

Sampling Approaches and Issues

All-State Webinar

July 31, 2014

Introduction

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- Joint project of the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD), Human Services Research Institute (HSRI), and the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS)
- Currently exist for the Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities community. (NCI)
- The Core Indicators are standard measures used across states (and soon programs) to assess the outcomes of services provided to individuals and families.
- NASUAD is expanding the tool to include populations of older adults and people with physical disabilities. (NCI-AD)

How does NCI-AD Work?

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- Participating states are asked to compile a sample of at least 400 older adults and individuals with physical disabilities receiving publicly-funded services.
- States work with HSRI and NASUAD to design the sampling strategy.
- State or their contractor then conducts in-person NCI-AD interviews with survey participants.
- State compiles final data and shares data with HSRI.
- HSRI interprets data and provides state-specific report and state-to-state comparison report.

Sampling – Frame/Populations

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- Whom to include?
 - ▣ Goal: representative of state service system
 - ▣ Regardless of where people live
 - ▣ Waivers –aging and disabilities
 - ▣ OAA
 - ▣ Nursing home and institutional
 - ▣ State services?
- Whom to exclude?
 - ▣ Case management only
 - ▣ No services to minimal – e.g. meals on wheels once a week?
 - ▣ No contact information
 - ▣ Languages?

Sampling - Size

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- How big should the sample be?
 - ▣ 400 – will produce a good estimate for the state overall (approx. 95% confidence level, 5% margin of error)
 - ▣ Bigger sample – an even better estimate for the state overall, may be able to do estimates for individual funding streams/programs, regions
 - ▣ Can oversample certain programs/regions/people

Sampling - Method

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- Probability sampling – every “subject” has non-zero probability of being selected
 - ▣ Except for exclusions
- Simple random sample
 - ▣ Rare/small groups may be excluded by chance
- Stratified random sample
 - ▣ Ensures that rare/small groups are represented
 - ▣ Allows for easy oversample of subgroups/programs

Oversampling

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- If interested in:
 - ▣ A specific program's performance
 - ▣ A subgroup (e.g. demographic)
 - ▣ A geographic region
- Proportionally larger sample of that group
 - ▣ Depending on composition, overall sample can still be 400
- During analysis, statistical weights will be applied to adjust for oversample
 - ▣ Still produce representative state estimate

Designing

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- To do anything but a simple random sample (and even to do a simple random sample well), have to know sizes of populations served in different programs, etc.
- Have to know the sizes after exclusions
- Have to be able to compile info – have lists
- Random number generator/techniques
- Larger “contact sample” to account for refusals and inaccurate contact info
 - Recommended 50% more names/contacts than want in final sample
 - E.g.: sample of 400 – pull 600 names/contacts

Designing

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- Intent of data – how is the state planning to use the data?
- Intent should influence design
- Important to think ahead of time
- Communicate with HSRI/NASUAD team
- Work with HSRI/NASUAD team
- Communicate with HSRI/NASUAD team!

Designing – multiple data sources

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- Sample – multiple programs/populations/funding streams
 - ▣ i.e. multiple data sources
- Availability of contact info will differ
- Quality of contact info will differ
 - ▣ Refusals rate may differ as well
- Availability of demographic/background info will differ
- Quality of demographic/background info will differ
- Demographic/background available in other databases?
 - ▣ Can be linked?
- Have to plan to collect missing demographic/background pieces
 - ▣ During interview

Designing – working with the contractor

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- Once lists generated – who pulls sample?
 - Contractor
 - State
- If state: handoff to contractor – contact info
- Demographic/background info
 - At the time of sample pull
 - All individuals in sample
 - After contact
 - Only those interviewed
 - Who pulls from records?
 - Contractor
 - State
 - If state: handoff to contractor

Data powered by HSRI

Project managed by NASUAD

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