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Timeline

9 AM - 10 AM EDT

Date

June 29, 2021

Phone Surveys Using Random Digit Dialing: Lessons Learned from IPA's Multi-Country RECOVR Surveys

On June 29, 2021, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) and the Global Poverty Research Lab (GPRL) at Northwestern University held a webinar on rapid phone surveys. Random Digit Dialing (RDD) has become one of the most commonly used methods for selecting phone survey participants, especially after in-person restrictions were imposed due to COVID-19. Until now, there has been little available evidence on the effectiveness of different RDD strategies for ensuring high data quality and representativeness in low- and middle-income countries. In this webinar, researchers and experts from IPA shared strategies that allowed IPA to implement RDD surveys in nine countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America as part of the Research for Effective COVID-19 Responses (RECOVR) [rapid phone surveys](https://www.poverty-action.org/recovr/recovr-survey) (you can also learn more about IPA's RECOVR work on remote surveying methods [here](/recovr/phone-survey-methods)). These surveys documented real-time trends of policy concern and informed decision-makers about the economic toll of the pandemic. Researchers and experts also shared lessons learned on phone survey methods and recommendations to improve these methods based on two motivating examples in Mexico City and Colombia. A Q&A with the audience followed the presentations. These findings come from a collaboration between IPA and the Northwestern University Global Poverty Research Lab (GPRL) on research methods. More on the Research Methods Initiative can be found on the <https://www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/research/global-poverty-research-l...>; and [IPA](/researchers/working-with-ipa/research-methods-initiative) websites. These

results are summarized as part of GPRL's working paper series on
SSRN:

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3836024>Understand...

Response Rates in Random Digit Dial Surveys

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3836960>Messaging to
Improve Response Rates

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3875808>Optimal Timing for
Random Digit Dialing

Watch the webinar recording

below:

https://www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/faculty/directory/dillon_andrew.as...

Dillon (Panelist), Clinical Associate Professor of Development
Economics, Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management
Andrew
Dillon is a clinical associate professor in the Kellogg School of Management and the Global
Poverty Research Lab at Northwestern University. He serves as the Academic Lead for IPA's
Research Methods Initiative and as a Scientific Advisor for IPA's Francophone West Africa
country offices.

</people/shana-warren>>Shana
Warren (Panelist), Research Scientist, Innovations for Poverty Action, Path-to-
Scale Research
Shana Warren is the Research Scientist on IPA's Path-to-
Scale Research (PSR) team. She is responsible for identifying opportunities to bring evidence-
based approaches to development challenges along the path to scale. She is also Principal
Investigator (PI) and co-PI in several IPA-led research projects, including our RECOVER
surveys.

</people/cosma-gabaglio>>Cosma
Gabaglio (Panelist), Research Manager, Innovations for
Poverty Action, Mexico
Cosma Gabaglio works as a Research Manager for
IPA Mexico. He leads IPA's RECOVER survey in Mexico City, which includes questions about
employment and challenges with returning to work, as well as policing and insecurity. Cosma
holds an MA in Economics from the University of Zurich and a BSc in Economics from the
University of Bern.

</people/laura-polanco>>Laura
Polanco (Panelist), Research Associate, Innovations for
Poverty Action, Colombia & the Dominican Republic
Laura works as a
Research Associate at IPA Dominican Republic and Colombia on the Research for Effective
COVID-19 Responses (RECOVER) survey. She holds a BA in Economics from the Instituto
Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC). She has worked on projects related to environmental
and behavioral economics as well as evaluating conditional cash transfer

programs.
</people/margarita-rosa-cabra-garcia>>Margarita Rosa
Cabra Garcia (Panelist), Senior Research Associate,
Innovations for Poverty Action, Colombia & the Dominican

Republic
Margarita works on the Research for Effective COVID-19 Responses
(RECOVER) survey as a Senior Research Associate at IPA Colombia. She holds a Bachelor's
degree in Economics and a Master's of Economics from Universidad de Los Andes. She
pursued a Master's degree in Development Economics from the Georg August University of
Göttingen.

</people/Michael-Rosenbaum>>Michael
Rosenbaum (Moderator), Research Methods & Data
Coordinator, Innovations for Poverty Action, Global Research & Data

Support
Michael supports IPA's research projects through the creation of

technical research materials, direct technical support to projects, as well as implementation and analysis of projects as part of IPA's Research Methods Initiative. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Policy Studies from the University of Chicago.

City Webinar Country United States