

Main Steps Involved in Selecting a Sample Size

(Adapted from Cochran 1977)

1. Specify the objectives of the sampling procedure.
2. Develop an equation that expresses n in terms of the desired precision.
3. The equation will contain population parameter(s). Estimate the parameter(s).
4. It may be the case that more than one characteristic of the population is of interest. If a desired degree of precision is prescribed for each of them, sample size calculations may yield conflicting results. One must set priorities on the objectives of the sampling procedure.
5. The chosen value of n must be compared with the resources available to take the sample.