

# GENERAL PERSPECTIVES ON LONG-TERM SURVEY RESEARCH

Jon Krosnick



# Survey Benefits

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- **Surveys have been used to shape national policy for many decades**
- **This use is extensive in areas such as public health policy and economics**
- **Aviation safety is a natural topic for survey data collection**
- **Survey methods are mature and well understood**

# Examples of Continuing Surveys



- Survey of Income and Program Participation (Census Bureau) 1984 -
- Consumer Expenditure Surveys (Census Bureau) 1968 -
- Annual Housing Surveys (Census Bureau) 1973 -
- Survey of Consumer Attitudes (NSF) 1953 –
- Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (NCHS) 1959 -
- National Health Interview Surveys (NCHS) 1970 -
- American National Election Studies (NSF) 1948 -
- Panel Study of Income Dynamics (NSF) 1968 –
- National Longitudinal Surveys (BLS) 1964 -
- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (CDC) 1984 –
- Monitoring the Future (NIDA) 1975 -

# Features of These Studies

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- Federally-funded via contracts or grants
- Long-term tracking studies
- Large constituencies use the data
- Important policy decisions are based on the data
- Conducted by the most prestigious survey research firms in the nation

# Features of These Studies (cont'd)



- Design done by collaborative teams of investigators
- Principal Investigators remain stable over time
- Planning Boards make decisions – rotating membership
- Advisory Oversight Boards oversee the entire project and make suggestions about planning board membership and project direction.
- Methodological experts serve on advisory boards

# Features of These Studies (cont'd)



- Questionnaires have core items that remain constant from wave to wave
- Topical questions are rotated into and out of the questionnaire to reflect current interests
- Press releases and press conferences mark the release of new data (e.g., once a year)
- Publications by the project staff summarize a simple set of core trend findings
- Information is released to the public
- Information forms basis for follow-on studies

# OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Linda Connell



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*The plan for NAOMS called for the full inclusion of air carriers pilots, general aviation pilots, air traffic controllers, mechanics/technicians, and flight attendants by the end of FY 04*



# Products

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## ■ **OUTPUTS**

- Summarized aviation operational experience data
- Statistically reliable estimates of incident rates
- Identification/tracking of safety trends
- Near real-time feedback on impacts of new technology and procedures
- Support for data-driven safety agendas

## ■ **PRODUCT CONSUMERS**

- Decision makers (government and industry)
- Safety professionals and research organizations



# Briefing Plans

- December 02 - AvSSP Program Office
- February 03 - NAOMS Working Group Kickoff
- February 03 – Report to ATAC Subcommittee (?), Code R/HQ (?)
- March 03 – Report to AvSSP Bi-Annual (?)
- Proposed Follow On:
  - FAA - Office of System Safety, Flt. Standards, System Capacity, Other - March, 03
  - CAST - March, 03
  - Alphabet Groups, airlines, other -  
As can be arranged, March through June, 03

*Permanent service possibilities will be explored in conjunction with briefing activities.*



# NAOMS Working Group

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- **Industry and government group**  
(Individuals recruited from all major industry groups; independent from employer; selected for their individual/team skills)
- **Non-Disclosure/Confidentiality Agreement**  
(Based on pre-decisional exemption from public information requirements)
- **Ames Associates Program - Industry Participants**  
(No government compensation; no intellectual property rights covered by Workmen's Compensation [by ARC])
- **Purpose**
  - Ensure that results are validly interpreted
  - Gain consensus on content, level, and timing of information release
  - Build community support for NAOMS
  - Meet four times/year