Hello,

I was hoping the information in the methodology manuals would be more clear-cut. It seems that there is definitely adjustments made to the data, but I do not have a clear idea of whether or not *undercounting* is specifically accounted for. There are a lot of different documents (all very long), so from what I could find:

1. (2015 NSDUH Methodological Summary and Definitions)

- Data collection procedures are designed "to increase respondents' cooperation and willingness to report honestly about sensitive topics, such as illicit drug use behavior."

-Updated data collection procedures in 2015 to help this goal.

-Statistical imputation used to replace missing or ambiguous values for responses (one place it says it does this for heroin, then another place it says it doesn't...)

-"The use of probability sampling methods in NSDUH allows estimation of sampling error from the survey data" (from choosing a sample rather than doing a census of population) and "The final, nonresponse-adjusted, and post-stratified analysis weights were used in SUDAAN to compute unbiased design-based estimates."

2.  (2015 NSDUH Methodological Resource Book Section 10: Editing and Imputation Report)

-Performed response propensity adjustment: "The purpose of response propensity is to adjust the sampling weights for item nonresponse so that the item respondent weights that are used only during the imputation process are representative of the entire domain of interest."

3. (2015 NSDUH Methodological Resource Book Section 2: Sample Design Report)

-Discusses selection of dwelling units and people to survey; adjust for nonresponse, post-stratification, and extreme weight.

It seems like there were adjustments for bias for the dwelling units selected/specific individuals surveyed, but am unsure that the truth in response was adjusted for (or if they rely on their data collection methods being accurate enough).

Depending on your thoughts, I am prepared for whichever direction we go:

1. I have updated the MLE code with changes that we discussed before (whether or not we go forward with it, at least it's a working code for future use) and

2. I have run the ordinary least squares code with putting of weight of 2 on the heroin addict data (not the overdoses) to see the effect that has on the predicted trajectories of the addicts. It did not seem to affect the trajectories at all, so perhaps I should do a bigger weight if we go with this case.