

Kaiser Family Foundation California Longitudinal Panel Survey Wave 2 Attrition Appendix

A unique consideration for panel surveys such as the Kaiser Family Foundation California Longitudinal Panel Survey, is whether those who participate in subsequent waves are different in terms of their attitudes or demographics than those who refuse to participate again or were unable to be re-contacted. Of the total 2,001 respondents who completed Wave 1, 1,219 participated in Wave 2. This completion rate of 61% is within an expected range given that the uninsured are already a often a difficult to reach population since many are lower income, younger, undocumented immigrants, and members of racial/ethnic minority groups, and may change phone numbers or move more often than the public at large. After data collection was complete, data from Wave 1 and Wave 2 were compared to evaluate the impact of some respondents not completing Wave 2, referred to as attrition. The analysis was designed to assess whether: (1) The makeup of respondents differed systematically between the waves; and (2) whether these differences correspond with bias as far as the study's substantive questions.

As detailed below in Table A1, we compared Wave 1 question responses for the total Wave 1 and Wave 2 samples to assess whether Wave 2 consists of respondents who answered Wave 1 differently than the full Wave 1 sample. The weighted columns indicate whether any differences in sample characteristics and substantive responses were minimized through Wave 2 weighting. The comparison indicates that the greatest difference between the complete Wave 1 sample and the Wave 2 subsample centers on Spanish speaking (5 percentage points less in Wave 2), cell phone only (5 percentage points less in wave 2), and undocumented respondents (4 percentage points less in wave 2), along with an increase in the share of white respondents and a decrease in the share of Hispanic respondents (5 and 6 percentage points, respectively). This seems to indicate that the harder-to-reach (namely undocumented), more transient (cell phone only), and younger respondents (cell phone only) were slightly less likely to be reached and to complete the Wave 2 interview. These demographic differences between the samples, did not translate into meaningful differences on the questions of self-reported knowledge of the Affordable Care Act, party identification, self-reported health status, or whether respondents report having a usual source of care. Furthermore, once the sample was weighted as it would be in any case, demographic differences were nearly eliminated, and those variables not included in the weighting were hardly affected by weighting, or became more similar to Wave 1 (namely, respondents estimated to be undocumented immigrants) (Table A2). Overall, this analysis finds fairly small differences between the subsample of Wave 2 respondents and the full Wave 1 sample as far as Wave 1 responses. Attrition does not appear to introduce significant bias, and most differences are addressed by weighting (that was specifically designed to match the Wave 1 sample, adding parameters such as language of interview and income relative to the federal poverty level).

Table A1: Wave 1 to Wave 2 Sample Comparisons for Wave 1 Questions (Weighted and Unweighted)

	Unweighted			Weighted		
	Wave 1	Wave 2	Percentage Point Difference (W1 - W2)	Wave 1	Wave 2	Percentage Point Difference (W1 - W2)
Gender						
Male	48%	44%	4	54%	53%	1
Female	52%	56%	-4	46%	47%	-1
Race/ethnicity						
White	27%	32%	-5	26%	27%	-1
Black	7%	8%	-1	5%	6%	-1
Hispanic	58%	52%	6	56%	55%	1
Other Race	8%	7%	1	12%	12%	0
Age						
18 to 29	23%	18%	5	33%	32%	1
30 to 39	21%	21%	0	24%	24%	0
40 to 49	22%	22%	0	21%	21%	0
50 to 64	35%	39%	-4	22%	24%	-2
Education						
HS or less	57%	53%	4	58%	57%	1
Some college	28%	31%	-3	29%	30%	-1
College Grad+	15%	16%	-1	12%	13%	-1
Phone status						
Landline	49%	54%	-5	42%	44%	-2
Cell	51%	46%	5	58%	56%	2
Marital status						
Married	33%	32%	1	37%	37%	0
Not Married	67%	68%	-1	62%	63%	-1
Family income						
<138% FPL	60%	59%	1	52%	53%	-1
138%-400% FPL	30%	32%	-2	36%	35%	1
400%+	5%	5%	0	7%	7%	0
Language of interview						
English	63%	68%	-5	65%	67%	-2
Spanish	37%	32%	5	35%	33%	2

Table A2: Wave 1 and Wave 2 Sample Comparisons for Wave 1 Questions Not Used In Weighting (Weighted and Unweighted)

	Unweighted			Weighted		
	Wave 1	Wave 2	Percentage Point Difference (W1 - W2)	Wave 1	Wave 2	Percentage Point Difference (W1 - W2)
Resident Status						
Citizen/legal immigrant	79%	82%	-3	78%	79%	-1
Undocumented immigrant	20%	16%	4	21%	19%	2
Party Identification						
Republican	11%	12%	-1	11%	12%	-1
Democrat	35%	36%	-1	32%	31%	1
Independent	35%	34%	1	37%	38%	-1
Other	9%	8%	1	9%	9%	0
Length of time uninsured						
2 months to less than a year	12%	11%	1	13%	12%	1
1 year to less than 2 years	12%	13%	-1	14%	15%	-1
2 years or more	48%	53%	-5	44%	45%	-1
Never insured	28%	24%	4	29%	27%	2
Have enough info to understand ACA impact on family						
Yes	26%	27%	-1	26%	26%	0
No	73%	72%	1	73%	74%	-1
Self-reported health status						
Excellent/Very good/Good	59%	60%	-1	62%	65%	-3
Fair/Poor	41%	40%	1	38%	35%	3
Debilitating Chronic Condition						
Yes	16%	18%	-2	13%	13%	0
No	84%	82%	2	87%	86%	1
No usual place for care						
Yes	61%	62%	-1	56%	56%	0
No	39%	38%	1	43%	44%	-1

An indicator consistent with this observation is the mean Wave 1 Weight of the Wave 2 sample. This value, 0.978 (SE=0.028), indicates that the measure to which Wave 2 respondents further accentuated Wave 1 on-response patterns (corresponding with smaller weights) was relatively small, about 2%.

We also compared the unweighted demographics for those who completed Wave 2 with those that didn't (a typical nonresponse analysis) and the differences between these two groups are mostly moderate. Those who did not participate in Wave 2 were somewhat more likely than Wave 2 respondents to be younger, male, Hispanic, undocumented, have lower levels of education, report never having had health insurance, or prefer taking the survey in Spanish. On the other hand, they are less likely to report having a disability. In order to further isolate the demographic factors associated with completing the Wave 2 survey or not, we conducted a logistic regression analysis. After controlling for demographic characteristics such as income, education, and party identification, the factors associated with completing Wave 2 include being interviewed on a landline telephone, and being older. The factors associated with not completing Wave 2 are being Hispanic and male. But, as noted above, weighting sufficiently corrects for these differences and no bias in results is expected.

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