



Plenary Session Of Collaborators
Philadelphia, USA
August 31, 2016

Methodological guidelines and adherence

Methodological guidelines

CSES guidelines for data quality and data collection procedures are found in the following section at the beginning of each CSES questionnaire:

“COLLABORATOR INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CSES QUESTIONNAIRE”

The CSES questionnaire

Vote choice and socio-demographic questions can be asked according to local standards, but should be collected so they can later be coded to the common CSES standard.

However, the CSES Module is intended to be administered **exactly as it is specified in the questionnaire.**

Mode of interviewing

Interviews **should be conducted face-to-face**, unless local circumstances dictate that telephone or mail surveys will produce higher quality data.

Timing of interviewing

The CSES module should be **administered as a post-election interview**.

We strongly recommend that collaborators in the CSES conduct their **interviews in the weeks following their national election**. Out of concern for data quality, data collection should be **completed in as timely a fashion as possible**.

Placement of Module

The Module itself should be **asked as a single, uninterrupted block of questions.**

Collaborators should take steps to ensure that questions asked immediately prior to the questionnaire module do not contaminate the initial questions in the module.

Population to be sampled

National samples should be drawn **from all age-eligible citizens**.

Sampling procedures

We strongly encourage the use of random samples, with **random sampling procedures used at all stages of the sampling process**. Collaborators should provide detailed documentation of their sampling practices..

Sample size

We strongly recommend that **no fewer than 1,000 age-eligible respondents be interviewed.**

Field practices

Collaborators should make every effort to **ensure a high response rate**.

Investigators should be diligent in their effort to reach respondents not interviewed on the initial contact with the household and should be diligent in their effort to convert respondents who initially refuse to participate in the study.