

## Survey data analysis

Week 1 Take home exercise (finish before week 2)

Peter Lugtig [p.lugtig@uu.nl](mailto:p.lugtig@uu.nl)

At several moments in the course we will study the issue of how real-world surveys in practice have found different solutions to deal with aspects of survey designs. Depending on the population under study, the questions (topics) in the survey, and the resources available (time, money) to the researchers, surveys may make different decisions in for example sampling, the survey modes being used for interviews, or corrections for nonresponse. Studying variations across surveys as a class will help us understand where surveys “do things differently” and as such identify the important design decisions in a survey. The differences can also serve as a starting point for discussions on why certain decisions were made, and perhaps identify areas where current surveys could even do better.

The idea is that you adopt **one survey project**. Later in the course (assignment 2), you will have to investigate how nonresponse (both unit- and item) affects survey estimates, and solve for the missing data.

Although in principle any survey is fine is good to choose, there are a few requirements for which surveys you can and cannot adopt. Because the data for the survey need to be available, and at least some documentation on how the survey was designed and conducted as well, I have compiled a list of surveys that you can choose from. These are almost all surveys for which documentation in English is available. If you know a particular survey well that is not on the list, and want to actually adopt that survey, please ask me via e-mail ([p.lugtig@uu.nl](mailto:p.lugtig@uu.nl)). In principle it is fine to do this; there are many surveys (especially those with non-english documentation) I don't know well. (e.g. the National Election Survey of Korea).

For the Take Home Exercise (THE), you need to document the following characteristics. Simply write down the answers to the following questions in a separate document and bring that document to class (fine to do this on a laptop). You don't need to be very extensive in your answers, but what helps (for yourself) is that you at least write down where you can find the information in the documentation (i.e. use in-text references).

The THE will serve as input for a class exercise on Total Survey Error, so it's important you prepare this.

1. What is the name of your survey?
2. What is the population of the study?
3. How are individuals selected to be invited for the survey? (sampling design)
4. What is the sample size?
5. What survey mode is being used?
6. What can you find about methods that have been used to prevent nonresponse?
7. What are the central concepts that are measured in the survey?

## A list of surveys to choose from:

### *U.S. surveys*

- American Community Survey (ACS) <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs>
- American Time Use Survey (ATUS) <https://www.bls.gov/tus/>
- Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES) [https://www.bls.gov/cex/pumd\\_data.htm](https://www.bls.gov/cex/pumd_data.htm)
- California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) <https://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/chis/Pages/default.aspx>
- Current Population Survey <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html>
- General Social Survey <https://gss.norc.org/>
- Health and Retirement Study <https://hrs.isr.umich.edu/about>
- Medical Expenditure Panel Study. <https://www.meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/>
- The Panel Study of Income Dynamics: <https://psidonline.isr.umich.edu/>
- National Survey of College Graduates: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/nscg.html>

*Multinational surveys* (you should pick one country from the survey, because the design of the survey will vary slightly over countries)

- Afrobarometer: <https://www.afrobarometer.org/>
  - Central Asia Barometer: <https://www.ca-barometer.org/en>
  - PISA: [www.oecd.org/pisa](http://www.oecd.org/pisa)
  - TIMMS: <https://nces.ed.gov/timss/>
  - European Working Conditions Survey: <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/surveys/european-working-conditions-surveys-ewcs>
  - Different surveys carried out by the Pew Research center: <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/10/22/how-to-access-pew-research-center-survey-data/>
  - SHARE: <http://www.share-project.org/home0.html>
  - World Values Survey: <https://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/wvs.jsp>
  - European Value Study: <https://europeanvaluesstudy.eu/>
- NOTE: you cannot use the European Social Survey, as we will use this dataset in exercises.

### *Surveys from various (mostly) European countries*

- Survey of Income and Living Conditions in Europe: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/european-union-statistics-on-income-and-living-conditions>
- The English Longitudinal Study of Aging: <https://www.elsa-project.ac.uk/>
- Understanding Society [www.understandingsociety.org.uk/](http://www.understandingsociety.org.uk/)
- The Millennium Cohort Study: <https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/cls-studies/millennium-cohort-study/>
- Living Standards Measurement Study: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/lsm>
- GESIS panel study: <https://www.gesis.org/en/gesis-panel/gesis-panel-home>