



ACADEMIC
PRESS

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

SCIENCE @ DIRECT®

Social Science Research 32 (2003) 294–311

Social
Science
RESEARCH

www.elsevier.com/locate/yssre

Missing school dropouts in surveys does not bias risk estimates[☆]

J. Richard Udry* and Kim Chantala

*Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,
403D University Square East, Campus Box 8120, Chapel Hill, NC 27516-2524, USA*

Abstract

Objectives. Our purpose is to advise those who propose to use school-based sampling frames in studying risk attributes of the adolescent population. Compared to using area sampling frames, will their estimates be biased by the fact that they do not have data from adolescents who are not enrolled in or present at school, primarily dropouts and graduates?

Methods. We used a national probability sample of school enrollment rosters as a sampling frame but administered questionnaires in respondents' homes. In this way we obtained data not only from those attending school but also from those who had dropped out or graduated between the time rosters were compiled and the time questionnaires were administered. We compare estimates of attributes with and without dropouts and graduates.

[☆]This research is based on data from the Add Health project, a program project designed by J. Richard Udry (PI) and Peter Bearman, and funded by grant P01-HD31921 from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to the Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with cooperative funding participation by the National Cancer Institute; the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism; the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders; the National Institute on Drug Abuse; the National Institute of General Medical Sciences; the National Institute of Mental Health; the National Institute of Nursing Research; the Office of AIDS Research, NIH; the Office of Behavior and Social Science Research, NIH; the Office of the Director, NIH; the Office of Research on Women's Health, NIH; the Office of Population Affairs, DHHS; the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, DHHS; the Office of Minority Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, DHHS; the Office of Minority Health, Office of Public Health and Science, DHHS; the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, DHHS; and the National Science Foundation. Persons interested in obtaining data files from The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health should contact Add Health, Carolina Population Center, 123 West Franklin Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27516-2524 (email: addhealth@unc.edu).

* Corresponding author. Fax: 1-919-966-7019.

E-mail address: udry@unc.edu (J.R. Udry).

Results. Estimates based on omitting those who had dropped out or graduated within the year before interview are only trivially different from estimates that include them, even though dropouts and graduates often differ significantly from those still attending school.

Conclusions. Although dropouts and graduates are missing, school administration of interviews does not significantly bias population-wide estimates. This is because dropout rates at the national level are currently quite low. Although they differ significantly from the enrolled, the absence of dropouts does not bias estimates for the total population.

© 2002 Elsevier Science (USA). All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

In planning a national survey of adolescents, decisions must be made about the population to be represented and the survey design that will best accomplish this. Generally, we assume that researchers are interested in representing the entire adolescent population at certain ages. An area sample survey would be the first choice since it can be designed to include everyone. If the survey targets ages at which most adolescents are in school, a school-based survey might be considered as an alternative since it would be much less expensive—but it would miss those not enrolled in school, i.e., those who have dropped out (not enrolled and not graduated) and those who have graduated. Other groups that one might expect to miss in a school-based survey are actually enrolled but are often in statuses of short duration. These groups are very small and include runaways and the homeless and institutionalized.¹

The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) obtained its sample from school rosters. To reduce the probability of bias because dropouts were missed, we interviewed the sample respondents at home. At the time of the home interviews (one to two years after school rosters were compiled), all sample respondents were sought, irrespective of their enrollment status. Those who were not enrolled because they had dropped out (temporarily or permanently) or had graduated were included. In this way, Add Health differs from school-based surveys that use school administration of the survey instrument. Using Add Health data, we can compare survey results with and without the not-enrolled and can determine the bias we would have experienced had we used school administration.

Previous studies have examined the effects of failing to sample dropouts, but some controversy remains. Several agree that omitting dropouts does not substantially affect population estimates of drug use (GAO, 1993; Gfroerer et al., 1997; Johnston and O'Malley, 1985; Swaim et al., 1997). None of these looked at the effect of omitting high school graduates who are of an appropriate age to be enrolled in school. The methods used in this paper have the advantage of eliminating such other factors

¹ In 1995–96, home-schooled children comprised about 1.4% of those aged 5–17 and less than 1% of those in grades 7–12 (Ray, 1997).

متن کامل مقاله

دریافت فوری ←

ISIArticles

مرجع مقالات تخصصی ایران

- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه تمام متن مقالات انگلیسی
- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه ترجمه شده مقالات
- ✓ پذیرش سفارش ترجمه تخصصی
- ✓ امکان جستجو در آرشیو جامعی از صدها موضوع و هزاران مقاله
- ✓ امکان دانلود رایگان ۲ صفحه اول هر مقاله
- ✓ امکان پرداخت اینترنتی با کلیه کارت های عضو شتاب
- ✓ دانلود فوری مقاله پس از پرداخت آنلاین
- ✓ پشتیبانی کامل خرید با بهره مندی از سیستم هوشمند رهگیری سفارشات