captures the respondent's attendance at or observation of these activities or events when done by others. Watching sports, exercise, or recreational activities on television or video (12 Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure) is **not** included in this category.

1. Watching a child's sporting event: Code as Caring for and Helping Household (Nonhousehold Members/Caring for and Helping Household (Nonhousehold) Children/Attending household (nonhousehold) children's events (030110 or 040110).
2. Watching sports on TV: Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Television and movies (not religious) (120303).
3. Exercising for medical conditions: If it is clear from the verbatim that physical therapy exercising is done specifically for medical reasons, code as Health-related self care (010301). If the purpose is not clear, code as Sports, Exercise, and Recreation/Participating in Sports, Exercise, or Recreation/[specific sport] (1301xx). For example, code weightlifting exercises as weightlifting. (Updated: Feb2004)
4. Taking sports or martial arts lessons: Code under Sports, Exercise, and Recreation/Participating in Sports, Exercise, or Recreation/[specific sport] (1301xx).
5. Camping activities: Code activities clearly associated with camping (digging a latrine, starting a campfire, setting up a tent) as Sports, Exercise, and Recreation/Participating in Sports, Exercise, and Recreation/Playing sports, n.e.c. (130199). **Exception**: Camping as an activity should be coded Data Codes/Unable to Code/Insufficient detail in verbatim (500101). (Reports of camping should be broken out by activity during the interview.)
6. Security procedures: If respondent reports undergoing security procedures (such as "passing through the metal detector," "being searched at security checkpoint," "opening bags for security search") related to attending or participating in sporting or recreational activities, code as Security Procedures Related to Sports, Exercise, and Recreation (1304xx).

7. Horseback riding: If respondent reports horseback riding, code as Sports, Exercise, and Recreation/Participating in Sports, Exercise, or Recreation/Participating in equestrian sports (130110) (Added: Jan2008)
8. Attending dance performance: If a respondent reports “watching dance performance,” code it as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Arts and Entertainment (other than sports)/Attending performing arts (120401) unless the verbatim specifies that the dancing was considered a sport or competition. If that is the case, code it as Sports, Exercise, and Recreation/Attending Sporting/Recreational Events/Watching dancing (130209). (See Rule 1 if it is a household or nonhousehold child’s dance performance.) (Updated: Feb2012)
9. Use of cardiovascular equipment: If someone reports using cardiovascular equipment to run or jog, such as “running on a treadmill” then assign the activity code for Running (130124), and if someone reports “walking on a treadmill” then code it as Walking (130131). If someone reports “spinning” or “riding a stationary bike” then code it as Biking (130104). If the verbatim does not specify how the cardiovascular equipment was being used, e.g., “using the treadmill” then assign the activity code 130128 Using cardiovascular equipment. (Added: March 2016)
10. Watching friends/spouse/other adults play [sport]: If someone reports watching their friends/spouse/other adults play [sport], assign the activity verbatim to the relevant 1302xx Attending sporting/Recreational events category. (Added: Sept2020)

## 14 Religious and Spiritual Activities

**Category definition:** This category captures formal religious activities normally associated with membership in or identification with specific religions or denominations. Such activities include attending regular and special religious services and participating in other religion-related activities, such as church choirs, youth groups, orchestras, or unpaid teaching (unless identified as volunteer activities). This category also includes personal religious practices, such as praying, personal spiritual practices not necessarily affiliated with formal religion, and watching a religious service via Zoom/YouTube/Facebook-live/Instagram, etc. (Modified for clarity: April 2006; Updated: Jan2007 Sept2020).

1. Attending wakes, funerals, and memorial services: Code as Religious and Spiritual Activities/Religious or Spiritual Practices/Attending religious services (140101).
2. Attending weddings: Code as Religious and Spiritual Activities/Religious or Spiritual Practices/Attending religious services (140101).
3. Attending receptions (including wedding receptions): Code as Socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Attending or Hosting Social Events/Attending or hosting parties and receptions (120201).
4. Meditating: Code as Personal Care/Health-related Self Care/Health-related self care (010301). **Exception**: If verbatim specifically mentions Meditating for religious purposes, code as Religious and Spiritual Activities/Religious and Spiritual Practices/Participation in religious practices (140102).
5. Reading or studying the Bible/Koran/Torah/other Holy Scriptures/devotions: If the respondent reported “reading/studying the Bible” or “reading/studying the [Koran/Torah/other Holy Scriptures/devotions],” code as Religious and Spiritual Activities/Religious/Spiritual Practices/Participation in religious practices (140102). **Exception**: If the respondent reported reading/studying scriptures for a religious class, such as “reading the Bible for Sunday school,” code as Religious and Spiritual activities/Religious/Spiritual Practices/Religious education activities (140105). (Modified: Jan2007).
6. Attending Sunday school or Attending Bible study: Code “attending Sunday school,” “attending Bible study,” and other organized group religious education activities as Religious and Spiritual Activities/Religious/Spiritual Practices/Religious education activities (140105). Also code activities related to organized group religious education activities, such as “preparing materials for Bible study” in category 140105. (Added: Feb2004; Modified: Jan2007)

7. Conducting religious rites in the home: Code as Participation in religious practices (140102). (Added: Feb2004)
8. Going door-to-door to speak about one's religion: Code as Participation in religious practices (140102). (Added: Mar2005)
9. Security procedures: If respondent reports undergoing security procedures (such as "passing through the metal detector," "being searched at security checkpoint," "opening bags for security search") related to attending or participating in religious or spiritual practices, code as Security procedures related to religious and spiritual activities (140104).
10. Teaching/leading Bible study: Code as Religious and Spiritual Activities/Religious/Spiritual Practices/Religious education activities (140105). **Exception**: If the activity is designated as a volunteer activity, then code as Teaching, leading, counseling, mentoring (150204). If the activity is designated as for pay, code in the appropriate work activity. (Added: Jan2007)

## 15 Volunteer Activities

**Category definition:** This category captures volunteer (unpaid) activities done by the respondent for individuals or institutions through formal organizations.

**General rule:** Code all activities that have a V in the work column under Volunteer Activities. **Exceptions:** Sleeping, grooming, and smoking are never coded as volunteer activities, even if a V appears in the work column. These activities are always coded as what they are: sleeping, grooming, and smoking.

1. Unpaid performance arts activities: If done by respondent, code as Volunteer Activities/Participating in Performance and Cultural Activities/Performing (150401).
2. Eating and drinking related to volunteering: Code as Volunteer Activities/Volunteer Activities N.E.C./Volunteer activities, n.e.c. (159999).
3. Socializing related to volunteering: Code as Volunteer Activities/Volunteer Activities N.E.C./Volunteer activities, n.e.c. (159999).
4. Attending church service as a volunteer activity: When the verbatim "attending church service" is designated as a volunteer activity, code as Volunteer Activities/Volunteer Activities, N.E.C./Volunteer activities, n.e.c. (159999). (Added: Mar2005)
5. Working at a concession stand as a volunteer activity: If the verbatim does not mention what the respondent sold at the concession stand or if it mentions selling both food and nonfood items, code it as Volunteer Activities/Social Service and Care Activities/Food preparation, presentation, clean-up (150201). If the verbatim mentions that the respondent sold nonfood items at the concession stand then code it as Volunteer Activities/Administrative and Support Activities/Fundraising (150106). (Added: Apr2005)

### Examples of volunteer activities that involve working at a concession stand

Verbatim	Volunteer activity?	Activity	Activity Code
Sold popcorn and programs at a concession stand	V	Volunteer Activities/Social Service and Care Activities (except medical)/Food preparation, presentation, clean-up	150201
Worked at a concession stand	V	Volunteer Activities/Social Service and Care Activities (except medical)/Food preparation, presentation, clean-up	150201

Sold T-shirts at a concession stand	V	Volunteer Activities/Administrative and Support Activities/Fundraising	150106

6. Travel as a volunteer activity: Some volunteer activities involve driving as the activity (for example, delivering meals to the disabled or elderly). If the respondent reports driving as a volunteer activity, code it as a Volunteer Activity, unless the travel reason is clearly not a Volunteer Activity.  
(Updated: July2013)

**Examples of volunteer activities that involve driving as the activity**

Verbatim	Volunteer activity?	Activity	Activity Code
Delivering meals to the elderly with Meals-On-Wheels program	V	Food preparation, presentation, clean-up	150201
Transporting disabled	V	Social service and care activities, n.e.c.	150299
Driving Girl Scout float in parade	V	Serving at volunteer events and cultural activities	150402
Providing on-the-road driving instruction	V	Teaching, leading, counseling, mentoring	150204

7. Security procedures: If respondent reports undergoing security procedures (such as “passing through the metal detector,” “being searched at security checkpoint,” “opening bags for security search”) related to volunteering, code as Security procedures related to volunteer activities.

## 16 Telephone Calls

**Category definition:** All telephone communication is captured here, with the exception of purchases of consumer goods (07 Consumer Purchases) and job search- or work-related phone calls (05 Work and Work-related Activities). Checking voicemail for messages (02 Household Activities) is **not** included here.

**General rule:** All talking on the telephone is coded here. **Exceptions:** If there is an M or an O in the work column, code as Work and Work-related Activities/Working/Work, main job or Work, other job (050101 or 050102). If there is a V in the work column, or (volunteering) in the verbatim, code as Volunteer Activities/Administrative and Support Activities/Telephone calls (except hotline counseling) (150104). If respondent reports interviewing or talking on the phone with prospective employers, code as Work and Work-related Activities/Job Search and Interviewing/[relevant activity] (0504XX).

1. If the respondent reports talking to someone and does not specify "telephone," but the WHO code = 0, assign a data code Insufficient detail in verbatim (500101). (Updated: Feb2004)
2. Text messaging: Code text messaging the same way you would code telephone calls. (Added Nov2005)
3. If a respondent reports talking on the phone, but doesn't specify with whom, assign the activity code 160199 Telephone calls (to or from), n.e.c. (Updated: Feb2012)



## 18 Traveling

**Category definition:** All traveling is coded here, regardless of mode or purpose. Walking is considered traveling when used to get from one destination (address or building) to another, but not when the primary purpose is exercise.

**General rule:** To code all travel except homebound trips, look ahead to the next activity/destination before coding a travel episode. To code the homebound travel episode, look backwards to the previous activity.

**General rule:** Travel is always the primary activity if reported as a simultaneous activity.

### 1. Single destination trips:

- Direct trips to/from a destination: Code as Traveling/Travel Related to [relevant activity]. For example, if a respondent traveled from home to their workplace, worked at their main job, and then traveled back home, the travel episodes would be coded as Traveling/Travel Related to Work/Travel related to working (180501).
- Multi-leg trips: Code all legs associated with one destination according to the first activity done at the trip destination. For example, a string of travel that involves driving to the train station, waiting for the train, taking the train to work, and walking from the train station to work, followed by an episode of working, should all be coded as Traveling/Travel Related to Work/Travel related to working (180501). This rule is applied to all multi-leg trips, not just commuting. For example, a string of travel that involves riding to the neighbor's house, picking up a car, and driving to the grocery store, followed by grocery shopping, should all be coded as Traveling/Travel Related to Consumer Purchases/Travel related to grocery shopping (180701).  
(Modified for clarity: Sept2020)

- ### 2. Multiple destination trips: Code each travel episode of a multiple-destination trip according to the activity done at each destination. For example, if a respondent drives from home to their workplace and works, then code the travel as *180501 Travel related to working*; if the respondent then drives from their workplace to the bank and deposits money, code the travel as *180802 Travel related to financial services and banking*; if the respondent then drives to the grocery store and purchases groceries, code the travel as *180701 Travel related to grocery shopping*. (Modified for clarity: Sept2020)

- ### 3. Trips home: Code the purpose of travel according to the activity done at the last stop before the respondent arrived at home. For example, if someone had been at work for 8 hours, then drove from their workplace to the bank, spent 5 minutes at the bank withdrawing cash, and then drove

home, code driving from the bank to home as Travel related to financial services and banking (180802). **Exception:** Code traveling home in the middle of a work or school day to the activity done at home, not to work or school. For example, if the DP works, then goes home for lunch, then returns to work, code the trip home as travel related to eating and drinking (181101), and code the return to work as travel related to working (180501). (Updated: Feb2004; Modified for clarity: Sept2020)

4. Waiting for the bus/train: Code any waiting related to travel as part of the travel episode. For example, code waiting for the bus (to commute to work) as Traveling/Related to Work/Travel related to working (180501).
5. Walking someplace: Code as Traveling/Related to [relevant activity/[Relevant activity] (18xxxx). Walking qualifies as traveling. **Exceptions:** Walking for exercise should be coded as sports and exercise. Walking the dog should be coded as pet care under household activities. Walking a child to [the child's event] should be coded as traveling related to childcare. Walking around as part of another activity (touring a museum, walking through a zoo, attending a guided nature walk, etc.) should be coded as part of the main activity.
6. Travel as part of job: For taxi drivers, Uber or Lyft drivers, delivery drivers, bus drivers, chauffeurs, traveling sales workers, and other workers for whom travel is an essential part of their job, code travel time as Work and Work-Related Activities/Working/Work, main job or Work, other job (050101 or 050102) unless travel reason is clearly not work. **Exception:** The first and last travel episodes for people who drive for a living should be coded under Traveling/Travel Related to Work/Travel related to working (180501).
7. Travel as a volunteer activity: Some volunteer activities involve driving as the activity (for example, delivering meals to the disabled or elderly, transporting individuals who need a ride, driving a float in a parade, providing on-the-road driving instruction, etc.). If the respondent reports driving as a volunteer activity, code it as a Volunteer Activity, unless the travel reason is clearly not a Volunteer Activity. (Added: Apr2005)

**Example:** An excerpt from a respondent's diary day

Verbatim	Where?	Volunteer activity?	Activity	Activity Code
Drove car to distribution center	Car, truck, or motorcycle		Traveling/Travel Related to Volunteer Activities/Travel related to volunteering	181501
Picked up meals for delivery	Other place	V	Food preparation, presentation, clean-up	150201

Delivered meals to the elderly with Meals-On-Wheels program	Car, truck, or motorcycle	V	Food preparation, presentation, clean-up	150201
Drove home	Car, truck, or motorcycle		Traveling/Travel Related to Volunteer Activities/Travel related to volunteering	181501
Watched TV	Home		Socializing, Relaxing and Leisure/Relaxing and Leisure/Television and movies	120303

8. Using a taxi, Uber or Lyft: Code as Traveling/Related to [activity] (18xxxx), rather than as Consumer Purchases.
  
9. Warming up the car: Code as part of the next travel episode (traveling related to XXX), even if the DP does other activities before the traveling episode. Example: “warming up the car” (180501), “packing lunch” (020201), “kissing husband goodbye” (120101), “driving to work” (180501), “working” (050101). **Exceptions**: If warming up the car for someone else to travel, code as Household Activities/Vehicles/Vehicles, N.E.C. (020799). If warming up the car is clearly not in preparation for any travel, but rather for a tune-up or to check engine oil, code as Household Activities/Vehicles/Vehicle repair and maintenance (by self) (020701).
  
11. Travel with no destination: If DP reports driving, but changes their mind and returns home before reaching a destination, code as Traveling, N.E.C. (189999). **Exception**: This is different from driving for pleasure. If someone reports going on a drive as their activity, this would be coded to 181205 *Travel as a form of entertainment*. See travel rule #13. (Updated: Sept2020)
  
12. Airport, train station, or bus depot travel activities: Code activities associated with travel (such as “checking in at the reservation counter” or “picking up baggage”) as Traveling, N.E.C. (189999).
  
13. Travel as a form of entertainment: When a respondent reports driving for pleasure or sightseeing, code it as Travel as a form of entertainment (181205). This is an exception to the general travel rule; the next activity/destination does not identify travel purpose and it is wrong to use the “Missing travel or destination” code. (Added: Apr2005)

**Example:** An excerpt from a respondent's diary day

Verbatim	Where?	Activity	Activity Code
Ate lunch	Home	Eating and drinking/Eating and drinking/Eating and drinking	110101
Went on a scenic drive	Car, truck, or motorcycle	Traveling/Travel related to socializing, Relaxing, and Leisure/Travel as a form of entertainment	181205
Grocery shopping	Grocery store	Consumer purchases/Shopping/Grocery shopping	070101
Watched TV	Home	Data codes/Missing travel or destination	500103

**14. Security procedures:** If respondent reports undergoing security procedures (such as “passing through the metal detector,” “being searched at security checkpoint,” “opening bags for security search”) related to traveling, code as Security Procedures Related to Traveling (1818xx).

**15. Travel home as the first activity of the day:** When homebound travel is the first activity of the day, interviewers must ask the probe, “*Were you traveling home from vacation, shopping, visiting others, business or work, or something else?*” The reason for the travel episode should appear in parentheses beside the verbatim. The following table offers coders guidance on coding homebound travel when it is the first activity of the day.

**Coding travel when it is the first activity of the day:**

Reason for travel	Code
Taking care of my elderly parents	180404: Travel related to caring for non-HH adults
Business or work	180501: Travel related to working
Selling items at a craft exhibition	180503: Travel related to income-generating activities
School trip	180601: Travel related to taking class
School (non-sport) extracurricular event	180602: Travel related to extracurricular activities (except sports)
Shopping	180704: Travel related to shopping, ex groceries, food, & gas

To look at properties / looking for a new house	180806: Travel related to using real estate services
Marching in a political rally	181002: Travel related to civic obligations & participation
Visiting others / To see family or friends	181201: Travel related to socializing & communicating
Attending graduation ceremony / retirement party / baby shower / other parties, ceremonies, or receptions	181202: Travel related to attending or hosting social events
Attending a conference or convention (no M, O, or V in summary question fields)	181202: Travel related to attending or hosting social events
Vacation / Fun / holiday	181203: Travel related to relaxing & leisure
Participating in basketball tournament / golf trip / ski trip / other sport-related event or travel	181301: Travel related to participating in sports / exercise / recreation
Attending a baptism / christening / bat or bar mitzvah / wedding / other religious ceremony / attending religious retreat	181401: Travel related to religious/spiritual activities
Chaperoning my son's school trip (V)	181501: Travel related to volunteering

(Added: Feb2012)

**16. Waiting for a bus/flight/ride/train/other mode of transit:** If the R reports waiting for a bus/flight/ride/train or other mode of transit followed by a non-travel activity, then use the activity directly before the waiting episode and the activities after the waiting episode to determine the appropriate activity code for the waiting episode.

- If the activity directly preceding the waiting episode is a travel activity, then assign the waiting activity the same travel code as the preceding activity. For example, in the activity sequence *walking to bus stop/waiting for bus/talking to someone at bus stop, waiting for bus* would be assigned the same travel code as *walking to bus stop*.
- If *waiting for [mode of transit]* is directly preceded and followed by non-travel episodes then assign *waiting for [mode of transit]* the same activity code as the next travel activity in the diary. If there are no subsequent travel activities in the diary, assign code 189999 Traveling, n.e.c. For example, in the activity sequence *talking to someone at bus stop/waiting for bus/reading newspaper for pers int/riding bus to work*,

*waiting for bus* would be assigned the same code as *riding bus to work*.

(Added: July 2012)

## 50 Data Codes

**Category definition:** Data codes are used when other codes, including 99 (n.e.c.) codes are not applicable, when an interviewer has made an error, or when an activity is not codeable. They include codes that may be assigned when the respondent can't remember or refuses to describe an activity, or when the interviewer has recorded insufficient or incorrect information.

**General rule:** Use data codes when other lexicon codes, including 99 (n.e.c.) codes, are not applicable or when an activity is not codeable. For example, if the respondent reports "I can't remember what I did for this time," do not try to code to the previous or following activity. Code as Data Codes/Unable to code/Gap/can't remember (500106).

### Data code definitions:

#### 500101 Insufficient detail in verbatim

Verbatim lacks sufficient information about an activity. This could be because the interviewer did not probe an activity on the probe list or because of an obviously vague activity description like "dithering around." This code should also be used when the verbatim describes another person's activities (not the DP's) (e.g. "sister came over"). (Updated: Feb2004)

Rules for assigning data code 500101:

1. Activities that require probing. Assign data code 500101 to activities on the required probe list that do not contain a purpose such as reading, writing, unspecified computer use, attending class, and so forth. These cannot be coded unless there is a purpose.
2. Vague or ambiguous activities. Assign data code 500101 to activities that are too vague or ambiguous and cannot be coded.
3. Activities describing another person's activities. Assign data code 500101 to activities describing another person's activities and not those of the DP.
4. Activities with "unspecified." **Do not** assign data code 500101 to a vague activity or an activity lacking a purpose if the word "**unspecified**" is listed next to the activity. Under this circumstance, the interviewer did probe for clarity but received no additional clarification from the DP. Code the activity using one of the following rules:
  - a. Code the activity using "personal interest" as the purpose for activities on the required probe list. For example, if the activity is "reading unspecified," code reading as 120312 (Reading, personal interest). If the activity is "computer use unspecified," code computer use as 120308 (Computer Use, unspecified or leisure).

- b. Code the activity to the first- or second-tier level, if possible. For example, “working around the house (unspecified)” can be coded as 029999, Household Activities/HH activities, n.e.c./HH activities n.e.c., even though there is no indication of what sort of “work around the house” was being done. (Example changed Jan2007).
  - c. Code the activity as data code 500107 (Unable to code activity to 1<sup>st</sup> tier) if activity is just too vague and does not fit into any major tier category. For example, “dithering around, unspecified” is coded as 500107 since the definition of dithering is unclear.
  - d. If the activity is “getting ready,” “preparing for,” “dropping off,” or “picking up” then code it as you would had the activity duration been 30 minutes or less.
5. Certain single activities that last longer than 30 minutes. Activity verbatims with the words “getting ready,” “preparing for,” “looking after/supervising/watching (as a care activity) [child or adult],” “dropping off,” and “picking up” are given the data code “500101 Insufficient detail in verbatim” if the activity lasts longer than 30 minutes. **Exception:** If the verbatim contains the word “unspecified” in parentheses, then code the activity the same way that you would if its duration was 30 minutes or less. Code the following activities according to the chart below:

Verbatim	Code	
	30 minutes or less or “unspecified”	More than 30 minutes
Getting ready	010201	500101
Getting ready to go out	010201	500101
Getting ready for bed	010201	500101
Preparing for bed	010201	500101
Getting ready for work	010201	500101
Getting ready for work (M in work column)	050101	500101
Getting ready for work (O in work column)	050102	500101
Getting ready for work (P in work column)	050399	500101
Getting household children ready	030101	500101
Getting nonhousehold children ready	040101	500101
Getting household children ready to go out	030101	500101
Getting nonhousehold children ready to go out	040101	500101
Getting household children ready for bed	030101	500101
Getting nonhousehold children ready for bed	040101	500101
Putting household children to bed	030101	500101
Putting nonhousehold children to bed	040101	500101
Dropping off/picking up household children	030112	500101
Dropping off/picking up nonhousehold children	040112	500101



Dropping off/picking up household adults	030503	500101
Dropping off/picking up nonhousehold adults	040507	500101
Dropping off/picking up household items	020902	500101
Looking after/supervising/watching (as a care activity) household children	030109	500101
Looking after/supervising/watching (as a care activity) household adults	030402	500101
Looking after/supervising/watching (as a care activity) nonhousehold children	040109	500101
Looking after/supervising/watching (as a care activity) nonhousehold adults	040402	500101

(Added: Jan2007) (Modified: Jan2018)

500102 Recorded activity using incorrect words

This data code will no longer be used as of January 2004. (Updated: Feb2004)

500103 Missing travel or destination

An activity or travel episode is obviously missing. This usually occurs when an interviewer records travel to and from a location with no intervening activity (e.g. “driving to the store,” then “driving home”). It may also occur when an interviewer records consecutive activities with different WHERE codes (e.g. “bought groceries” at grocery store, then “fixed dinner” at home) with no intervening travel episode. **Exception:** Sometimes WHERE codes may change while the actual location of two consecutive activities remains the same, so an intervening travel episode is not necessary. For example, if “working in the school office” has a workplace WHERE code, but the next activity “taking class (degree)” has a school WHERE code, check coder notes to see if both activities took place at the same address or building before assigning a data code. (Updated: Jan2007)

500105 Respondent refused to provide information/”none of your business”

500106 Gap/can’t remember

500107 Unable to code activity at 1<sup>st</sup> tier

An activity clearly does not fall into any major tier category. This code should also be used when travel within a house, yard, or building (such as “walked downstairs to basement”) has been recorded. (Updated: Feb2004, Sept2020)

# Index

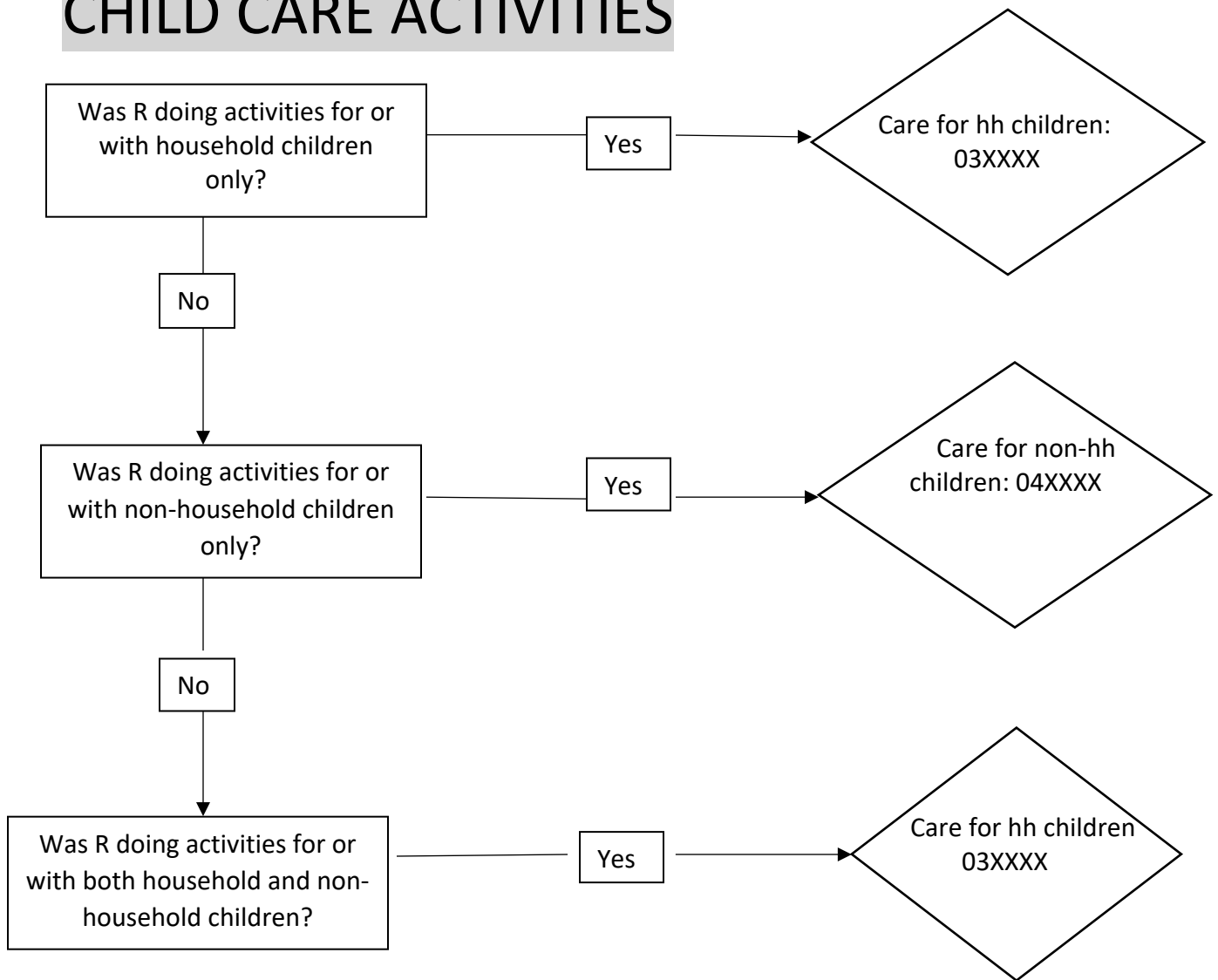
<b>Activity</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup>-Tier Code</b>	<b>Page</b>
Childcare (also see desk aids)		
Household .....	03 .....	21
Nonhousehold .....	04 .....	24
Miscellaneous .....		4
Cleaning .....	02 .....	16
Computer use (also see desk aids)		
Leisure .....	12 .....	40
Work .....	05 .....	28
Education .....	06 .....	29
Games (including Internet) .....	12 .....	37
Conferences as part of job .....	05 .....	27
Court appearances .....	10 .....	35
E-mail		
Checking .....	02 .....	18
Reading .....	02 .....	18
Sending .....	02 .....	18
Exercising		
For medical condition .....	01, 13 .....	15, 42
For fun/fitness .....	13 .....	42
Food preparation (also see desk aids) .....	02 .....	16
Grooming		
Self .....	01 .....	15
Pet		
Done by respondent (unpaid) .....	02 .....	16
Done by other (paid) .....	09 .....	33
Haircuts		
Unpaid from spouse/friend/other .....	01 .....	15
Paid from professional .....	08 .....	33
Hobbies		
Paid .....	05 .....	27
Unpaid .....	12 .....	40
Insomnia .....	01 .....	15
Kissing hello/goodbye .....	01, 12 .....	15, 37
Looking for a job .....	05 .....	28
Looking for misplaced items .....	02 .....	17
Meeting professional service providers .....	08 .....	33
Packing/unpacking suitcases/bags		
For self or household .....	02 .....	17
For children .....	03, 04 .....	21, 24
For other adults .....	03, 04 .....	21, 24
Packing/unpacking/loading/unloading		

For a household move/journey .....	02 .....	18
Groceries/other household items .....	02 .....	19
Paperwork (also see desk aids)		
For self or household .....	02 .....	18
For children.....	03, 04 .....	22, 25
For other adults .....	03, 04 .....	22, 25
Paying Bills .....	02 .....	19
Paying for things (also see desk aids) .....	07 .....	31
Passive activities.....	miscellaneous .....	4
Pet care		
Buying food.....	07 .....	31
Professional grooming.....	08 .....	33
Phone calls (also see desk aids)		
Making/receiving.....	16 .....	48
Checking phone messages .....	02 .....	18
Playing games		
Board.....	12 .....	37
Computer.....	12 .....	40
Internet .....	12 .....	40
Reading (also see desk aids)		
For school.....	06, 12 .....	29, 38
For work .....	05, 12 .....	28, 38
For personal interest.....	12 .....	38
For religious purposes.....	14 .....	44
Repairing/maintaining vehicle		
Done by respondent (unpaid) .....	02 .....	19
Done by others (paid) .....	09 .....	34
Resting		
For illness/injury.....	01 .....	15
Security procedures .....	see all tiers	
Shopping.....	07 .....	31
Simultaneous activities (also see desk aids) miscellaneous .....		9
Talking face-to-face		
To child/children		
Household .....	03, 12 .....	21, 37
Nonhousehold .....	04, 12 .....	24, 37
To friends and/or family .....	12 .....	37
To own teachers .....	06 .....	30
To professional/personal care svc. providers .....	08 .....	33
To waiters/waitresses .....	11 .....	36
Teaching		
As paid work .....	05 .....	27
A HH or nonHH child .....	03, 04 .....	21, 26
Thinking (also see desk aids) .....	12 .....	15, 38
Traveling (also see desk aids) .....	18 .....	49
Visiting		

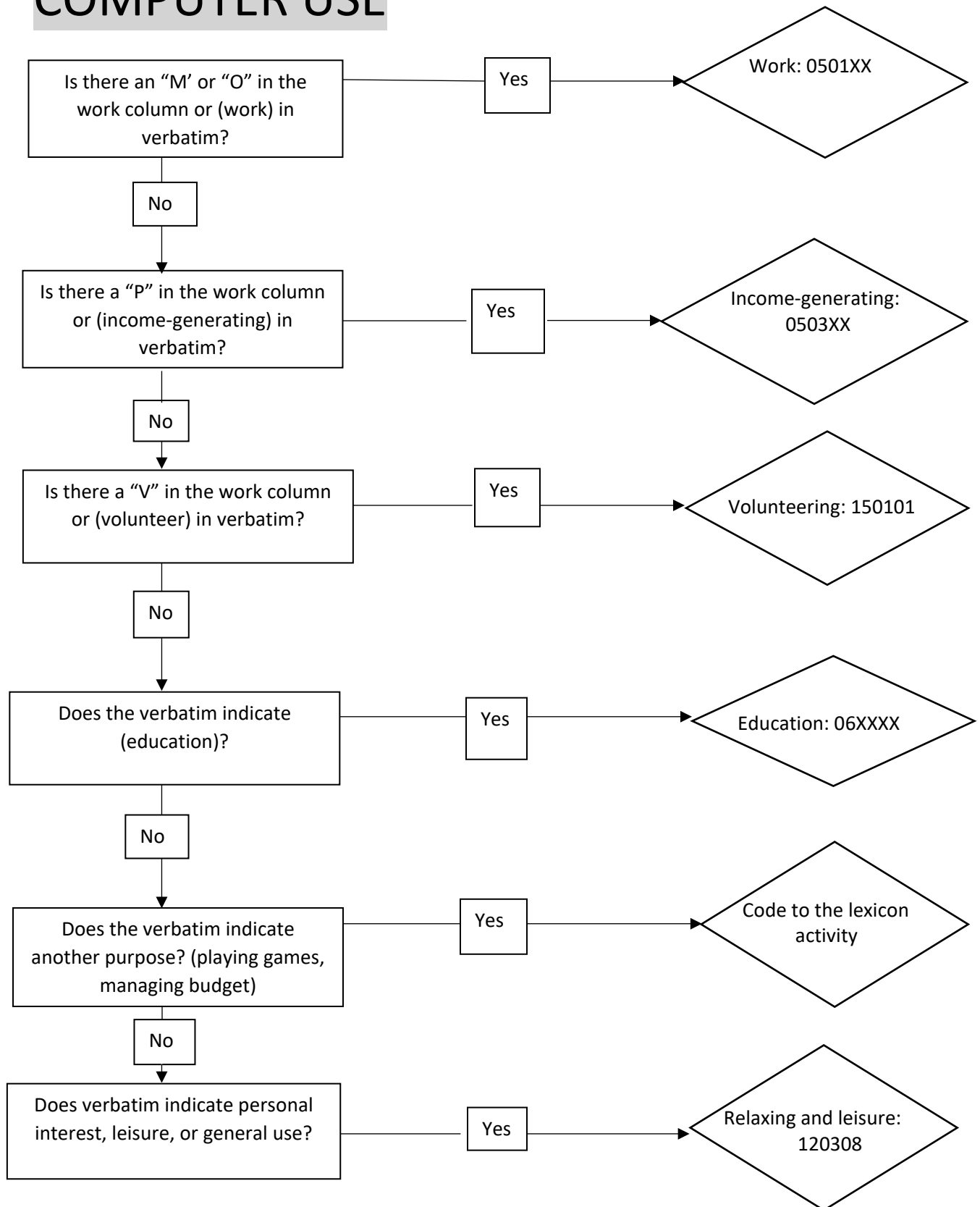
HH child in hospital.....	03.....	23
NonHH child in hospital .....	04.....	26
Adult in hospital .....	03, 04.....	23, 26
Friends/Family/Others .....	12.....	37
Waiting.....	miscellaneous.....	4
Walking (also see desk aids)		
Exercise.....	13.....	42
Traveling.....	18.....	50
A child somewhere .....	03, 04.....	22, 25
A dog.....	02.....	16
Watching movies		
At a theatre.....	12.....	39
At home .....	12.....	37
Watching sports		
On TV.....	12, 13.....	39, 42
At event .....	13.....	42
At child's event .....	03, 04.....	21, 24
Watching, general.....	miscellaneous.....	4
Worrying (also see desk aids).....	12.....	37

# ATUS CODING DESK AIDS

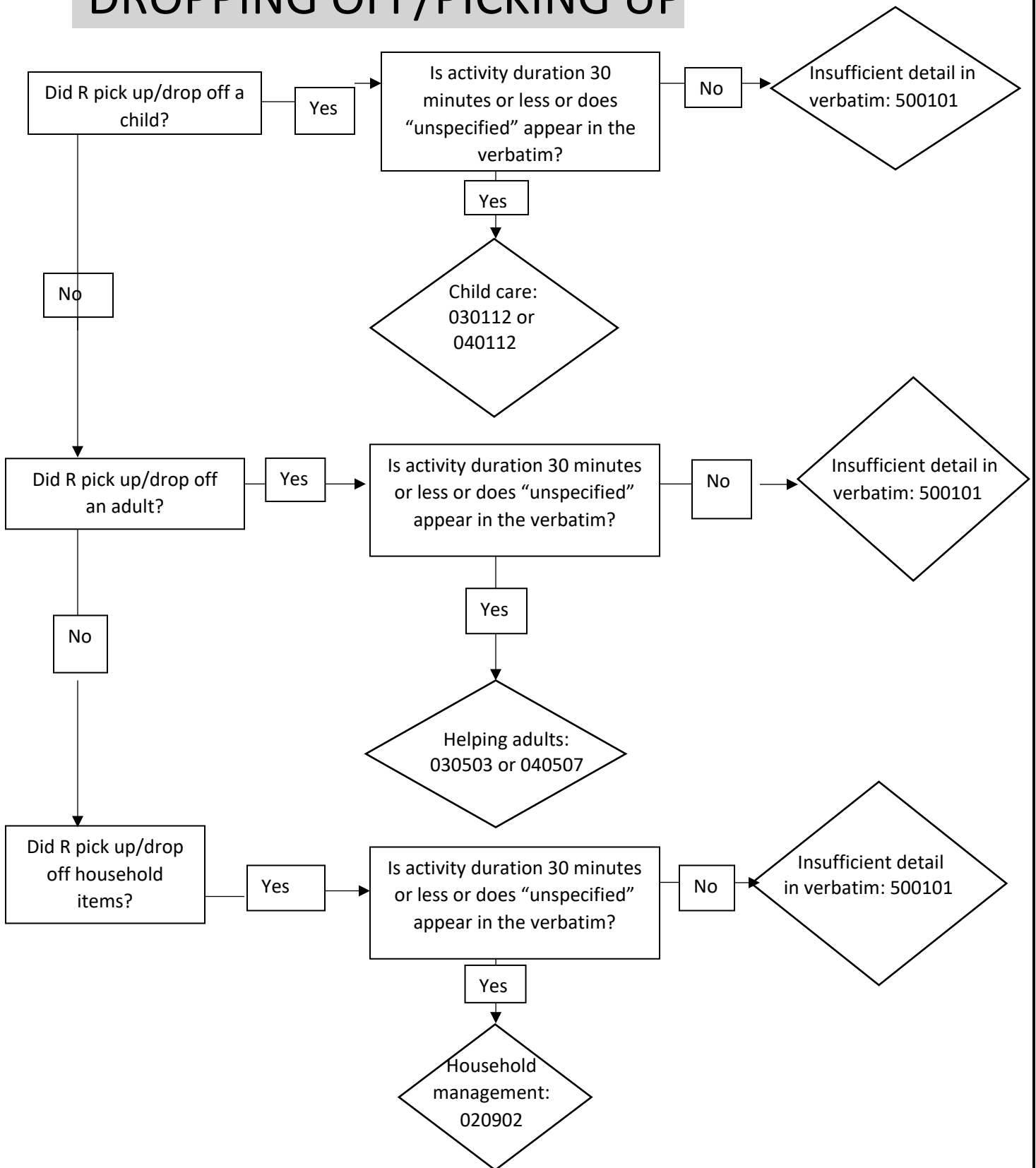
# CHILD CARE ACTIVITIES



# COMPUTER USE

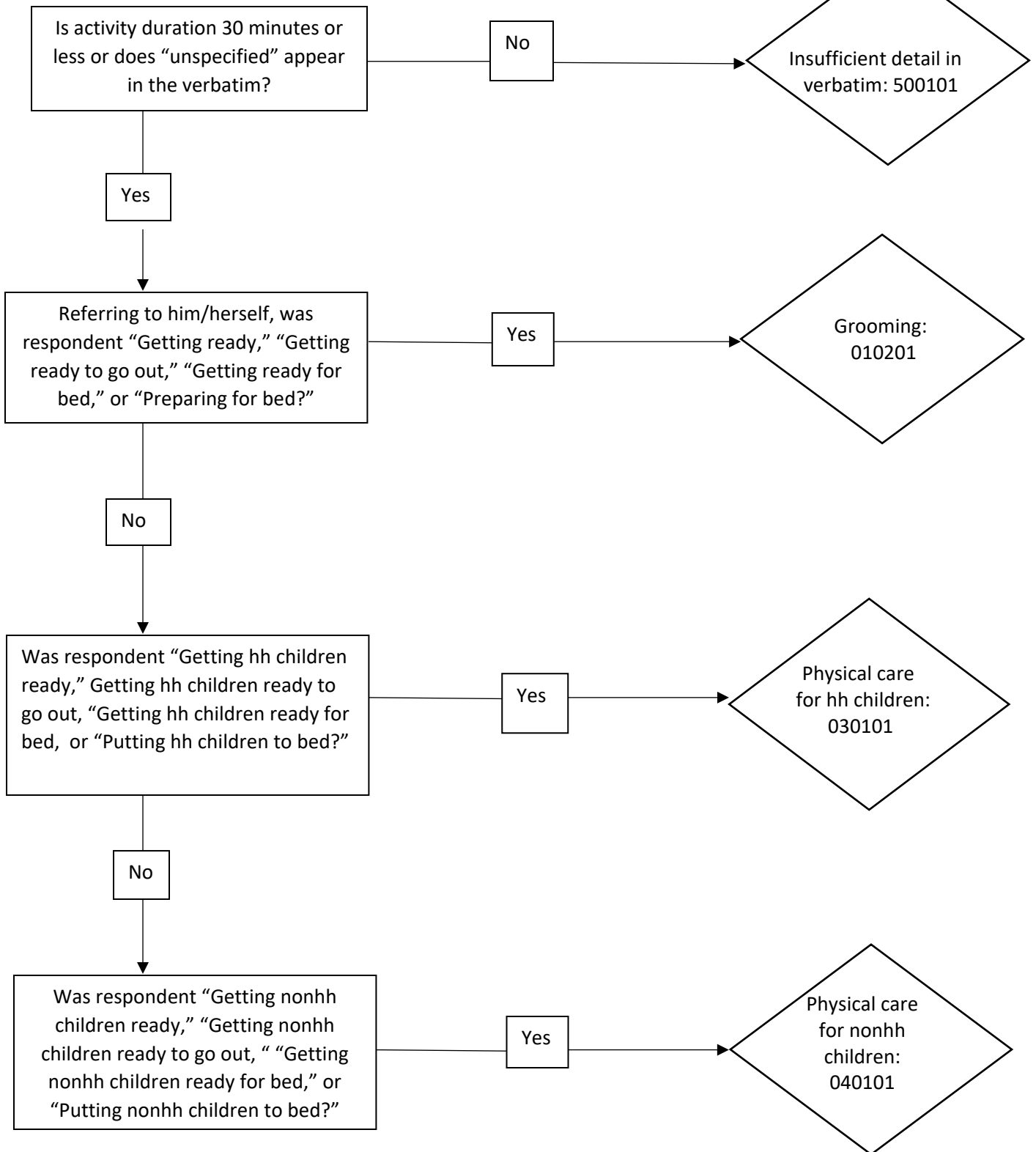


# DROPPING OFF/PICKING UP

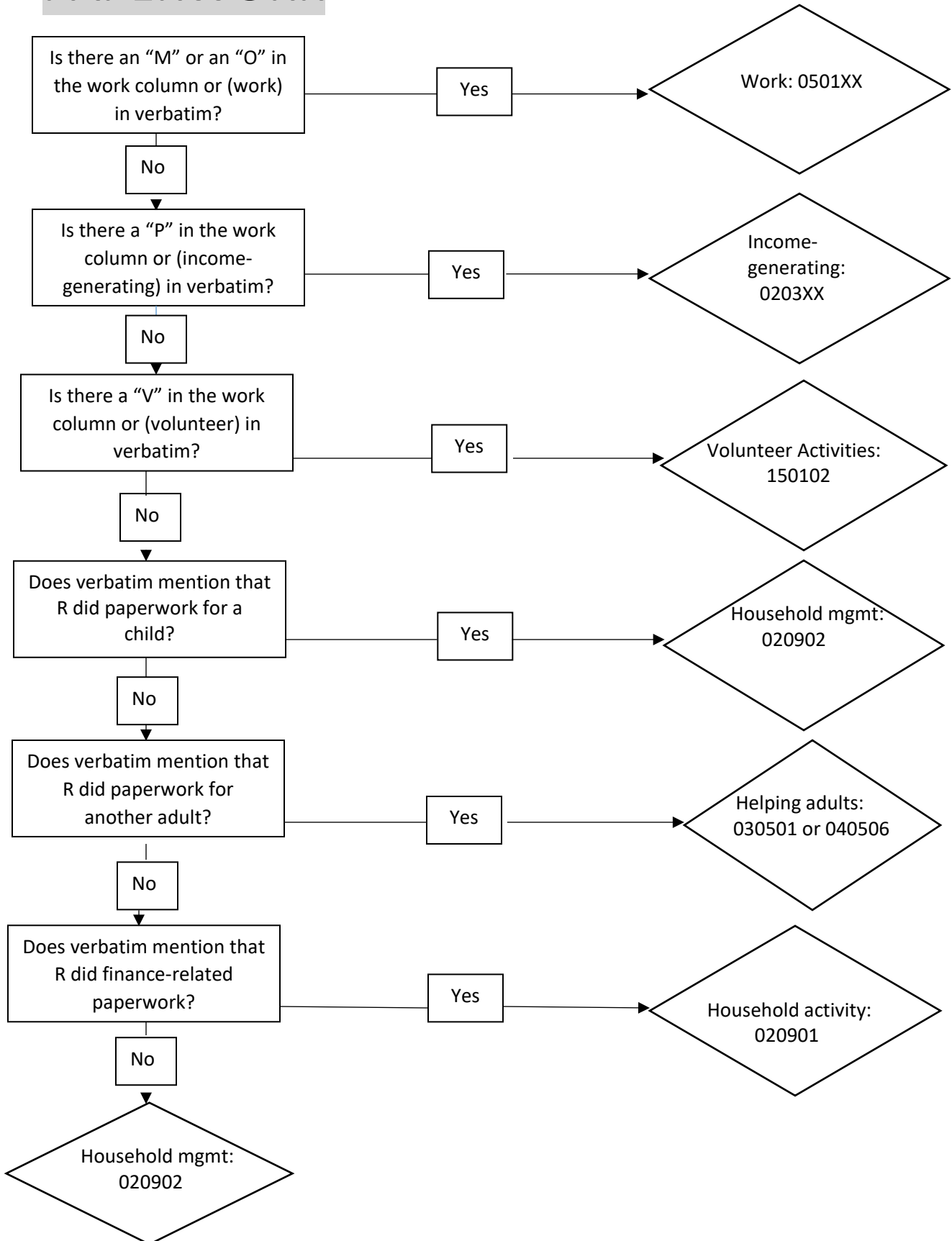




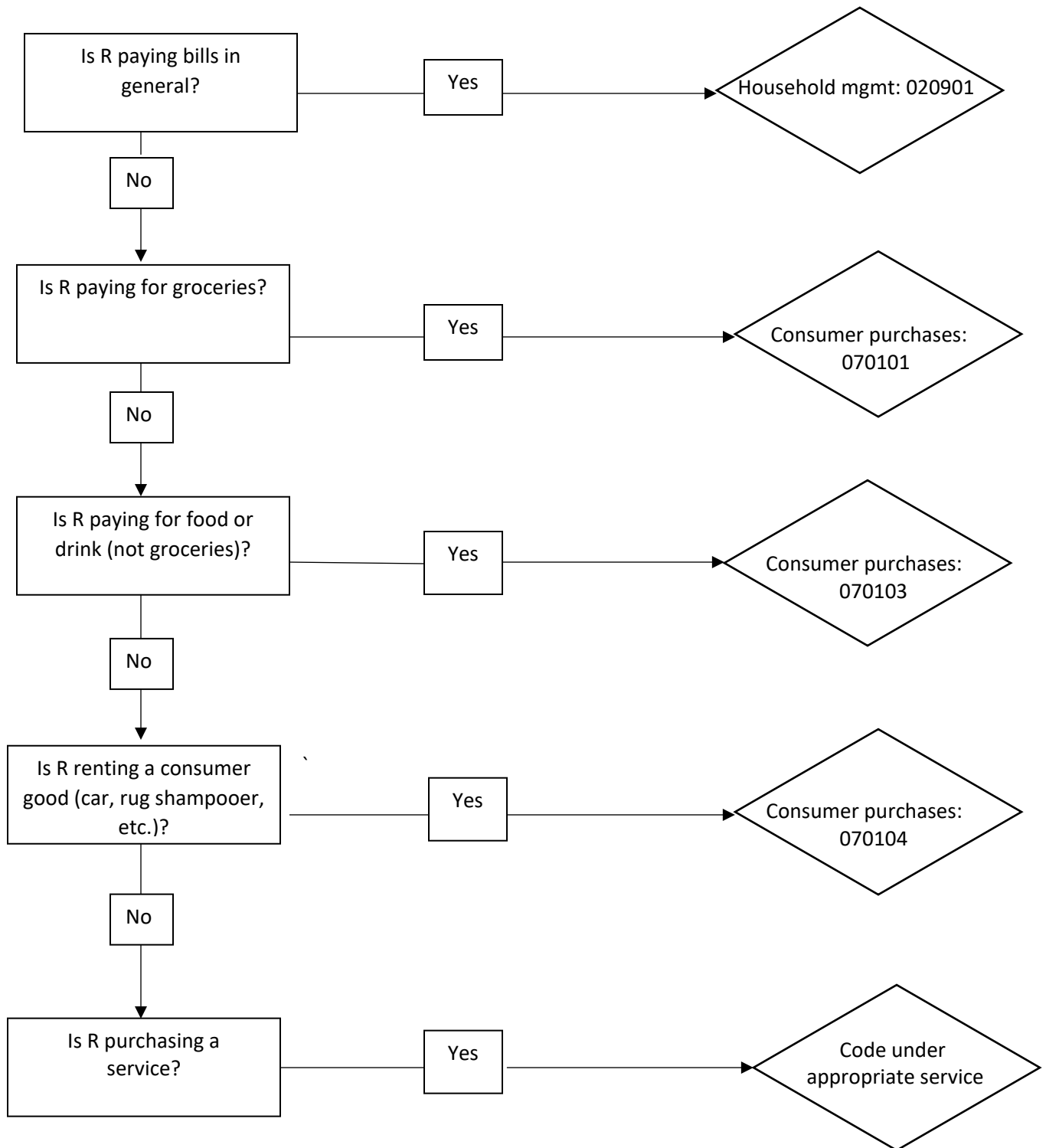
# GETTING READY/PREPARING FOR



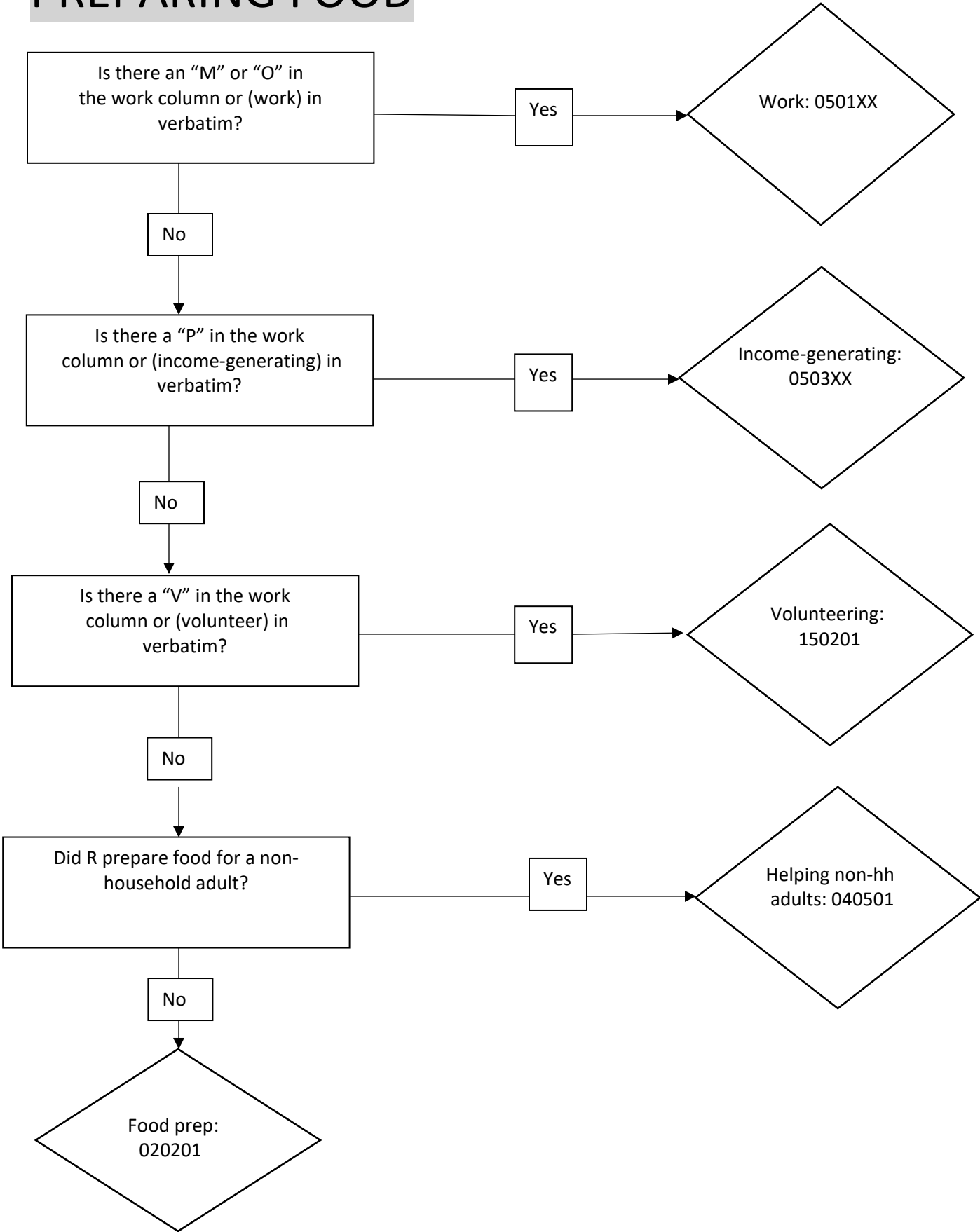
# PAPERWORK



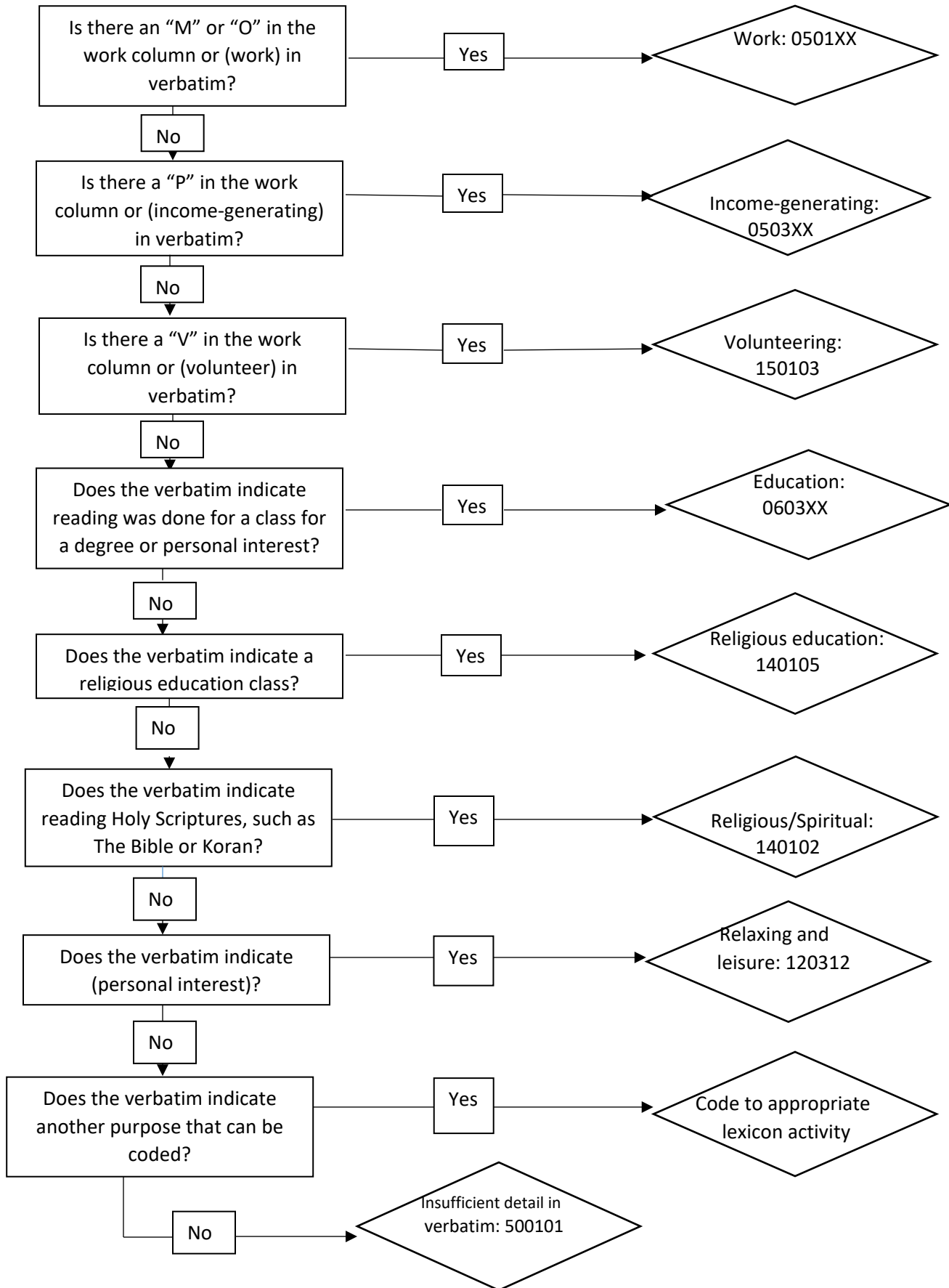
# PAYING FOR GOODS AND SERVICES



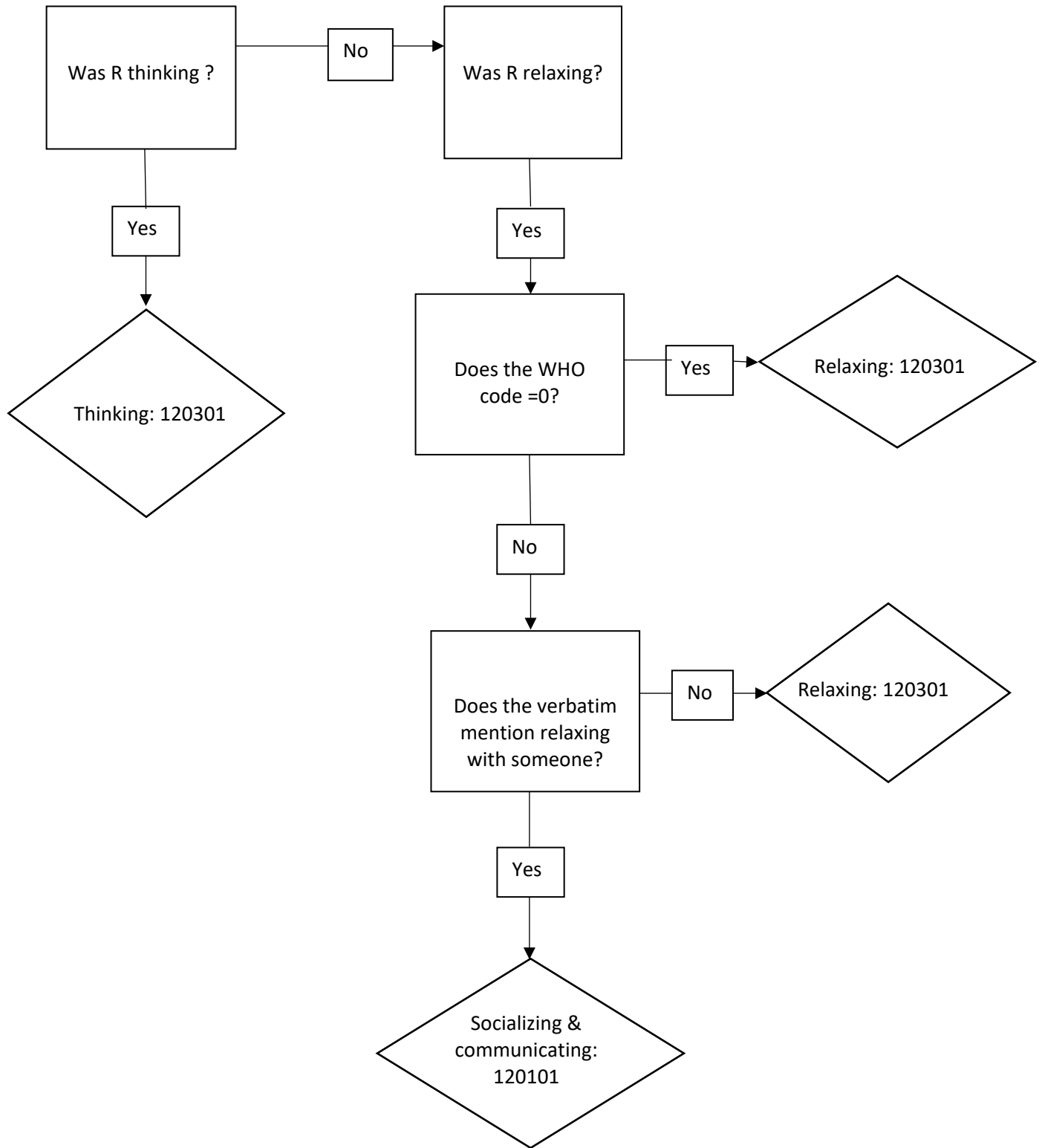
# PREPARING FOOD



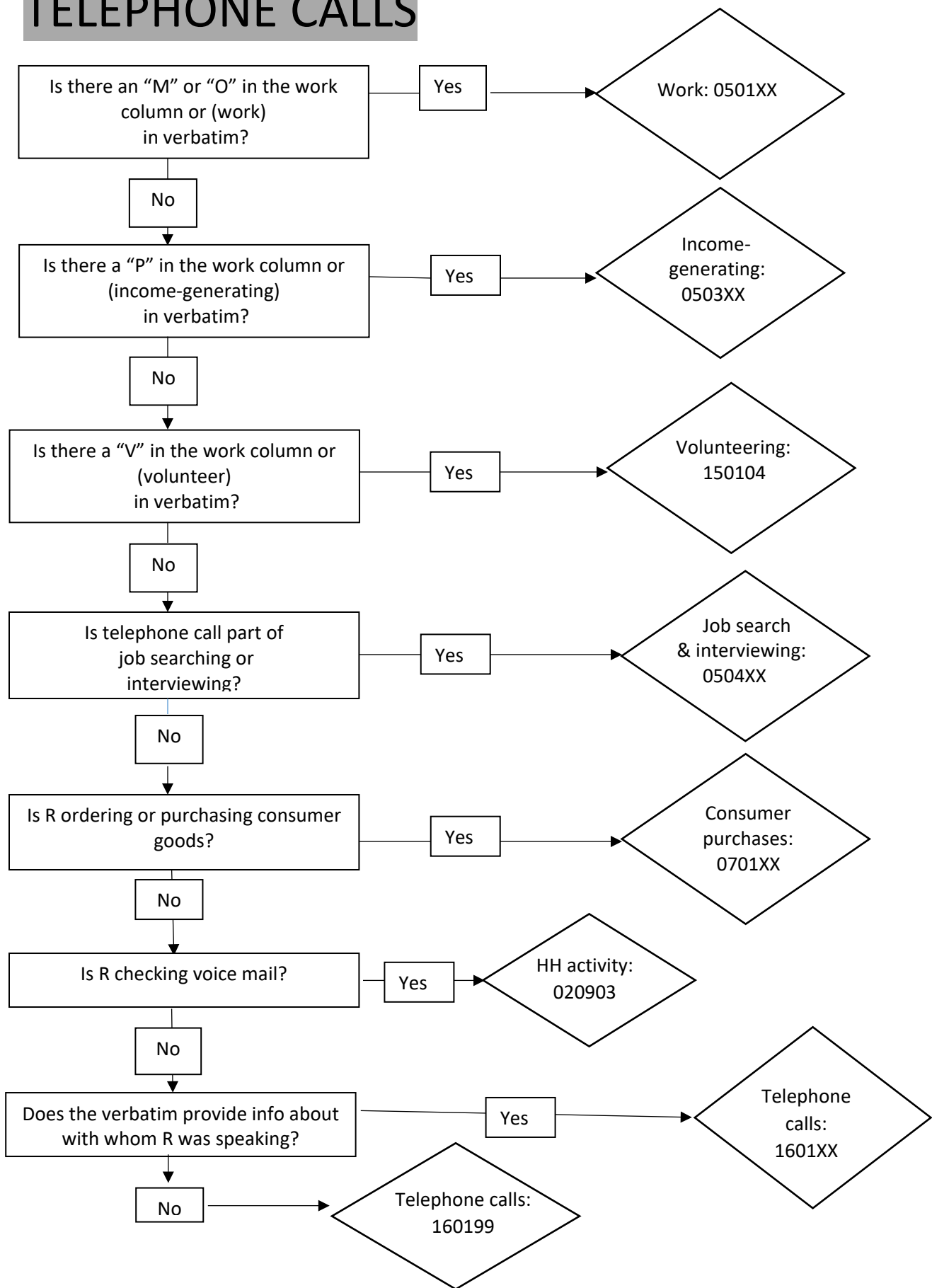
# READING



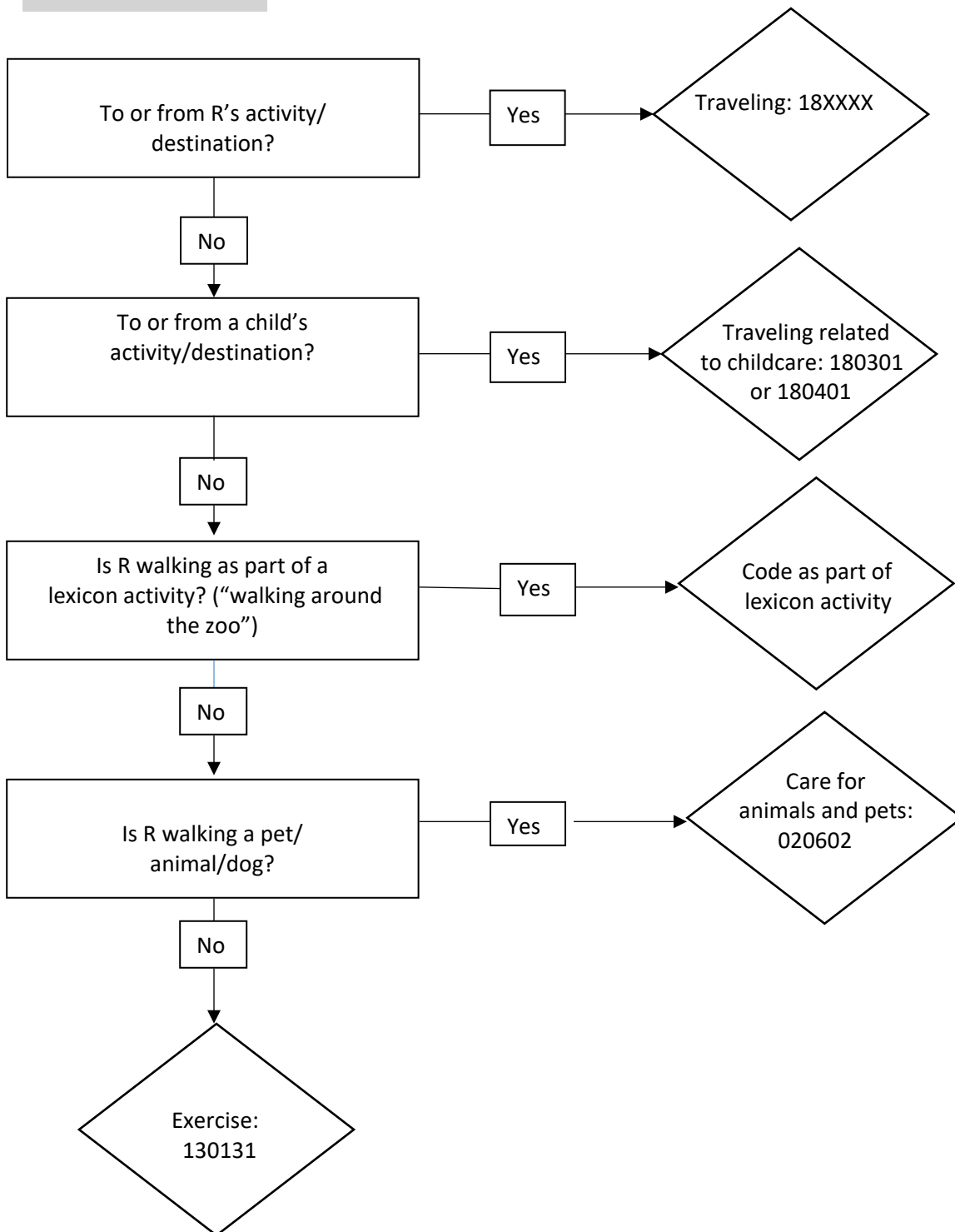
# RELAXING/THINKING



# TELEPHONE CALLS



# WALKING





# WORK AND WORK-RELATED ACTIVITIES

