

HRS ATW: Approaching Sample Refreshment after COVID

2023 November 20 | 11:00 AM ET | Virtual Call

The HRS family of longitudinal studies of aging allow for a variety of analytic designs: simple cross-section descriptions of older populations at a point in time, comparison of cohort trajectories over time, and longitudinal designs to study the aging process and better understand causal relationships. As these studies mature, additions to the sample are often considered. There is no definitive lexicon, but we can use the term “refreshment” to describe the addition of new younger cohorts as the original cohorts age, and the term “replenishment” to describe the addition of new members in cohorts already represented. Replenishment boosts the sample for cross-sectional analyses and for future longitudinal analyses but of course cannot boost the sample for longitudinal analysis from the original start of the study.

There are different reasons studies might consider replenishment, and different approaches to doing it. The Mexican Health and Aging Study (MHAS) is considering replenishment in part because of losses due to mortality during the COVID-19 pandemic. This meeting will use their case as a starting point for a consideration of replenishment that has been done in other studies, and some general discussion of issues.

AGENDA:

Rebeca Wong (MHAS)

Attrition and mortality in MHAS and the need for replenishment.

Paola Zaninotto (ELSA)

ELSA's motivations for replenishment and their experience of implementation

Michael Berman (SHARE)

Some typologies of replenishment designs in the SHARE countries.

David Weir (HRS)

Replenishment of minority samples in HRS

Topics for discussion:

- How do we help users adapt analysis plans to replenishment?
- How do we construct weights for the new sample and how do we modify weights for the earlier sample?
- Do we need to maintain separate longitudinal weights for the longer-tenured sample?
- Do randomly selected replenishment cases properly "replace" self-selected attritors?
- Does replenishment distort observed trends over time?