



SEAN COVID-19 Survey Archive Contributors' Guide

The SEAN COVID-19 Survey Archive includes data collected in attitudinal and behavioral surveys based on probability samples. We welcome contributions of such data for inclusion.

We archive surveys that are based on sampling frames that include all or nearly all members of the target population, sampled so that all units in the frame have a known, nonzero probability of selection. We use this standard in an effort to ensure that studies included in the archive support inference. In this we are mindful of the Report of the Task Force on Online Panels of the American Association for Public Opinion Research,¹ among other sources. It concluded:

- “Researchers should avoid nonprobability online panels when one of the research objectives is to accurately estimate population values.”
- “There currently is no generally accepted theoretical basis from which to claim that survey results using samples from nonprobability online panels are projectable to the general population. Thus, claims of ‘representativeness’ should be avoided when using these sample sources.”

We prefer English but will accept materials in any language, including, as available:

- “Topline” reports listing each question and the marginal results to that question, preferably (for parsing purposes) in Word, Excel or .txt files, with a discrete question identifier for each question. (See the archive manual for a description of preferred question identifiers.)
- Scripted questionnaires including programming and interviewer or respondent instructions for each question, e.g., screeners, coding, skips, scrambles, rotates, vols. and prompts, as needed for replication. Again, we prefer these documents in Word, Excel or .txt, ideally with programming instructions that follow, rather than precede, the question identifier.
- Datasets, preferably in .csv or SPSS format. Datasets must be de-identified, i.e., cleaned of any personally identifiable information (e.g., names, email addresses, telephone numbers and small-area geographical information such as postal codes). Non-demographic questions unrelated to COVID-19 may be deleted at the contributor’s discretion.
- Methodological details, analytical reports, banner books of crosstabulated data and other materials of use to fellow researchers investigating public attitudes and behavior related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Materials described above can be emailed to covid-19@parc.us.com or delivered by other arrangement. Data producers also can contact us to request administrative rights to upload their surveys directly.

¹ https://www.aapor.org/AAPOR_Main/media/MainSiteFiles/AAPOROnlinePanelsTFReportFinalRevised1.pdf