

Survey data analysis

Week 1 Take home exercise (finish before week 2)

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At several moment in the course we will study the issue of how real-world surveys in practice have found different solutions to deal with aspects of survey designs. Depending on the population under study, the questions (topics) in the survey, and the resources available (time, money) to the researchers, surveys may make different decisions in for example sampling, the survey modes being used for interviews, or corrections for nonresponse. Studying variations across surveys as a class will help us understand where surveys “do things differently” and as such identify the important design decisions in a survey. The differences can also serve as a starting point for discussions on why certain decisions were made, and perhaps identify areas where current surveys could even do better.

The idea is that you adopt **one survey project**. Although in principle, any survey is fine, there are a few requirements for which surveys you can and cannot adopt. Because the data for the survey need to be available, and at least some documentation on how the survey was designed and conducted as well, I have compiled a list of surveys that you can choose from. These are almost all surveys for which documentation in English is available. If you know a particular survey well that is not on the list, and want to actually adopt that survey, please ask me via e-mail (p.lugtig@uu.nl). In principle its fine to do this; there are many surveys (especially thos with non-english documentation) I don't know well. (e.g. the National Election Survey of Korea) .

For the THE, you need to document the following characteristics. Simply write down the answers to the following questions in a separate document and bring that document to class (fine to do this on a laptop). This will serve as input for a class exercise on Total Survey Error, so its important you prepare this.

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 can you find about methods that have been used to prevent nonresponse?
7. What are the central concepts that are measured in the survey?

A list of surveys to choose from:

U.S. surveys

- American Community Survey (ACS) <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs>
- American Time Use Survey (ATUS) <https://www.bls.gov/tus/>
- Current Population Survey <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html>
- General Social Survey <https://gss.norc.org/>
- Health and Retirement Study <https://hrs.isr.umich.edu/about>
- Medical Expenditure Panel Study. <https://www.meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/>
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Multinational surveys (you should pick one country from the survey, because the design of the survey will vary slightly over countries)

- PISA: www.oecd.org/pisa
- TIMMS: <https://nces.ed.gov/timss/>
- Eurobarometer: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/nl/be-heard/eurobarometer>
- European Social Survey: <https://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/>
- European Working Conditions Survey: <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/surveys/european-working-conditions-surveys-ewcs>
- SHARE: <http://www.share-project.org/home0.html>
- Gender and Generations Programme: www.ggp-i.org
- World Values Survey: <https://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/wvs.jsp>
- European Value Study: <https://europeanvaluesstudy.eu/>

Surveys from various (mostly) European countries

- Labor Force Survey (country specific): e.g. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/surveys/informationforhouseholdsandindividuals/householdandindividualsurveys/labourforcesurvey>
- Survey of Income and Living Conditions in Europe: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/european-union-statistics-on-income-and-living-conditions>
- Luxemburg Income Study: <https://www.lisdatacenter.org/>
- The English Longitudinal Study of Aging: <https://www.elsa-project.ac.uk/>
- Understanding Society www.understandingsociety.org.uk/
- The Millennium Cohort Study: <https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/cls-studies/millennium-cohort-study/>
- Living Standards Measurement Study: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/lsm>
- GESIS panel study: <https://www.gesis.org/en/gesis-panel/gesis-panel-home>
- The Panel Study of Income Dynamics: <https://psidonline.isr.umich.edu/>
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