***Overview and Coding Instructions for “Would you have felt more comfortable…?” questions***

This document is a guide to coding questions S4Q12 and S4Q12a on the PAR survey. These questions, respectively, are:

S4Q12: Would you have been more comfortable completing this interview with [someone incarcerated at Cruz OR an ASU researcher]?

S4Q12a: Why is that?

If a respondent was interviewed by someone from ASU, then S4Q12 read: “Would you have been more comfortable completing this interview with someone incarcerated at Cruz?”

The intent of these questions was to determine whether the respondent feels like the type of interviewer that they were assigned influenced (or not) their responses.

A problem that arose afterwards is that, in reading the responses to the questions, the responses can be ambiguous. For example, when an individual says “no” to S4Q12 and they were interviewed by someone from ASU, do they mean:

1. they would not be more comfortable with an interviewer from Cruz because it doesn’t matter who interviewed them and a Cruz interviewer would not have made them more comfortable relative to an ASU interviewer (i.e. they would have given the same response);
2. or because it does matter and a Cruz interviewer would not have made them more comfortable, relative to an ASU interviewer, but actually less comfortable (i.e. they would have given the same response).

Due to this ambiguity, it requires that we review each response and interpret the respondents meaning.

The goal here is to read through S4Q12 and S4Q12a and determine whether the respondent is indicating that, had they received the alternate interviewer, that they would have felt different. In other words, are respondents indicating that they “would not have felt more comfortable” in the sense that they preferred the interviewer they received (i.e. they would have responded differently) or are they indicating that it “doesn’t matter” and had they been assigned the alternate their responses would be the same.

The instructions below seek to define a protocol for interpreting these responses.

Instructions

The files that require coding are located in the “[PAR-Interviewer-Comparison-TEMP](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/o9fz7330edwthaq/AAASiD20iHQV2HbG4Js6uvVFa?dl=0)” folder. Since the wording of the question depends on who the interviewer is (i.e. ASU interviewer or Cruz interviewer), the data are split into two files:

1. those individuals who were interviewed by someone from ASU (“interviewer-asu...”) and
2. those interviewed by someone from Cruz (“interviewer-cruz…”).

Each file contains five variables:

1. The respondent’s unique identification number, “id”
2. S4Q12
3. S4Q12a
4. A variable called “diff”. This variable has been filled with the value 99.
5. A variable called “reas”. This variable has been filled with the value 99.

**The “diff” variable**

Here are the instructions for coding this variable:

1. If the individual is suggesting that the type of interviewer doesn’t matter, enter the value 0;
2. If the individual is suggesting that they interviewer influenced their responses, enter the value 1;
3. If the response is not clear and you can’t make a determination, leave the value at 99;

This coding scheme creates a variable “diff” in which a value of 1 indicates that the respondent feels that their responses would have been influenced by the interviewer and a value of 0 means that they feel the interviewer didn’t influence their responses.

**The “reas” variable**

The “reas” variable helps disambiguate responses for individuals who felt that they would be more/less comfortable with the alternate interviewer.

Here are the instructions for coding this variable:

1. If the individual is a 0 for the “diff” variable, then leave the value for the “reas” variable at 99;
2. If the individual is a 1 for the “diff” variable, and their response to the S4Q12a variable indicates that they would feel **less** comfortable with the alternate interviewer (don’t trust them, think they wouldn’t understand, etc.), then code as a -1.
3. If the individual is a 1 for the “diff” variable, and their response to the S4Q12a variable indicates that they would feel **more** comfortable with the alternate interviewer (they would understand me, they will keep things private, etc.), then code as a 1.

This coding scheme creates a variable “reas” that separates those who feel like the interviewer influenced their responses. Specifically, those with a 1 felt that they would have been more comfortable with the alternate, while those with a 0 felt that they would have been less comfortable with the alternate.