Sample design using the U.S. Census PDB

Stas Kolenikov

21 July 2021



Outline

- 1. The U.S. Census Planning Database, U.S. Census geography, race/ethnicity
- 2. Survey sampling design target
- 3. Stas' initial attempt
- 4. Actual workshop -- challenge to improve upon Stas' work!



Libraries



The U.S. Census Bureau and its data



Planning Databases

https://www.census.gov/topics/research/guidance/planning-databases.2021.html



PDB data

```
if (file.exists(here('PDB','pdb2021trv3_ct.csv'))) {
   PDB_CT <- read_csv(here('PDB','pdb2021trv3_ct.csv'))
} else {
   PDB_US <- read_csv(here('PDB','pdb2021trv3_us.csv'))
}</pre>
```



US Census Tracts

- Tract \subset county \subset state
- Tract population: about 4000

https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/education/CensusTracts.pdf



Example tracts

University of Michigan:

- ACS profile (MCDC)
- Tiger boundaries: https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerweb/, search for 500 S STATE ST, ANN ARBOR, MI, 48109

Stas' residence:

- ACS profile (MCDC)
- Tiger boundaries: https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerweb/, search for CT 11.08 COLUMBIA, MO, 65203



Sample design task



Sample design target

We need to create a sample of adults in the state of https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Connecticut, with the target of 2500, and oversample targets for racial/ethnic minorities:

Black/African American: 500

• Hispanic: 500

Simplifications:

- disregard household size distributions between race/ethnicity groups
- disregard the age distributions between race/ethnicity groups



Connecticut

State	State_name	tracts	adult_pop
09	Connecticut	828	2 831 241



Stas' first steps



Solution: stratified design

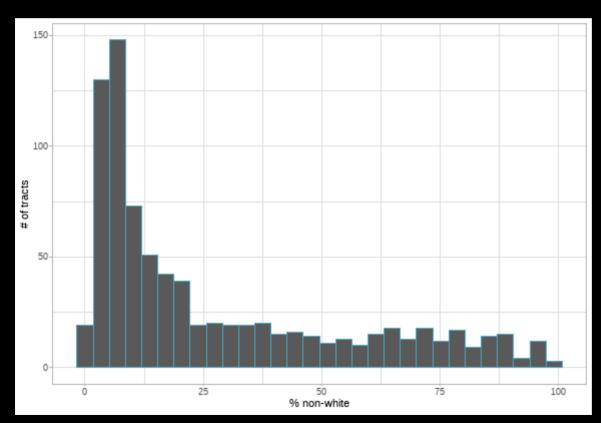
Create several strata and vary sampling rates between them to achieve the target sample sizes.

```
PDB_CT %>% mutate(
   pct_NH_black_alone = NH_Blk_alone_ACS_15_19 / Tot_Population_ACS_15_19,
   pct_hisp = Hispanic_ACS_15_19 / Tot_Population_ACS_15_19,
   pct_minority = pct_NH_black_alone + pct_hisp
) -> PDB_CT
ggplot(data=PDB_CT) +
   geom_histogram(aes(x=pct_minority), color='skyblue')
```



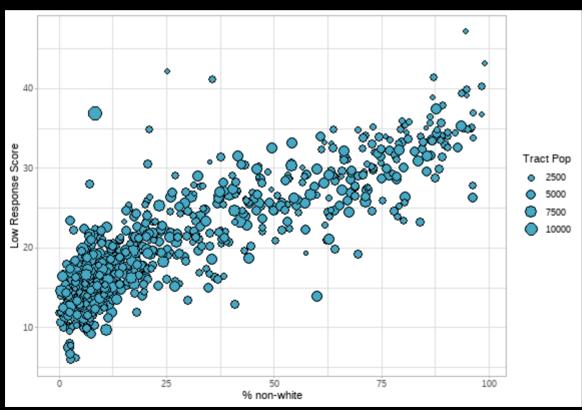
Solution: stratified design

Create several strata and vary sampling rates between them to achieve the target sample sizes.





Beware of nonresponse!





Overall anticipated response rate

The overall, population weighted low response score is 20.0746219.

Thus for the target sample size of 2500, one needs to field about 3128 cases.



Two-strata solution: high vs. low minority tracts



Two-strata solution: high vs. low minority tracts

CT_strata2 %>% kable()

strata2	tract	min_minority	max_minority	pop	black	hisp	RR
1	182	0.50134	0.9912892	704 096	213 395	294 119	0.7042099
2	646	0.00000	0.4997575	2 870 978	140 725	280 121	0.8225065



Trial-and-error allocation

Compute anticipated number of Black/AA interviews; number of Hispanic interviews; adjust inputs until the results are acceptable

```
CT_strata2 %>% mutate(
    n_field = case_when(strata2 == 1 ~ 2100, strata2 == 2 ~ 1100),
    n_total = floor(n_field * RR),
    n_black = floor(n_field * RR * black / pop),
    n_hisp = floor(n_field * RR * hisp / pop),
    sampling_rate = n_field/pop*1e3
) %>% select(strata2, sampling_rate, starts_with('n_')) -> CT_strata2_complete
```

strata2	sampling_rate	n_field	n_total	n_black	n_hisp
1	2.9825478	2 100	1 478	448	617
2	0.3831447	1 100	904	44	88

Overall sample size: 2382 vs. 2500, Black AA race and Hispanic ethnicity oversamples of 492 and 705 (vs. target 500 each).



Trial-and-error allocation

Compute anticipated number of Black/AA interviews; number of Hispanic interviews; adjust inputs until the results are acceptable (overall sample size 2500, Black AA race/Hispanic ethnicity oversamples of 500 each).

strata2	sampling_rate	n_field	n_total	n_black	n_hisp
1	3.0038517	2 115	1 489	451	622
2	0.4284254	1 230	1 011	49	98
Total	NA	3 345	2 500	500	720



Simple weights

```
CT_strata2_completes %>%
  full_join( CT_strata2 %>% select(strata2, pop), by='strata2') %>%
  mutate(weight=pop/n_total) %>%
  select(strata2, n_field, n_total, pop, weight) -> CT_strata2_weights
CT_strata2_weights %>% maybe_kable()
```

strata2	n_field	n_total	рор	weight
1	2 115	1 489	704 096	472.865
2	1 230	1 011	2 870 978	2 839.741



Unequal weighting design effect

Unequal weighting design effect $1+\mathrm{CV}^2\equiv 1+L_{Kish}$ for this design is:

```
## UWE_DEFF
## 1.659822
```



Can you do better??



Better solutions?

- Better choice of the threshold in a two-strata solution?
- Three strata?
 - two thresholds of minorities, combined?
 - separate thresholds for Black/African Americans vs. Hispanics?
- Four strata?
- Minimize design effect?
- Account for response rates at the tract level?



Your turn now!

- Breakout Zoom rooms, groups of ~4
- Create a *better* design:
 - the above one had too many Hispanics relative to the target (and relative to SRS; hence losses of efficiency)

Stas' best design has DEFF of about 1.23, but it involved heavy-handed numeric optimization with tons of fiddling with optimization parameters.



Further refinements

- Adult vs. total population
- Language barriers (speak English less than very well)
 - partially incorporated in the Low Response Score
 - limits the covered population
- Residential households (vs. group quarters)
- Vacant housing units
- Lower response rates to non-federal surveys



R Markdown

This is an R Markdown library (xaringan) presentation. Markdown is a simple formatting syntax for authoring HTML, PDF, and MS Word documents. For more details on using R Markdown see http://rmarkdown.rstudio.com.

R version: R version 4.0.2 (2020-06-22).

Package versions:

- library(tidyverse): version 1.3.0
- library(here): version 0.1
- library(knitr): version 1.30
- library(xaringanthemer): version 0.3.0
- library(kableExtra): version 1.2.1

