

Methodology Report: 2014 Bahamas Study
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Data collection

I. Overview:

Fieldwork for the Bahamas commenced June 17, 2014. The pretest took place in January 2014 with in-country training before the start of fieldwork in June 2014. A follow-up training also took place via Skype July 8, 2014. The effective completion date was September 30, 2014. However additional interviews were requested by LAPOP, as a result of our review of the fieldwork and sample, and these were completed during the first week of October, 2014. A total of 4,029 interviews were collected during fieldwork, with 3,429 interviews in the final dataset. Interviews were removed from the fieldwork dataset for two reasons: 1) areas were oversampled, so LAPOP hand-picked and removed additional interviews from the dataset to ensure the sample design is accurate and weighted appropriately and 2) interviews were flagged that did not meet LAPOP's quality standards.

II. Non-Response Rate:

Explanations of failed interview	New Providence	Grand Bahama	Remaining Family Islands	Total
1. Interview rejected	395	7	19	421
2. Interview incomplete	29	0	0	29
3. Eligible person absent	98	6	4	108
4. Unoccupied dwelling	118	3	9	130
5. Dwelling under construction	69	6	0	75
6. Nursing home/foreigners/does not speak interview language	38	0	2	40
7. Nobody at home	362	16	18	396
8. Inappropriate respondents(deaf, ill, intoxicated, threatening respondent)	26	0	0	26
9. Nobody from quota eligible	95	6	8	109
10. No adults in home	138	10	5	153
11. Other reasons	77	6	3	86
12. N/A	9	0	0	9
Total	1454	60	68	1582

III. **Fieldwork supervision:**

Fieldwork was carried out by Public Domain Market Research under the direction of LAPOP. The fieldwork roster consisted of a country coordinator, a project manager, six field supervisors and forty-two interviewers. All individuals involved in the fieldwork were trained according to LAPOP's standardized manual and practices. Nicole Hinton, LAPOP regional coordinator for the Caribbean, was in contact with the fieldwork team throughout the entire collection process.

Data collection was carried out using Android devices with the mobile application, Adgys. The Adgys platform allowed for exceptional control and oversight of fieldwork. The program was developed by a LAPOP affiliate and customized for the special, complex needs of LAPOP surveys.

Adgys increased the control our country team leaders and LAPOP Central had over fieldwork. Every day LAPOP staff checked the interviews uploaded the previous night to the system, which increased our ability to guarantee the highest quality and accuracy of the surveys. Here are a few of the features that Adgys allowed us to observe in real time:

- Time: Adgys records the time elapsed for each question, for each interview, in seconds and the total time of the interview; this allows us to monitor for interview quality.
- GPS Coordinates: Adgys geo-tags interviews and allows us to audit interview locations by checking coordinates on Google Maps.
- Improved Quality of Data Entry: The program eliminates error from mistakenly skipping questions (application does not advance without a selection), and errors made by office-based data entry from paper questionnaires.

Difficulties encountered during fieldwork:

- a. Problems with miscommunication were encountered between the project manager and fieldwork supervision. This resulted in interviewers not being consistently assigned fieldwork.
- b. There were issues with the national telecommunications service provider, Bahamas Telecommunications Company Ltd. (BTC). In effort to improve mobile service, BTC regularly upgraded services and connection; this caused some delays in obtaining GPS coordinates and uploading interviews to the server.
- c. The weather factored into the project significantly. Tropical storm formations and its related weather impacted interviewer productivity as the data collection period was within the hurricane season.
- d. LAPOP's daily oversight of fieldwork using the Adgys system (geo-tags and minutes) allowed us to flag interviews as low quality prior to the completion of fieldwork. When a low quality interview was detected according to LAPOP's protocol, we notified the fieldwork team so that the interview could be repeated or replaced as appropriate.

Dataset Preparation:

The first check of the dataset was in regards to the sample and quota requirements. Once the sample was approved as meeting the design and quotas, data processing and cleaning began. The data process was as follows: remove identifying information, check for duplicate observations, verify all variables are present, format date and time, make any corrections from the field, recode and label the dataset, check labels and frequencies, audit for excessive missing values, and apply weights necessary for datasets.

The processed and audited dataset then went through a series of checks performed by LAPOP research assistants verifying the dataset was of the highest quality as possible. Nicole Hinton took a final review of the dataset. While the dataset should be clean, please let us know if you find any anomalies with labels or have any questions on codes or responses.

The dataset not only includes data from the national capital, but for the remaining family islands as well. The dataset contains a variable called WT which is the “country weight” variable. This is used when looking within a country. LAPOP also includes a weight variable (WEIGHT1500) for comparison across countries. In order to give each country in the study an identical weight in the pooled sample, LAPOP reweights each country data set in the merged files so that each country has an N of 1,500. The variable “WEIGHT1500” should be activated to produce representative national results. When looking at only the national capital, no weight is needed.

Along with the dataset delivery and this report, we are submitting the final questionnaire used for fieldwork in the Bahamas. The Stata dataset contains short variable labels for each variable to easily identify the topic. However, if you type “note” along with the variable name, the question wording will appear. See below for an example:

note a4

a4:

1. In your opinion, what is the most serious problem faced by the country?