Supplemental Online Content

eMethods. Details of survey recruitment rate and survey weights. eTable. Survey dates and panel member response rates for survey waves.
This supplemental material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.

eMethods. Details of survey recruitment rate and survey weights.

Details of the Understanding America Study (UAS) panel recruitment rate and a comparison with other internet-panel surveys are outlined in Kapetyn et al. Briefly, the UAS cumulative weighted recruitment rate is estimated to be 13-15% from sampling a household (via address-based probability sampling) to entering the panel. This compares favorably to estimates of the recruitment rate achieved by other leading internet-based panels including the Ipsos KnowledgePanel (5%) and the Pew American Trends Panel (5-7%). The UAS survey team have demonstrated that the UAS can approximate the data quality of the Health and Retirement Study, the principal source of high-quality information on the health of older adults in the US.²

To reduce selection bias the Understanding America Study (UAS) uses probability-based sampling and provides internet connected tablets to households not already connected to the internet. Differences between the demographic characteristics of the UAS sample and the US population are corrected for through the use of survey weights that correct for unequal probabilities of selection of different households into the UAS and incorporate poststratification to align the demographic composition of each survey wave sample with 13 population characteristics including the age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, household income levels, and the geographic distribution of the population (using Continuous Population Survey estimates from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC)).³

The use of poststratification provides a correction for selective nonresponse between survey waves and ensures that the sample remains nationally representative over time despite the presence of missing data due to nonresponse. The response rates for individual UAS surveys included in the current study were high (75-79%) and are detailed in the eTable below alongside the date ranges for each survey wave.

References

¹ Kapteyn A, Angrisani M, Bennett D, et al. Tracking the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the lives of American households. Surv Res Methods. 2020;14(2):179-86. doi.org/10.18148/srm/2020.v14i2.7737.

² Angrisani M, Finley B, Kapteyn A. Can Internet match high-quality traditional surveys? Comparing the Health and Retirement Study and its online version. In: KP Huynh, DT Jacho-Chavez, G Tripathi, eds. *The Econometrics of Complex Survey Data: Theory and Applications*. United Kingdom: Emerald Publishing Limited; 2019:3-33.

³ Angrisani M, Kapteyn A, Meijer E, Saw HW. Sampling and weighting the Understanding America Study. Working Paper No. 2019-004. University of Southern California, Center for Economic and Social Research. Available at SSRN: https://papers.csm/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3502405

eTable. Survey dates and panel member response rates for survey waves

Survey dates assigned ^a	Survey submission window ^a	Response rate ^b	N for current study
October 14-27, 2020	October 14 - November 11, 2020	79%	6,016
December 9-22, 2020	December 9, 2020 - January 6, 2021	76%	5,911
December 23, 2020 - January 5, 2021	December 23, 2020 - January 20, 2021	76%	5,911
January 6-19, 2021	January 6, 2021 - February 3, 2021	77%	6,039
January 20, 2021 - February 2, 2021	January 20, 2021 - February 17, 2021	77%	6,074
February 3-16, 2021	February 3, 2021 - March 3, 2021	77%	6,168
February 17, 2021 - March 16, 2021 ^c	February 17, 2021 - March 30, 2021	75%	6,035

^a Participants are invited to participate on a specific day in this 14-day window and must complete the survey within a submission window of 14 days from the assigned day meaning surveys were submitted within a 28-day window.

^b Details of the response rates for each UAS survey and unweighted and weighted demographics can be found in the methodology reports included on the UAS website: https://uasdata.usc.edu/index.php

^c From February 17 the UAS COVID-19 study shifted from a 14-day to a 28-day data collection cycle with a further 14-days permitted for submission of outstanding surveys, meaning surveys were submitted within a 42-day window. For this wave, the final surveys were submitted on March 29, 2021 which we take as the end date for our study.