Homework assignment 09

Use black text (if possible) for everything you include in this document. Keep both your answers and the original questions. Save this document in PDF format and submit it on Canvas. Include your last name, the course number and the module number in the name of your file.

1. Show a documentation header. The documentation header is a description of who wrote the program, when it was written, what the purpose of the program is (briefly), and what restrictions (if any) that you may place on the program. For SPSS, you can just type the documentation as free format text. For other programs, you might use the comment feature (such as /\* and \*/ in SAS).

The following is the assignment from last year. I am keeping it around until I finalize this year’s assignment.

**Designing a survey – Background information (Assignment is found on page 3)**

**Introduction:**

The aim (goal) of survey design is very simple: to get 100% of the information you need from 100% of the participants. Like all simple aim, this is difficult to achieve. The secret, however, is the same as any other aim: to break down the aim into achievable objectives.

This exercise will take you through the process of designing a survey.

**Step 1:** Define the Aim (goal) of the survey

A survey can be a part of a research study. With this, the survey must match the aim of the study. Specifically, the survey must collect the data you need from the appropriate people in order to answer the research question. Without a clear definition of the aim, it is not clear what data you should collect.

A survey must have a clear aim that is evident to the participant. Being clear as to what the survey is about will help to maintain data quality and respondent motivation.

Having a clear aim will focus the participant on the right topic and ensure the right cognitive set is in operation for the whole survey.

**Step 2:** Order Matters:

The questionnaire should flow logically from one topic to another.

Decide on your topic order

1. Divide the survey into topics (sections)

2. Determine which topic is a good starter

3. Determine which topic will be presented after you have gained the interest and trust of the participant.

4. Determine which topics are dull and should be asked last.

5. Create an order for the presentation of topics in the survey.

The first concern is what topic to start with. This is critical, because your participants will have their first experience with the survey from the first question.

**Step 3:** Write and assess all questions carefully:

1. Ask – Do the questions:
   1. Clearly establish the purpose of the survey?
   2. Make it clear that the participant’s views/experiences/answers are important to the survey?
   3. Establish the credibility of the researchers?
2. Writing Questions:
   1. Identify items you can use from prior surveys
      1. The first step in question writing is not to write them, but to source them from previous research
         1. Many population health surveys use standard items that measure quality of life and wellbeing.
         2. These items often originate with organizations such as WHO, the CDC, the NIH…
3. Beware of sensitive information questions.
   1. Never start with something sensitive. Before you ask sensitive questions the credibility of the survey must be established
   2. When you do ask for sensitive information, it must be clear that the information is important in understanding the person’s experience or point of view.
4. Beware of Negative Disclosure questions.
   1. Never begin a survey with questions where the participant might have to disclose something negative about themselves.
      1. The respondent has to trust you, and believe that disclosing the information is important.
      2. You must win the respondents confidence first.
      3. This is accomplished by asking general questions before specific ones
5. Engage instantly
   1. Do not begin a survey with “dull” questions.
      1. Error: Researchers often begin surveys with demographic questions. (Age, sex, social class, income etc.)
   2. The respondent must engage with the purpose of the survey instantly.
      1. Purposeful questions do two things:
         1. They frame the survey so that the respondent understands what the survey is about
         2. They start the person thinking about the survey topic in a way that is non-threatening. (If you want to get a person to like you, ask them their opinion on anything and listen attentively.).
   3. Leave dull topics to the end.
   4. Be sure that every question is vitally important for your study.
6. Say Thank You:
   1. Include a statement of thanks to the respondent.
      1. “Thank you for taking part in this survey.”

**Other considerations:**

1. Complete a thorough literature search (You do not have to do this for this assignment)

2. Use questionnaire items that allow informative comparisons to be made

a. Determine important comparisons

b. Base much of the survey on items that will allow you to make

the most important comparisons.

3. Consider the accuracy of the questions.

a. Wording should elicit accurate responses.

4. Keep questions directed and short.

5. Questions should have one main point to assess.

6. Questions should capture the information needed.

7. Keep the number of responses limited

8. Include all questions that will allow you to answer the research questions.

9. Do not include superfluous questions.

10. Keep the survey as short as possible.

11. Use non-biased wording.

**HW # 5 Assignment:** This assignment is a task to learn how to create a survey using REDCap. While I have provided most of the information that must be included in this survey, you must think about additional demographics and key predictors to be included. An introduction to the survey MUST be included. This introduction should identify you, the researcher, and explain the purpose of the survey. It should have contact information. A good introduction will help you “connect” to your subject and elicit a better response rate. Directions for taking the survey should also be included. Next, you must design the structure of the survey to flow, be interesting, and follow the rules above. You should create logical sections within the survey. Add Section Headings once you have entered in the first question for that heading. Place the Section Heading above that first question. Finally, end with a “Thank you”. Create your plan on paper before using REDCap. Should you need any technical help in using REDCap, beyond what is provided in the videos, please contact me.

The Survey Scenario: You are planning to conduct a survey of people who were hospitalized with acute myocardial infarction. You want to find out the prevalence of anxiety and depression in this population and identify associated factors. Participants will be given a questionnaire at their first routine follow-up outpatient visit. The **required** Key predictors include • time since the MI • number of prior coronary hospital admissions • number of prior non-coronary admissions • presence of angina • severity of angina • socioeconomic status • marital status • the person’s perception of their health status. Additional key predictors should be added at the discretion of the researcher. Important demographic data should be collected. (You will determine this demographic data.) Also, include an assessment of depression using the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) and any other health information/lifestyle or behaviors that you think may be important for knowledge. The HADS tool is included in this week’s Resources section. You MUST include this questionnaire (all questions) in this survey.

Summary of all elements to be included in the Survey:

Title of survey

Introduction to the survey (as a part of the REDCap document)

Section delineation markers

Demographic questions

Key predictors

Other health information/lifestyle or behaviors data desired to be known

The Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) – ALL questions

End of survey “Thank you”

You will use REDCap to create this survey. BE CREATIVE

Directions:

1. **View the REDCap instructional videos – Register in REDCap – Create a New Project**

**\*\* When creating a new project, for “Type of Project”, select *“Other”.***

**Then, in the box for “Please Specify:”, type *“Education – MEDB5501 Class Assignment”***

**IT MAY TAKE UP TO 24 HOURS FOR THE PROJECT TO BE APPROVED**

2. Sign into REDCap as directed and click on MyProjects

The survey instrument “job” that you created and was approved should appear in your project list.

3. Open the Instrument for this assignment (Click on it) and create the above survey as directed in the videos and in the assignment directions while thinking about survey creation as outlined on page 1 and 2 of this document. You must include all elements listed to receive full points for this HW assignment.

4. Download (from REDCap) a PDF of the survey instrument that you created.

5. Save the PDF and upload it into the associated HW assignment slot in Canvas

6. Write the methods section for this task. (Word Document)

Research question

Method of data collection

Construction of survey

Number of subjects (Consider all aspects presented in the lecture when you calculate this number and include this information in the methods.).

Statistical analysis plan

Include any other pertinent details and references.

7. Save this document and upload it into the associated HW assignment slot in Canvas.

**\*\* There will be two documents to turn in for this project:**

Document 1: A PDF of your survey

Document 2: A word document of the methods section delineated in Step 6 above.

**Late Turn in will result in point deductions as per the syllabus. No exceptions.**