

HRS UPDATES

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The Health and Retirement Study is a cooperative agreement sponsored by the National Institute on Aging (NIA U01AG009740), with additional support from the Social Security Administration.

HRS | HEALTH AND
RETIREMENT
STUDY

COVID AND HRS 2020 FIELDWORK

- No in-person contact allowed
- HCAP and whole blood draws completely deferred to 2022
- HRS EFTF design is for half sample to be in person each wave
- 2020 EFTF interview converted to phone
- We lost content (e.g. blood pressure) but there were some advantages
 - Phone calls cost less than in-person visits
 - We could afford to do more calls
- SAQ and then SSA consent delivered by mail instead of presented in person

COVID-RELATED DATA COLLECTION ACTIVITIES

- Added a brief (ten minute) module to 2020 core
- :Antibody testing using mailed self-administered Orasure kit
 - pre-vaccine during core field period (Nov, 2020-Jan, 2021)
 - 46% of people who did an interview in 2020
 - Only 1 in 4 of positives knew they had had it
- Mail survey “Perspectives on the Pandemic”
 - Administered in May/June to most of sample (3/4)
 - 65% of people who did an interview in 2020
 - Administered in Oct/Nov to non-CAMS, EFTF sample

COVID CONTENT IN HRS 2022

- Attempting to integrate into the questionnaire rather than as a stand-alone section.
- Update on exposure, symptoms, vaccines
- How it affects work

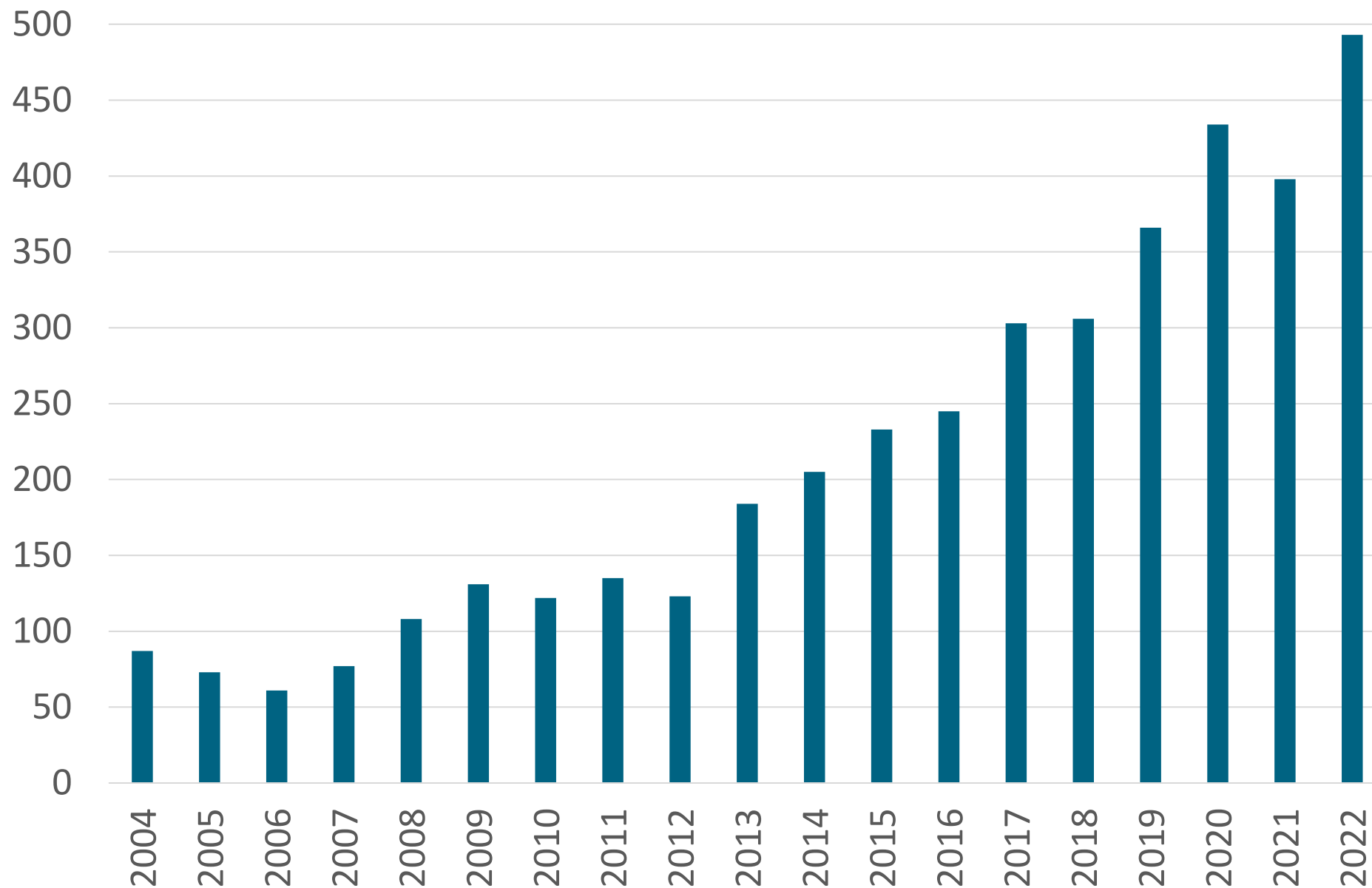
HRS RECENTLY SUBMITTED A RENEWAL PROPOSAL FOR YEARS 35-40 OF THE STUDY (2024-2029): GOVERNANCE/ORGANIZATION PLAN FOR RENEWAL

- Reunification of HRS and HCAP into a single project
- Langa and Weir, MPIs of the combined project
- Weir, Langa, Jessica Faul and Brady West: Executive Management Team
- Other moves under consideration
 - Looking for a mid-career economist with survey experience

HRS LEADERSHIP ARE RECOGNIZED AS NATIONAL LEADERS IN KEY TOPICS

- Data collection
 - Brady West and Sunghee Lee (HRS sampling lead) are MPIs of R24 Network for Innovative Methods in Longitudinal Studies
- Biomarkers
 - Jessica Faul is MPI with Eileen Crimmins and Colter Mitchell of R24 Biomarker Network
- AD and cognition
 - Ken Langa and David Weir are MPI of the U24 Network on the Harmonized Cognitive Assessment Protocol (HCAP)
- → HRS can be a resource for new studies and for established studies in this network seeking to expand in these areas

SIGNIFICANCE: ANNUAL PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS USING HRS



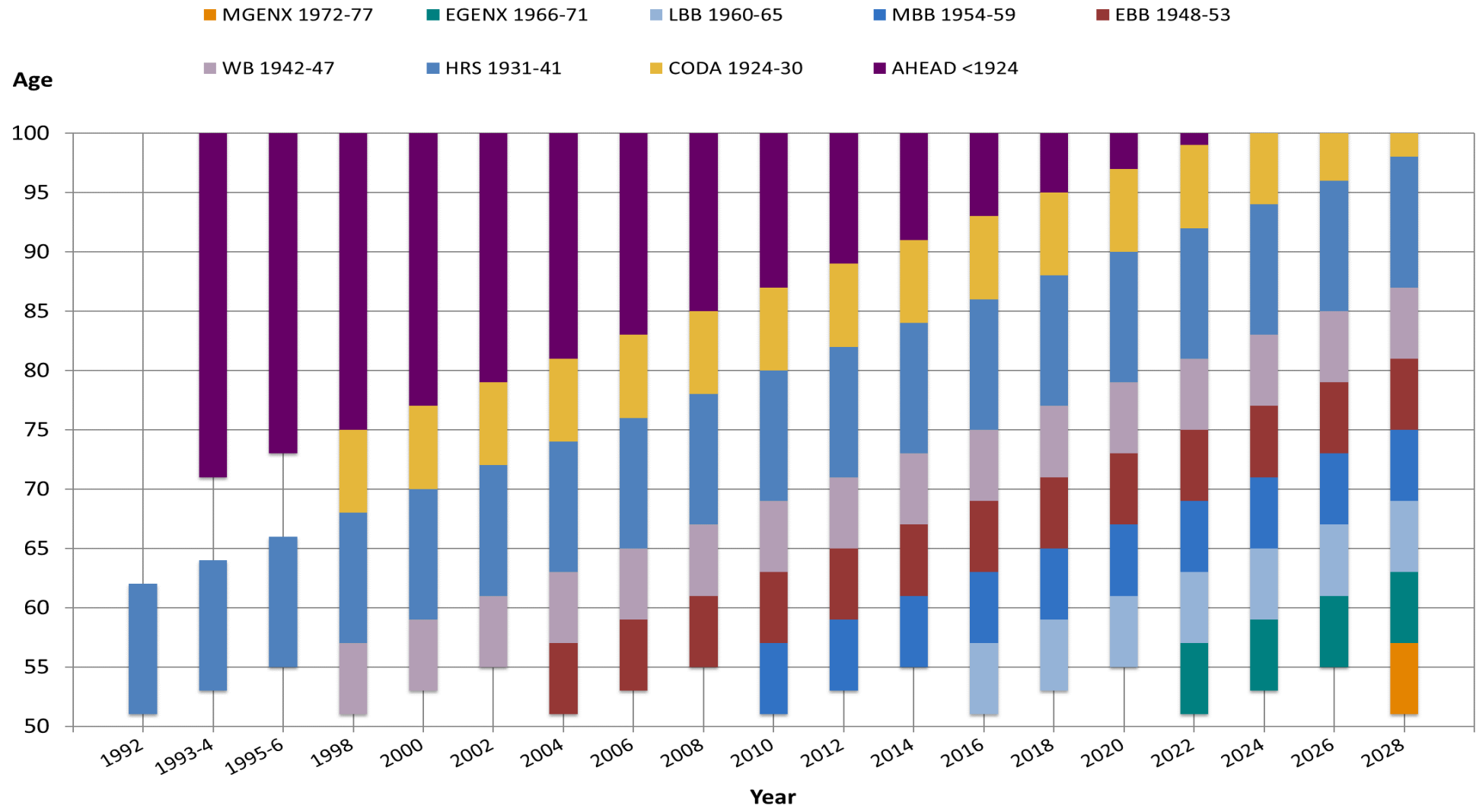
The point of HRS is to support research on aging. Each 6-year cycle has roughly doubled the previous cycle's publications.

AREAS OF INNOVATION

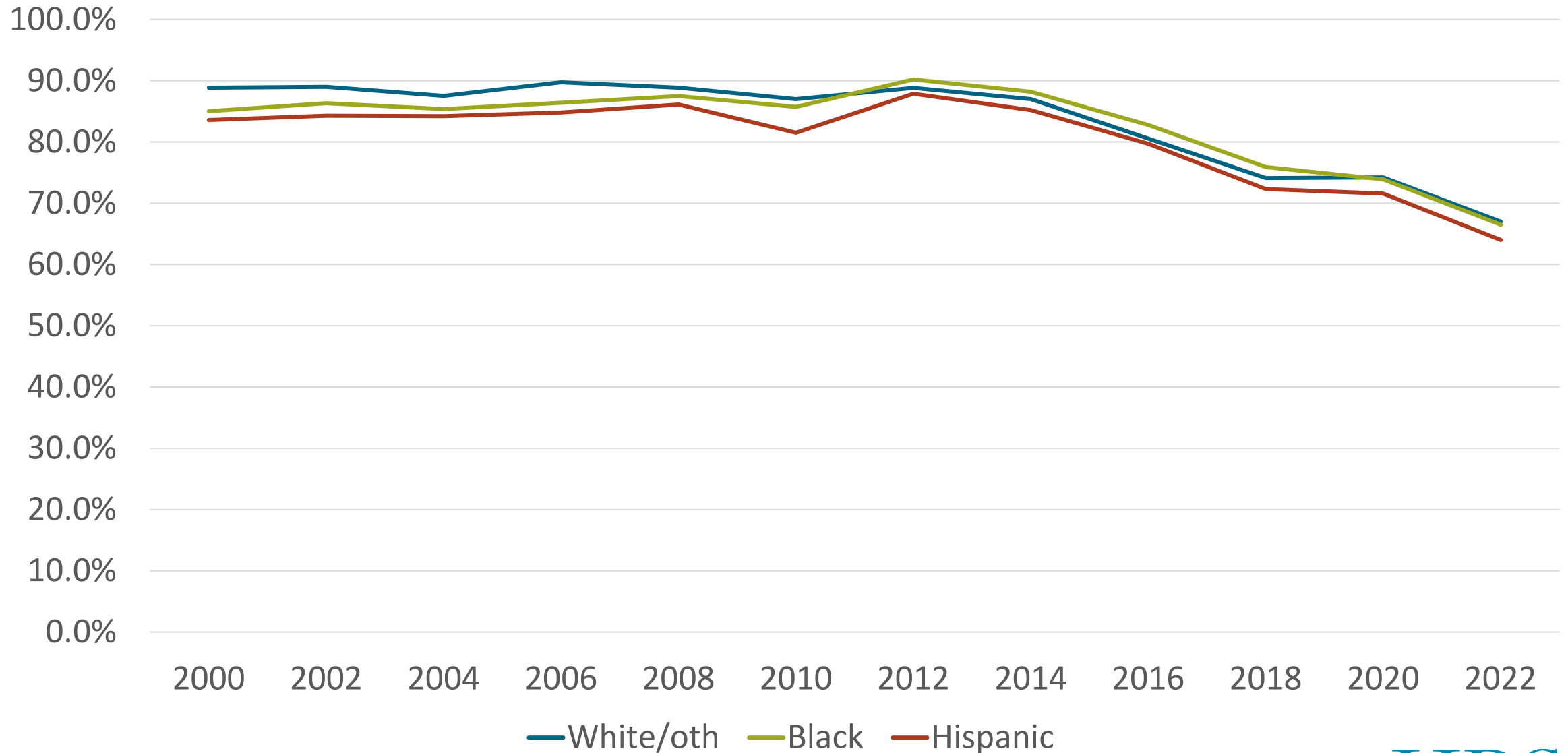
- Biomarkers – Ken will describe this tomorrow
- Linkages
 - Medicare record linkage now only accessible at MEDRIC remote enclave
 - Social Security records primarily accessible at Michigan enclave
 - NDI being reestablished at Michigan enclave
 - Greatly expanding contextual data linkages (mainly geocode-based)
- Sample/fieldwork
 - Maintain longitudinal design
 - Innovate aggressively on response rates



HRS Longitudinal Cohort Sample Design



HRS PANEL RESPONSE RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY



WHY?

- Interview length not increasing over this period
- Roughly 80% of content same as it was
 - Most changes are either relevant new content or improvements
- In-person mode not hurting, maybe helping RR

MARGINAL EFFECTS OF CHARACTERISTICS ON RESPONSE RATES IN HRS 2022

Characteristic	dF/dx	Z
FTF	0.032	4.1
Web	0.009	0.8
Age	0.001	3.2
Education (years)	0.008	7.6
Black	0.001	0.2
Hispanic	0.000	0.0

STRATEGIES

- We are working on improving the respondent experience while not cutting content (less confusion, less redundancy)
- The main area for future attention is interviewers
- Old labor market model has failed
 - COVID accelerated trends and disappearance of veteran interviewers
 - Hiring is difficult – minimum three month delay from application to job start
 - Attrition is sky-high: fewer than 1 in 3 survive the field period
 - Performance is variable

WHAT MIGHT WE DO?

- Users benefit from high-quality data delivered in a timely fashion
- From a data quality and getting things done on time standpoint, it's clear we want experienced veteran interviewers
- How to afford that when we use them in “bursts”
- Either
 - Adapt the work to provide full-time work—smooth the bursts and find other tasks
 - Partner with other studies or organizations to provide interviewers
- Bottom line is this is going to be much more expensive

THANK YOU!

<http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/>

And now on Twitter: @hrsir



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