



Barriers to Race/Ethnicity Data Disaggregation: the Perspective of State Health Surveys

AJ Scheitler, EdD



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Characteristic	Number
Number of survey and data professional respondents	23 respondents /21 surveys
Geographic coverage of the survey	
National	8
State	5
Municipalities/Regions	8
Individual States Represented (by state and/or municipal survey)	14: CA, CO, IL, IA, KY, MA, MI, MN, NJ, NY, OH, TX, WA, WI
Sample Size	
< 10,000	9
10,000 – 20,000	4
>20,000 – 50,000	3
> 50,000	5
Start Date of Survey	
Less than 5 years	3
Between 5 – 10 years	4
Greater than 10 years	14
Survey Frequency	
Annual	9
Bi-Annual	2
Less Frequently (consistent)	6
Variable (not consistent)	4

Themes

- **REGULATIONS AND STANDARDIZATION HAVE SUPPORTED DISAGGREGATION**

“...other people’s health surveys’ can do anything they want, but if you are in a position where you have to give your statistics to some federal agency at the end, then there is a requirement that however you do it, it has to at least code back to the federal categories.”



It's so small

Themes

- **METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES TO DATA COLLECTION**
 - **SMALL SAMPLE SIZE**

“We have a little bit of everybody, but not enough of anybody to really focus in on.”

- **QUESTION WORDING**



Themes

- **PRACTICAL CHALLENGES TO DATA COLLECTION**
 - **FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS**
 - SURVEY REAL ESTATE
 - **STAKEHOLDER AND USER INTERESTS**
 - **NEED FOR CONSISTENCY**



Themes

- **DATA ANALYSIS**
 - **DISCLOSURE RISK**

“Even though we oversample we’re still not getting what we would need to feel comfortable reporting anything out by sub-cat...by sub-group like that. So it’s really frustrating and I feel like you know we’ve tried really hard so...but you know...so one thing is the measurement, and the other is kind of sample design, and then the other is response rates, right?”



Recommendations

- **GUIDELINES ARE NECESSARY, AND NOT CURRENTLY SUFFICIENT**
- **NEED RESOURCES FOR DATA ADMINISTRATORS & RESEARCHERS**
- **MANDATES? PROMOTION OF MANDATES**





California Health Interview Survey

Capturing California's Diverse Population

DATA COLLECTION

- **IN-LANGUAGE ADMINISTRATION**
 - **ENGLISH, SPANISH, CHINESE (MANDARIN AND CANTONESE), KOREAN, TAGALOG, AND VIETNAMESE.**
- **TARGETED OVERSAMPLING**
 - **GEOGRAPHICAL**
 - **SURNAME**
 - **SPECIAL LISTS**





california
health
interview
survey

California Health Interview Survey

Capturing California's Diverse Population

DATA ANALYSIS

- **POOLING YEARS**



Thank you!

ajscheitler@ucla.edu

