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  - **PAPI/mail-back** appears outdated.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**

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