

## Pre-Registration of the 2014 EA Survey Data Analysis

In May 2014, a team from .impact released a survey to better understand the EA community. Before this, we've mostly been using our first-hand, anecdotal impressions to describe the community. A few EA organizations have done surveys of their own supporters, but this particular survey supplies a more systematic understanding of EAs.

The survey was distributed to the EA community primarily via personal contact, email, and social networking. The survey was shared on Facebook in most EA groups and several personal pages. LessWrong, Animal Charity Evaluators, and The Effective Altruism Blog graciously shared the survey with their followers.

Attaining a representative sample is a significant challenge in any survey of this nature because (i) we do not have a basis for the actual distribution of EAs across various subpopulations and were not able to share the survey with every group equally, (ii) the responses were collected voluntarily on an online form. These challenges are inherent to many public surveys, especially those studying amorphous populations like members of a specific ideology or social movement (e.g. vegetarians, feminists, various EA subpopulations).

So to minimize these biases, we attempted to 'penetrate' the EA population, defined as those who (i) self-identify as Effective Altruists and (ii) participate actively in the community. Although there is certainly room for error with this strategy, the survey team and others who offered their advice felt this was the best we can do currently. We again want to thank the organizations and individuals that helped us accomplish this.

To get a better handle on this sampling bias, we also compare the LessWrong subpopulation from the EA survey with the EA subpopulation from the LessWrong survey. And we compare the Facebook subpopulation from the EA survey with a random sample of EA Facebook group members that were individually contacted to elicit responses. We also include the effect of survey link (e.g. Facebook) on some key variables.

### Summary of Findings

We plan to distribute an EA survey annually and believe changes over time within the community will be one of the most interesting results.

For the time being, we decided to better understand how various EA 'inputs' like years in the EA movement or how EAs first got involved with the community relate to various 'outputs' like causes supported and career path.

- [Multivariate regression of each input for each output in table. Will use dummy variables for independent versions of categorical variables and adjust for multicollinearity. Testing significance for each unconverted variable (i.e. no dummy variables), so 20 tests total, FDR = .05 -> Each significant result has a 5% chance of being a false positive]

	Where you heard about EA	Groups that got you involved	Number of EA friends	Moral philosophy	Link to EA Survey
Percent income donated (non-students)					
Career path					
Causes supported					
Diet					

- Did the responses of the EA Survey for respondents who identified as members of LessWrong differ significantly from the responses of the LessWrong Survey for respondents who identified as EAs? Did the responses of the Facebook Random Sample differ significantly from the responses of the entire Facebook sample? [Test of age, income (non-students), donation amount (non-students), same FDR of 0.05 for all six tests.]
- How many EAs ‘switched’ causes (i.e. heard about EA through TLYCS and are no longer focusing on global poverty)?

## Data

Because we do not know the true number of EAs in each subpopulation, we cannot conclude that we represented each subpopulation appropriately. The survey was shared in most EA Facebook groups and several personal pages. LessWrong, Animal Charity Evaluators, and The Effective Altruism Blog all graciously shared the survey with their followers. So we naively expect overrepresentation of those groups and underrepresentation of others. Hopefully in future surveys, more groups will share with their followers and a more complete EA profile database will improve accuracy.

We also took a random sample of EA Facebook group members and personally solicited survey replies. For this, the names of group members were extracted on [date] and a random sample of 200 was generated. The subset chosen was personally reminded to take the survey to minimize self-selection bias. Of that group, [number] took the survey and [number] self-identified as Effective Altruists. However, the membership of the EA Facebook group seems unrepresentative of EA so the random sample results should not be taken like a random sample of EAs as a whole.

However, it seems reasonable to use the findings for various subpopulations as upper and lower bounds for the true characteristics of the EA community. We include such findings in the discussion section.

The full list of general findings is included below the discussion section.

## Discussion

[Discussion not pre-registered]

Characteristic	Entire EA Survey Sample	Facebook Group Members	Facebook Random sample	LessWrong Members	LessWrong Members *Not from this survey*	Giving What We Can Members	The Life You Can Save Members	Involved through 80,000 Hours	Involved through GiveWell
Could you, however loosely, be described as 'an EA'?									
Your age									
In which country do you live?					X				
In which year did you first hear the term 'Effective Altruism'?					X				



Over 2013, which charities did you donate to?					X				
Your religious beliefs									
Your political views					X				
Your gender									
What career path do you plan to follow?					X				
How confident are you that you will take this career path?					X				
Do you identify with any other social movements?					X				

What is the highest level of education you are either currently pursuing or have completed?									
Roughly how many of your friends would describe themselves as Effective Altruists?					X				
What is your diet?									
Are you a full-time student?									
Which of the following causes do you think you should devote resources to?					X				

<b>How did you hear about this survey ?</b>					X				
<b>What was your pre-tax income in 2013?</b>									
<b>Over 2013, how much in total did you donate ?</b>									

\* : This was the data from the 2013 LessWrong Survey of those who self-identified as EAs.

Some of the questions were worded slightly differently.

X : These questions were not included in the 2013 LessWrong Survey.