



2006 Washington State Population Survey Technical Report 1: Sample Disposition and Response Rates

THIS REPORT is one of several technical appendices prepared by the Office of Financial Management to supplement the 2006 Washington State Population Survey (SPS). The survey was funded by the Legislature to provide social, demographic, and economic information about Washington residents biennially.

Responses to the survey were obtained from telephone interviews with 7,082 households that represent the state population as a whole. The survey was designed by OFM and conducted by the Gilmore Research Group in the Spring 2006.

Sample Disposition and Response Rates

A stratified sample by region was selected from all households in state of Washington with an activated telephone line, either listed or unlisted. A target of 750 households was planned for each of the eight regions with the exception of King County where a target of 1,800 households was planned. More households were selected in King County to insure sufficient information on racial minority groups for statistical analyses. Households were selected in each of the regions using random digit dialing (RDD) technique.

Table 1
Complete Sample Disposition for the General Population Sample

Sample disposition	General Population Sample
CM: Completed Interview	7,082
PC: Partial complete	10
PB: Partial complete	6
CP: Pretest completion (Included in CM)	100
R2: Soft refusal	706
R3: Hostile refusal	1,552
R5: Refusal on conversion attempt	8,868
RN: Refusal for respondent not available	0
R6: Put on "Never Call" list	1,221
R70: Letter refusal	13
R63: Refusal of # of HH members	29
CB: Specific callback	86
GB: General callback	185
BZ: Busy signal	774
NA: No answer	2,980
AM: Answering machine	2,616
LM: Answering machine, left message	0
DF: Deaf respondent	421
HC: Handicapped respondent	138
LG: Language problem	376
DD: Respondent deceased	1
RG: Respondent gone	161
IE: Ineligible, respondent too young	28
BG: Business or government	4,512
DS: Disconnected	14,968
ED: Electronic device	2,896
BC: Blocked call	444
WR: Wrong number	0
DP: Duplicate number	93
NQ: Not a WA state resident	89
OT: Other misc.	3
SP: Spanish sample (callable)	15
SA: Spanish no answer	47
SB: Spanish answering machine	42
SG: Spanish general callback	67
SZ: Spanish busy signal	13
PN: Purged nonworking numbers	7,503
NQ: Over quota	261
Total Sample	58,206

Calculating response rates for a survey requires first a complete account of the disposition of all sample cases regarding the outcome of the interview attempt. Table 1 presents the complete sample. The first column is a description of the dispositions. The second column contains the disposition figures for the sample.

Sample Disposition Summary

Table 2 contains a summary of the sample disposition details. It shows a total of 58,206 cases were released for the sample. Of the 58,206 cases released, 7,082 resulted in completion (CM), 12,566 in refusal (RF1 and RF2), 7,760 in no contact (NA1, NA2, and SNA), and 30,798 in ineligible (IEH and IEO).

TABLE 2
Sample Disposition Summary

Sample disposition Summary	General Population Sample
CM = (CM,CP)	7,082
RF1 = (PC,PB)	16
RF2 = (R1,R2,R3,R5,RN,RP,R70,R63,R6 RG)	12,550
NA1 = (CB,GB,BZ,AM,LM,DF,HC,LG, TR)	4,596
NA2 = (NA)	2,980
SNA = (SA,SB,SG,SM,SZ)	184
IEH = (DD,IE)	29
IEO = (BG,DS,ED,BC,OT,UP,PN, WR, DD NQ, OQ)	30,769
Total	58,206

Note 1: Disposition codes in parentheses refer to those in Table 1.

Response Rates

Table 3 contains four different response rates. The reason for inclusion of different response rates is that different organizations may have varying needs for presenting information and some response rates are more appropriate than others. A total of four response rates are calculated. These rates are based on definitions of response rates set by the CASRO.

The first two rows of Table 3 are two adjustment factors. The first adjustment factor (ADJ1) represents the percent of contacted households that are ineligible for the survey because of death or age. The adjustment is 0.41 percent for the sample. The second adjustment factor (ADJ2) represents the percent of telephone numbers that are excluded from the sample because they are not residential households.

Table 3
Response Rate Calculations

Response Rate Calculations	General Population Sample
ADJ1 = %INELIGIBLE= (IEH+IEE)/(CM +RF1+IEH+IEE)	.41%
ADJ2 = %OUT OF SAMPLE = IEO/TOTAL	52.86%
RR1 = CM/(CM+RF1+RF2)	36.06%
RR2 = CM/(CM+RF1+(1-ADJ1)*RF2)	36.15%
RR3 = CM/(CM+RF1+RF2+NA1+SNA+NA2)	25.85%
RR4 = CM/((CM+RF1+ (1-ADJ1)*(RF2+NA1+SNA)+ (1-ADJ2)*NA2))	27.50%

* IEE removed from both the numerator and the denominator.

Note 1: Disposition codes on right-hand side of the equation refer to those in Table 2.

The four response rates displayed in the next four rows differ only in what is included in the denominator. The first rate (RR1) is a crude rate. It is the ratio of completes over the sum of completes (CM) and refusals (RF1 and RF2). RF1 in the denominator refers to refusals after the identifying information is collected. RF2 refers to refusals before the identifying information is collected. This rate can be considered as a crude cooperation rate, i.e. the proportion of all successfully contacted cases that completed the interview. For the sample this rate is 36.15 percent.

The second rate (RR2) is very similar to RR1 except that in RR2, RF2 is adjusted for death and young age of the intended respondents (ADJ1). This rate is a refined cooperation rate. For the sample, it increases from 36.06 to 36.15 percent.

The third rate (RR3) takes into account those households that are never successfully contacted during the survey period. They are included in the denominator of the ratio. The denominator for this ratio includes: completed and partially completed interviews (CM), refusals (RF1 and RF2), call-backs (NA1), no-answers (NA2), and Spanish call-backs (SNA). By including the no-contact households without adjusting for ineligible, this rate is the most conservative of the four rates presented in Table 3. For the sample, this rate is about 25.85 percent.

The fourth rate (RR4) is similar to the RR3, but it takes into account adjustment for death and young age among the Spanish call-back cases (SNA), other call-back cases (NA1), and contacted cases from which no identifying information was collected (RF2). In addition, this rate is adjusted for ineligible (ADJ2) among the no-answer cases (NA2). For the sample this leads to an adjusted rate of 27.50 percent.

RR2 and RR4 are the two most often quoted rates with the former being generally referred to as the cooperation rate and latter referred to as the response rate.