

Recent Developments in Survey Nonresponse Research

- A Short Course by Andy Peytchev

Nonresponse rates have been declining in household surveys in developed countries, which has led to increasing attention and resources devoted to the studying and addressing unit nonresponse. This, in turn, has stimulated the dissemination of research on the topic. This short course will introduce developments in research on (1) measurement, (2) reduction, and (3) adjustment for unit nonresponse in surveys, particularly in the past decade. These three areas of nonresponse research have seen substantial developments in the data collection designs, the statistical procedures being implemented, the theory behind these methods, and the auxiliary data being collected and used in nonresponse research. There have also been advances in nonresponse research in the broader context of total survey error, such as the relationship and tradeoffs between nonresponse and other sources of error, and the tradeoff between nonresponse bias and the variances of estimates.

The course is not intended to be a practical guide on how to design and implement a study to minimize nonresponse bias. Rather, it aims to describe some of the major recent developments in research on survey nonresponse. Those who have had experience in dealing with unit nonresponse will likely benefit the most, but it is not a requirement and the course will introduce major concepts.

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