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# Introduction to Survey Design and Analysis

Student workshop – hosted by the Institute  
for Public Administration

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Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of  
Public Policy & Administration

Limited/no  
generalization

- Small Group/Community
- Indepth Interviews
- Key Informant Interviews
- Administrative Data
- Feasibility Studies

- Historical case study
- Focused Interviews
- Human lab. Experiments
- Quasi-experiment/  
comparisons

Conducive to  
generalization

- Census
- Sample Surveys
- Single cross section
- Repeated cross section
- Panel studies

- Experiment/Quasi-  
experiment
- Multivariate  
analysis/simulation (better  
with longitudinal data)

DESCRIPTION

EXPLANATION

# Advantages/Disadvantages of (Sample) Surveys

## Advantages

- Generalizability
- Reliability
- Timely/Contemporary
- Quantitative in nature (always?)

## Disadvantages

- Superficial (construct/measurement/context)
- Obtrusive
- Structured – not flexible
- Based on self report
- Responses might or might not correspond with actions
- Expensive

## Steps in Research Design



Adapted by CTLT from Groves, R.M., et al. (2009) *Survey Methodology*. Wiley-Interscience.



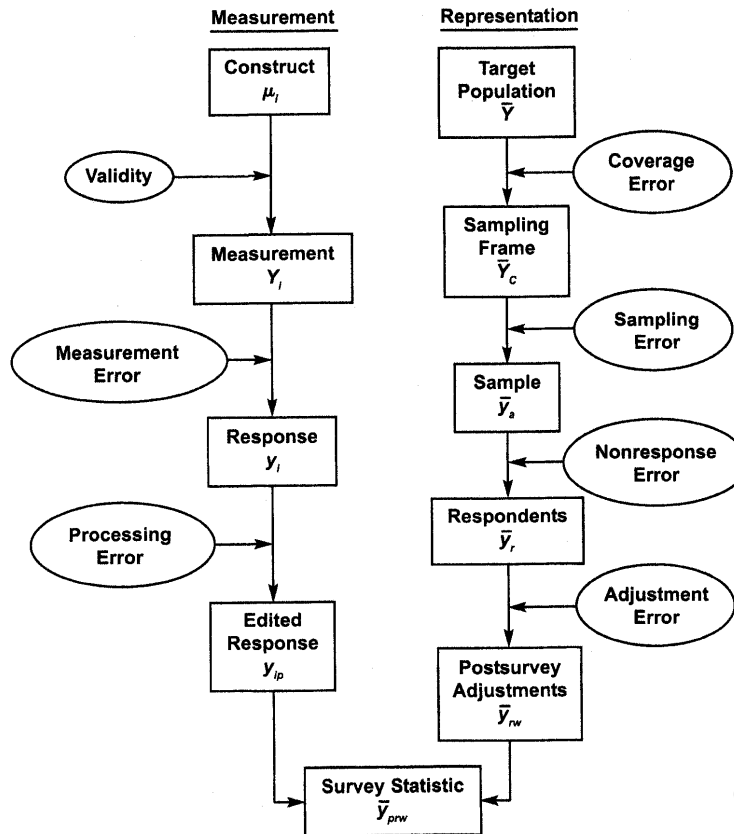
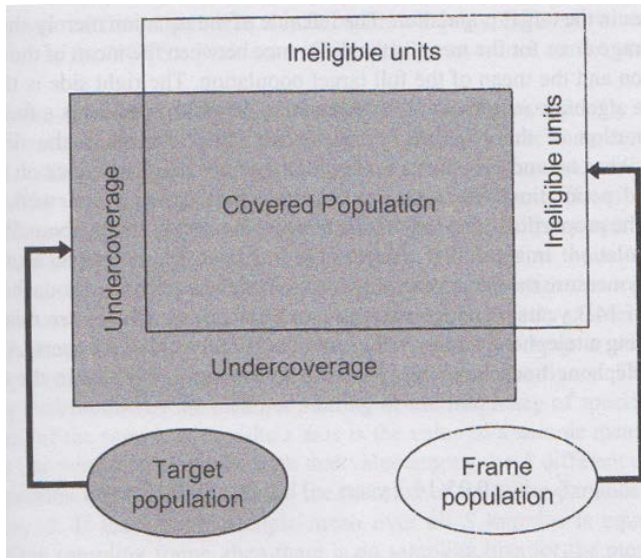


Figure 2.5 Survey life cycle from a quality perspective.

Groves, R. M., et al. (2009). *Survey Methodology*, Second Edition. Wiley.

# COVERAGE ERROR

## Frame Population(Sampling Frame) (not yet sample)C



Groves, R. M., et al. (2009).  
*Survey Methodology*, Second  
Edition. Wiley.

# COVERAGE ERROR



**Target Populaion  
(Study Population)**  
(not yet sample)



**Frame Populaion  
(Sampling Frame)**

# COVERAGE ERROR



**Target Populaion  
(Study Population)**  
(not yet sample)



**Frame Populaion  
(Sampling Frame)**



# COVERAGE ERROR

## Solution:

1. **Undercoverage – get a new (better frame) OR redefine your target population**
2. **Ineligible Units – get a new (better frame) OR ask a survey question to filter out ineligible units**

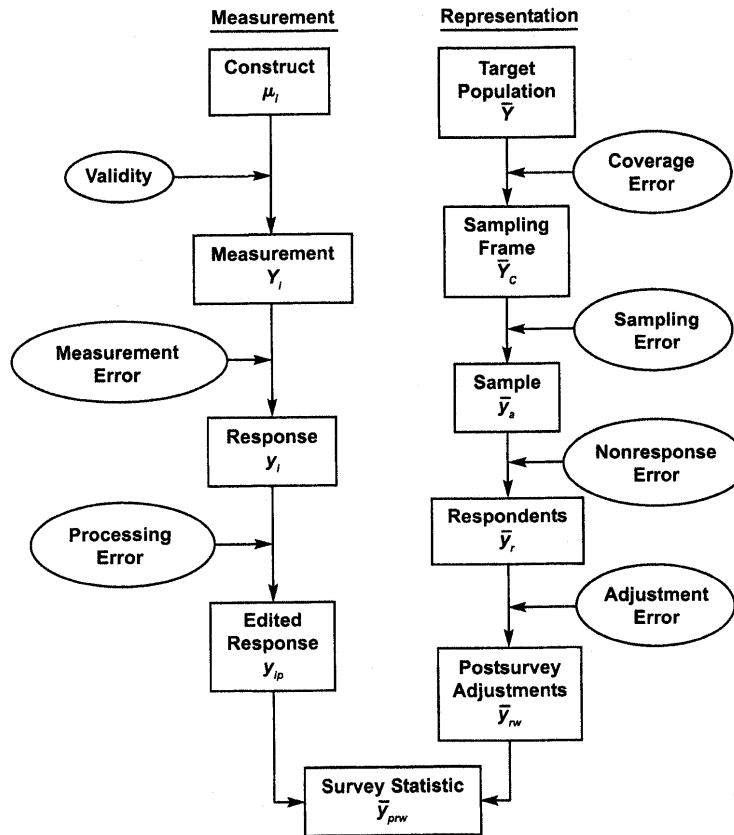
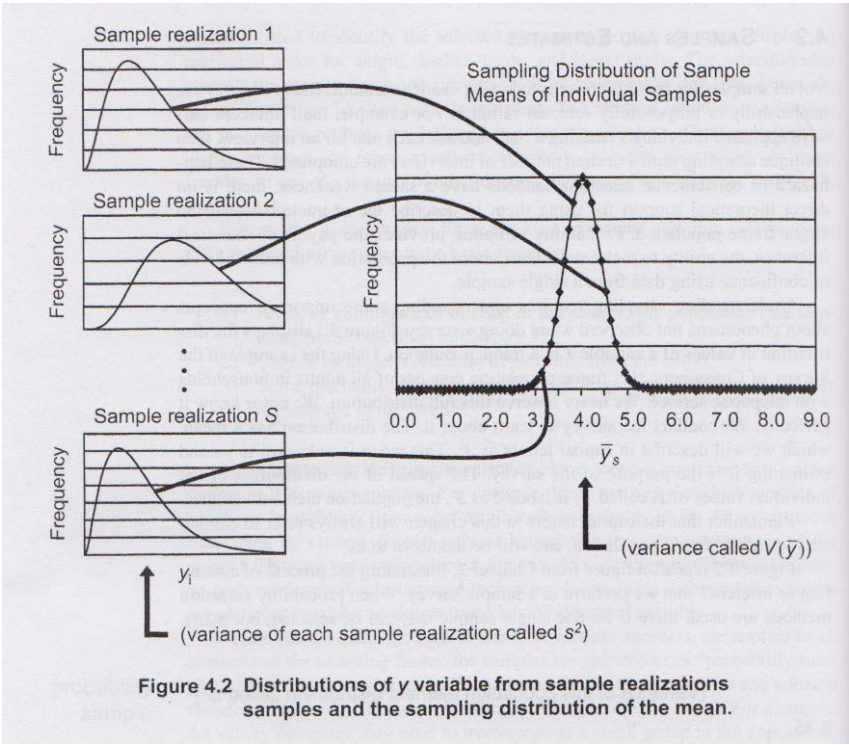


Figure 2.5 Survey life cycle from a quality perspective.

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# SAMPLING ERROR



# **SAMPLING ERROR**

## **Solution:**

- 1. Take more than one sample & aggregate (non practical since you would have to take an unlimited number of samples)**
- 2. Increase sample size**
- 3. Conduct a census**

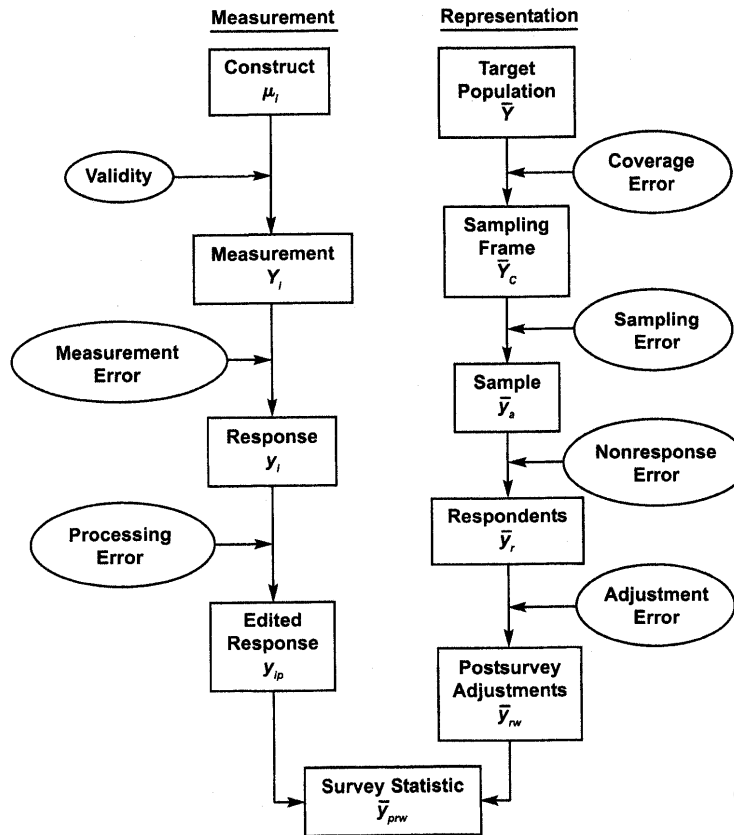
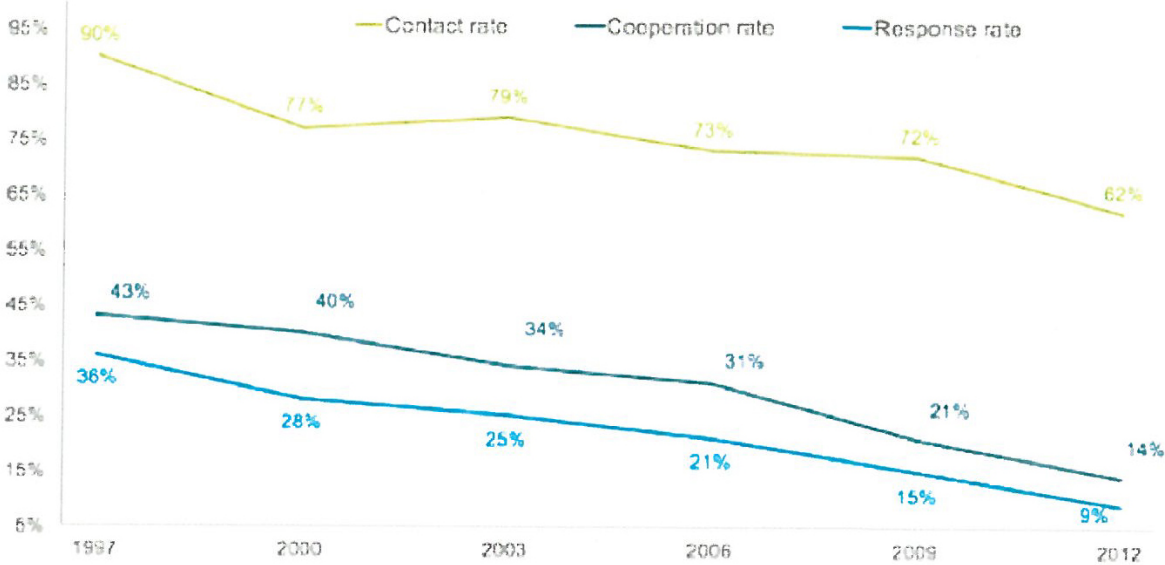


Figure 2.5 Survey life cycle from a quality perspective.

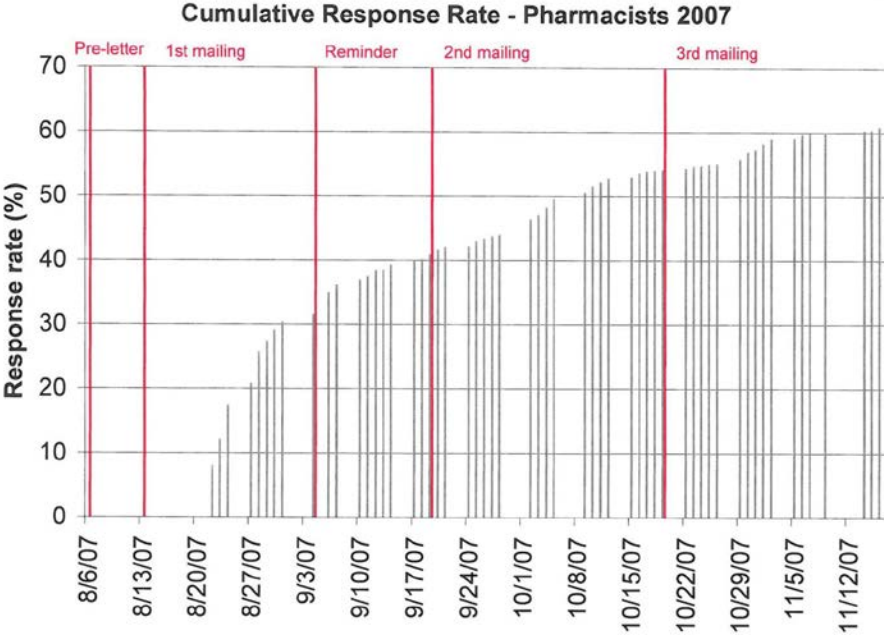
Groves, R. M., et al. (2009). *Survey Methodology*, Second Edition. Wiley.

# NON RESPONSE ERROR

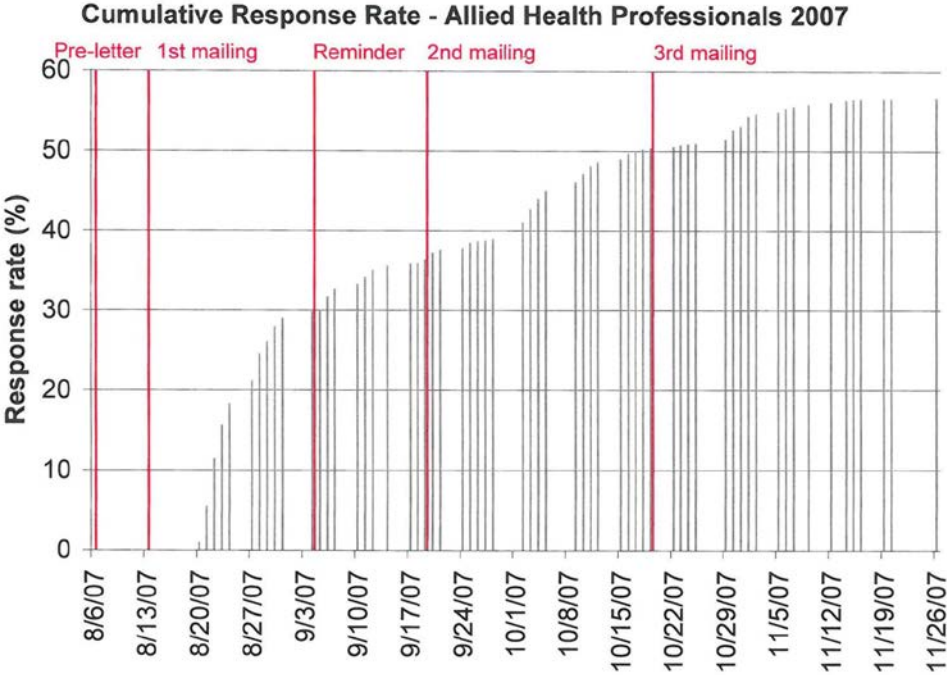


Source: Pew Research Center

# NON RESPONSE ERROR



# NON RESPONSE ERROR





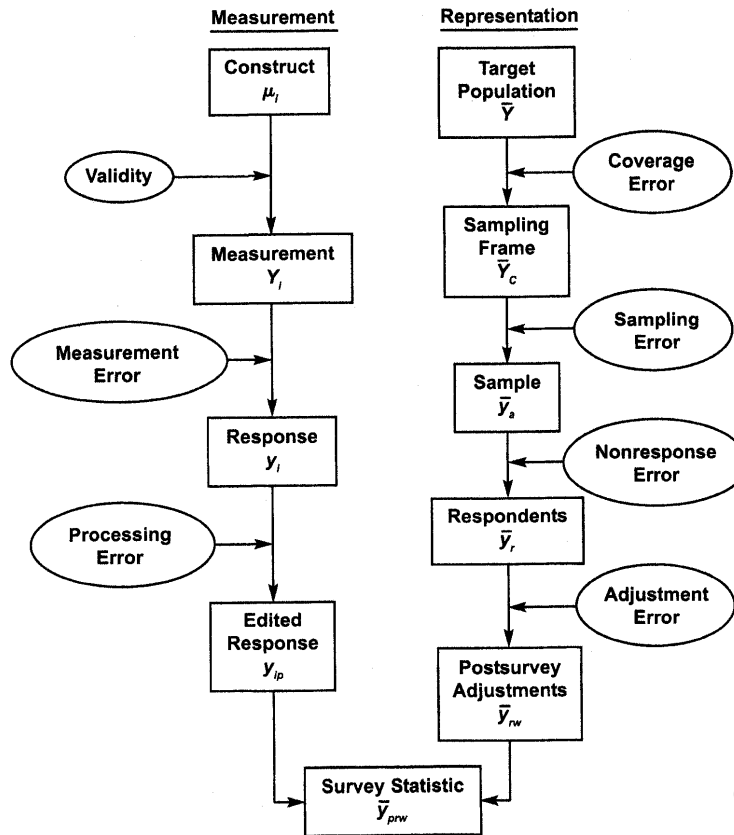


Figure 2.5 Survey life cycle from a quality perspective.

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# MEASUREMENT ERROR

## Components:

- **RELIABILITY:** Reliable questions provide a consistent measure of the phenomena in comparable situations
- **VALIDITY:** Valid questions provide answers that correspond with what we intend to measure

# MEASUREMENT ERROR

Criteria:

**Designing a question for a survey instrument is designing a measure, not a conversational inquiry.**

Does your survey question meet this criteria?

Test 1: Is the researcher asking this question because it would be nice to know or because they need to know?

# MEASUREMENT ERROR

Criteria:

**The answer to the question is valuable to the extent it can be shown to have a predictable relationship to facts or subjective states that are of interest to the researcher.** (Who did you vote for during last elections?)

Does your survey question meet this criteria?

Test 2: How do the answers to this question fit the Researcher's model outlined in Hypothesis?

## MEASUREMENT ERROR

Criteria:

**Good questions maximize the relationship between the answers recorded and what the researcher is trying to measure. (Do you support recycling?)**

Does your survey question meet this criteria?

Test 3: Is the Researcher going to obtain answers relevant to what they actually intend to measure?

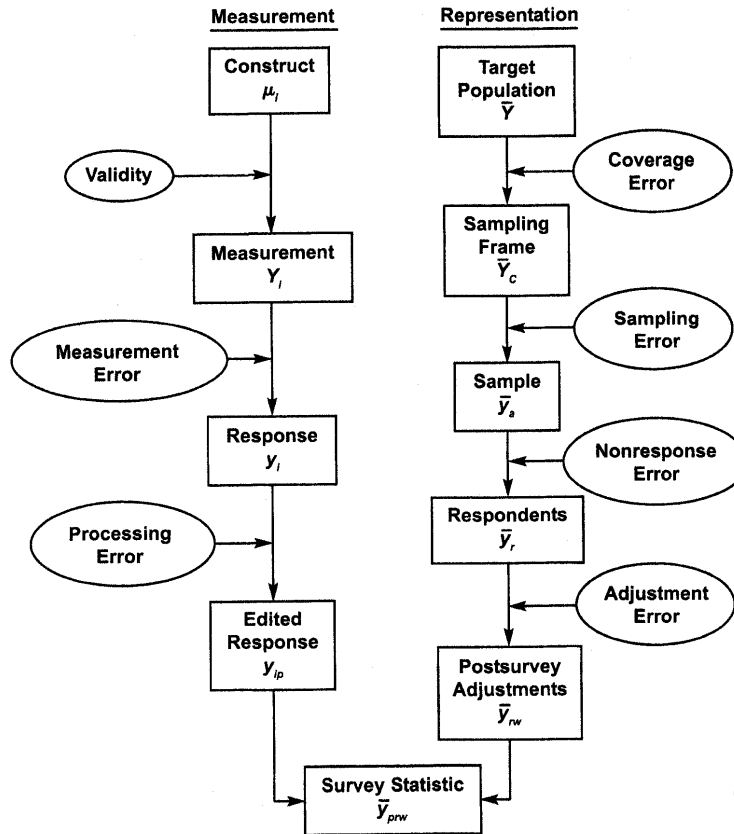


Figure 2.5 Survey life cycle from a quality perspective.

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# MEASUREMENT ERROR

Criteria:

**Good questions are simple.**

Does your survey question meet this criteria?

Test 4: Is the question worded so that the respondents can actually understand it?

# MEASUREMENT ERROR

Criteria:

**Good questions avoid acronyms and abbreviations.**

Does your survey question meet this criteria?

Test 5: Is the question worded so that abbreviations and acronyms are avoided?



# MEASUREMENT ERROR

Criteria:

**Good questions are applicable to all respondents.**

Does your survey question meet this criteria?

Test 6: Does the question apply to all?

# MEASUREMENT ERROR

Criteria:

**Good questions avoid being double barreled.**

Does your survey question meet this criteria?

Test 7: Is this definitely just one question or 2 questions in one?

# MEASUREMENT ERROR

Criteria:

**Good questions avoid leading the respondent.**

Does your survey question meet this criteria?

Test 8: Is the question leading the respondent to a certain answer – is it conditioning the respondent ?

## MEASUREMENT ERROR

Criteria:

**Good questions soften the impact of sensitive data being collected.**

Does your survey question meet this criteria?

Test 9: Did you tell the respondent why you are collecting the sensitive data? If you collect sensitive data, are you using a closed question with a range of responses?

38. Do you provide charity care (no fee expected) inside your office?

1  Yes

2  No

- TYPE: Dichotomous question – (**close ended**)
- USE: Often used for validation, mutually exclusive choices
- ANALYSIS: Frequency, %, comparison of groups

**50. What is your race?**

- 1  Caucasian or White
- 2  African American or Black
- 3  Native American or Alaskan
- 4  Asian or Pacific Islander
- 5  Multi-Racial
- 6  Other (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

**51. Are you of Hispanic origin?**

- 1  Yes
- 2  No

- TYPE: Multiple choice question – single select
- USE: Often used for validation, mutually exclusive choices
- ANALYSIS: Frequency, %, comparison of groups

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**2. Were you active in clinical medicine 12 months ago:**

- 1  No  
2  Yes, at the same location as now  
3  Yes, but at a different location  
(specify location below):

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
City	State	ZIP code

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- TYPE: Multiple choice question – single select
- USE: Often used for validation, mutually exclusive choices
- ANALYSIS: Frequency, %, comparison of groups

4. Setting of main employment is (check all that apply):

1  Clinical Care Settings:

- 1  Practitioner's Office (solo, partner of group practice)
- 2  Hospital (except federal)
- 3  Nursing Home
- 4  Freestanding Clinic (administratively distinct from a hospital, nursing home, etc.)
- 5  Federally Qualified Health Center
- 6  Treatment Facility for the Handicapped or Disabled
  
- 7  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

2  Federal Health Facility:

- 1  Veterans' Administration (VA hospital)
- 2  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

3  School:

- 1  School-Based Health Clinic
- 2  Primary or Secondary School Site; School District
- 3  School of Medicine
- 4  Other University or College
- 5  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

- TYPE: Multiple choice question – multi select – see check all that apply
  
- USE: Overlapping categories (not mutually exclusive)
  
- ANALYSIS: Frequency at which a particular option is selected among survey respondents.



### 53. What is your year of birth?

Year (YYYY)

- **TYPE:** Numeric question – numeric only (forced)
- **USE:** Collection of quantitative data, consider precision.
- **ANALYSIS:** Building regression models, both dependent and independent variables

**18.** On average, what percentage of your time is spent delivering primary care to migrant farm workers?  
(*chose one number below*):

- |                            |     |                            |     |                            |     |                             |      |
|----------------------------|-----|----------------------------|-----|----------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 0%  | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 30% | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> | 60% | 10 <input type="checkbox"/> | 90%  |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 10% | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | 40% | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> | 70% | 11 <input type="checkbox"/> | 100% |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 20% | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> | 50% | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> | 80% |                             |      |

- **TYPE:** Numeric/Multiple choice question – single select – see select one number
- **USE:** Collecting quantitative data, bit less obtrusive, when exact number is not as important.
- **ANALYSIS:** Building regression models, both dependent and independent variables

33. Are you currently treating MEDICARE patients at this site?

- 1  Yes  
2  No

If YES, about what percentage of your total hours is spent delivering care to MEDICARE patients at this site? (*please chose one number, below*)

- 1  0%    4  30%    7  60%    10  90%  
2  10%    5  40%    8  70%    11  100%  
3  20%    6  50%    9  80%

- TYPE: Dichotomous questions (Multiple choice - single select with Numeric question embeded)
- USE: Collecting quantitative data, bit less obtrusive, when exact number is not as important.
- ANALYSIS: Building regression models, both dependent and independent variables

35. Do you treat patients who have difficulty understanding English?

- 1  Yes  
2  No

If YES, about what percentage of your time is spent delivering care to these patients?

Percent

3. On average, how many hours per week do you spend on each of the following activities:

- Hours - Direct patient care or services and related paperwork
- Hours - Administration and related paperwork
- Hours - Teaching medical courses
- Hours - Research
- Hours - Other (*specify*):

- TYPE: Constant sum question – if adds up to 40hrs above
- USE: Measuring time, percentage allocation, can be effectively deployed in online data collection (force the sum)
- ANALYSIS: Building regression models, both dependent and independent variables

**45. Considering your work over the past 12 months, indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
It is hard adjusting my therapeutic strategies with ethnic minority clients	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am effective in my verbal communication with clients whose culture is different from mine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I feel confident that I can learn about my clients' cultural background	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am effective in my nonverbal communication with clients whose culture is different from mine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I feel that I have limited experience working with ethnic minority clients	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is difficult to practice skills related to cultural competence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I do not feel that I have the skills to provide services to ethnic minority clients	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would find it easy to work competently with ethnic minority clients	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- TYPE: Likert scale
- USE: measuring a respondent's opinion or belief towards a given subject; four, five, seven, or nine-point agreement scale used. Sometimes has a Non Applicable option
- ANALYSIS: Complicated;
- READINGS: McIver, J. P. & Carmines, E. G. (1981). Likert scaling. In Unidimensional scaling (pp. 23-40). SAGE Publications, Inc., <https://www-doi-org.udel.idm.oclc.org/10.4135/>

7. What are the practice name, facility name, address and zip code for your *main* location in Delaware where you practice medicine? (Main location defined as the location where you spend most time delivering care)

<input type="text"/>		
Practice Name (example: Bear-Glasgow Dental)		
<input type="text"/>		
Facility Name (People's Plaza)		
<input type="text"/>		
Street Address		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
City	State	ZIP code

- TYPE: Text entry - Contact information question
- USE: Validation of responses, calculation of weights, administrative records matching
- ANALYSIS: GEOCODIG/GIS

54. If you have any comments, please feel free to include them in the space provided below.

- TYPE: Text question
- USE: General feedback
- ANALYSIS: Data mining, keywords, getting the feel for respondent mood

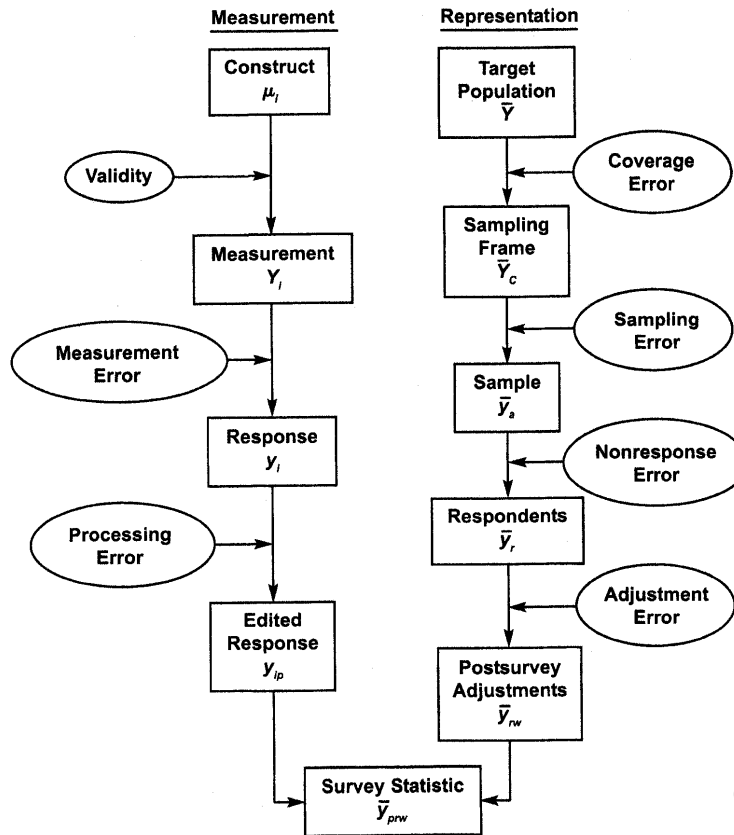


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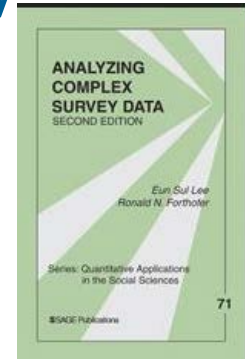
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# Resources for your Survey

## SAGE Research Methods:

<https://library.udel.edu/databases/srm/>



## Survey Questions/Examples:

ACS: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs>

ICPSR: <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/ICPSR/index.html>

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