Perhaps someone would like to answer these questions about the calculation of the AAPOR response rates. Please respond directly to Ms. Tidwell.

warren mitofsky

>From: tidwell@RIA.BUFFALO.EDU

> 

>Hello,

>I am calculating the various response (cooperation/refusal/contact) rates
>of a national RDD telephone survey using all the AAPOR methods of
>calculation. Our respondent selection criteria is based on being a member
>of the household who is 18-65, works for pay, but not in the military, and
>can complete a phone survey in English. (The next birthday method is used
>among multiple eligibles within an eligible household.) Although I've
>reviewed the RDD section of the AAPOR standard definitions of final
>disposition codes and calculation of outcome rates, I've run into several
>types of cases for which I don't find any clear cut decision rule to go
>by. I was wondering how those of you with experience in the area of RDD
>survey research would classify the following cases.

> * Disconnect Number for a case with Unknown Eligibility. Example: You have contacted what you assume to be a household (your prior attempt history includes an answering machine, etc.), but you were unable to screen the household prior to now getting an operator message that indicates that the number you are dialing is disconnected. Classifying this record as a non-eligible disconnect does not seem appropriate; this classification would seem more accurate if on the first call. Would classifying the case as a "miscellaneous other" be appropriate, or is there some other code that would capture better the final result of this case?

> * Disconnect Number for a case with Eligible Respondent, Non-Interview. Example: You have screened the household and selected the eligible participant from the household. Before you are able to contact the respondent and have him or her complete the interview, a subsequent attempt yields a disconnected number. Should this be classified as a "miscellaneous other" or some form of...
> non-contact? Although it may seem inconsequential for response and
> refusal rates, it would have an impact on the calculated cooperation and
> contact rates.
> * Refusal but not by Eligible Respondent,
> Non-Interview. Example: You have screened the household but either have
> not yet spoken to the eligible participant or have spoken to the eligible
> person who agrees to a callback. On future attempts, another household
> member hangs up on you or tells you not to call back. This seems more
> like an inability to contact the eligible respondent than a refusal at
> the Eligible, Non-Interview level. Does a refusal by a non-eligible
> party, constitute a refusal by the selected participant? If so, why?
> * Calculating "e" When calculating the estimate of Unknown
> Households and Others, e(UH + O), what goes into estimating the
> proportion? Is e equal to the % of the eligible / (eligible + all
> non-eligible numbers), or the % of the eligible / eligible + ineligible
> (screened but did not meet criteria)? I've seen this estimate calculated
> several ways. What should be the standard way?
> *
> * Thank you for taking the time to read these and for potentially
> offering solutions to these dilemmas.
>
> *

*****************************************************************************
> * Marie-Cecile O. Tidwell, Ph.D.
> * Project Director
> * National Survey of Workplace Health and Safety
> * Research Institute on Addictions
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Date: Wed, 2 Jul 2003 14:05:44 -0500
Reply-To: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
If interested, please respond to Mr. Belford direct. His e-mail address is listed below.

JDG ASSOCIATES, LTD.

MANAGER OF SURVEYS

Summary: JDG Associates, Ltd., has been engaged to conduct the search for the Manager of Surveys position at the National Education Association. The position reports to the Director of Research, and supervises a staff of 11, including six research analysts. Headquartered in Washington DC with 2.7 million members across the country, NEA is the nation's leading organization committed to advancing the cause of public education in the United States. With its mission "to promote the cause of quality public education and advance the profession of education; expand the rights and further the interest educational employees; and advocate human, civil, and economic rights for all," the NEA is currently focusing the energy and resources of its members toward the "restoration of public confidence in public education." The Manager of Surveys position supports this focus through management of NEA's program activities related to: Surveys, the Higher Education Research Center, and Education Support Professionals Information System. Membership in NEA is open to anyone who works for a public school district, a college or university, or any other public institution devoted primarily to education. For further information about NEA please visit its website: www.nea.org.

Principal Responsibilities

Provide leadership and direction in designing and conducting surveys, designing and developing databases, displaying and presenting data to assist the NEA in strategic planning, and designing and writing research reports and briefs on key education issues.

Apply management, administration, coordination, research methodology, and program evaluation skills in designing and conducting research projects.

Manage financial resources and staff assigned to the Surveys group, the Higher Education Research Center and Education Support Professionals Information System.

Empower, coach, mentor staff and ensure their professional development.

Advocate NEA's position effectively on key education issues.

Requirements: Master's Degree (Ph.D. preferred) in Education, Psychology =
or Sociology or other social science discipline; area of concentration =
must include survey research methodology and statistics. Minimum of five =
years of progressively responsible professional experience conducting =
survey research and statistical analyses, writing research papers and =
reports, and using statistical software, preferably in an advocacy =
environment. Experience in designing and managing projects, including =
experience in public speaking and in making presentations. Extensive =
management experience with responsibility for program, budget and staff, =
and in making contacts in academic and policy circles within the federal =
government, academia, state government, and the educational research =
community. Some travel required (15-20 overnights per year.)

Compensation: Salary to the low 100,000s with a strong benefits package.

CONTACT:

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----------------------------------------------------
Archives: http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html

July 3, 2003
Opinions to Spare? Click Here
By NANCY BETH JACKSON
http://www.nytimes.com/2003/07/03/technology/circuits/03surv.htm

A PENNY for your thoughts? These days your online opinion may be worth
$1 or more as market researchers try to reach consumers who have grown
increasingly reluctant to respond to surveys conducted by telephone, by
mail or in person. In the process, they are changing the way research is
done and raising questions about whose voice is being heard.

SNIP

Online surveys began appearing in academic and marketing circles about a
decade ago, first as scattered e-mail messages and then in online focus
groups. Early participants were predominantly male, like the Internet
population at the time, but now women are overrepresented on many panels, particularly those involving shopping.

"It's wondrous how fast Internet research is growing," said Laurence N. Gold, editor and publisher of Inside Research, a newsletter for the market research industry. Mr. Gold said that in 2000, only 10 percent of all market research spending involved Internet surveys, compared with a projected 23.6 percent this year. By 2006, he anticipates, online market research will account for 33 percent, or about $900 million. About three-quarters of all market research firms already have some online presence, he said.

The Internet has yet to penetrate households to the extent that would allow it to reflect broad public opinion in the way the random telephone surveys traditionally used in political polling do. But its potential for plumbing the attitudes, behavior and desires of consumers - if not voters - intrigues long-established research firms. Zogby International, which does market research surveys and public opinion polling, predicts at its Web site that "the computer will gradually replace the telephone as the most efficient vehicle for survey research."

SNIP

"We do the old things better, but what's left to be done is to invest the new things the medium allows you to do," said Eric J. Johnson, a Columbia University marketing professor who began organizing online panels in 1996. "We can experiment with what makes survey completion easy for people, the order and kinds of questions, and how long it takes for a respondent to answer a question."

SNIP

What's more, nobody has to transfer the answers into a database. "You have offloaded all the work to the customers," said Donna Hoffman, a co-founder of the eLab research center at Vanderbilt University and a psychologist specializing in electronic commerce.

Although professional organizations like the American Association for Public Opinion Research express concern that online surveys will be used as to sell products, I was never asked to buy anything during or after any of the surveys. That is not to say that my behavior was not influenced. As if playing a game, I tried to guess what company or industry was sponsoring the study, and I generally knew by the time the survey was over. I started paying more attention to television commercials, sports events sponsors, casinos and cars. I bought my first battery-powered toothbrush some weeks after the toothbrush survey. I paused during a coffee survey to brew a cup.

That was a classic reaction, Dr. Hoffman said. "We know from years of experiments in psychology research that experiments influence behavior," she said. "When you are asked what do you think about X, then you start thinking about X."

Manipulation or priming during the study could taint the results, she
said, but respondents may benefit by becoming aware of issues and products they had not considered, leading to "a generation of consumers who have never been better informed."

Yet some researchers fear that online surveys exclude voices, raise issues about sampling techniques and accuracy, train people to become professional respondents, and devalue surveys by making them a new form of electronic junk mail.

Despite the expansion of the Internet, some social and economic groups are still vastly underrepresented online, said John Stevenson, associate director of the University of Wisconsin Survey Center. Unlike random phone surveys, in which far more people would have a chance to be contacted, an Internet panel does not represent "average" Americans.

The self-selected participant is set apart first by having an e-mail address and secondly by signing up at a Web site or clicking on a pop-up window. Faster modems and more powerful computers may encourage proportionately more participation from yet another subgroup.

"The challenge of Web surveys is who are we getting, who does this represent, are we getting who we think we're getting," Mr. Stevenson said. "Even when you know, it's a challenge. When we've been successful, it's working with fixed audiences, not in general public surveys."

One thing is certain: with papers on Web surveys surfacing at academic conferences, there is "a whole body of research waiting to happen," Mr. Stevenson said. Research on research, that is.

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410-377-7880 ext. 14
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Archives: http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html

Date:         Thu, 3 Jul 2003 16:31:53 -0400
Reply-To:     "Ratledge, Edward" <ratledge@UDEL.EDU>
Sender:       AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From:         "Ratledge, Edward" <ratledge@UDEL.EDU>
Subject:      Editorial on the Global Attitudes Project of the Pew Research Cen
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
PUBLIC OPINION

The Anti-Americans
Do foreigners really hate us--or is it just pollsters?

BY FOUAD AJAMI
Thursday, July 3, 2003 12:01 a.m. EDT

America is unloved in the alleyways of Nablus and Karachi, and in the cafes of Paris: The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press came forth last month with news of anti-Americanism in foreign lands. Its Global Attitudes Project, directed by the pollster Andrew Kohut, and chaired and advised by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, told us that the "bottom has fallen out" of support for America in the Muslim world, that the rift has widened between Americans and Europeans. From 20 countries, pollsters returned with what they took to be evidence of a growing animus toward the U.S. Only 1% of Palestinians think "favorably" of the U.S.; the numbers are not much better in Jordan and Pakistan. Turkey, once reliably anchored in the Pax Americana, is now of a piece with its neighbors: only 15% of Turks now report positive views of the U.S. Leave the Muslim lands behind, and this anti-Americanism has infected other places and peoples--all the way from South Korea, where American power underpins Korean security, to France and Russia.

Americans ache to be loved in foreign places, and now the world denies us. But a mix of partisanship and naiveté runs through this survey. Consider this leading question and the trail it opens: What's the problem with the U.S.?, the pollsters ask. Is it "mostly Bush," or "America in general," or both? Not surprisingly, President Bush is the culprit in France and Germany (74% attribute their anti-Americanism to him).

What does all this mean? What are we to make of the hatred in Egypt, etc.? ...
for instance? Vast American treasure has been invested there, thousands of that
crowded country's citizens have made it to America's shores and escaped destitution. But we are never benevolent in Egyptian eyes, and a kind of
generalized anger toward America has taken hold there. "Nations follow the religion of their kings," an Arab expression has it. The
anti-Americanism of Egypt is the malignant strain that leaders wink at. You
can't rail against Hosni Mubarak; so anti-Americanism is the permissible
politics. Where the dream of modernism atrophies, as it has in Egypt, and a
culture of abdication settles in, a people are easy prey to any doctrine
that absolves them of responsibility for their own world. Anti-Americanism
is the placebo. There is no need in a culture of this kind to ask the crowd
for consistency, to query the academic who does well by American foundation
grants why he harbors such hate for America. The Pew pollsters fall for a
legend and an evasion that those who rail against America often put forth to
pretty up their anti-Americanism: It is not individual Americans they hate,
but the United States! This is pure sophistry, but the pollsters report it
as credible sentiment.

Consider Turkey next. It is odd among the Turks, this anti-Americanism. In
their modern history, the Turks have been serious and empirical, not given
to the cluster of sentiments that give anti-Americanism its potency in France or among the intellectuals of the Third World. Years ago,
Mustafa Kemal Ataturk pointed Turkey westward, gave it a dream of renewal and self-help, and distanced it from its Arab-Muslim hinterland. But that was
then, and now Kemalism has come apart. The secular, modernist dream in Turkey has cracked; and anti-Americanism blows Turkey's way from the Arab
lands, and from Brussels and Berlin. The fury of the Turkish protests against America's war plans in Iraq had a pathology all its own. It was nature imitating art: The Turks burning American flags, superimposing swastikas on portraits of President Bush, went at it, it seemed, in the hope that Europeans (real Europeans, that is) would take Turkey into the fold. The American presence had been benign and
benevolent in Turkey. Americans have been Ankara's advocates in the European
councils of power, and have been free of the Turkophobia just beneath the
surface of European life. But suddenly this relationship that served Turkey
so well was no longer good enough. The "soft" Islamists (there is no such
thing, we should know by now) hacked at the Pax Americana; secularists averted their gaze and let stand this new anti-Americanism. Pollsters calling on the Turks found a people in distress, their economy on the ropes,
their polity in an unfamiliar world beyond the simple certainties of Kemalism.

Running through the Pew survey is the explicit assumption that it had been
to better for America before the "unilateralism," and our campaign in Iraq: We
called up this anti-Americanism. But leave the false empiricism of these
numbers, and there is nothing new in Amman, and Cairo, and Paris. No one
said good things about America in Egypt in the 1990s, either. It was then
that the Islamists of Egypt had taken to the road, to Hamburg and Kandahar,
to hatch a monstrous conspiracy against the U.S. And it was then, during our
fabled stock market run, when globalizers were celebrating the triumph of
our economic model over the protected versions in places like France, when
anti-Americanism became the uncontested ideology of French public life. We
were barbarous, a threat to their cuisine, to their language. Our pension
funds were acquiring their assets. We executed too many criminals. All this
during a decade when we were told that we were loved abroad.

Much has been made of the sympathy that the French expressed for America in
the immediate aftermath of Sept. 11, and of the speed with which America
presumably squandered that sympathy. Much has been made of that editorial in
Le Monde, "Nous Sommes Tous Americains"--We Are All Americans--penned after
Sept. 11. But it took the paper precious little time to revoke the sympathy
it had expressed on Sept. 12. To maintain France's sympathy, and that of Le
Monde, we would have had to turn the other cheek to al Qaeda, and engage the
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flatters
France, and gives its unwanted Muslims a claim on the political life of a
country that knows not what to do with them.

"America is everywhere," Ignazio Silone once observed. An idea of it, a
fantasy of it, hovers over distant lands. In the days that followed the
attacks of Sept. 11, a young Palestinian gave expression to the image
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He had implicated America in his life's circumstances. You can't reason with
his worldview. You can only wish for him deliverance from his incoherence--or go there, questionnaire in hand, and return with dispatches
of people at odds with American policies. You can make foreigners say the
sort of things about America you wanted to say yourself. It is an old literary trick. Everyone knew that Montesquieu's "Persian Letters" were indeed Parisian letters, a writer's device to chronicle France's foibles in the early 18th century. His "Persians," Rhedi and Usbek, spoke of France. It is our American pollsters we hear speaking to us through those Turks and Arabs and Frenchmen who, on cue, were ready to speak of America's alienation from the rest of the world.

Mr. Ajami, a professor at Johns Hopkins, is a contributing editor of U.S.
News & World Report.

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Ed Ratledge
University of Delaware

Archives: http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html
Please remove my name from the AAPORNET Index mailing list. I am going crazy trying to get my name removed. Can you help me? Thnx. Joie B. Hubbert

Archives: http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html

Date: Fri, 4 Jul 2003 01:28:58 +0100
Reply-To: Nick Moon <N.Moon@NOPWORLD.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Nick Moon <N.Moon@NOPWORLD.COM>
Subject: Re: Editorial on the Global Attitudes Project of the Pew Research Center
Comments: To: "AAPORNET@asu.edu" <AAPORNET@asu.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1

I'm sure that if we looked hard enough in the archives we would find an editorial in an English paper at the time of the Indian Mutiny saying much the same thing. And indeed throughout the whole period of the unravelling of the Empire

"But we've done so much good for the Indians. They'd be savages without us. How can they possibly dislike us?"

In fact the British papers probably said the same thing at the time of the American War of Independence.

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So let me get this right, according to Professor Ajami: Pollsters (specifically the people over at Pew) are writing biased questions for their international polls so as to be able to trumpet their own views.

Of course he only mentions one "leading" question and he takes that out of context (only people who respond negatively to a previous question get asked):

See question 6b in:

A quick review of the responses seems to indicate that most people are not focusing on his tarring of pollsters though a few people do seem to be buying his line:

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703

I hope some other polling professionals will respond.

--=
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-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNERT [mailto:AAPORNERT@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ratledge, Edward
Sent: Thursday, July 03, 2003 4:32 PM
To: AAPORNERT@asu.edu
Subject: Editorial on the Global Attitudes Project of the Pew Research Cen
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Do foreigners really hate us--or is it just pollsters?

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It is our American pollsters we hear speaking to us through those Turks and
Arabs and Frenchmen who, on cue, were ready to speak of America's alienation from the rest of the world.
Mr. Ajami, a professor at Johns Hopkins, is a contributing editor of U.S. News & World Report.
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Ed Ratledge
University of Delaware

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Archives: http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html
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Archives: http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html
Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

Date:         Mon, 7 Jul 2003 15:21:15 -0400
Reply-To:     "Redline, Cleo D." <credline@NSF.GOV>
Sender:       AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From:         "Redline, Cleo D." <credline@NSF.GOV>
Subject:      The National Science Foundation is Requesting Proposals
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu

General Information

Document Type: Modification to a Previous Presolicitation Notice
Solicitation Number: DACS-03-0048
Posted Date:       Jul 02, 2003
Original Response Date:

Current Response Date:
Original Archive Date: Dec 01, 2003
Current Archive Date: Dec 01, 2003
Classification Code: R -- Professional, administrative, and management support services

Contracting Office Address

National Science Foundation, Division of Acquisition and Cost Support, DACS,
4201 Wilson Boulevard Room 475, Arlington, VA, 22230

Description
The Science Resources Statistics (SRS) Division of the National Science Foundation (NSF) requires assistance to develop a data collection methodology for collecting data on research instrumentation from academic institutions and biomedical research organizations. This will be a phased competition, in which one or more contractors will be selected during Phase I to develop one or more data collection methodologies, and subsequently during Phase II, the Government will conduct a down select competition between Phase I contractors to select a contractor to conduct the data collection. Only those contractors selected for Phase I will be permitted to proceed to Phase II. A Cost-Plus-Fixed-Fee (CPFF) service contract is anticipated. NSF anticipates that the period of performance for Phase I shall be approximately 18 months, and the period of performance for Phase II shall be approximately 42 months. The anticipated Request for Proposals (RFP) release date is revised from July 1, 2003 to July 9, 2003. No telephone requests for the solicitation will be accepted. Interested firms must check the Internet at the address below to obtain the actual release date. Copies of the solicitation, attachments and any amendments to the solicitation will only be available by downloading from the NSF website at http://www.nsf.gov/home/about/contracting/index.cfm. There will be no hard (paper) copies of the solicitation made available.

Original Point of Contact

Christopher Robey, Contract Specialist, Phone (703) 292-8855, Fax (703) 292-9140/9141, Email crobey@nsf.gov - Patricia Williams, Section Head, Section II, Phone (703) 292-4596, Fax (703) 292-9140/9141, Email pswillia@nsf.gov

Current Point of Contact

Christopher Robey, Contract Specialist, Phone (703) 292-8855, Fax (703) 292-9140/9141, Email crobey@nsf.gov - Patricia Williams, Section Head, Section II, Phone (703) 292-4596, Fax (703) 292-9140/9141, Email pswillia@nsf.gov

Place of Performance

Address: N/A

Archives: http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html
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POSITION AVAILABILITY NOTICE

Position: Manager Telephone Survey Laboratory

The Public Opinion Laboratory, a survey research center associated with Northern Illinois University, is seeking an experienced operations manager to oversee all aspects of its 45-station CATI facility. This position has responsibility for day-to-day data collection operations in a telephone lab with a payroll of over 100 interviewers and supervisors. Duties include establishing and enforcing policies and procedures to maintain lab productivity and quality standards to meet project requirements, maintaining lab staffing levels consistent with cost-effective operation, establishing and monitoring production standards and performance measures, handling employee relations matters, and coordinating multiple projects with POL project managers. The lab manager also will work with project managers on sampling strategy and survey instrument development.

A bachelor's degree is absolutely required and master's degree strongly preferred in a social science, business management, or similarly relevant discipline with a minimum of three years directly related work experience. Additional project management and supervisory experience beyond this minimum is a plus.

This is a full-time professional staff position at Northern Illinois University. NIU offers an attractive package of benefits and educational opportunities and participates in the State Universities Retirement System. NIU is an affirmative action/equal employment opportunity institution.

Interested individuals must submit a letter of application, résumé, and names of three references to*

   Director, Public Opinion Laboratory
   Northern Illinois University
   148 North Third Street
   DeKalb, IL  60115

Deadline: Complete applications must be received by August 15, 2003.
Barbara Burrell
Associate Director
Public Opinion Laboratory
and
Associate Professor
Political Science
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115
815-753-9657

Archives: http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html
Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

Date:       Mon, 7 Jul 2003 21:15:25 -0500
Reply-To:   Barbara Smela <bsmelc@EARTHLINK.NET>
Sender:     AAPORNENET <AAPORNENET@ASU.EDU>
From:       AAPORNENET <AAPORNENET@ASU.EDU>
Subject:    PSA Recall

Greetings,
    I have a public sector client who is running Public Service
Announcements and signs on the side of their trucks about their city
services. They would like to know what level of recall they should be
looking for in the annual survey we do for them. We know recall has been
over the last few years, but they are looking for some "outside" numbers
with which to compare.
    Any ideas? Sources?

Thanks.

H.Stuart Elway
Elway Research, Inc.
206/264-1500 x14
From: Barbara Smela <bsmela@EARTHLINK.NET>
Subject: Courtesy bias
Comments: To: aapornet@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

I am trying to find documentation of cross national differences in responses to scaled items. I know from my own experience that, on a one to ten scale with one being negative and ten being positive, respondents in some cultures will routinely respond with very positive scores while in others they are more likely to stay in the middle and still others go for the extremes. I have lots of anecdotal material but need documentation. I am interested primarily in Latin American countries and how they compare with the U.S. and Canada but any examples of cross national differences would be helpful.

Thank you,
Barbara Smela
Maritz Research

Archives: http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html
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Date: Tue, 8 Jul 2003 07:25:06 +0200
Reply-To: braun@zuma-mannheim.de
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Michael Braun <braun@ZUMA-MANNHEIM.DE>
Organization: ZUMA
Subject: Call for Papers 6th International Conference GERMAN ONLINE RESEARCH
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; format=flowed
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

CALL FOR PAPERS

Sixth International GOR Conference
GOR 04
GERMAN ONLINE RESEARCH '04

30th and 31st March, 2004
at the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany

Organizers:
--------

German Society for Online Research - DGOF e.V.
Social Survey Research Center,
Institute of Sociology, University Duisburg-Essen
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------

The 6th German Online Research Conference 2004 is jointly organized by the German Society for Online Research (DGOF e.V.), and the Social Survey Research Center (Prof. Dr. Frank Faulbaum) of the University of Duisburg-Essen. The conference will be held at the university campus in Duisburg.

Conference topics include theories, methods, and empirical findings concerning the internet, online communication, or mobile communication.

The aim of the conference is to document the progress of internet research, innovative developments, and practical experience, as well as to further dialogue between:

- researchers
- researchers and users of internet research
- universities and companies
- customers and suppliers.
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Conference Languages:
---------------------

English, German

Contributions:
-------------

Paper presentations, posters, and sessions can be proposed on the following topics:

Interactive Market- and Social Research
- Online- and Mobile Market Research
- Innovative Sampling approaches
- Cross-over Designs, Mixed-Modes' and Methods' Effects
- Usability Research, Usability Engineering, Usability Testing
- Online Experiments
- Online Surveys

Internet, Mobile Communication, and Civil Society
- Online Groups: Structures, Interaction, Community Building, and Effects
- Social and Psychological Effects of Internet Use
- Social Networks and Relationships: On-line and Off-line
- Online Community Software: Applications and Results
- Mobile Communication and Social Networks
- e-Democracy: Examples of Best Practice, Changes, and Problems
- Internet, Crime, Privacy Protection, and Deviant Behavior
- Digital Divide
- Internet, Social Movements, and Collective Action
- Internet and Science

- e-Commerce and e-Controlling
- e-Business and e-Advertising
- Successful Evaluation of Web-Sites and e-Commerce
- Currencies of the Net: Benchmarking and Measurement of Range of Coverage
- Customer Relationship Management and Online Market Research
- Non-Reactive Methods of Data Collection and Data-Mining

Interpersonal Communication
- Computer Mediated Communication
- Mobile Communication and Life-Style
- Online-Gaming
- Trust and Credibility on the Internet
- e-Health
- Non-Reactive Methods of Data Collection of Interpersonal Communication
- Weblogs and Bloggers

The Internet Within and Outside of Organizations
- e-Learning on the Intranet and Internet
- Interactive Organizational Research, e.g. Online Employee Surveys
- Knowledge Exchange and Knowledge Management in Organizations (Intranet)
- Communities of Practice on the Internet: Design and Effects

-----------------------------------------------

Paper Presentations:
---------------------

Paper presentations include oral presentations of max. 20 minutes plus 10 minutes for discussion.

Qualified contributions will be invited to submit the paper for publication in an international English language conference proceedings' volume or in an international English language journal.

Posters:
-------

Posters will be discussed at fixed times. The best poster will receive a prize of Euro 500,-.

Sessions:
--------
There will also be the opportunity to propose a group of interrelated presentations (max. 4-5 persons) within one session. For more information please contact the program committee (gorpaper04qdgof.de).

Workshops:
----------
There will be tutorial workshops covering key methods of internet research. These will be held by qualified researchers and practitioners. The workshops will take place the day commencing the GOR conference (March 29, 2004) as well as during the conference without overlapping with the presentations.

Participation in workshops is not free of charge and the number of participants will be restricted. Registered visitors of the conference have priority. More information about the workshops and registration is available at http://www.dgof.de/indexe.htm.

Exhibition Stand Space:
------------------------
Companies will have the opportunity to book exhibition stand space for presentations of products or services that offer solutions to problems of market- and social research on the Internet or Intranet. More information is available at gororga04@dgof.de.

Social Events and Membership Meeting:
-------------------------------------
The traditional early-bird-meeting will take place on March 29th 2004. Already during this meeting visitors and participants will have the opportunity to socialize with colleagues, acquainting themselves with other researchers.

On Tuesday 30th April 2004, there will be a social event held during the evening which will include dinner and disco.

During the conference there will be a meeting for the members of the German Society for Online Research. The members will receive additional information about the meeting at a later date.

Submission Guidelines
---------------------
If you would like to contribute to the conference by
presenting a paper or a poster, please send an abstract no later than:

   September 30th 2003

to:                 gorpaper04@dgof.de

Authors will receive notice of acceptance by:

   November 17th 2003.

The preliminary program will be posted on December 1st, 2003 at the following url:

   http://www.dgof.de/indexe.htm

The program committee will review abstracts. For accepted oral presentations transparencies or Power-Point files (preferably in English) are expected to be sent before the conference until February 29th 2004.

The abstract (of no more than 350 words) should be submitted in the following format:

1. Title of the oral presentation or poster
2. Type (oral presentation or poster)
3. Author(s)
4. Address of first author (postal address, phone number, e-mail and URLs)
5. Central topic choice (max. 3), if applicable
6. Keywords (max. 4)
7. English text of abstract (max 350 words)

Submission format:

1) Please send your abstract in rich text (.rtf) file format to:

       gorpaper04@dgof.de

The subject line of your e-mail must contain the following text: "abstract"

2) In addition to sending the attachment, please include the abstract and the information 1-6 mentioned above in the body of your e-mail.

Conference Fees:

--------------
Conference fees include conference materials, two lunches, conference dinner, drinks and snacks during breaks.

Academic: 120 Euro
Students: 60 Euro
Presenting participants: 30 Euro (first authors only)
Non-academic (e.g., company representatives, free-lancers, consultants): 290 Euro
Early registrants, who register before January 31st 2004 receive a fee reduction of 20%.
DGOF members receive a fee reduction of 20% (membership application forms can be found at http://www.dgof.de/dgof_antrage.pdf).

For German participants conference fees have to be paid in advance in full.
Foreign participants may pay their fees at the conference venue. Day tickets are not available.

Registration for all participants will begin on December 01st 2003. Further detailed information will be posted continually at the following URL:

http://www.dgof.de/indexe.htm

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Overview of the timeline:
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09/30/03 Deadline for abstract submission
11/17/03 Feedback on acceptance
12/01/03 Preliminary program will be published, Registration begins
01/31/04 Deadline for fee-reduced early registrations
02/29/04 Deadline for sending transparencies or Power-Point files for accepted oral presentations
02/29/04 Deadline for registration to workshops
03/29/04 Early-bird-meeting + workshops in Duisburg
03/30/04-03/31/04 Conference + workshops at the University of Duisburg-Essen in Duisburg

-----------------------------------------------------------------
Summary of contacts:
Abstract submission: gorpaper04@dgof.de
Business activities: gororga04@dgof.de
Conference Website: http://www.dgof.de/indexe.htm
workshops: http://www.dgof.de/indexe.htm
Local organization: office.gor@uni-duisburg.de
-----------------------------------------------------------------
Contact address of the local organizing committee:

Conference office GOR 04
c/o Prof. Dr. Frank Faulbaum
Institute of Sociology
Below I attach the first two paragraphs of my Gotham Gazette Column on The Vanishing Jews and a link to the whole article, which is my take on the NY City Jewish Community survey. I served on the technical advisory committee, and then I along with two other members resigned.

http://www.gothamgazette.com/article/demographics/20030708/5/447

The Vanishing Jews
by Andrew Beveridge
July 07, 2003

The number of Jews in New York City fell below one million by 2002, according to the 2002 Community Study by the United Jewish Appeal-Federation of New York. But the real decline may be higher. The recent survey used methods for finding and defining Jews that were different than those used in the 1991 UJA-Federation survey. Indeed, several researchers resigned from the survey's Technical Advisory Committee from the survey, including Bethamie Horowitz, the director of the 1991 study; Charles Kadushin, an
emeritus CUNY professor and researcher with the Cohen Center for Jewish Studies at Brandeis, and me. Each concluded that a direct comparison of 1991 and 2002 studies ignores the change in methods. Such an analysis would yield misleading conclusions.

Often such problems are written off as "merely technical," not affecting either the results or conclusions of the study. Here however, the technical disputes go to the heart of the survey. They revolve around two central questions: Who is a Jew? and How many Jews are there in New York City? Though downplayed somewhat in the new survey, which is not called a "population study" but rather a "community study," the fact of the matter is what determines Jewish identity and the size of the population remain central concerns of the organized Jewish community. In earlier topic page updates I discussed counting Muslims, gays, and the population of New York City. It is clear that when groups are put in charge of analyzing their own population, there is a temptation to overestimate their own size and thus their own importance.

Andrew A. Beveridge  
Professor of Sociology  
Queens College and Grad Ctr CUNY  
209 Kissena Hall  
64-19 Kissena Blvd  
Flushing, NY 11367  
Phone: 718-997-2837  
FAX: 718-997-2820  
email: beveridg@optonline.net  
web: www.socialexplorer.com  
Home Office  
50 Merriam Avenue  
Bronxville, NY 10708-2743  
Phone: 914-337-6237  
FAX: 914-337-8210  
email: beveridg@optonline.net  

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Date: Tue, 8 Jul 2003 09:41:16 -0500  
Reply-To: Diane O'Rourke <DOrourke@SRL.UIC.EDU>  
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>  
From: Diane O'Rourke <DOrourke@SRL.UIC.EDU>  
Subject: 8th conference on health survey research methods  
Comments: To: AAPORnet@asu.edu  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII  
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable  
Content-disposition: inline  

EIGHTH CONFERENCE ON  
HEALTH SURVEY RESEARCH METHODS
FEBRUARY 20-23, 2004

Call for Papers

The Eighth Conference on Health Survey Research Methods (CHSRM) will continue the series that began in 1975 to discuss new, innovative survey research methods that improve the quality of health survey data. The CHSRM will bring together researchers from various disciplines who are at the forefront of survey methods research, who are responsible for major health surveys, and who use survey data to develop health policy. This call seeks abstracts for both original studies and overview papers that describe research beyond what is currently known about survey methods and their application to health-related issues using the following topics as general guidelines:

CAPTURING DIVERSITY AND CHANGE IN A DYNAMIC POPULATION
CROSS-CULTURAL CHALLENGES IN HEALTH SURVEY RESEARCH
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT
SECURITY AND PRIVACY
HOW TO CONDUCT HEALTH SURVEYS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Attendance will be limited to approximately 75 individuals who will be invited to present papers, chair sessions, discuss presentations and the state of knowledge in specific areas, and serve as rapporteurs. Lodging, meals, and most travel expenses will be covered for all nonfederal-employee invited participants. The conference will be held February 20-23, 2004 at the Wyndham Peachtree Conference Center, Peachtree City (Atlanta), Georgia. The conference will begin on Friday evening and continue through Monday morning. All participants must be present for the entire conference.

To have a paper considered, send a 500- to 1,000-word abstract (in Word document form) to Kris Hertenstein, at krish@srl.uic.edu no later than October 1, 2003. For further information, go to http://www.srl.uic.edu.

STEERING Committee
Steven Cohen, co-chair, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
James Lepkowski, co-chair, University of Michigan
Lu Ann Aday, University of Texas at Houston
James Colliver, National Institute on Drug Abuse
Marcie Cynamon, National Center for Health Statistics
William Davis, National Cancer Institute
Brad Edwards, Westat
Floyd J. Fowler, Jr., University of Massachusetts Boston
Joseph Gfroerer, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Timothy Johnson, University of Illinois at Chicago
Alice Kroliczak, Health Resources and Services Administration
Richard Kulka, Research Triangle Institute
Colm O'Muircheartaigh, University of Chicago, NORC
Richard Warnecke, University of Illinois at Chicago
Hi,

I looked at the literature and the only measure of the performance of interviewers in telephone surveys that I can find is cooperation rate at first contact. Does anybody use or know of another type of measure?

Please answer directly to me. I will summarize for the list.

Thanks.

Claire Durand
Claire.Durand@umontreal.ca
http://www.fas.umontreal.ca/socio/durandc

Professeur,
Responsable des cycles supérieurs,
département de sociologie,
Université de Montréal
C.P. 6128, Succ. Centre-Ville,
Montréal, QC, H3C 3J7
Once again I seek the collected wisdom of AAPOR . . . .

Does anyone know about any (published or unpublished) research that has been done comparing using (1) listed samples to reach low incidence samples to (2) screening down RDD samples or directory samples for the purposes of marketing research.

--

Leo G. Simonetta  
Art & Science Group, LLC  
6115 Falls Road Suite 101  
Baltimore, MD 21209  
410-377-7880 ext. 14  
410-377-7955 fax
characteristics
to
2) Using a RDD telephone sample and screening down to the relatively
small percentage of people who have the characteristic or
characteristics.

I am sorry I didn't manage to make myself clearer in my previous post.
--
Leo G. Simonetta
Art & Science Group, LLC
6115 Falls Road Suite 101
Baltimore, MD 21209
410-377-7880 ext. 14
410-377-7955 fax

> -----Original Message-----
> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Leo G. Simonetta
> Sent: Tuesday, July 08, 2003 3:27 PM
> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
> Subject: Listed sample vs RDD
>
> > Once again I seek the collected wisdom of AAPOR . . . .
> >
> > Does anyone know about any (published or unpublished) research that
> has
> > been done comparing using (1) listed samples to reach low incidence
> > samples to (2) screening down RDD samples or directory samples for the
> > purposes of marketing research.
> >
> > --
> > Leo G. Simonetta
> > Art & Science Group, LLC
> > 6115 Falls Road Suite 101
> > Baltimore, MD 21209
> > 410-377-7880 ext. 14
> > 410-377-7955 fax
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Date: Tue, 8 Jul 2003 16:01:50 -0400
Reply-To: Lance Hoffman <lhoffman@OPINIONACCESS.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Lance Hoffman <lhoffman@OPINIONACCESS.COM>
Organization: Opinion Access Corp.
Subject: Re: Listed sample vs RDD
What, exactly, are you trying to compare, Leo? Efficiencies between the two methodologies? Accuracy of the lists being used to compare against RDD, as they relate to the characteristics being targeted? Price comparisons in running studies with RDD vs. Lists?

Lance Hoffman
Manager, Business Development
Opinion Access Corp.
P: 718.729.2622 x.157
F: 718.729.2444
C: 646.522.2012

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-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Leo G. Simonetta
Sent: Tuesday, July 08, 2003 4:03 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Re: Listed sample vs RDD

A couple of people have responded to me directly and asked, what, specifically am I talking about so let me try to make my request clearer.

What is am interested in is research that compares
1) Using sample where individuals are listed because the list provider knows they have some characteristic or combination of relatively rare characteristics to
2) Using a RDD telephone sample and screening down to the relatively small percentage of people who have the characteristic or characteristics.

I am sorry I didn't manage to make myself clearer in my previous post.

--
Leo G. Simonetta
Art & Science Group, LLC
6115 Falls Road Suite 101
Once again I seek the collected wisdom of AAPOR . . . .

Does anyone know about any (published or unpublished) research that has been done comparing using (1) listed samples to reach low incidence samples to (2) screening down RDD samples or directory samples for the purposes of marketing research.

--
Leo G. Simonetta
Art & Science Group, LLC
6115 Falls Road Suite 101
Baltimore, MD 21209
410-377-7880 ext. 14
410-377-7955 fax

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signoff aapornet
This issue of the journal aims to highlight the important connections between public opinion and history by including two primary types of inquiries. First, we seek manuscripts that can expand on the rich already existing work dealing with the history of public opinion itself, as it has been measured, understood, and employed. These manuscripts might also investigate the promises and difficulties of using public opinion data as historical documents.

Second, we invite submissions in the field of collective memory. Broadly defined, collective memory can best be understood as part of a process of forming attitudes and opinions about the past. The range of appropriate topics in this area might include:
- The relationship between elites and collective memory -- do elites drive memory or are they impacted by it?
- The processes affecting formation of collective memory, including cohort effects, the role of the media, or the effects of other variables such as education, nationality, or gender
- The role of memory in political attitudes and behaviors, including questions of how the use of collective memory in attempts to influence public opinion

Manuscripts that deal with these or other relevant topics are welcome.

All submissions will be peer reviewed according to POQ's standard procedures. Please send four copies to Katherine J. Dorsey, Guest Co-Editor, Public Opinion Quarterly, Northwestern University, 2240 Campus Drive, Evanston, IL 60208. Contact poq@northwestern.edu with any questions. Deadline for submissions is October 1, 2003.

Please feel free to forward this notice to any appropriate lists or authors.
Two short courses at the 2003 Joint Statistical Meetings in San Francisco that should be of interest to AAPORers:

1. **Designing Effective Web Surveys**, by Mick Couper, Survey Research Center, Univ. of Michigan. (Sunday, Aug. 3, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon)

   The course focuses on the design of Web survey instruments and procedures, based on theories of human-computer interaction, interface design, and research on self-administered questionnaires and computer-assisted interviewing. The course reviews different approaches to Web survey design (e.g., static versus interactive) and various design alternatives for a variety of question types. The course discusses appropriate use of various HTML tools (e.g., radio buttons, check boxes, drop boxes) for Web survey designs. It also addresses issues such as (1) use of color, (2) types of layout, (3) use of tables/grids, (4) movement through the instrument, (5) design of error messages, and so on.

   The course draws on empirical results from experiments on alternative design approaches as well as practical experience in the design of Web surveys. The course is richly illustrated with examples of both good and bad design. The course does not focus on the technical aspects of Web survey implementation (Web servers, programming, etc.).

   Participants will 1) gain an understanding of the tools and techniques used to design Web surveys, 2) learn to avoid pitfalls in Web survey design, and 3) get the latest research on Web survey design and its impact on measurement error.

2. **Protecting Confidentiality in Microdata Files**, by Laura Zayatz, U.S. Census Bureau. (Tuesday, Aug. 5, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon)

   This course will provide an introduction to confidentiality protection for microdata files and will outline various approaches used for microdata files. People taking the course will learn some specific methods they can use to protect the confidentiality of microdata files. Topics will include disclosure risks associated with microdata files, built-in confidentiality protections, statistical disclosure limitation techniques, software, reidentification studies, the role of Disclosure Review Boards, restricted access alternatives, and resources such as websites, books, and committees that can offer further information and help on the
confidentiality protection of microdata files. This course is intended for all data disseminators. There are no specific prerequisites for this course, though some familiarity with microdata files (or survey data) would be helpful.

Participants will (1) gain an understanding of disclosure risks and built-in protections for different types of microdata, (2) obtain an overview of different disclosure limitation techniques for microdata and which ones seem to work well, (3) learn the importance of performing reidentification studies and where one might begin, (4) learn about restricted access alternatives, and (5) obtain a comprehensive list of resources that can aid data providers in the confidentiality protection of microdata.

Michael P. Cohen
Assistant Director for Survey Programs
Bureau of Transportation Statistics
400 Seventh Street SW #4432
Washington DC 20590 USA
phone 202-366-9949 fax 202-366-3385

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CAREER OPPURTUNITY

Chicago-based opinion & marketing research firm has immediate need for an experienced research associate.

RESPONSIBILITIES. The candidate will work on all aspects of survey research projects including questionnaire design, data collection, data analysis, report writing, and client presentations.

REQUIREMENTS: At least one year work experience in survey research. Coursework in the social sciences, statistics, or marketing research. The successful candidate must have excellent communication skills, analytical skills, and a thorough working knowledge of WORD, EXCEL, ACCESS, and SPSS (or
other statistical package).

SALARY: negotiable and commensurate with experience.

THE COMPANY. The Gary Siegel Organization, Inc. (GSO) is a full-service opinion/marketing research firm with an excellent reputation and a 25-year history. We conduct mail, telephone, Internet, and focus group research for corporations, professional service firms, and trade and professional associations. Small, entrepreneurial, nonbureaucratic. Ideal for an energetic, ambitious, talented person interested in career growth.

LOCATION. Charming Edgebrook community, across the street from forest preserve, northwest side of Chicago. One block from Metra station, two minutes off I-94.

Mail, email, or fax (no phone calls, please) letter of application and resume to:

Gary Siegel Organization, Inc.
6411 N. Caldwell
Chicago, IL  60646
FAX:  773-763-4302
Email:  info@gsoresearch.com
www.GSOREsearch.com

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Charleston Post and Courier

Prof creates stir with political poll for college credit
http://www.charleston.net/stories/071003/loc_10pushpoll.shtml

BY SCHUYLER KROPF
Of The Post and Courier Staff
A College of Charleston business school professor gave course credit to about 12 summer school students in exchange for work they did at an after-hours phone bank on behalf of Jimmy Bailey's bid for mayor.

The students were told they would receive two points toward a 10-point assignment for every hour they worked the phones.

The survey was put together by tenured professor Mark Hartley, co-chairman of the Bailey campaign for mayor and a former chairman of the Charleston County Republican Party. More than 200 people were surveyed.

The survey contained 20 questions covering Charleston and local politics. Students were told to call registered city voters, identify themselves as being from the Southeastern Voter Research Poll -- a brand name Hartley uses in his surveys -- and ask the questions.

Hartley said he did the survey on his own initiative and did not consult with Bailey about the questions, but he did plan to share the results with him. It was the second poll Hartley has run on the mayor's race.

"I just wanted to take a look on my own and see if there is a change in anything," said Hartley, who also said he didn't plan to charge Bailey for the poll but does plan to report it as an in-kind contribution.

Professors routinely use students for polling and marketing data at the college, officials said. Hartley previously has used students to study the ethnic greeting card industry, the feasibility of a fitness center for the Charleston peninsula, and dealership satisfaction for a local boat-building company.

Dennis Lambries, assistant director of survey research at the University of South Carolina, said the tone of some of the questions makes the poll drift toward becoming an attempt to cast Riley in a bad light.

He noted one question asks voters to consider whether Riley "is in touch with your needs or is he out of touch?"

Lambries said the questions bordered on being a "push poll," a survey geared less toward obtaining information than toward tainting a candidate.

"It's almost asking what kind of information will get you to change your mind," he said.
Hartley strongly denied that the survey was a push poll, and he said it did reveal one interesting fact.

"From this poll I found out one thing: Reuben Greenberg is the most popular person in the city of Charleston."

POLL QUESTIONS

The Southeastern Voter Research Poll conducted July 1-3 included the following questions:

1. Do you plan to vote in this year's Charleston mayoral race?

2. What is your overall impression of the following people? (Bob George, Reuben Greenberg, Daniel Molony, George W. Bush, Mark Sanford, Joe Riley, Jimmy Bailey, Kwadjo Campbell, Marc Knapp)

3. If the Charleston mayoral race were held today, which of these candidates would you vote for? (Bob George, Marc Knapp, Kwadjo Campbell, Jimmy Bailey, Joe Riley, undecided)

4. Do you think things in the city of Charleston are going well or are they on the wrong track?

5. Do you think Mayor Riley is in touch with your needs or is he out of touch?

6. What do you think is the single most important issue the next mayor needs to address?

7. Have you been following the controversy surrounding former city employee Danny Molony?

7a. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mayor Riley has handled the Molony controversy?

8. Have you been following the latest controversy surrounding Police Chief Reuben Greenberg?

8a. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mayor Riley has handled the latest Chief Greenberg controversy?

9. Do you think Reuben Greenberg has been police chief too long?

10. Do you think crime is becoming more or less of a problem in the city of Charleston?

11. Do you feel safe to walk down the street at night in your neighborhood?

12. Do you think 28 years is too long for someone to hold elected office
or does it matter how long they hold office?

13. Do you know that Mayor Riley has been mayor of Charleston for 28 years?

14. What do you think has been the major accomplishment of the Riley administration?

15. What do you like most about Mayor Riley?

16. What do you like least about Mayor Riley?

17. Do you approve or disapprove of the overall job Joe Riley has done as mayor?

18. Do you think Mayor Riley deserves another term as mayor, or is it time to give someone else a chance?

19. Do you approve of the job your city councilman has done for the last several years?

20. I'd like to finish by asking this question once again: If the Charleston mayoral race were held today, which of these candidates would you vote for?

http://www.charleston.net/stories/071003/loc_10pushpoll.shtml

--
Leo G. Simonetta
Art & Science Group, LLC
6115 Falls Road Suite 101
Baltimore, MD 21209
410-377-7880 ext. 14
410-377-7955 fax

Archives: http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html
Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

I'd like to thank everyone who responded to my request for information on the comparison of using a listed sample of qualified (presumably) individuals to survey a low incidence group versus using a RDD and screening down for qualification.
About as many people asked to be informed on what I found as offered insight and I will be responding to them either tomorrow or Monday - though I must say that other than in the case of using voter registration lists to survey voters there appears to be little in the way of actual research currently available. One respondent did put me in touch with a faculty member who is just starting work on a paper on surveying the Jewish population comparing: a RDD sample, a Jewish names sample and a list of known Jewish households.

Thanks again, one and all.

--
Leo G. Simonetta
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Archives: http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html
Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu
Recently you received an email alert from Donna Gillin, CMOR's Director of Government Affairs, about the new national telemarketing Do-Not-Call (DNC) registry. More than 20 million numbers have been placed on this list and many of these same numbers are those that may have also been called to participate in a survey. Many of you may have already developed tools for your interviewers on how to handle various respondent do-not-call registry questions. CMOR and MRA have developed some tools, and are working together with other associations and companies, to develop a comprehensive list of questions and responses that will be used uniformly throughout the survey research industry. We are asking companies to share whatever tools or FAQ's you have developed with us. We want all interviewers to have the benefit of being properly informed and sufficiently trained so they will be equipped to handle most respondent questions and concerns that are posed by respondents. These training tools will then be made available to all companies. 

Thank you for your assistance. Please send me your materials no later than Friday July 18th.

And if there is any other information related to this issue you would be willing to share, such as data on refusals rates with do-not-call respondents, please let us know.

Jane M. Sheppard
CMOR Director Respondent Cooperation

*Note: New Address
2899 MacDuff Dr. N.W.
North Canton, OH 44720
330-244-8616

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Date: Fri, 11 Jul 2003 09:54:56 -0400
Reply-To: Eric Plutzer<exp12@PSU.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Eric Plutzer<exp12@PSU.EDU>
Subject: Re: Push poll? - Prof creates stir with political poll for college credit
Comments: To: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@asu.edu>
In-Reply-To: <200307111011.GAA34814@f05n16.cac.psu.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

RE: Prof creates stir with political poll for college credit

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The business school dean, Clarance Condon, characterized it this way:

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"You leave the politics out of it and this is the kind of thing we would like in a statistics lesson," Condon said.

I didn't read any evidence of any teaching going on. No discussion of interviewer training, no discussion of parallel readings or lectures on data quality, how interviewers introduce bias, response rates, or related topics. It seems to me that all a professor has to do is to make a course difficult enough that students will work for free in order to get extra credit toward an academic course (not an internship).

I would think this would give academic polling shops an enormous cost advantage over competing private businesses. Working people who depend on phone work to support their families are being cut out as well.

But more fundamentally, on the slippery slope between "free choice" and "coercion" this kind of practice occupies a morally tenuous middle ground.

Am I the only one deeply disturbed by this? Is this common practice outside of courses that focus on the methodology of survey research?

-- Eric

> Date: Thu, 10 Jul 2003 11:06:28 -0400
> From: "Leo G. Simonetta" <simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>
> Subject: Push poll? - Prof creates stir with political poll for college credit
> Charleston Post and Courier
> Prof creates stir with political poll for college credit
> http://www.charleston.net/stories/071003/loc_10pushpoll.shtml
> 
> BY SCHUYLER KROPF
> Of The Post and Courier Staff
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As a follow up to Jane Sheppard's note re Do Not Call Lists and Research, CASRO prepared a memo on "The Legal Status of Research vs. Telemarketing," which I am attaching for your information. Many of our research company members are being hit with public complaints and confusion, legal challenges, and even D-N-C law "ambulance-chasing" lawyers! This update may help researchers to differentiate themselves from telemarketers while reassuring respondents that we respect their privacy via self-regulatory policies and business practice. Diane Bowers, President, CASRO =

I am wondering if others are experiencing the following problem in their telephone surveys. We have only a couple of instances so far.
The problem concerns a respondent who asks the interviewer to "hold on, please" and then never comes back to the phone. Apparently we can thank Andy Rooney for this new approach to refusing. See <http://www.tech-sol.net/humor/people105.htm>.

PJL

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Date: Fri, 11 Jul 2003 12:23:58 -0400
Reply-To: "Leo G. Simonetta" <simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Leo G. Simonetta" <simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>
Subject: Re: Push poll? - Prof creates stir with political poll for college credit
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
In-Reply-To: <5.1.0.14.2.20030711094123.0280f680@mail.psu.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT

> RE: Prof creates stir with political poll for college credit
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> difficult enough that students will work for free in order to get extra
> credit toward an academic course (not an internship).

My assumption was that there was this sort of teaching going on though it is not referenced in the article.

> I would think this would give academic polling shops an enormous cost
> advantage over competing private businesses. Working people who depend on
> phone work to support their families are being cut out as well.
> > But more fundamentally, on the slippery slope between "free choice"
> and
> "coercion" this kind of practice occupies a morally tenuous middle
> ground.
> > Am I the only one deeply disturbed by this? Is this common practice
> outside of courses that focus on the methodology of survey research?

As a former director of two different university polling centers I can say that most larger ones do not rely on this sort of staffing. I believe in the 8 years I was doing this I had two professors bring a class in to do actual telephone interviewing for partial course credit - these were both for a research projects that the professor was doing and both classes had a methodology component.

If we as an academic polling unit were going up against a private business on a pure cost basis we would be in deep trouble - the costs of University overhead and faculty support often made us substantially higher. Though we did get occasional complaints from other polling units that wanted to know why the state was supporting a competitor.

As for choice and coercion the article makes it clear in this case there were other options for course credit that some students did select. It is of course conceivable that you could make the other options so onerous that all the students selected the one you wanted them to do - but there are many ways to abuse the faculty-student relationship (ask any graduate student).

Of as much concern to me was calling it push poll and the relationship between the candidate and the professor.

--
Leo G. Simonetta
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-----------------------------
Archives: http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html
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Apparently the professor had an epiphany as well:

See http://www.charleston.net/stories/071103/loc_11cofpoll.shtml

Prof to pay students for poll work
Activist Hartley says he had lapse in judgment

BY SCHUYLER KROPF
Of The Post and Courier Staff

To right what he called a lapse in judgment, College of Charleston business professor Mark Hartley will reimburse the 12 statistics class students he got to work in a phone bank last week polling voters on the city’s mayoral race.

The students will get $7.50 for every hour they worked. It will cost Hartley about $450.

"I should have given them an alternative," said Hartley, a long-time Republican activist and co-campaign manager for candidate Jimmy Bailey.

SNIP
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The survey was put together by tenured professor Mark Hartley, co-chairman of the Bailey campaign for mayor and a former chairman of the Charleston County Republican Party. More than 200 people were surveyed.

Eric Plutzer
Associate Professor of Political Science & Sociology
Penn State University
Voice: 814/865-6576
http://polisci.la.psu.edu/faculty/plutzer/

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Eric,
I think your concerns are legitimate. I find myself, however, responding specifically to the idea that academic survey centers might have a cost advantage by using "volunteer labor" in the form of students who might work in exchange for academic credit. All of our proposals note that all of our interviewers are paid employees, which they are. Many are indeed students, but they are interviewed, screened and trained before hitting the phones; they are monitored regularly; they are paid competitive wages; and they are promoted or terminated as required by production statistics, data quality monitoring, etc.

We have a student intern this summer who is working in exchange for academic credit, but when he works in data entry or telephone interviewing he is paid for that time at the normal rate and only after going through the standard training sessions. His time on other aspects of survey work (lit reviews, questionnaire reviews, analysis techniques) is unpaid internship time. We let our clients know up front if any unpaid internship or graduate student time is involved in the project.

In the cases I have seen here, when a research methods professor wanted his or her students to have hands-on interviewing experience, it occurred in the context that you describe: a plan that included readings, classroom lecture, blending of theory and practice, etc. A distinguishing feature is that the students created or participated in the decision-making for most or all phases of the projects -- lit review, questionnaire design, sample design, data analysis, presentation, etc. Certainly some of the more technical aspects of the project may not be done by the students themselves, but they take their stab at those aspects and learn from the attempt. I am not clear about whether the students in Charleston had that broader involvement -- there may be more to the involvement of the students in the project than what was fit into the available newspaper space.

I can assure you that our costs for training, supervising and "wrangling" classroom student interviewers are much higher -- per capita, per completion or per any other measure of productivity one would care to use -- than they are for our paid interviewers. Perhaps those cost increases would be more than offset by the "free" labor if we did this systematically as a way to collect our data, but that sort of thing simply is not done here, and I would be very surprised to find that it was done at any other academic survey center.

This story may be one that generates more of those "And, hey, what about this?" moments. One question I had was about how the survey outfit was identified -- as the Southeastern Voter Research Poll, as opposed to a college class project.

Jim Ellis
Director, Technical Division
RE: Prof creates stir with political poll for college credit

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Eric Plutzer
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Voice: 814/865-6576
http://polisci.la.psu.edu/faculty/plutzer/

---

AAPORNET will be unavailable from 5PM until 10PM this Friday, July 11th. =20
Arizona State University is upgrading the hardware that runs Listserv. =
If you've logged on to the web interface since the recent Listserv =
software upgrade you may have noticed the sluggish response--this =
upgrade will enhance the performance.

Any messages sent to AAPORNENT during this period will be queued for delivery when the upgrade is complete.

Shap Wolf
AAPORNENT volunteer host
ASU Survey Research Laboratory

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Date: Fri, 11 Jul 2003 13:53:59 -0500
Reply-To: Nick Panagakis <mail@MARKETSHARESCORP.COM>
Sender: AAPORNENT <AAPORNENT@ASU.EDU>
From: Nick Panagakis <mail@MARKETSHARESCORP.COM>
Organization: Market Shares Corporation
Subject: Re: D-N-C
Comments: To: aapornet@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Any theories on why some members are being hit with complaints and legal challenges? Especially "D-N-C law "ambulance-chasing" lawyers".

Anyone who signed up at the donotcall.gov site (widely publicized last week) would see the schedule on the home page. It says "most telemarketers must stop calling *after* October 1". http://www.donotcall.gov/

And, if you click "most telemarketers "on that page...
http://www.donotcall.gov/FAQ/FAQConsumers.aspx#Exceptions

This appears...
Will All Telemarketing Calls Stop If I Register?
Q: If I register my number on the National Do Not Call Registry, will it stop all telemarketing calls?
A: No. Placing your number on the National Do Not Call Registry will stop most, but not all, telemarketing calls. You may still receive calls from political organizations, charities, *telephone surveyors* or companies with which you have an existing business relationship.

1. It is surprising that people who actually registered - especially the lawyers - would complain three months out from the effective date.

2. Also surprising, that they would not be curious about the meaning of "most telemarketers".

Perhaps this donotcall.gov site is another useful reference to give respondents.

Nick
P.S. I don't what information people who called the 800 number got when they registered.

Diane Bowers wrote:

> As a follow up to Jane Sheppard's note re Do Not Call Lists and Research, CASRO prepared a memo on "The Legal Status of Research vs. Telemarketing," which I am attaching for your information. Many of our research company members are being hit with public complaints and confusion, legal challenges, and even D-N-C law "ambulance-chasing" lawyers! This update may help researchers to differentiate themselves from telemarketers while reassuring respondents that we respect their privacy via self-regulatory policies and business practice. Diane Bowers, President, CASRO

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Date:       Mon, 14 Jul 2003 09:41:06 -0500
Reply-To:   Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Sender:     AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From:       Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Subject:    FW: Exciting Opportunity with NORC, at the University of Chicago
Comments:   To: aapornet@asu.edu
Comments:   cc: ZAGATSKY-MARIA@norc.net
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

From: ZAGATSKY-MARIA [mailto:ZAGATSKY-MARIA@norc.net]
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2003 9:28 AM
Subject: Exciting Opportunity with NORC, at the University of Chicago

=20
Maria Zagatsky
NORC Human Resources Representative
Phone: (773) 256-6187
Fax: (773) 753-7808
=20
**************************************************************************
**
Operations Methodologist, Telephone Center Operations (03-075)
Location: Chicago, IL=20
NORC, a national organization for research associated with the =

University of Chicago is seeking a highly motivated and effective individual to fill the newly created role of Operations Methodologist for our telephone centers.

We are currently upgrading and expanding our telephone interviewing capabilities, and we have a unique opportunity for professional growth in the field of telephone survey methodology.

At NORC our mission is to conduct high quality social science research in the public interest. Working closely with the Telephone Center Director, the Operations Methodologist will be expected to make significant contributions to our continuing development of high quality telephone methodology by undertaking diagnostic analyses and testing candidate solutions. The successful candidate will therefore have proven analytical skills, advanced survey methodology knowledge and experience in telephone surveys. To facilitate a complete understanding of all influences on survey methodology, responsibilities will also include all aspects of managing some telephone projects, and associated staff responsibilities.

A degree in Social Sciences, Survey Methodology or Business Management or its equivalent in experience is required with a minimum of four (4) years of significant experience in survey research. The successful candidate will also have demonstrated skills in leadership, staff development and client relations.

NORC offers a comprehensive compensation and benefits package including paid time off, holiday pay, medical and dental coverage, life insurance, short and long-term disability insurance, a 403(b) retirement plan, and tuition assistance.

NORC is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer that values and actively seeks diversity in the workforce.

For immediate consideration, send a brief letter of interest and electronic resume to: norc-recruiter@norc.net

Or mail to:

NORC Human Resources
1155 E. 60th Street
Chicago, IL 60637
www.norc.org

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The national D-N-C website actually provides a small definition of telephone surveys. As long as the survey does not attempt to sell anything, they are exempt. This might help protect our industry from "telemarketing surveys" which have been plaguing us for some years, though perhaps I am being too optimistic. Also of note is that the legislation appears to have some provision for political organizations and charities. While they are not covered by the D-N-C list, such organizations are still required to keep their own D-N-C lists and honor them or be subject to a similar fine. True telephone surveys appear to be fully exempt.

Q: I get calls soliciting money for political organizations or for charities - will the National Do Not Call Registry stop those calls?

A: Political solicitations are not covered by the National Do Not Call Registry. Telemarketers calling to solicit charitable contributions are not covered by the registry, but if you make a request to a specific organization that they not call you, they are required to honor your request. If they subsequently call you again, they may be subject to a fine of up to $11,000.

Q: What about telephone surveys?

A: If the call is really for the sole purpose of conducting a survey, it is not covered. Only telemarketing calls are covered - that is, calls that solicit sales of goods or services. Callers purporting to take a survey, but also offering to sell goods or services, must comply with the National Do Not Call Registry.

--------------
Stephanie Berg
Research Manager
Network Solutions

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Nick Panagakis
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2003 2:53 PM
Subject: Re: D-N-C

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Call for Student Papers
James W. Prothro Student Paper Competition
2003 Southern Association for Public Opinion Research

The Odum Institute at UNC-Chapel Hill invites student papers for the 2003 James W. Prothro Student Paper Competition. The competition recognizes excellence in student-authored research business, communications, journalism, marketing, economics, political science, psychology, sociology, survey methods and related fields.

Papers dealing with social science or public opinion research, broadly defined, including works on theory, methods or specific substantive issues, are welcome. These studies should advance in some way our understanding of public opinion processes, social behavior, or mass communication.

Eligibility Criteria

Any student research, undergraduate or graduate, including that derived from work on theses or dissertations is eligible. Papers co-authored with faculty or other non-students are not eligible. Papers generally should be of article length, that is 20-25 pages.

From the papers submitted, one winner and as many honorable mention awards as appropriate will be given. Evaluation of the papers will be made by an interdisciplinary panel of social science researchers.

The Award

A prize of $250 will be awarded for the winning paper, and its author will be invited to present the paper at the SAPOR annual conference October 2 & 3, 2003, to be held on the campus of North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina. The authors of honorable mention papers will be invited to present their papers at the conference.

Deadline for submissions is August 31, 2003.

Papers should be submitted to:

Dr. Michael Link
RTI International
3040 Cornwallis Rd.
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Papers can also be submitted electronically to Link@rti.org.

Questions about...
this competition can be directed to Dr. Link at (919) 990-8462 or by e-mail at the above address.

The James W. Prothro Southern Association for Public Opinion Research Student Paper Competition is sponsored by the Odum Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Michael W. Link, Ph.D.
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Call Center Operations & Methodology Program
RTI International
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Office: (919)990-8462
Fax: (919)541-1261
E-mail: Link@rti.org
Http://www.rti.org

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Date: Tue, 15 Jul 2003 10:01:07 -0400
Reply-To: "Leo G. Simonetta" <simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Leo G. Simonetta" <simonetta@ARTSCI.COM>
Subject: Apology - re:list summary
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT

I am sorry I didn't get the summaries out yesterday - I was called away over the weekend and did not return to last night.

I'll try to get to it today.

--
Leo G. Simonetta
Art & Science Group, LLC
6115 Falls Road Suite 101
Baltimore, MD 21209
410-377-7880 ext. 14
410-377-7955 fax

Date: Tue, 15 Jul 2003 13:29:41 -0500
Reply-To: Linda Owens <lindao@SRL.UIC.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
Field Operations Manager

The Survey Research Laboratory of the University of Illinois has an immediate opening for a Field Operations Manager at its Chicago office who will be responsible for the operation and supervision of the SRL Field section. For a detailed job description and instructions on how to apply, please visit our web site: http://www.srl.uic.edu/jobs/jobs.htm.

Linda Owens, Ph.D.
Assistant Director
University of Illinois Survey Research Lab
505 E. Green St. Ste 3
Champaign, IL 61820
Phone: 217-333-4422
Fax: 217-244-4408
Email: lindao@srl.uic.edu

I am working on developing questions to measure current, non-marital cohabitation. I have been researching how this is asked in current federal surveys, and am interested in suggestions the group might have.

I don't want to limit the question to opposite sex partners, so I am looking for a relatively neutral way of asking if the person is involved in a romantic/sexual relationship with someone who lives in his/her household.

I would appreciate wording that is currently used in your surveys, as well as ideas about how the wording could be improved.

If you would respond directly to me, I can post the results to the list.

Thank you!
Hi!

A client out here in California wants to study the relationships between community members and the cultural institutions in their area. That is, what kinds of cultural activities do they participate in, how are different cultural organizations viewed, what cultural activities do people feel are missing or poorly supported, etc.

My esteemed AAPOR colleagues, purveyors extrorndaire of questionnaires, can anyone point me in the direction of previous work done on this topic and/or questionnaires used? Because of the inherently local nature of such inquiries, work of this type is poorly documented or publicized. I was hoping to find the folks who have worked on this topic.

Best regards and many thanks, -Vicky

Victoria A. Albright (Albright@Field.com)
VP/Research Director
Field Research Corporation
222 Sutter Street, 7th floor
San Francisco, CA 94108
415 392 5763
From: Susan Carol Losh <slosh@GARNET.ACNS.FSU.EDU>
Subject: Re: Measuring cultural involvement
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain
Content-transfer-encoding: binary
Content-disposition: inline

The General Social Survey has a lot of these materials. And you can even look at a lot of it online and check it out.

http://www.icpsr.umich.edu:8080/GSS/homepage.htm

Susan

On Tue, 15 Jul 2003 17:04:32 -0700 Victoria Albright wrote:

> Hi!
> 
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> 
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> 
> Best regards and many thanks, -Vicky
> 
> Victoria A. Albright ( Albright@Field.com )
> VP/Research Director
> Field Research Corporation
> 222 Sutter Street, 7th floor
> San Francisco, CA  94108
> 415 392 5763
> 
> ----------------------------------------------------
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> signoff aapornet

Susan Carol Losh, Ph.D.
Program Leader, Learning & Cognition
Department of Educational Psychology & Learning Systems
Victoria,

The best place to start would be the Cultural Policy & the Arts National Data Archive (CPANDA) at Princeton University (www.cpanda.org). Not only are the relevant GSS data sets available online through CPANDA, but so is the series of studies conducted by the National Endowment for the Arts on public participation in the arts (5 waves since 1982). Findings from the most recent NEA study-conducted in 2002-were, in fact, just released today. There are also several locally-focused studies available in the Archive--I would suggest looking, in particular, at the 2002 Performing Arts Research Coalition study and the 2001 Classical Music Consumer Segmentation study.

Larry McGill  
Director of Research & Planning  
Cultural Policy & the Arts National Data Archive

Victoria Albright wrote:

> Hi!  
>  
> A client out here in California wants to study the relationships between  
> community members and the cultural institutions in their area. That is,  
> what kinds of cultural activities do they participate in, how are different  
> cultural organizations viewed, what cultural activities do people feel are  
> missing or poorly supported, etc.  
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and/or questionnaires used? Because of the inherently local nature of such inquiries, work of this type is poorly documented or publicized. I was hoping to find the folks who have worked on this topic.

Best regards and many thanks, -Vicky

Victoria A. Albright (Albright@Field.com)
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Harvard School of Public Health
Department of Health Policy and Management

Assistant or Associate Professor in health policy survey research

The Department of Health Policy and Management, Harvard School of Public Health, is seeking to recruit an assistant or associate professor specializing in the conduct of survey research on health policy issues. Candidates should possess a broad knowledge of the use of survey methodologies. Ideally the candidate would be equipped to develop indicators that could assess patients' experience with the health care system including outcomes, satisfaction and indicators of quality, public and health professional policy preferences and perceptions, and experience related to current and emerging health policy issues. Relevant research includes the review, design, conduct, and quantitative analysis of surveys and polls on access to health, studies of the impact of health services innovations in organization and/or finance, and views of major health policy debates. Candidates should have demonstrated experience and skills to play a central role in the research and teaching program in the Department.

Candidates should hold a doctoral degree in health policy, sociology,
social psychology, political science, survey research, or other closely
related social science discipline. Other qualifications include the
demonstrated capacity to manage national and international survey projects,
to collaborate with professionals in other disciplines, and to teach health
policy survey methods at the graduate level.

Please send a letter of application and the names of three references to:

Chair, Search Committee/Health Policy Survey Research
Department of Health Policy and Management
Harvard School of Public Health
677 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115

Harvard University is committed to increasing representation of women and
minority members among its faculty and particularly encourages applications
from such candidates. EOE

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Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

Date: Wed, 16 Jul 2003 15:07:56 -0400
Reply-To: Claire Durand <Claire.Durand@UMONTREAL.CA>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Claire Durand <Claire.Durand@UMONTREAL.CA>
Subject: summary, measures of interviewers' performance
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1; format=flowed
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

I received many answers to my post asking what measures of the performance=
=20
of interviewers are used. Here is a summary of what I received.
>There are two types of measures a) performance as related to the process=20
>of convincing respondents b) performance as related to the quality of data
>
>a) related to the process of convincing respondents
>
>- completion per hour is widely used but not comparable across projets=20
>- when the questionnaire does not have the same length
>- cooperation rate
>- refusal rate
Jennifer

Here's a couple of examples I have used (neither of which I'm terribly
thrilled with - so please let me know what you turn up).

--Are you married, widowed, divorced, separated, a member of an =
unmarried
couple, or have you never been married?

--Are you married, living as married, widowed, divorced, separated, or =
have
you never been married?

Patrick Murray
Associate Director
Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll
http://slerp.rutgers.edu
Center for Public Interest Polling
http://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu
Eagleton Institute of Politics
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
185 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
732-932-9384 x-243;  732-932-1551 (fax)

|-----Original Message-----
|From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Jennifer Hunter
|Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2003 2:46 PM
|To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
|Subject: Cohabitation question wording
|
|I am working on developing questions to measure current, non-marital
|cohabitation. I have been researching how this is asked in current =
federal
|surveys, and am interested in suggestions the group might have.
|
|I don't want to limit the question to opposite sex partners, so I am
|looking for a relatively neutral way of asking if the person is =
|involved in
|a romantic/sexual relationship with someone who lives in his/her =
|household.
|
|I would appreciate wording that is currently used in your surveys, as =
|well
|as ideas about how the wording could be improved.
|
|If you would respond directly to me, I can post the results to the =
|list.
|
|Thank you!
|
|Jennifer E. Hunter
|Center for Survey Methods Research
|Statistical Research Division
|U.S. Census Bureau
|Room 3133-4
|301/763-4927
|jennifer.e.hunter@census.gov
|
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Folks,

I typically ask about marital status & cohabitation as 2 separate Qs =
(since being formerly married & currently cohabiting are not mutually =
exclusive). E.g.,

Are you never married, married & living with your spouse, married & =
living apart, formally separated, divorced, or widowed?

Then, for all but the married & living with spouse: Are you =
currently living with a (girlfriend/boyfriend) or partner? In this =
wording, "partner" is meant to be generic, but one could also ask =
perhaps: Are you currently living with a partner with whom you have a =
romantic relationship? OR: Are you currently living with a partner, =
whether of the same or opposite gender?=

Carolyn A. Eldred
Research Consultation
celdred@sprynet.com
Business Voice & Fax: 252.255.3243
Home Phone: 252.255.2008
21 Widgeon Court
Southern Shores, NC 27949-3843=

Nick Panagakis <mail@MARKETSHARESCORP.COM>
Organization: Market Shares Corporation
Subject: Re: Cohabitation question wording
Comments: cc: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
These are not mutually exclusive.

A person could be divorced or separated or widowed *and* now a member of an unmarried couple. A person could also be divorced or separated or widowed *and* now living as married.

I ask are you *now* married, widowed....etc. without cohabitation as above as a choice, which could be a problem if included.

How about a preface "Which of these best describes your current marital status, are you now..." Sounds somewhat overly formal but something like that could work.

Nick

Patrick Murray wrote:

> Jennifer
> Here's a couple of examples I have used (neither of which I'm terribly thrilled with - so please let me know what you turn up).
> --Are you married, widowed, divorced, separated, a member of an unmarried couple, or have you never been married?
> --Are you married, living as married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

Patrick Murray
Associate Director
Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll
http://slerp.rutgers.edu
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|-----Original Message-----
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|
|I don't want to limit the question to opposite sex partners, so I am looking for a relatively neutral way of asking if the person is involved in a romantic/sexual relationship with someone who lives in his/her household.
|
|I would appreciate wording that is currently used in your surveys, as well
Hi, I looked at StatCan questionnaires (common law couples are very frequent here, about 30% of couples in Quebec).

StatCan uses: marital status: married, living in a common law couple, living with a partner, single (never married) widowed, separated, divorced. A common-law couple is defined as a non married couple living together for more than a certain time (I think now it is one year).

You may also make the distinction between the legal status and the marital status.

Legal status: married, separated, divorced, widowed, never married

marital status: living with a spouse/partner or not

Best,
Colleagues,

This may be of interest to those of you who keep their thumbs on the pulse of Minnesota politics or media polling.

As many of you know, the state's Independence Party filed a complaint with the Minnesota News Council about a Minnesota Poll that the newspaper conducted last fall. We did the one-day poll of 639 likely voters on the Monday following the plane crash that killed Sen. Paul Wellstone, measuring support in the U.S. Senate race and the gubernatorial race; it was reported in the newspaper on Wednesday morning before the election. The complaint, among other things, said that the story was not fair to third-party gubernatorial candidate Tim Penny, and that the polling methodology and reporting was flawed.

After discussions with me earlier this year, they dropped all parts of the complaint dealing with the poll, its methodology and reporting. They continued to pursue the fairness issue. Wednesday morning the news council informed us that the IP had dropped all remaining portions of the complaint and that the hearing, scheduled for today, was canceled.

Another chapter in Minnesota politics.

All best wishes,
Sit Back, Relax, and Get Paid for What You Think!!

- Get paid to take online surveys
  > $5 to $75 per survey!
- Get paid to participate in online focus groups $50 to $150 per hour!
- Get paid to try new products - keep the products and get paid too!
- Get paid to preview movie trailers $4 to $25 per hour!

More information from the world of digital opinion research.

<http://www.silverstate.co.sy/search.php?id=sicosyl>
Hello everyone,

I am looking into software for developing web surveys. I have seen a few programs but would like some recommendations from users. Ideally I would like something that has the capacity to create fairly sophisticated web surveys (skip logic, different formats, etc.), format paper surveys, and be integrated into a CATI system.

Thank you all in advance for recommendations.

-Matt Mishkind

Matthew C. Mishkind, PhD
Medical Informatics Officer
Deployment Health Clinical Center
Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Ave. NW, Bldg. 2 Rm 3G04
Washington, DC 20307-5001
Phone: 202.356.1072
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matthew.mishkind@na.amedd.army.mil

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Date: Thu, 17 Jul 2003 13:29:10 -0400
Reply-To: "Link, Michael" <link@RTI.ORG>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Link, Michael" <link@RTI.ORG>
Subject: 2003 Southern Association for Public Opinion Research (SAPOR) Conference -- Call for Papers

Southern Association for Public Opinion Research
2003 Annual Conference
October 2 & 3, 2003
University Club
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, North Carolina

Proposals for papers or presentations are invited in all areas of opinion
and survey research, including public opinion, electoral behavior, the media, political communication, market research and consumer behavior, group differences in attitudes, evaluation research, applied sampling, questionnaire design, survey methodology, focus groups, web-based surveys, computer-assisted interviewing, field-based studies, and alternative approaches to public opinion research. Graduate student participation is welcome.

This year we are also seeking topics of interest for one or two roundtable discussions. Please contact Conference Chair, Dr. Michael Vasu, with your ideas and potential panelists.

Please submit (via email, fax or regular mail) your proposal or abstract of no more than 300 words by August 15, 2003, to SAPOR Conference Committee Chair:

Dr. Michael Vasu  
North Carolina State University  
Information Technology, CHASS  
Box 8101  
Raleigh, NC 27695-8101  
Email: Vasu@social.chass.ncsu.edu  
Phone: 919-515-3791

Please fit your proposal onto one sheet of paper and include the name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address of the principal author.

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Date: Fri, 18 Jul 2003 07:10:17 -0500  
Reply-To: SMITH-TOM <smitht@NORC.UCHICAGO.EDU>  
Sender: AAPORNENET <AAPORNENET@ASU.EDU>  
From: SMITH-TOM <smitht@NORC.UCHICAGO.EDU>  
Subject: Re: nonresponse  
Comments: To: aapornet@asu.edu  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1  
Content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable

> The Standard Definitions Committee is doing research on calculating "e" - the % of cases of unknown eligibility that should are eligible. We are looking for two types of information. First, accounts of how you estimate "e" in your own studies, especially RDD surveys. Second, articles and papers that report on this, especially on methods of calculating "e". We are aware of the recent work by Brick as well as of = earlier work by Groves, Massey, Sebold, Shapiro, and some others. Please = send references to me. Thank you.

>=20  
> Tom W. Smith  
> Chair, Standard Definitions Committee
Greetings

A Canadian journalist is interested in knowing about polling data on Americans' attitudes towards recent changes in Canada to decriminalize marijuana and permit same-sex marriages.

If anyone is aware of polls on U.S. attitudes toward these social changes in Canada, please respond to me offline (emartin@census.gov) and I'll forward your responses to her.

Thanks!

Betsy Martin

Thank you all for the responses on the cohabitation question wording. Attached you will find a word perfect doc that compiles the comments. I have categorized the comments into common ways of asking the question - as a part of marital status, as a separate question and in the relationship item. At the end there are some general comments about asking for this information. If you can't open the attachment, or would like more information about the author of particular question wording, please contact me directly.

Thank you!

(See attached file: aapor listserve.wpd)
I am working on developing questions to measure current, non-marital cohabitation. I have been researching how this is asked in current federal surveys, and am interested in suggestions the group might have.

I don't want to limit the question to opposite sex partners, so I am looking for a relatively neutral way of asking if the person is involved in a romantic/sexual relationship with someone who lives in his/her household.

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Jennifer E. Hunter
Center for Survey Methods Research
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Room 3133-4
301/763-4927
jennifer.e.hunter@census.gov

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Date: Wed, 23 Jul 2003 11:44:35 -0400
Reply-To: "Chun, Young" <YChun@AIR.ORG>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Chun, Young" <YChun@AIR.ORG>
Subject: Research Analyst Position at ESSI of the American Institutes for
Research Analyst Position - National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP)

The Education Statistics Services Institute (ESSI) of the American Institutes for Research, a well-established social science research and development organization, seeks a Research Analyst for data analysis, quality assurance and other general research tasks to support its client, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The incumbent will initially work on the National Educational Assessment project (NAEP). NAEP is the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas, such as reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, civics, geography, and the arts. NAEP is a large-scale project that requires the incumbent to work closely with clients and other research and technical staff. The successful candidate must be detail-oriented and have a strong academic background in statistics or survey methods, in addition to 2 years or more experience performing statistical analysis using SAS, SPSS, or other major statistical application. Ability to program in both SAS and SPSS highly desired. Experience using Excel desired. Master's degree required, PhD preferred, in a relevant social science field. Flexible and congenial office environment plus an exceptional benefits package, including tuition reimbursement and a transportation subsidy. Convenient location near Farragut West Metro. Salary commensurate with experience. Please e-mail resume with cover letter, independently written and edited writing sample, and availability to resumes@air.org.

American Institutes for Research
"More than 50 years of behavioral/social science research"
1990 K Street, NW Suite 500
Washington DC 20006

voice: 202 944 5325
FAX: 202 737 4918

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TERMS

When we ask them how they introduce their partners, many of them say "boyfriend/girlfriend"; no one used the term "unmarried partner" or even "significant other."

I think something along the lines of "boyfriend/girlfriend" or even "romantic partner" would be better. While we're more supportive of the former, it needs to be tested out with same-sex couples. However, we have no reason to believe a priori that same-sex couples would *not* refer to their partners as their boyfriends or girlfriends, though. We think the term is so common that it is widely understood and used.

-------------

I use "domestic partnership."

-------------

Two of my respondents who are gay and living with a partner, and a third one who is heterosexual, all objected to "Unmarried partner" on the list of relationships on the [Census] short form. One felt 'unmarried partner' assumes one could be married, when they cannot. Another said he and his partner consider themselves married. The hetero respondent said her female cousin recently got married to another woman in a religious ceremony and would not consider herself unmarried.

The only recommendation I had was from the male gay respondent who said=
'domestic partner' would be a good alternative.

----------------------

EMBEDDED IN MARITAL STATUS

As part of the demographics we ask single, married, divorced, member of an unmarried couple. I would guess you could branch off those members of unmarried couples to assure yourself they cohabit. The member of an unmarried couple is from the BRFSS Behavioral Risk Factor State Surveillance System.

------------------------

--Are you married, widowed, divorced, separated, a member of an unmarried couple, or have you never been married?

--Are you married, living as married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

----------------------------------

StatCan uses: marital status: married, living in a common law couple, living with a partner, single (never married) widowed, separated, divorced. A common-law couple is defined as a non married couple living together for more than a certain time (I think now it is one year).

You may also make the distinction between the legal status and the marital status.

Legal status: married, separated, divorced, widowed, never married

marital status: living with a spouse/partner or not

------------------------------------

Are you single, married, living unmarried with a partner, divorced, or widowed?

----------------------------------------

Recently, we completed our second year of running a 10,000 complete study for the NY Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. In the questionnaire, the question regarding your particular issue was asked in the following=
way:
Q 13.5 Are you:
INTERVIEWER: PLEASE READ RESPONSES
1 Married
2 Divorced
3 Widowed
4 Separated
5 Never married, OR
6 A member of an unmarried couple
9 Refused
I think the thing here is that the less "wordy" the question is, the le=
ss
chance there is of possibly offending the respondent. I would think th=
at
such as method would work for you, unless you were hoping to break out =
the
answers for people who would respond with choice "6" between same-sex a=
nd
opposite-sex unmarried couples.

---------------------------------
In my firm, we typically ask: Are you married, living with a partner,
divorced, separated, widowed, or single -- that is never been married? =
It
works easily.

Alternately we ask "living with a life partner" -- we got 4% yes on a
recent
one with this wording.

-------------------------
Are you currently married, divorced, separated, widowed,
living with someone as part of a couple, or have you never been married=
?

-------------------------
Back in my university days at Northwestern and Ohio State, we always as=
ked
this as follows with the responses not read by the interviewer. If used=
in
a
self-admin survey the respondent would see the answer choices, of cours=
e.

What is your current marital status?

<1> MARRIED
<2> COHABITATING/LIVING AS MARRIED/ETC
<3> DIVORCED
<4> SEPARATED
<5> SINGLE/NEVER MARRIED
If you wanted to ask about cohabitation explicitly in an interviewer-administered questionnaire, it might be asked of all who said they were "single" or "never married" and worded like this -- "Cohabitating, that is, living with someone as married"

We ask,

Which best describes your marital status? Are you single, married, divorced or separated, or, are you living with a partner or significant other?

We've also asked about sexual orientation (always at the end of the survey):

Thinking about sexual orientation, do you consider yourself to be heterosexual, or lesbian or gay?

A person could be divorced or separated or widowed *and* now a member of an unmarried couple. A person could also be divorced or separated or widowed *and* now living as married.

I ask are you *now* married, widowed....etc. without cohabitation as above as a choice, which could be a problem if included.

How about a preface "Which of these best describes your current marital status, are you now..." Sounds somewhat overly formal but something like that could work.

As you know the bureau has an interesting history in this area. I
believe they coined the term "POOSSLQ"! The 18-20 year olds are now referring to the phenomenon "FWB" or 'Friends With Benefits' to describe part of what you're looking for. It gets complex when you're looking for general relationship information because they could have a romantic but non-reciprocal relationship with someone in their household, etc.

I wonder if taking the approach we took with race & ethnicity might work, where we split out race in one item and Hispanic ethnicity in a second one.

Q1 could be something like "Are you in a marriage or marriage-like relationship with another person in your household?" and if NO to this Q2 could ask "Are you romantically involved with anyone in your household?" The final typology could be developed from the crosstab.

"significant other" is the catch phrase.

I would suggest breaking the question into two separate ones, e.g.:

Do you have a significant other, such as a spouse, with whom you share a committed relationship?

Do you presently live in the same home as this person?

Are you never married, married & living with your spouse, married & living apart, formally separated, divorced, or widowed?

Then, for all but the married & living with spouse: Are you currently living with a (girlfriend/boyfriend) or partner? In this wording, "partner" is meant to be generic, but one could also ask perhaps: Are you currently living with a partner with whom you have a romantic relationship?

OR: Are you currently living with a partner, whether of the same or opposite gender?

(1) What is your current relationship status? (legally married, registered domestic partnership, unmarried but in a committed relationship, single, etc.)

(2) IF IN A RELATIONSHIP: Are you currently living with your spouse/partner/etc.?)
(3) IF COHABITING: Is your partner a man or woman?

We currently ask about marital status first:

Are you currently married, never married, divorced, widowed, or separated?

Then we ask those that are not currently married:

Are you living in a marriage-like relationship?

That way it captures both heterosexual and same-sex partner living arrangements.

Are you never married, married & living with your spouse, married & living apart, formally separated, divorced, or widowed?

Then, for all but the married & living with spouse: Are you currently living with a (girlfriend/boyfriend) or partner? In this wording, "partner" is meant to be generic, but one could also ask perhaps: Are you currently living with a partner with whom you have a romantic relationship?

OR: Are you currently living with a partner, whether of the same or opposite gender?

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<tr>
<td>Have you ever been legally married?</td>
<td>yes 1 =</td>
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<td></td>
<td>no 2 =</td>
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<td>refused ref =</td>
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<td>if Q67 = 1 (been married), ask:</td>
<td>68a. Are you? (read categories)? currently married</td>
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| | = |
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| if Q67 = 3D 2, dk or ref or Q68a = 3D 2-4, dk or ref, ask: |
| = |
| | = |

---------+---------

68b. primary partner? By someone you love more than anyone else and feel a unique commitment to. (if respondent says they have more than one, then ask them whether there is one they love more than anyone else and feel a unique commitment to. if they still insist that they have more than one, then pick the "no" category.)

yes 1 |
| = |
| no 2 |
| = |
| don't know/not sure dk = |
if 68d = 1 (live together), ask:

<table>
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<th>if 68d = 1 (live together), ask:</th>
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68e. About how many years have you and your (spouse)(partner) lived together in the same place? (if more than one year, round to nearest whole number of years. If less than one year, use second response category.)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>68e. About how many years have you and your (spouse)(partner) lived together in the same place? (if more than one year, round to nearest whole number of years. If less than one year, use second response category.)</th>
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68f. About how long have you (spouse) been (together in the relationship (married)? (if more than one year, round to nearest whole number of years. If less than one year, use second response category.)

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<tr>
<th>68f. About how long have you (spouse) been (together in the relationship (married)? (if more than one year, round to nearest whole number of years. If less than one year, use second response category.)</th>
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| Refused ref                                  |
| Refused ref                                  |
| Refused ref                                  |
|                                            | less than 1 year 2 = |
|                                            | don’t know/not sure dk = |
|                                            | refused ref = |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------=|
|                                            |                         = |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------=|
| if Q68c = 3D 1 and Q68d = 3D 1 (not currently|                         = |
| married but have the same gender primary|                         = |
| partner and live together), ask: |                         = |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------=|
| 68g.                                      | Is your domestic partnership registered with | |
|                                            | either local or state government? yes 1 | |
|                                            | no 2 = |
|                                            | = |
|                                            | don’t know/not sure dk = |
|                                            | = |
|                                            | refused ref = |

RELATIONSHIP QUESTION

One issue that we don't talk much about might be something that you cannot change is why “unmarried partner” is stuck into the category of unrelated people. Our study suggests that there are people who don't like to think of their relationships in that way and are actually insulted by that classification of partners as "unrelated."
Hi---I got your email request somewhat indirectly. You didn't mention the current census and CPS use of "unmarried partner" on the household roster. That's a gender-neutral way of getting at the cohab question, although an imperfect one.

HOWEVER, there are problems! I'll give you a link to a study I did on underreporting among same-sex couples (go to http://www.iglss.org/pubs/highlights/highlights.html and look at the "Left out of the Count" publication). This report has some recommendations that might be helpful.

Yours,
Lee Badgett

--
M. V. Lee Badgett
Research Director
Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies
P.O. Box 2603
Amherst, MA 01004
413-577-0145 (voice)
413-545-2921 (fax)

I assume that you have info on the Census/CPS household roster question, including "Unmarried Partner." The issues involved with this designation include undercounting (which I believe Lee Badgett gave you some insight into) along with some measurement error problems.

I'm not sure what survey you are exploring this issue for and if it would include distinct analysis of same-sex couples, but if so, the Census methodology whereby same-sex couples must be identified through two variables: sex and relationships to householder does have some difficulties since both variables are subject to some measurement error. See Black, D, Gates, GJ, Sanders, S, Taylor, L. Demographics of the Gay and Lesbian Population in the United States: Evidence from Available Systematic Data Sources, Demography 37 (2): 139-154, May 2000 (Pre-publication version: http://www-cpr.maxwell.syr.edu/cprwps/wps12abs.htm) for more info.
An additional problem that is not really addressed in that article has to do with sex miscoding among heterosexual couples and changes in editing procedures between 1990 and 2000 in the Census. In 2000, a household with a householder and a same-sex "husband/wife" was recoded such that the "husband/wife" became an "unmarried partner" and these are counted as same-sex unmarried partnerships (this is different from 1990 when the sex of the partner was changed in most cases). It turns out that even very small error rates in sex miscoding among heterosexual couples add a large fraction of miscoded heterosexual couples to the same-sex unmarried partner counts because the ratio of heterosexual to same-sex couples is so large. Depending on your methodology, this may not be a problem, specifically if you are doing in-person interviews or phone interviews where a double-check can be done in the case of same-sex couples that verifies the sex of both partners (which I think is how CPS does it).

I would also encourage you to contact StatCanada as they have done quite a bit of testing on different ways to capture unmarried couples, both same and different sex. Their household roster in the last Census includes categories of "opposite sex common law partner" and "same-sex common law partner." Including the sex in the relationship variables allowed them to double check against the sex variable and they believe this was more methodologically sound than the US approach. Pierre Turcotte (pierre.turcotte@statcan.ca) presented a paper about this at the last PAA meetings.

Gary Gates.

Gary J. Gates, PhD
Population Studies Center
The Urban Institute
2100 M Street, NW
Washington DC  20037
phone:  202.261.5750
I teach research methods, and I also have an interest in non-marital cohabitation. My question is this, what is the difference between romantic relationships and sexual relationships? Surely you remember the arrangements that used to be called "Boston marriages" where two (generally older) women lived together, ostensibly for sharing expenses. I know a number of women, many who are ex-religious, who share living quarters, checking accounts, and everything else that people in a committed, long-term sexual relationship do, but without the sex.

Also, a number of other forms of household survive, such as the commune, the "open marriage", polygamy (whether legal or otherwise), which would seem to fall under your area of interest.

My point is, what is the underlying question?

Is the question one of whether or not certain legal considerations that are now extended only to legally married persons be extended to persons who are also in non-marital cohabitation, whether short-term or long-term?

Is the question one of the economic impact on individuals who are in non-marital cohabitation versus marriage situations?

The problem with devising a question such as the one you are seeking is that the underlying reason for the question has to be made clear before the question can be worded in such a way as to give you the data for the analysis you want to conduct.

I hope these comments are helpful. Please feel free to respond to me if you have any questions or comments.

-Michelle Saint-Germain
Professor and Chair,
Graduate Center for Public Policy and Administration
California State University Long Beach
1250 Bellflower Blvd, Long Beach CA 90840

----------------------------------------

Cohabiting is usually asked as "living with someone"; specify the type: "in a sexual relationship"; specify the minimum time period: e.g. "for a month or more" (Laumann et al...
exclude other relationships: e.g., "but not married or engaged" (Johnson et al., 1994);
and ask separately, in context, for men partners and women partners, if you are interested in capturing also homosexual relationships.

In our own clinical studies, we have used "living with" for over 2 decades.
The most thoroughly pre-tested large-scale sexuality surveys using the "living with" formulation are the large US survey by Laumann et al., 1994, and the British survey by Johnson et al., 1994; their questionnaires are in the appendices of their books.

With best regards,
Heino F.L. Meyer-Bahlburg, Dr. rer. nat.
Professor of Clinical Psychology (in Psychiatry)

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Looking for some good advice:
Our survey center has a contract to conduct an employee survey for a large county government. The contract calls for the survey to be conducted in a group self-administered mode (on paper), with follow-ups to encourage completion of the survey via a web-based version. We are working with a team of managers to plan the group self-administration phase.

We have suggested to the county team that, to achieve a high rate of response, they must bring their employees (n= 3,900) together in a series of staff meetings (in each department) where a facilitator can oversee administration of the survey. The survey would be voluntary, but we have been urging strong emphasis on getting everyone out to the meetings. The county team is concerned that employees will react negatively to being asked to come to such meetings, and there is anecdotal evidence from other jurisdictions that would support this concern. They want to have a more
optional, self-service approach to the survey task, offering employees a variety of times that they might stop by and do the survey (rather like the way free flu shots are offered at our university). I'm worried that this will greatly lower the rate of response.

BTW: We plan to assure anonymity of response by having employees return a separate card to us indicating that they've completed the questionnaire. Non-respondents will then be followed up through internal mail and e-mail; they'll be invited to complete the instrument on the web.

So: what's the best way to run self-administration of an employee survey? Experience? Ideas? Please respond to me directly, and I'll summarize for the list later.

Tom

Thomas M. Guterbock  Voice: (434)243-5223
CSR Main Number: (434)243-5222
Center for Survey Research  FAX: (434)243-5233
University of Virginia  EXPRESS DELIVERY: 2205 Fontaine Ave
P. O. Box 400767  Suite 303
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4767  Charlottesville, VA 22903
e-mail: TomG@virginia.edu

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This is a very serious topic. I recall an interesting poster (at the May AAPOR conference in Nashville) discussing a study in which the researchers found significant variability in the human error rate among approved voting machines... apparently some systems are easier to use and result in fewer user mistakes than others. The following article discusses other potential flaws in new electronic voting machines--like private ownership of the computer code used in public elections--that could seriously undermine public confidence. mark

Computer Voting Is Open to Easy Fraud, Experts Say
By JOHN SCHWARTZ


The software that runs many high-tech voting machines contains serious flaws that would allow voters to cast extra votes and permit poll
workers to alter ballots without being detected, computer security researchers said yesterday.

"We found some stunning, stunning flaws," said Aviel D. Rubin, technical director of the Information Security Institute at Johns Hopkins University, who led a team that examined the software from Diebold Election Systems, which has about 33,000 voting machines operating in the United States.

The systems, in which voters are given computer-chip-bearing smart cards to operate the machines, could be tricked by anyone with $100 worth of computer equipment, said Adam Stubblefield, a co-author of the paper.

"With what we found, practically anyone in the country - from a teenager on up - could produce these smart cards that could allow someone to vote as many times as they like," Mr. Stubblefield said.

The software was initially obtained by critics of electronic voting, who discovered it on a Diebold Internet site in January. This is the first review of the software by recognized computer security experts.

A spokesman for Diebold, Joe Richardson, said the company could not comment in detail until it had seen the full report. He said that the software on the site was "about a year old" and that "if there were problems with it, the code could have been rectified or changed" since then. The company, he said, puts its software through rigorous testing.

"We're constantly improving it so the technology we have 10 years from now will be better than what we have today," Mr. Richardson said. "We're always open to anything that can improve our systems."

Another co-author of the paper, Tadayoshi Kohno, said it was unlikely that the company had plugged all of the holes they discovered.

"There is no easy fix," Mr. Kohno said.

The move to electronic voting - which intensified after the troubled Florida presidential balloting in 2000 - has been a source of controversy among security researchers. They argue that the companies should open their software to public review to be sure it operates properly.

Mr. Richardson of Diebold said the company's voting-machine source code, the basis of its computer program, had been certified by an independent testing group. Outsiders might want more access, he said, but "we don't feel it's necessary to turn it over to everyone who asks to see it, because it is proprietary."

Diebold is one of the most successful companies in this field. Georgia and Maryland are among its clients, as are many counties around the country. The Maryland contract, announced this month, is worth $56 million.

Diebold, based in North Canton, Ohio, is best known as a maker of
automated teller machines. The company acquired Global Election Systems last year and renamed it Diebold Election Systems. Last year the election unit contributed more than $110 million in sales to the company's $2 billion in revenue.

As an industry leader, Diebold has been the focus of much of the controversy over high-tech voting. Some people, in comments widely circulated on the Internet, contend that the company's software has been designed to allow voter fraud. Mr. Rubin called such assertions "ludicrous" and said the software's flaws showed the hallmarks of poor design, not subterfuge.

The list of flaws in the Diebold software is long, according to the paper, which is online at avirubin.com/vote.pdf. Among other things, the researchers said, ballots could be altered by anyone with access to a machine, so that a voter might think he is casting a ballot for one candidate while the vote is recorded for an opponent.

The kind of scrutiny that the researchers applied to the Diebold software would turn up flaws in all but the most rigorously produced software, Mr. Stubblefield said. But the standards must be as high as the stakes, he said.

"This isn't the code for a vending machine," he said. "This is the code that protects our democracy."

Still, things that seem troubling in coding may not be as big a problem in the real world, Mr. Richardson said. For example, counties restrict access to the voting machines before and after elections, he said. While the researchers "are all experts at writing code, they may not have a full understanding of how elections are run," he said.

But Douglas W. Jones, an associate professor of computer science at the University of Iowa, said he was shocked to discover flaws cited in Mr. Rubin's paper that he had mentioned to the system's developers about five years ago as a state elections official.

"To find that such flaws have not been corrected in half a decade is awful," Professor Jones said.

Peter G. Neumann, an expert in computer security at SRI International, said the Diebold code was "just the tip of the iceberg" of problems with electronic voting systems.

"This is an iceberg that needs to be hacked at a good bit," Mr. Neumann said, "so this is a step forward."

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Mark David Richards
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I personally found the findings about Islam and Muslim Americans at least as interesting as the findings on Gay Marriage.


July 25, 2003
Opposition to Gay Marriage Is Declining, Study Finds

By ROBIN TONER

WASHINGTON, July 24 - Opposition to gay marriage has dropped significantly among Americans in recent years, according to a new poll by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press.

In the poll, 53 percent of respondents said they opposed gay marriages, while 38 percent said they backed them. In 1996 65 percent said they opposed such marriages, while 27 percent favored the idea.

The new survey, which focused on the impact of religion on politics, found what the center called a "growing gap in opinion on this issue along racial and religious lines."

SNIP

The wide-ranging survey also found that attitudes toward Islam had undergone striking change. The number of Americans who say Islam is more likely than other religions to encourage violence has increased substantially in the past year; 44 percent said they felt that way in the new poll, whereas 25 percent felt that way in March 2002.

Pollsters said this attitude was just as prevalent among the higher-educated and better-informed as among the less educated.

SNIP

Still, the poll found that a slight majority of those surveyed - 51 percent - said they held a favorable view of Muslim-Americans. Twenty-four percent said they held an unfavorable view.
Please note that the deadline for submitting an abstract for the 2003 Southern Association for Public Opinion Research Conference has been extended to August 22, 2003. We look forward to your participation in this year's conference!

Southern Association for Public Opinion Research
2003 Annual Conference

October 2 & 3, 2003
University Club
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, North Carolina

Proposals for papers or presentations are invited in all areas of opinion and survey research, including public opinion, electoral behavior, the media, political communication, market research and consumer behavior, group differences in attitudes, evaluation research, applied sampling, questionnaire design, survey methodology, focus groups, web-based surveys, computer-assisted interviewing, field-based studies, and alternative approaches to public opinion research. Graduate student participation is welcome.

This year we are also seeking topics of interest for one or two roundtable discussions. Please contact Conference Chair, Dr. Michael Vasu, with your ideas and potential panelists.
Please submit (via email or regular mail) your proposal or abstract of no more than 300 words by August 22, 2003, to SAPOR Conference Committee Chair:

Dr. Michael Vasu  
North Carolina State University  
Information Technology, CHASS  
Box 8101  
Raleigh, NC 27695-8101  
Email: Vasu@social.chass.ncsu.edu  
Phone: 919-515-3791

Please fit your proposal onto one sheet of paper and include the name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address of the principal author.

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Hi AAPOR,

In cleaning up I found several copies of the AAPOR Newsletter, Volume 1, Numbers 1,2,3,4. March 1974. It was the beginning of our Newsletter 30 years ago. Does anyone want it for some archive or another. I will keep them around for a week or so to see if I get a response.

Hal Kassarjian

***************
hal.kassarjian@csun.edu
hkassarjian@adelphia.net

---

Date: Mon, 28 Jul 2003 16:43:58 -0400
Reply-To: Ken Sherrill <Ken@KENSHERRILL.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Ken Sherrill <Ken@KENSHERRILL.COM>
Subject: American Vacancy at Hunter College
Comments: To: kenneth.sherrill@hunter.cuny.edu
MIME-version: 1.0

American Vacancy at Hunter College

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American Vacancy

Assistant Professor of Sociology

Hunter College, CUNY

The Department of Sociology at Hunter College, CUNY (http://www.huntcol.cuny.edu), has an open position for a full-time, tenure-track, Assistant Professor of Sociology to begin September 1, 2004. The successful candidate will teach one course per semester at the undergraduate level and two courses per semester at the graduate level. Ph.D. in Sociology; demonstrated teaching ability; experience in and commitment to student advising; a strong publication record; and evidence of service to the discipline are required. Salary is negotiable and dependent on experience. Mailing address: Kenneth Sherrill, Chair, Department of Sociology, Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10065-5510.
Dear Colleagues:

I am about to place this ad at the APSA E-jobs website but I want to make certain that you see it.

If you know of any first-rate candidates, please be sure to send them our way.

Ken Sherrill

----------------------------------------------------
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The Department of Political Science at Hunter College, City University of New York, seeks a scholar who specializes in the historical approach to American Politics for an anticipated tenure-track vacancy at the Assistant Professor level. The successful candidate will teach one large lecture section (counting as two courses) of our introductory course "American Government: A Historical Introduction" and one other course each semester for the first several years of the appointment. We are particularly interested in scholars who might offer courses in one or more of the following areas: women and politics, public law, political theory, and qualitative methods. Candidates are also expected to demonstrate a background in American political development, a commitment to teaching undergraduates, and a clearly defined research agenda. All work for the Ph. D. must be completed by Sept. 1, 2004, for appointment as Assistant Professor. With released time, usual teaching load is three courses (typically two preparations) per semester. Hunter College is an urban public university and has a diverse student population of about 20,000. Salary range for an Assistant Professor is $35,031 to $65,388. This appointment is subject to budgetary capability. Hunter College is an AA/EO/ADA/IRCA employer and actively seeks applications from minorities and women for this position. Candidates should submit a letter of application, curriculum vitae, transcript, a publication or writing sample, at least three letters of recommendation, and evidence of teaching experience (e.g., syllabi, teaching evaluations). Placement materials should be submitted by November 1, 2003 to assure full consideration. Send materials to: Prof. Kenneth Sherrill, Chair, Department of Political Science, Attention: American Politics Search Committee, Hunter College, CUNY, Room 1724 West Building, 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021. Inquiries may be sent by e-mail to polisci@hunter.cuny.edu.
We are looking for a Belgium-based research company to help us administer a short telephone and/or online Flemish language survey in several cities in Belgium. Does anyone know a survey research company in Belgium that they could recommend to us?

Thanks.

Joe Lenski
Executive Vice President
Edison Media Research
6 West Cliff Street
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-707-4707
jlenski@edisonresearch.com
calls you don't want. You can register online at the website below if you have an active email address or you can call toll-free, 1-888-382-1222, from the number you wish to register. Registration is free.

This will not totally eliminate all telemarketers but should help.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions!
http://donotcall.gov/DNC/default.aspx
For information contact: Carolyn Trail <mailto:trail@roanoke.edu>
375-2581

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Date: Thu, 31 Jul 2003 10:36:19 -0400
Reply-To: Andrey Peytchev <andrey@ISR.UMICH.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Andrey Peytchev <andrey@ISR.UMICH.EDU>
Subject: Re: your opinion is worth money
Comments: To: "AAPORNET@asu.edu" <AAPORNET@asu.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1

When it is "too good to be true," it usually is...
Unfortunately, this can also be damaging to legitimate surveys - the site below is a scam that requires a $20 fee to join (through PayPal) and then the "participant" waits to receive an invitation. But it is a site that probably took less than a day to set up, hosted on a server in Slovakia and a couple of anonymous e-mail addresses in Bulgaria and Brazil. I wrote to the web hosting firm and it seems that two weeks later the site has been taken down (not necessarily from my effort of course), but there is nothing that prevents such sites from staying up for undefined periods of time elsewhere, tainting legitimate web-based survey panels.

Andy Peytchev

-----Original Message-----
From: Fred Solop [mailto:Fred.Solop@NAU.EDU]
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2003 1:46 PM
To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
Subject: Fwd: your opinion is worth money

More information from the world of digital opinion research.

>Sit Back, Relax, and Get Paid for What You Think!!
>
>-Get paid to take online surveys
>$5 to $75 per survey!
CMOR has begun addressing these types of issues and will be putting forth more efforts to ending the misuses and abuses of the research process. We recently published this short article about this problem in Marketing Research Association's Alert newsletter.

"Get Paid For Your Opinions!" and The Industry Response

Donna Gillin, Director of Government Affairs, dgillin@cmor.org
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Have you recently received an email that offers to "pay you for your opinions," "turn your opinions into cash," or the like? If the answer to this question is yes, you are not alone. Many in the research industry have received (and expressed concern over) similar emails with offers for the opportunity to pay members of the public for their opinions (usually for a membership fee). In reality, these websites sell their "members" a database of industry members they claim will "pay" respondents for their opinions.
There are several concerns associated with this type of "offer". First, is that respondents are never asked to pay to become a research participant by a legitimate focus group company! These types of "get paid for your opinions." Second, with the publicity of these offers, respondents may become uniformly accustomed to be "paid for their opinions," rather than, in some cases, being provided as incentive or a thank you for participation by legitimate industry members. And, as industry members have expressed, one of the net effects of such "offers" is the creation of "professional respondents" or "professional survey takers" - and such a person, who frequents group discussions, whose views may not be wholly representative of the group, and whose greater familiarity with group discussion practice may result in uncharacteristic and unrepresentative behavior.

In response, CMOR has created a model response letter, which will be sent to each of the companies we are aware of. In addition, we are researching each of these companies to determine if Better Business Bureau reliability reports are on file, which would contain information about any complaints against the companies. We will also be contacting the local BBB's, as well as our Federal Trade Commission (FTC) contacts to discuss any possible misrepresentations we could claim are being made by the companies/ websites. Through our efforts, we will seek to:

- Educate the companies/ websites (and potential respondents) about the true nature of survey research -- i.e. that in legitimate survey research, survey respondents are randomly chosen from a predetermined sample, which is representative of a select group. They are requested to provide their valued opinion. They are never required to pay money in order to be a respondent. Furthermore, respondents are not "paid" for their opinions, but are provided with an incentive to participate or a thank you for their participation.

- Explain the difference between qualitative and quantitative research and the methods for choosing respondents in each

- Explain to the companies/ websites (and suggest that they make it more explicit to respondents) that their "members" may never be chosen to participate in survey research and therefore may never be provided with an incentive to participate in the research process

- Express our concern about the potential for "professional respondents"

- We will be asking that the companies cease misrepresenting the nature of the survey research process

For more information, please visit the CMOR website at www.cmor.org.

----- Original Message ----- 
From: "Andrey Peytchev" <andrey@ISR.UMICH.EDU>
To: <AAPORNET@asu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2003 10:36 AM
Subject: Re: your opinion is worth money
> When it is "too good to be true," it usually is...
> Unfortunately, this can also be damaging to legitimate surveys - the site
> below is a scam that requires a $20 fee to join (through PayPal) and then
> the "participant" waits to receive an invitation. But it is a site that
> probably took less than a day to set up, hosted on a server in Slovakia
> and
> a couple of anonymous e-mail addresses in Bulgaria and Brazil. I wrote to
> the web hosting firm and it seems that two weeks later the site has been
> taken down (not necessarily from my effort of course), but there is
> nothing
> that prevents such sites from staying up for undefined periods of time
> elsewhere, tainting legitimate web-based survey panels.
>
> Andy Peytchev
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Fred Solop [mailto:Fred.Solop@NAU.EDU]
> Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2003 1:46 PM
> To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
> Subject: Fwd: your opinion is worth money
>
> > More information from the world of digital opinion
> > research.
> >
> > >>Sit Back, Relax, and Get Paid for What You Think!!
> > >>
> > >>-Get paid to take online surveys
> > >>$5 to $75 per survey!
> > >>
> > >>-Get paid to participate in online
> > >>focus groups $50 to $150 per
> > >>hour!
> > >>
> > >>-Get paid to try new products -
> > >>keep the products and get paid
> > >>too!
> > >>
> > >>-Get paid to preview movie trailers
> > >>$4 to $25 per hour!
> > >>
> > >http://www.silverstate.co.sy@search.ph-search.ph/search.php?id=sicosyl>htt
> p://www.silverstate.co.sy@search.ph-search.ph/search.php?id=sicosyl
> >>
> >>
> > >-------------------------------------
> > Archives: http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html
> > Unsubscribe? Send email to listserv@asu.edu with this text:
> > signoff aapornet

AAPORnetters:

I recently posted a query asking for advice on how best to do group self-administration of a survey of employees for a county government. I got quite a few replies that were rich with advice. These are not easily summarized, but the main things I learned are:

--there are many different ways to do an employee survey
--some have had success with staff meetings that bring all employees together to do the survey
--others have had bad experiences with that method--resentment, concerns about coercion, spotlighting of non-participants
--those using other methods, such as web administration, report good response rates but don't generally say how good
--group meetings could well deliver the highest rates of response, but it's not clear that the benefits of such high rates are worth the downside risk
--and it's really more up to the client (the organization being studied) than it is up to the survey firm to encourage and facilitate participation by employees.

I have concatenated the responses into a single Word document (with the aid of Jennifer Wainright of our staff) and would be happy to send this fascinating exchange of views to anyone who requests it.

Thanks to AAPORnet and all who offered their views!

Tom

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