

Coverage Error

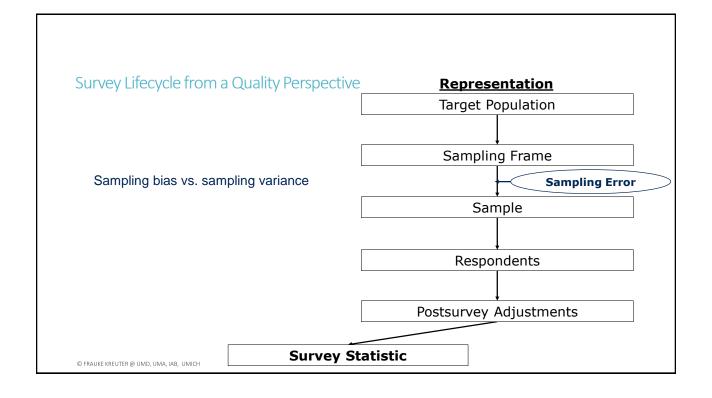
Total survey population can be divided into those covered and those not covered by frame:

$$\overline{Y}_N = \left(\frac{C}{N}\right)\overline{Y}_C + \left(\frac{U}{N}\right)\overline{Y}_U$$

which can be written $\overline{Y}_{\!\scriptscriptstyle C} = \overline{Y}_{\!\scriptscriptstyle N} + rac{U}{N}(\overline{Y}_{\!\scriptscriptstyle C} - \overline{Y}_{\!\scriptscriptstyle U})$

Undercoverage error for sample mean is function of

- o undercoverage rate and
- o difference between means for covered and uncovered cases



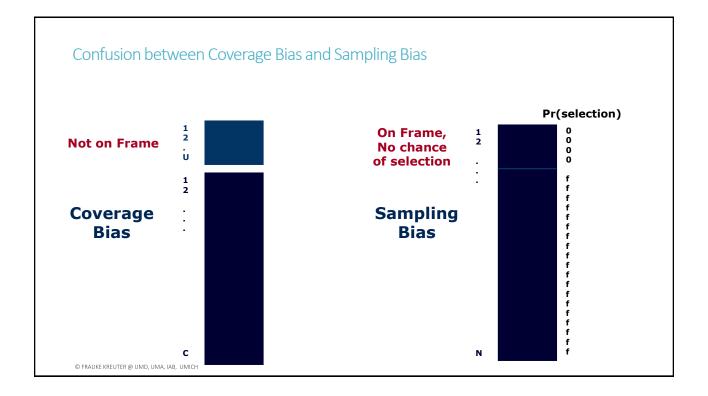
Sampling Variance vs. Sampling Bias

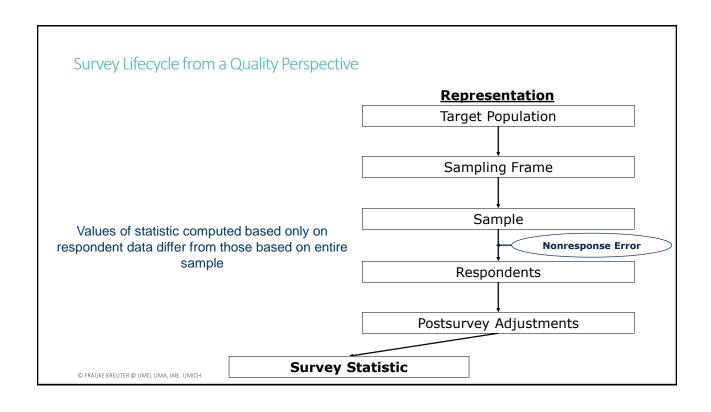
Sampling variance:

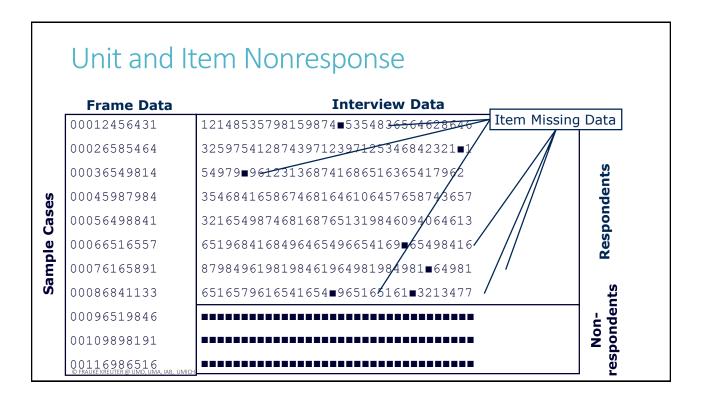
- Variation in values of survey statistic because different subsets of the population fall into sample over replications of same sample design
- o Most commonly measured statistic in surveys
- o Confidence intervals, standard errors

Sampling bias:

- o Consistent failure to estimate a proportion of population
- $\circ\;$ E.g., those in military in $\it HH$ samples which exclude military bases from every sample
- Sampling bias is 0 for probability samples







Nonresponse Error

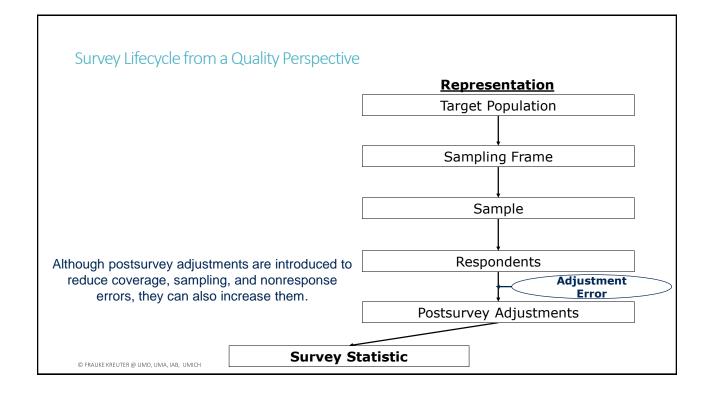
Total sample can be divided into respondents and nonrespondents

$$\overline{y}_s = \left(\frac{r_s}{n_s}\right) \overline{y}_r + \left(\frac{m_s}{n_s}\right) \overline{y}_m$$

which can be written as

$$\overline{y}_r = \overline{y}_s + \left(\frac{m_s}{n_s}\right) (\overline{y}_r - \overline{y}_m)$$

Nonresponse error for sample mean is function of nonresponse rate and difference between means for respondents and nonrespondents



Key Notions

Variable errors; systematic errors

- o Some errors common to all trials of survey for given statistic (e.g., coverage bias due to missing cell phone-only *HH* in landline CATI survey)
- o Some errors vary over trials (e.g., variable response errors)

There are no good or bad surveys – only good or bad survey statistics

- o Errors are properties of statistics (e.g., sample mean is biased estimate of target population mean)
- o From same survey, some statistics may have large errors; others, small errors

Survey methodology research discovers how to reduce errors and applies these to surveys.