

Author(s): Brehm, John

Title: Analysis of Result Code Disposition by Time in Field

Technical Report Number: nes010144

Date: August 9, 1985

Dataset(s): 1984 Continuous Monitoring

Abstract

This report is concerned with the relationship between length of field period and response rate. Data from the American National Election studies 1984 Continuous Monitoring Control File provides information about the effect of a 17 day interviewing period on the overall response rate. The impetus for the analysis came about because non-sample coversheets were replaced during the 17 day field period and it became important to understand what effect the shorter time the replacement coversheets were in the field had on response rate. The majority of both interviews and non-samples are determined within the first 7 days after a coversheet is issued. Therefore, the fact that some coversheets had a shorter time in field than others did not materially affect response rate. Since coversheets issued for replacement of non-sample were more likely also to be non-sample, the success rate for reissued coversheets was lower than for coversheets which did not have to be reissued (Only 27.3% of re-issued coversheets were successful interviews, vs. 33.4% overall.) More than 90% of the non-sample were determined within the first 7 days; there is no material impact of lengthening the field period beyond 10 days. Thus, the conclusion was that response rate was not lowered by reissuing of coversheets during the first week of the field period.