CSES 5 Planning Committee

Subcommittee
New Technology and Data Collection Guidelines

Report to CSES Plenary

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Outlook

► Long-term trends in CSES Data Collection
- ► Update of Howell/Jusko (2009)
- ► Including CSES 2, 3, 2015 delivery of 4 (17 studies)

► Recommendations
- ► Guidelines
- ► Design report
- ► Paradata

Long-term trends in CSES Data Collection

- **Mode of interviewing**
  - **F2F** still standard mode, but appears to become less dominant.
    - From ~70% in Rounds 1-3 down to 59% in Round 4
  - **PAPI/mail-back** appears outdated.
    - From 15% in Round 1 down to Nil in Round 4.
  - **CATI** may continue as a marginally relevant mode.
    - 10-15%, no trend
  - **Web**: as of yet no stand-alone study
  - **Mixed-mode** approaches clearly gaining in importance.
    - From 5% in Round 1 up to 23% in Round 4.
    - More recently always including Web component, typically as alternative to one or several traditional modes
      - Respondent self-selection
      - Subsample

Long-term trends in CSES Data Collection

- **Timing of surveys**
  - CSES practice increasingly following guidelines, post-election single-wave surveys have become almost universal standard.
    - 94% in Round 4
  - CSES studies typically start quickly after elections, apparently increasingly so. Guidelines thus observed overall quite well.
    - Within two weeks from 64% in Round 1 up to 82% in Round 4
  - Average duration of fieldwork increased.
    - Median up from 27 days in Round 1 to 49 days in Round 4
  - Share of surveys ending only long after election day increased.
    - Later than 2 months: from 34% in Round 1 up to 47% in Round 4.
    - Ambivalent: more interviews long after election, probably reflects increasing difficulties of fieldwork; may also reflect improved fieldwork

Long-term trends in CSES Data Collection

- **Response rates**
  - CSES clearly affected by overall trend of decline
    - Median from 61% in Round 1 down to 38% in Round 4

- **Numbers of completed interviews**
  - Currently recommended minimum number of cases (1,000) reached by almost all studies of CSES 1 - 4.
    - Many studies also would have met higher target of N = 1,500, especially in CSES 4 (71%, up from 49% in CSES1).

Recommendations: Guidelines

- **Mode**
    - Maintain F2F as recommended standard
    - Include Web surveying as acceptable secondary mode to increase response rates and/or compensate for undercoverage
        - If: adequate coverage and random sampling at all stages
            - Access panels possible
                - But: offline recruitment into panel (unless full Internet coverage)
                - And: for ‚offliners' devices supplied or move to mixed mode
                - And: access panel should be rather fresh
    - Include mixed-mode surveys to increase response rates and/or compensate for undercoverage
        - But: minimize variation: of modes within countries and surveys, of questionnaires across and within modes (devices!)

Recommendations: Guidelines

- **Timing of surveys**
  - Recommend start no later than six months after election
- **Population / sampling frames**
  - Access samples possible, but time lag should be minimal
- **Numbers of completed interviews**
  - Recommend increase of standard to 1,500 (cf. ISSP)

Further Recommendations

- **Design Report**
  - More detailed questions on modes, especially Web; mode changes
    - Access panels
    - Internet penetration
    - Offline recruitment
    - Self-selection into survey

- **Additional paradata in dataset**

Study-level	Time until start of fieldwork (number of days after election)
	Duration of fieldwork overall (number of days)
	CSES run as stand-alone study or part of larger study (dummy)
	Mode/s (multiple response)
Respondent-level	Response time (duration of interview in seconds)
	Mode(s) of interview (multiple response)
	Self-selection into mode (dummy)