

Session 2	: Monday, June 15th, 2009 (10:00 – 12:00 hrs)
Chair	: Lilli Japac
Presenters	: Alan Karr, Paul Lavrakas, Nick Beyler, David Lawrence
Format	: Presentation of all papers first. Questions for everybody at the end.

Effects of Disruptions on Total Survey Error (*Alan Karr*)

- Time is a real problem (Clyde Tucker).
 - It is impossible to include questions un-planned. The US Office of Management and Budget (OMB) do not have the resources (*Alan Karr*).
- What do you measure after Katrina? What are you interested in measuring at that time? How is it different from what you're usually interested in measuring? (Paul Biemer).
 - You try to get an idea about the *integrity* of your current data collection efforts. The purpose here is to keep their current reports (*Alan Karr*).
 - The other issue has to do with information that agencies need to be able to make decisions (like health authorities). *Statistical efficiency* is not that important in these cases (*Alan Karr*).
 - When Hurricane Katrina stroked New Orleans, some decisions were made based on incomplete information – for example the decision to provide temporal housing (*Alan Karr*).
 - The Current Population Survey (CPS) does not follow movers. It interviews the people living in the current address. But those who move out from New Orleans moved in to other places where they were “captured” by the CPS (Clyde Tucker).
 - The CPS had to adjust population weights. They had to provide estimates for Louisiana as if New Orleans did not exist! (Clyde Tucker).
 - Other government agencies wanted to know about the industries most affected by the disaster. But the Bureau of Labor Statistics (sponsor of the CPS) cannot tell the identity of the reporting businesses due to confidentiality issues (Clyde Tucker).
- Under these circumstances you may want to change the definition in the Roster or Screening procedures. Maybe include people staying in hotels - people could be working but living in hotels (N.N.)
 - The problem of doing this is that they could be counted twice! There're problems of weighting up (if you include hotels in your definition of housing unit). This is a difficult issue! (N.N.)
- How can we do quality control with small budgets? (Trena Ezzati-Rice)
- Literature on costs is “thin”. The only exception is Bob Groves' (1989) book. Models are not usually used in papers ... but we know they've been used! We need to look at other conferences because these issues are not being presented in AAPOR or JSM (Lars Lyberg)
 - I benefited a lot from working with an economist student. Models in economics are interesting. Maybe we should team up with those people to think about these topics (Paul Lavrakas).

- I believe that the most realistic threat are mid-survey cuts in the survey budget. These occur all the time, whereas natural disasters only occur once in a while. We need to think on this type of disruptions too! (*Alan Karr*).

Using the TSE Framework in Legal Proceedings (*Paul Lavrakas*)

- Does “the other side” on these cases also have survey experts? (*Clyde Tucker*).
 - Usually they don’t have. This has been the case in the cases that I have reviewed (*Paul Lavrakas*).
- I once served as an expert in a court case. I had to comment on retrospective recall errors. Other (experts) had to comment on other error sources. The Total Survey Error framework was not used overall (*Lars Lyberg*).
- Can you talk about confidentiality issues now? (N.N.)
 - Now I can talk about it, but not earlier. At one time I had to sign confidentiality agreements with 3 different projects simultaneously. It was hard to convince your clients that you were not going to make use of their proprietary information with your other clients (*Paul Lavrakas*).
- It is harder to communicate the concept of “statistical bias” than the concepts of “political bias” or “prejudice bias” (*Paul Biemer*).

Modeling Multiple Sources of Survey Error in Physical Activity Data (*Nick Beyler, Sarah Nusser, Alicia Carriquiry, and Greg Welk*)

- You may not find a link between *nonresponse* and *measurement error* because you’re looking at an aggregate level (*Andy Peytchev*).
- Maybe you cannot find *measurement error* because people more likely to present *measurement error* don’t respond to surveys (*Andy Peytchev*).
 - Most respondents (to these type of surveys) are very active ... there is an emphasis in focusing in this population to be able to test the measurement devices (*Nick Beyler*).
- Try to include questions about use of time like those in the American Time Use Survey (ATUS). It would be interesting to try to match your questionnaire to this more extensive set of questions (*Frauke Kreuter*).
 - This is a good idea. We have not thought about this (*Nick Beyler*).
- There’s a way to look at the measurement error and nonresponse error: first start with the covariance formula $\left(\sigma_{yp} / \bar{p} \right)$, then replace Y with a model for Y and find the covariance $(\hat{\sigma}_{yp})$. People with higher propensity (p) could have higher recall. You can get expressions for nonresponse error and measurement error with that covariance formula (*Paul Biemer*).
- Do devices change behavior? Are they intrusive? (N.N.)
- How Accurate are these devices? (*Lars Lyberg*)

- o These instruments have been validated. They're considered to be very good ... the "gold standard" (*Nick Beyler*).
- What is the effect of measurement itself on the behavior that is being measured? (*Mary Mulry*)
 - o Medical studies find effect of the therapies *on the patients*. (N.N.)
- The problem is finding *different errors by different respondents*. We know if the *respondents* used the device because we have other physiological measures available. But we will later look at differences in compliance and the characteristics of these different groups of people (*Clyde Tucker*).
- You need to look at other factors that can be influenced by the experiment itself. You need to have a *control sample* to check for these unexpected effects (*Paul Biemer*).

Tracking Error in a Process Control Sample Survey System: A Study in Interaction between Administrative and Behavioral Deviations from Design (*David Lawrence* and *Stephen Horn*)

- No questions asked.

