



Using Telephone Surveys for Health Data Collection

The SRBI staff has shown considerable expertise in using telephone surveys to collect health information. The result of this experience and effort is what we believe to be one of the most innovative and flexible computer assisted telephone interviewing systems in the country. The SRBI CATI system is a microcomputer, rather than minicomputer based interviewing system. This means that each interviewer's CRT is actually a separate computer, using a central file server. If one interviewing station should experience a power loss, only the current interview at that station would be lost and adding additional interview stations as needed is easy and inexpensive.

SRBI has been very successful using telephone surveys to interview many types of respondents about a wide variety of health conditions. We have worked with many boards of specialists to construct screening questionnaires that allow respondents to be correctly classified as having a particular condition and then successfully interviewed about the condition and its impact.

Please contact Dr. John Boyle, Managing Partner of SRBI's Health Research Practice, at (301) 608-3883 for additional information.

Study Examples:

- Confronting Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease in North America and Europe
- Asthma Insights and Realities in Europe
- Asthma in America
- Survey of Geographical Differences in Breast Cancer Mortality
- NHLBI Evaluation of Physician Attitudes and Practice Regarding Cholesterol and Coronary Heart Disease
- Market Survey of Medicare Beneficiaries
- Psychosocial Risks Among Gulf War Veterans
- Survey of Seasonal Affective Disorders
- Impact of Urban Violence on Psychosocial Adjustment
- Health Effects of Anti-Cholinesterase Agents of Experimentally Exposed Subjects
- And many others

Case Study

EP in American Men: A Prostate Health Update

SRBI conducted a telephone interview of men diagnosed with enlarged prostate (EP) in 2003. This complicated sample included a cross-section of 1,000 men aged 50 to 79 as well as a sample of over 400 men diagnosed with enlarged prostate. Additionally, the spouses of men with EP were also interviewed by telephone to discuss how EP had affected the couple's relationship. Finally, a sample of 100 primary care physicians and 100 urologists obtained from the AMA/AOA list were interviewed by telephone to discuss their experiences and treatment protocols for EP.

Children and Asthma in America

SRBI completed the second round of this study in 2004. This study identified households with children and adolescents (ages 4 to 18) with diagnosed asthma. If the child was between 4 and 15, the parent was interviewed about the child's condition. If the child with asthma was between 10 and 15, with parent permission, the child was also interviewed. If the adolescent with asthma was between 16 and 18 years old, this adolescent was interviewed rather than the parent. Additionally, in 13 states and cities, information was collected about 100 children with asthma and a comparison sample of 300 children without asthma.