

Class exercise: Your adopted survey

Form pairs and **tell (and ask!)**:

1. What is the name of your survey?
2. What is the population of the study?
3. How are individuals selected to be invited for the survey?
(sampling design)
4. What is the sample size?
5. What survey mode is being used?
6. What methods to prevent nonresponse?
7. What are the central concepts that are measured in the survey?

Your adopted survey

- Who thinks he/she has the smallest survey?
- Who has the largest survey?

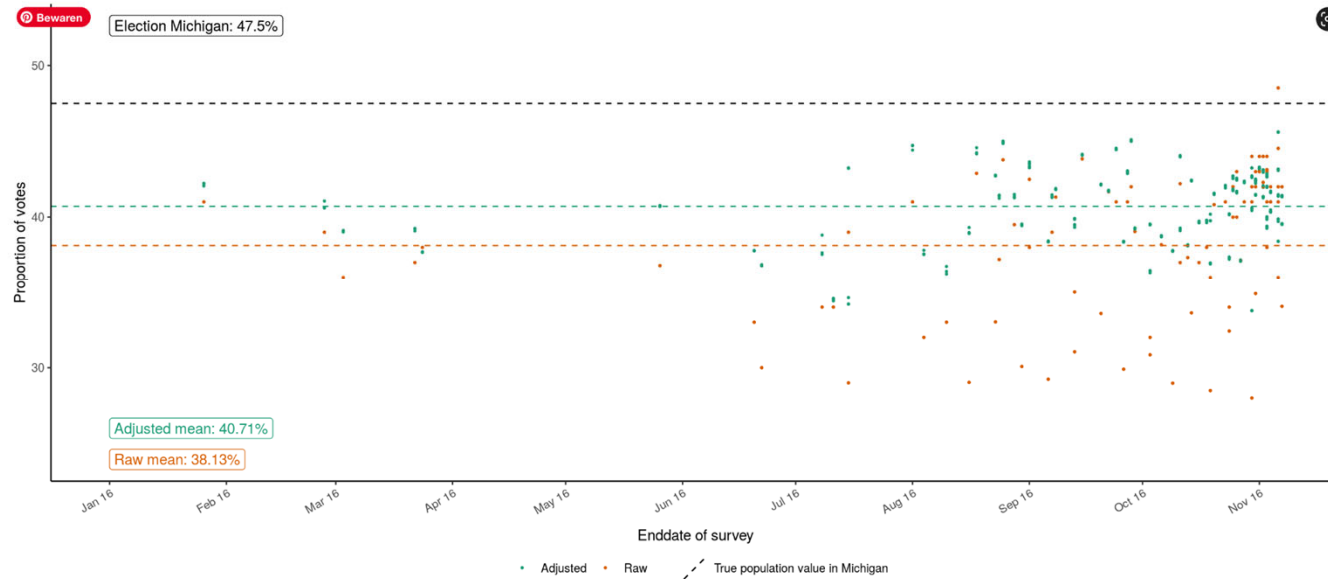
- Who has a special population?
 - Not the general population

- What mode is used to interview people?
 - Face-to-face
 - Mail
 - Telephone
 - Web

Today

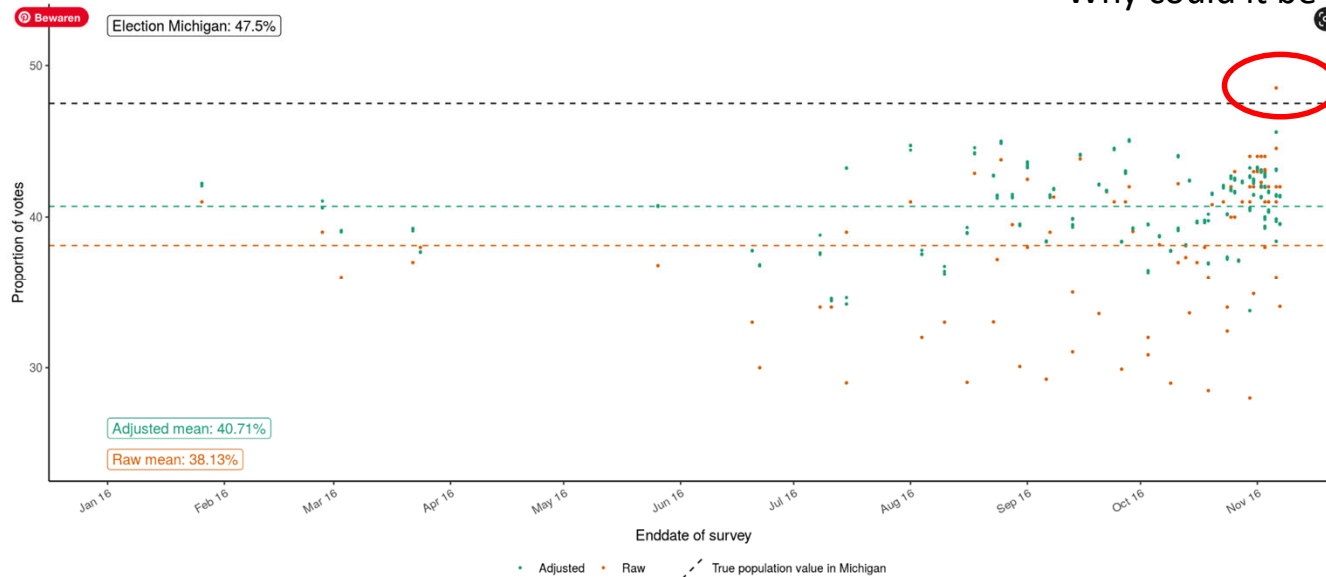
- Bias, error and MSE
- Total Survey Error (TSE)
- Total data error (TDE)
- How survey design affects error
 - The central role of survey modes

Class exercise week 1



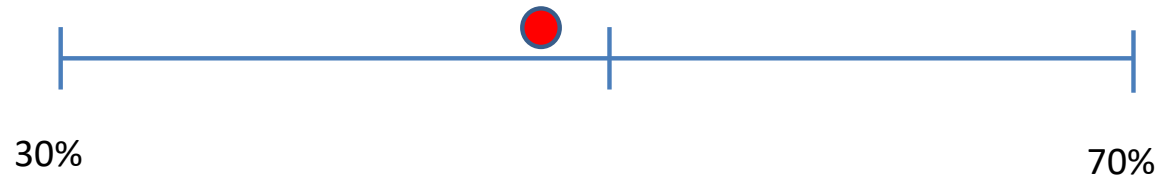
Class exercise week 1

Let's focus on 1 sample:
Why could it be off?



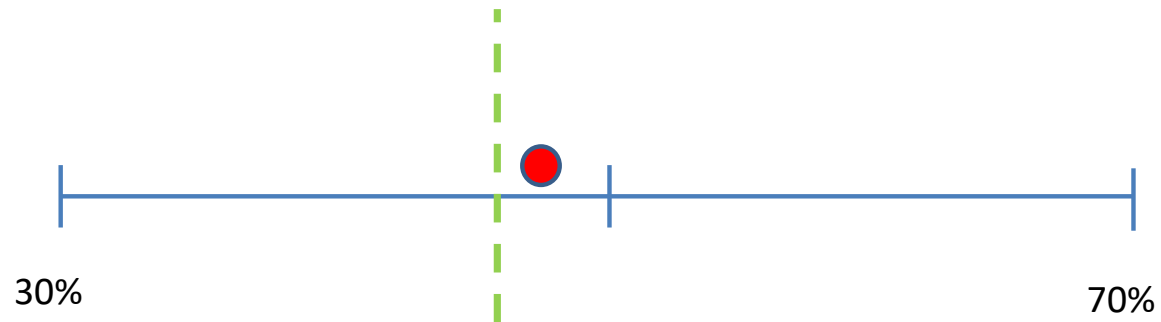
1 sample in Michigan: point estimate

- Estimate: 48%
- $n = 1000$



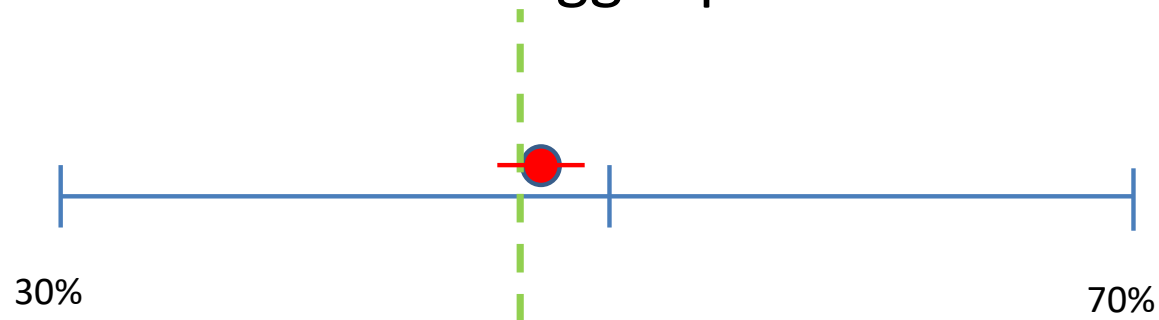
1 sample: bias

- Estimate: 48%
- True value: 47.5%
- Bias: $\hat{B} = \bar{y}_r - \bar{\mu}$ (Biemer, 2010)
 $\hat{B} = 48 - 47.5 = 0.5\%$



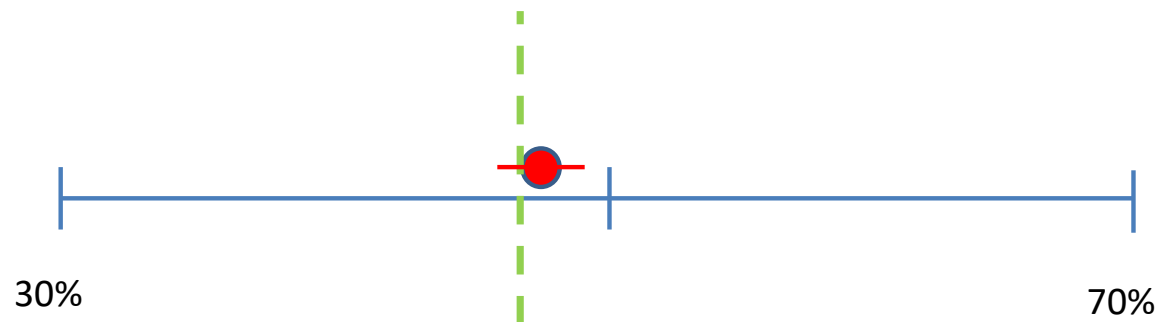
1 sample: error

- Point estimate: 48%
- Standard error (SE) = $\sqrt{p(1-p)/n}$
 $SE = \sqrt{(.48*.52)/1000} = .016$
- Confidence interval: [.45 - .51]
– [p +/- 1.96 * se]
- Is error or bias a bigger problem?



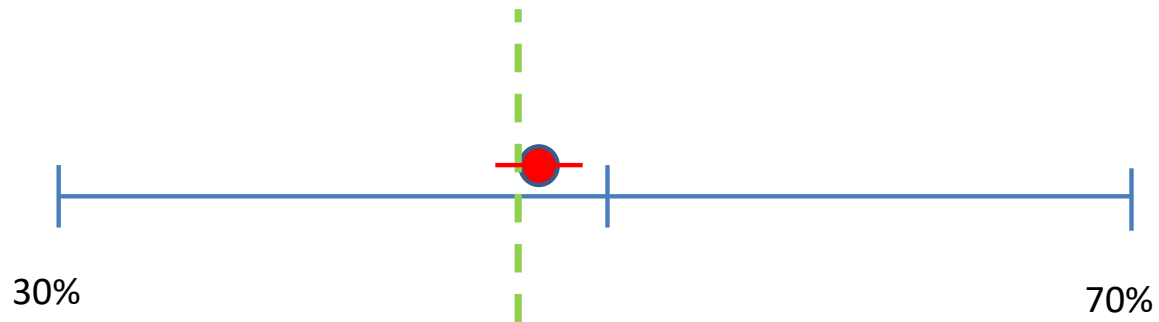
Estimate = true value + error + bias

- True value is within confidence interval!
- So, we have to assume there is bias
 - The 0.5% difference could be bias or error
 - Or, is the bias we see higher than expected error?
 - Next week, more on bias and error in samples
- Mean Squared error (MSE): $\text{bias}^2 + \text{error}$



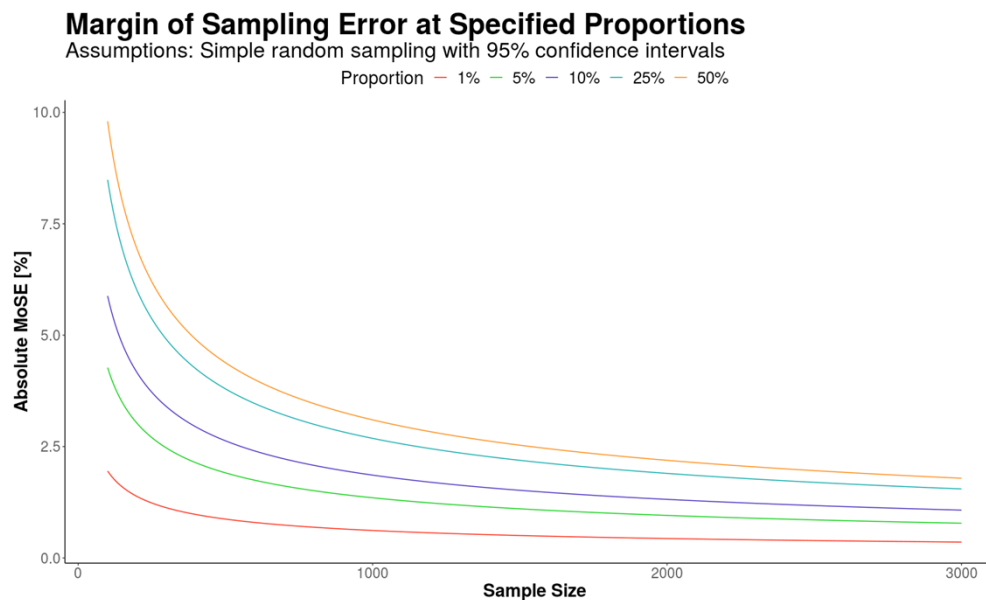
Mean square error

- $MSE = .005^2 + .016 = .000025 + .016 = .016025$
- Sampling error seems larger problem
- Biemer: a bit more complicated as true value also has a variance $\widehat{MSE}(\bar{y}_R) \doteq \widehat{B}^2 - v(\bar{\mu}) + 2\sqrt{v(\bar{y}_R)v(\bar{\mu})}$,
 - Estimating population variance in mean tricky...

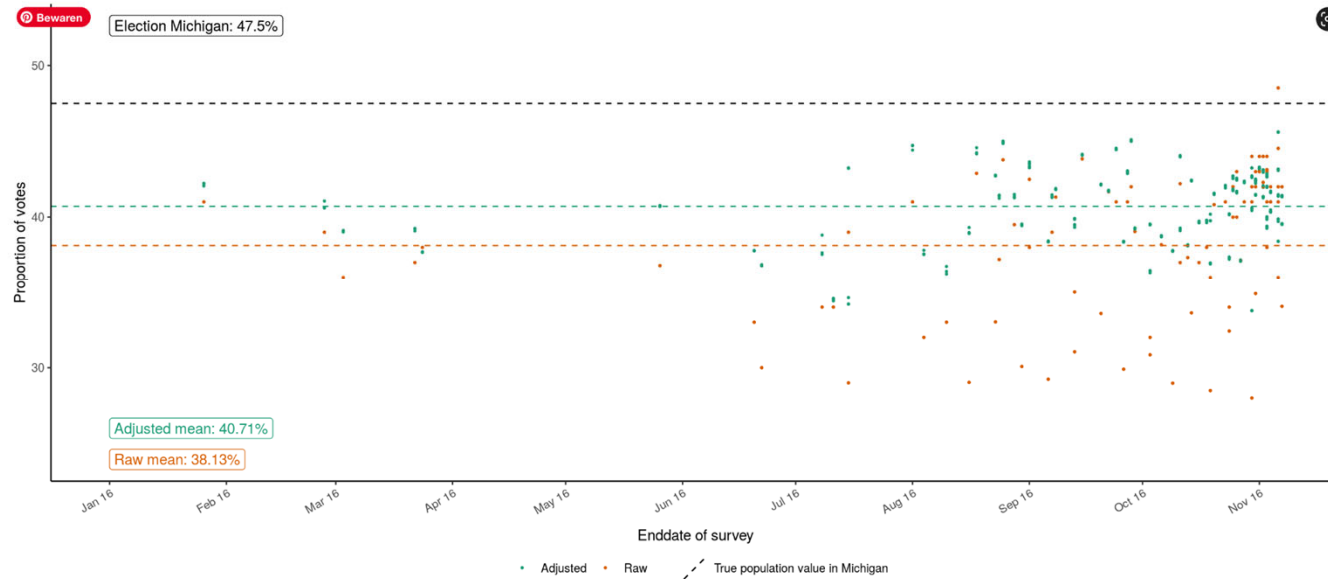


Survey design

- What if we increase sample size?
 - 10000 instead of 1000?
 - $Se(r): \sqrt{(.48*.52)/10000} = .005$



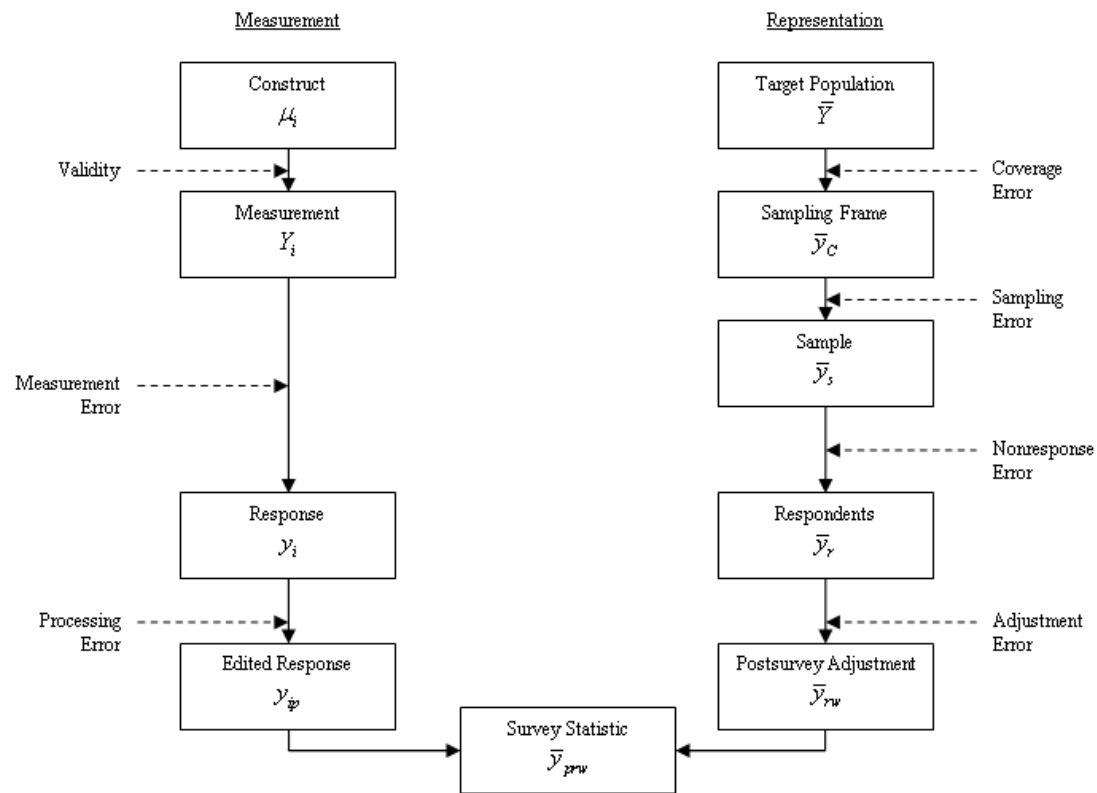
Why we still worry about bias



Bias and error in more detail

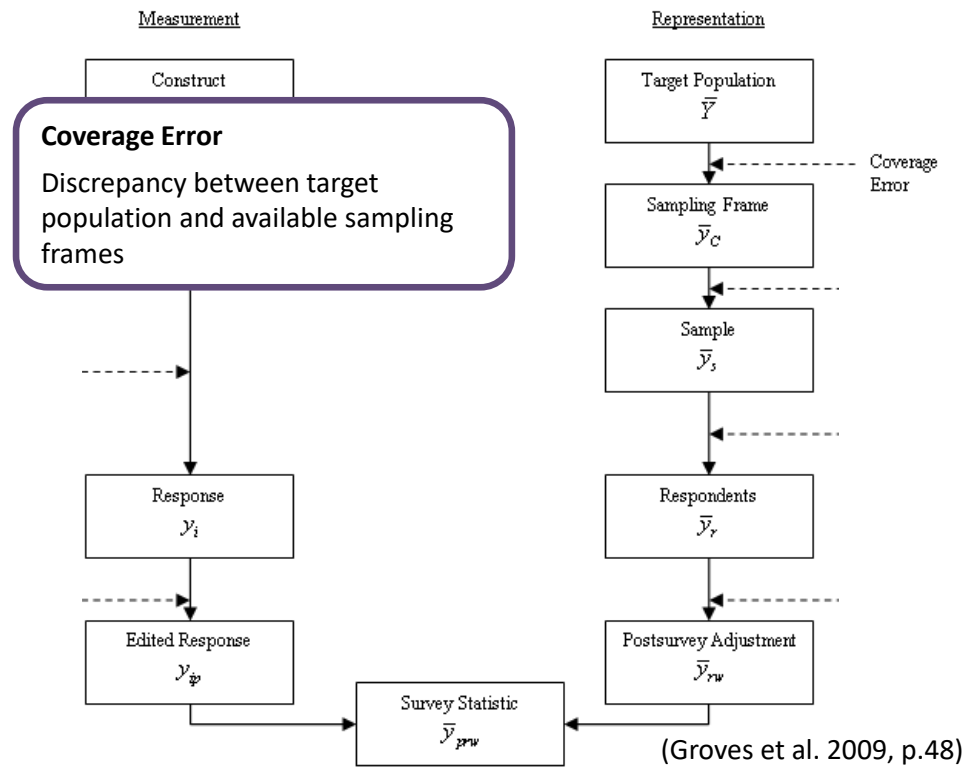
Total Survey Error

Total Survey Error Framework



(Groves et al. 2009, p.48)

Total Survey Error (TSE) Framework



Terminology: coverage error

- (target) Population: group of units (people, companies, households, etc.) you are studying
- Sampling frame: list containing population elements
- Undercoverage: should be on, but is not
 - Not have an address, telephone, e-mail
- Overcoverage: should not be on, but is
 - Two phones, multiple e-mail, has died, has moved
- From: population register, schools, health records

Coverage error and modes

- Modes:

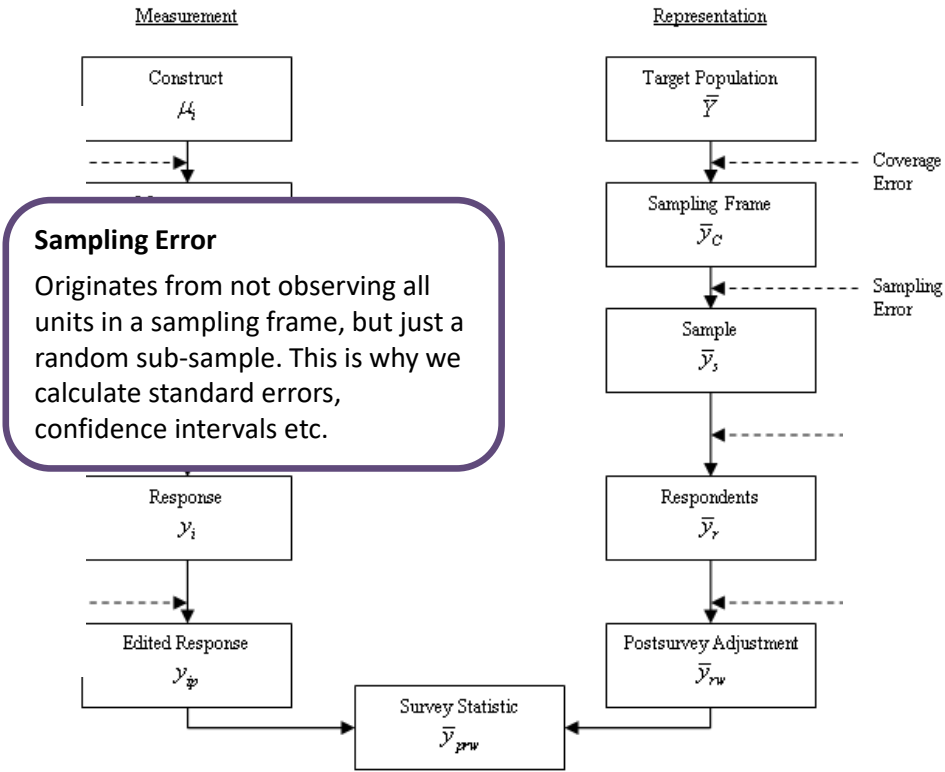
- Web: no lists of e-mailaddresses (unless special population)
- Paper: invitations by mail to households
- Face-to-face: Use list addresses or random walk
- Telephone: Random Digit Dialing, mobile phones



- Problems with lists

- Seldom up-to-date
- Getting access is difficult

TSE – sampling error



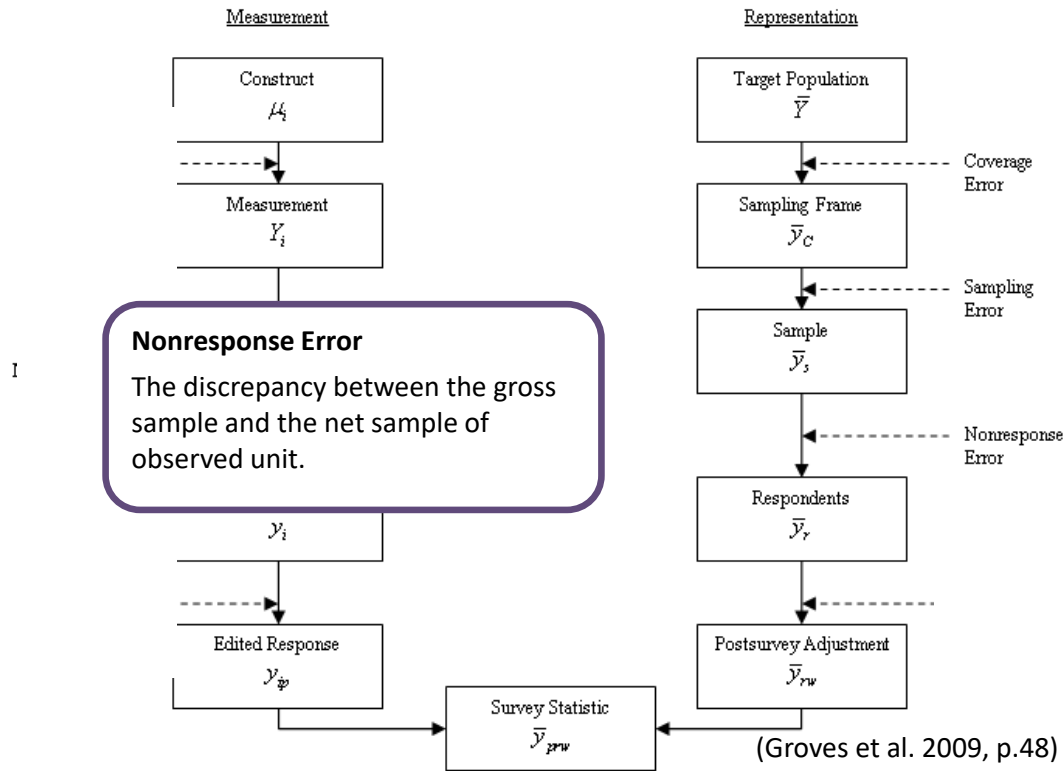
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Terminology: sampling error

- Sampling unit: collection of units to be sampled from your frame
- Sample: the actual units you sample
- Respondents: the people out of the sample who participate

- Sampling can introduce bias and error!
 - Selecting people within households
 - Villages, hospitals, etc, etc.

TSE – nonresponse error



Nonresponse error and bias

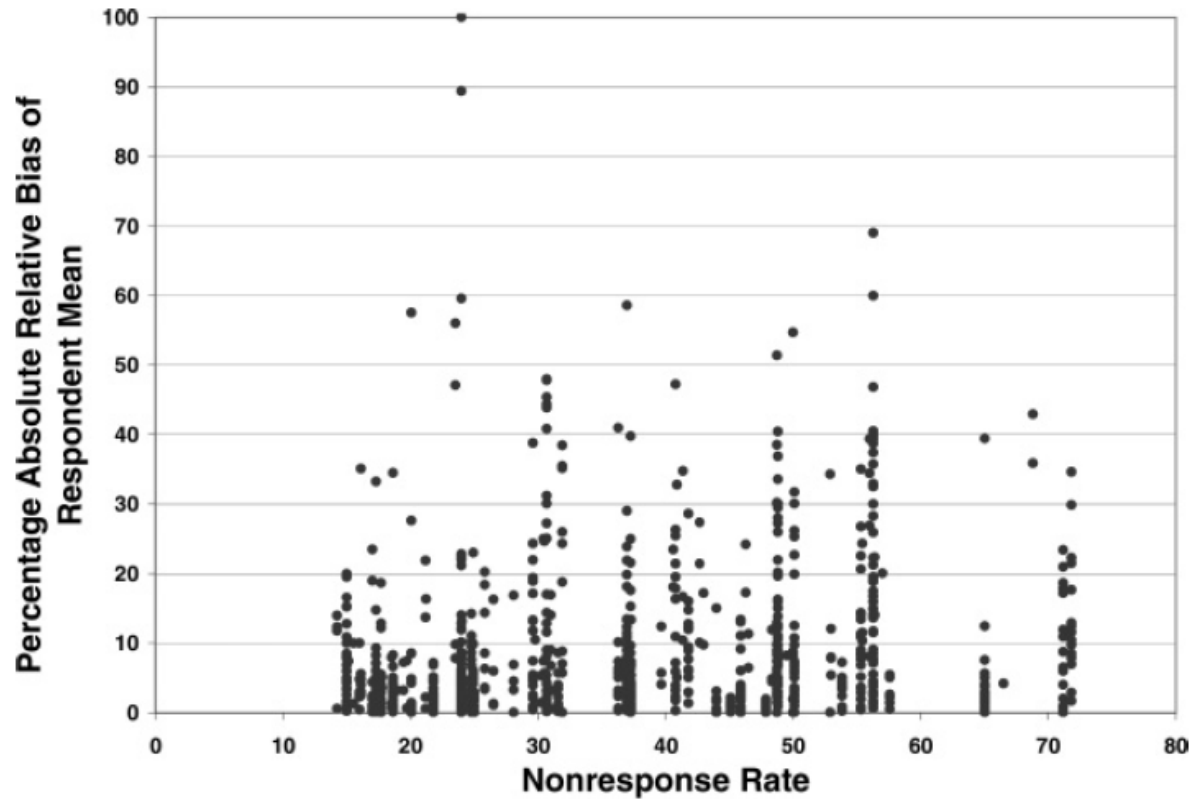
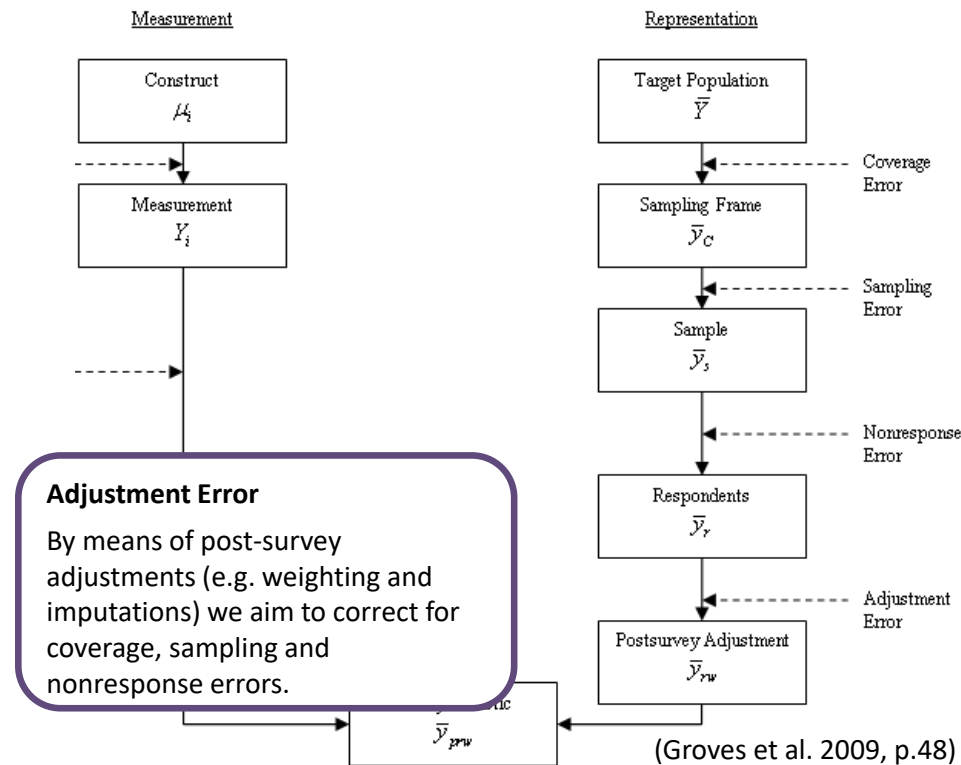


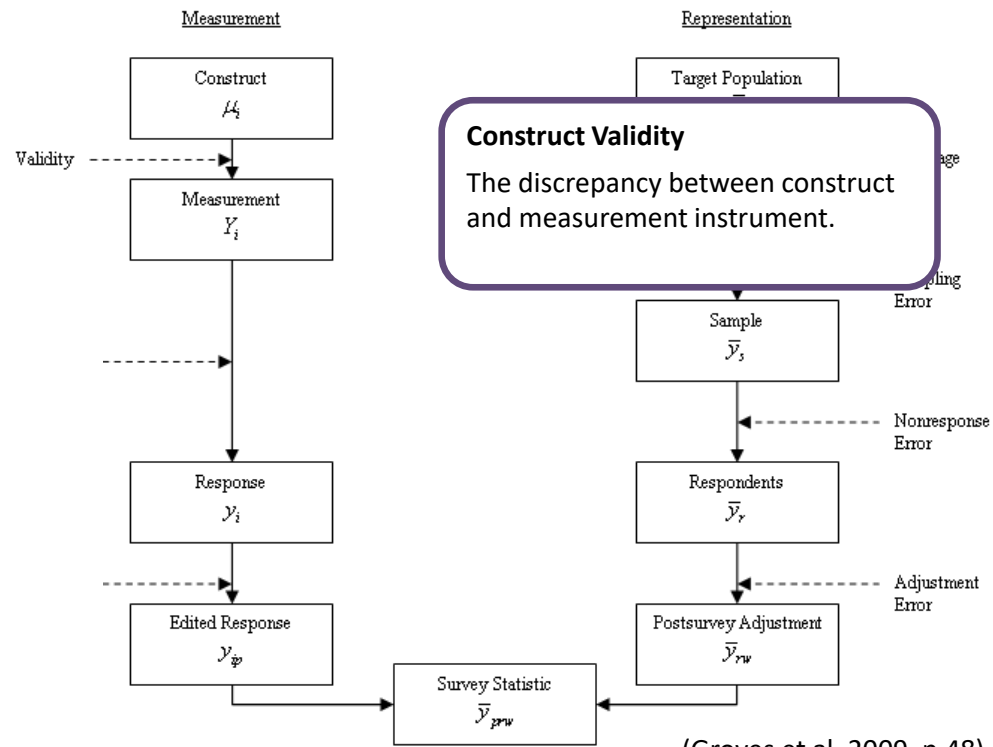
Figure 2. Percentage Absolute Relative Nonresponse Bias of 959 Respondent Means by Nonresponse Rate of the 59 Surveys in Which They Were Estimated.

Source: Groves, R. M., & Peytcheva, E. (2008). The impact of nonresponse rates on nonresponse bias: a meta-analysis. *Public opinion quarterly*, 72(2), 167-189.

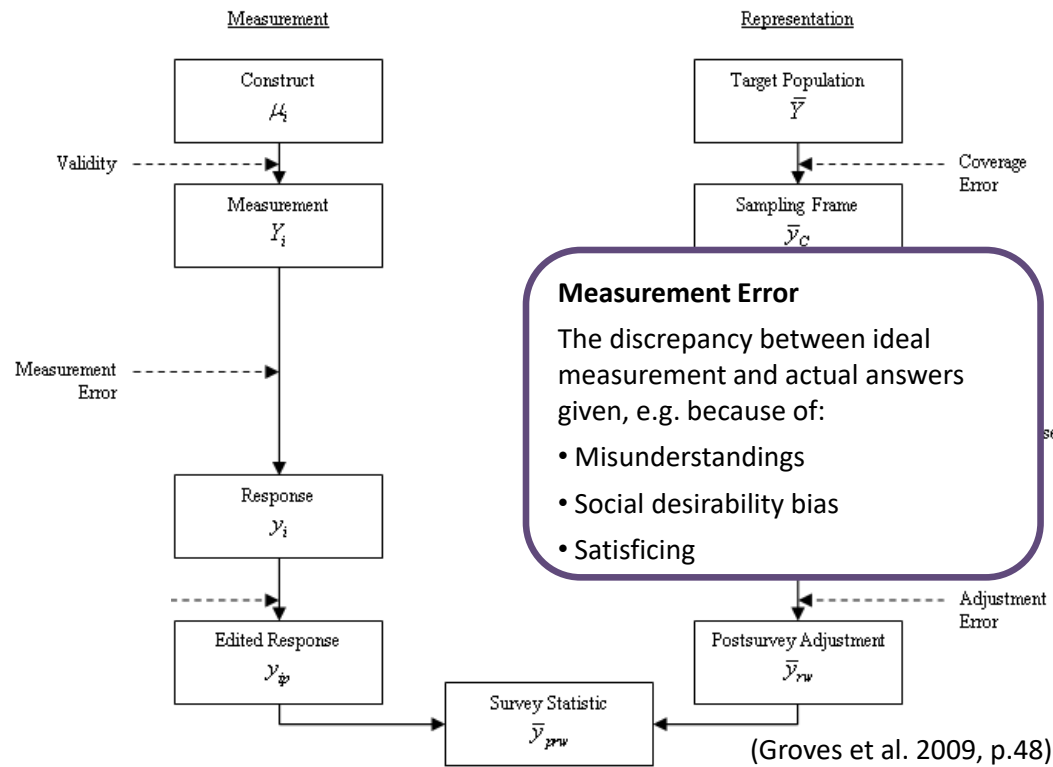
TSE – adjustment error



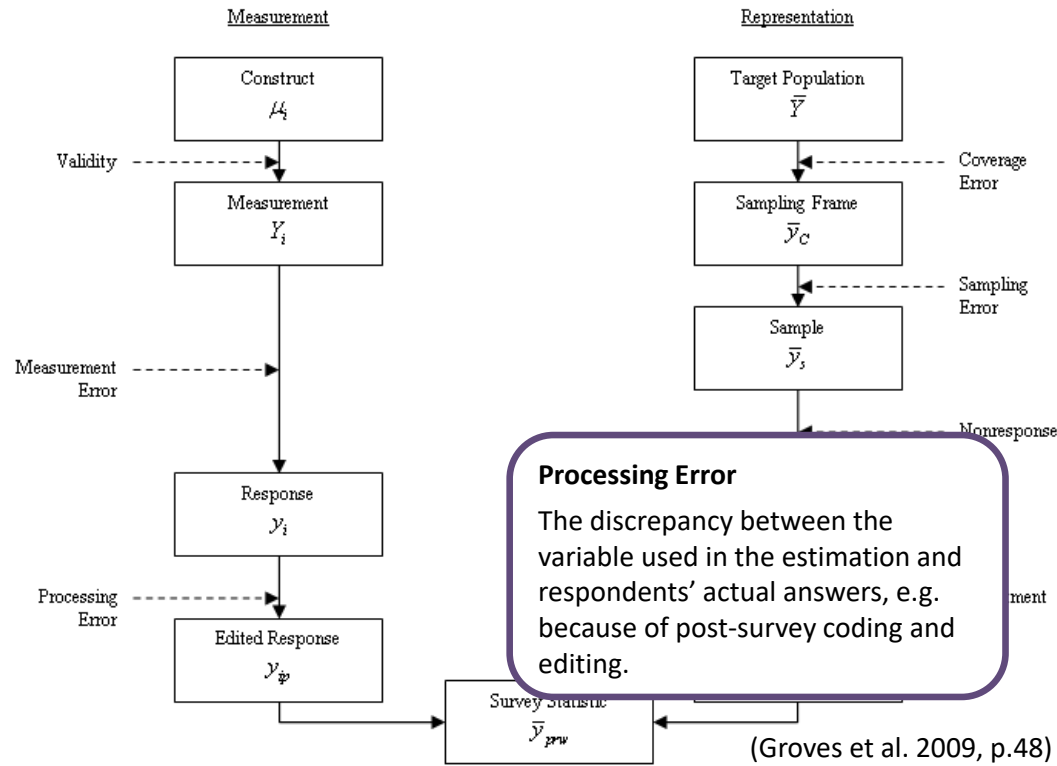
TSE – construct validity



TSE – measurement error



TSE – processing error

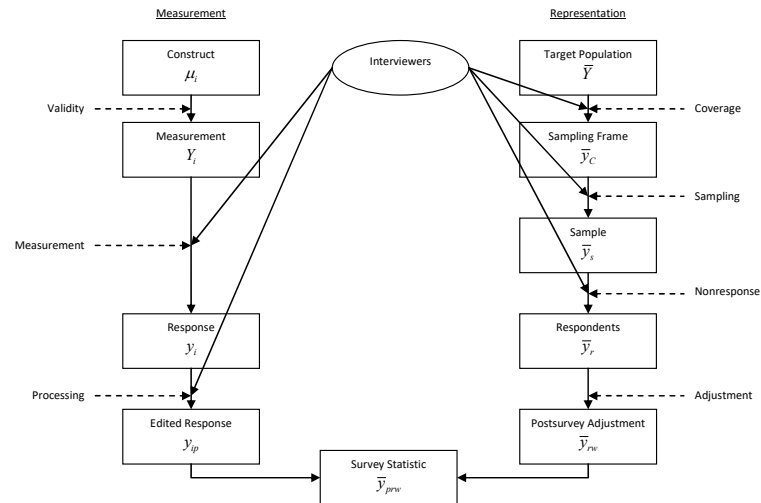


In sum

- In design-based surveys:
 - Sampling error only error we know
 - We can control **by increasing sample size**
 - But many more sources of error/bias
 - Hard to always quantify exactly
- It is not strange polls are off!
- Key question in Survey design:
 - In order to minimize MSE:
 - Do we invest in larger sample, or more nonresponse follow-ups? Incentives, etc?

TSE and survey design

- Design aspects greatly affect survey errors
 - Invitation mode
 - Administration mode
 - Interviewers
 - Incentives, Questionnaire length
- Right design depends on:
 - Population
 - Topic of the study
 - Availability of sampling frames



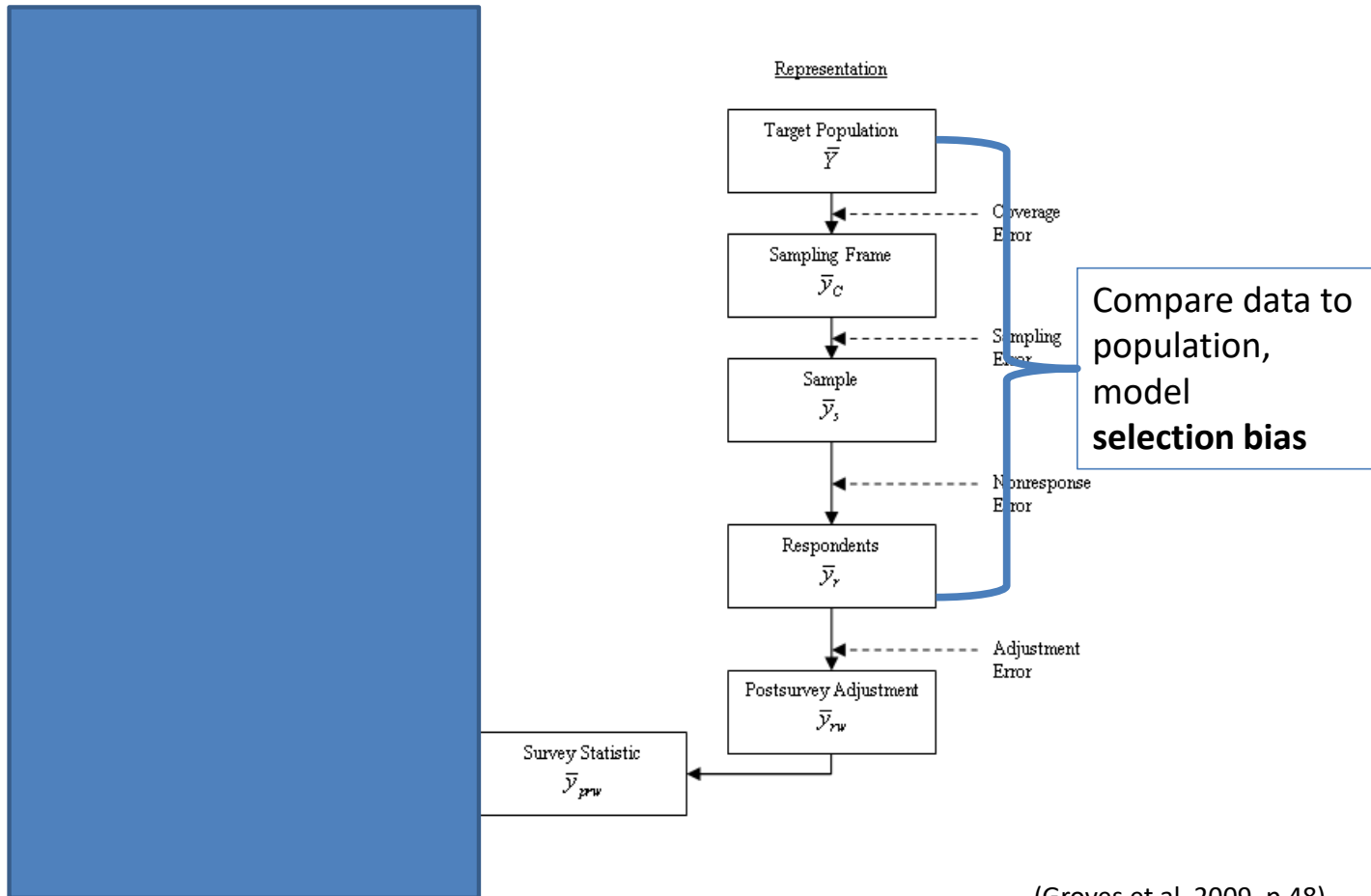
Groves and Lyberg (2010)

- History of the TSE framework
- There are extensions to
 - comparative surveys (Smith 2010),
 - longitudinal surveys (Lynn and Lugtig 2017),
 - analytic error (West and Saskhaug 2018)
 - ... and Total Data error (other data sources)
 - Administrative, sensor, social media, etc.
 - See also weeks 13,14

TSE and model-based inference

- Convenience samples
- Volunteer opt-in panels
- (Quota samples)
- Lab-studies (psychology), organic data, social media, etc.

Model-based inference



(Groves et al. 2009, p.48)

Class Exercise (and then break)

Form **groups of 4** and **discuss** for your scenario:

- What component of TSE are you worried about?
 - What can you do in design to minimize MSE
 - Think about error and bias
 - Minimize error by increasing sample size
 - Minimize bias by thinking about measurement, sampling, nonresponse
- **15 min**

Class Exercise: group 1

- A researcher would like to know to what extent neighbours in high-rise flats (over 8 floors tall) in Utrecht help each other out. She suspects that people help each other mainly if they have the same ethnic and socio-economic background.

Class Exercise: group 2

- A researcher would like to do a survey among homosexual muslims in the region of Utrecht to find out how the families of these men and women deal with this.

Class Exercise: group 3

- For the next elections for the European parliament, a market research firm with offices in all EU countries would like to do a pan-EU survey among the EU electorate to
 - a) predict the outcome of the election in every country and
 - b) compare the attitudes of people in different countries towards the European Parliament.

Class Exercise: group 4

- A researcher would like to better understand how patients who developed Covid-19 in the spring of 2020 (March-april) in Italy are now recovering from their illness. There is no central registry of patients in Italy; these are kept at hospitals, and if you want to reach these patients it is necessary to collaborate with individual hospitals in Italy.
- In the survey you want to ask questions about physical and mental wellbeing, as well as the effects Covid-19 has had on relations with household members (children, partner).

Class exercise – worried about

	1. Flats in Utrecht	2. Homosexual muslims	3. EU-wide election study	4. (long)- Covid in Italy
Coverage	Problems (e.g. students) with the register	No list, so big problem	No EU frame Difficult to get in every country	Patients not in hospital; access to registers
Sampling	-			
Nonresponse	Hard to contact (at home)		General problem: incentives?	Response may depend on how sick you are (were).
Adjustment	How to correct?			
Validity			Cross-national equivalence in questions	Self reports unreliable.
Measurement	“helping out” is sensitive	Very sensitive topic		Some social desirability:

In sum: How much to worry about each?

	Bias	Error
Coverage error	**	
Sampling error	*	***
Nonresponse error	***	*
Adjustment error		*
Validity of measurement	***	
Measurement error	**	**
Processing error		*

Next week

- Prepare
 - 1. Read Stuart (see e-mail)
 - Simple Random sampling
 - 2. Do THE exercise 2 (sampling)
- Lecture on Simple Random Samples