

Midlife Follow-up

Panel Attrition in High School and Beyond

1980-present

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Advantaged of HS&B for understanding selective response

- HS&B offers a rare opportunity to understand attrition and nonresponse in surveys of aging
 - Based on a very successful sample recruited during late adolescence
- Can observe distributions of background and cognition for population in late adolescence

Guiding questions for today

- How bad is attrition (or nonresponse)?
 - What predicts sample attrition from HS&B between 1980/1982 [~18 yo] and 2014/2015 [50-55 yo]?
- What can we do to encourage participation of representative sample in:
 - Surveys?
 - Biomarker collection?

Sample Design

- Target population: students enrolled in 10th or 12th grade in the United States in the 1979-1980 school year (born 1961-1964)
- 1,122 schools selected (1,015 participated after replacement)
- Oversampled:
 - Cuban-serving public and Catholic schools
 - Other Hispanic schools
 - Black Catholic schools
 - Other non-Catholic private schools

High School and Beyond: High School Classes of 1980 & 1982

Base Year Sample:

- Nationally representative, maximum of 36 seniors and 36 sophomores in each school
- 84% of sampled students included in data

Panel (selected in 1982):

- 12,000 seniors sampled
- 14,830 sophomores from those who participated in the (1982) high school transcript study



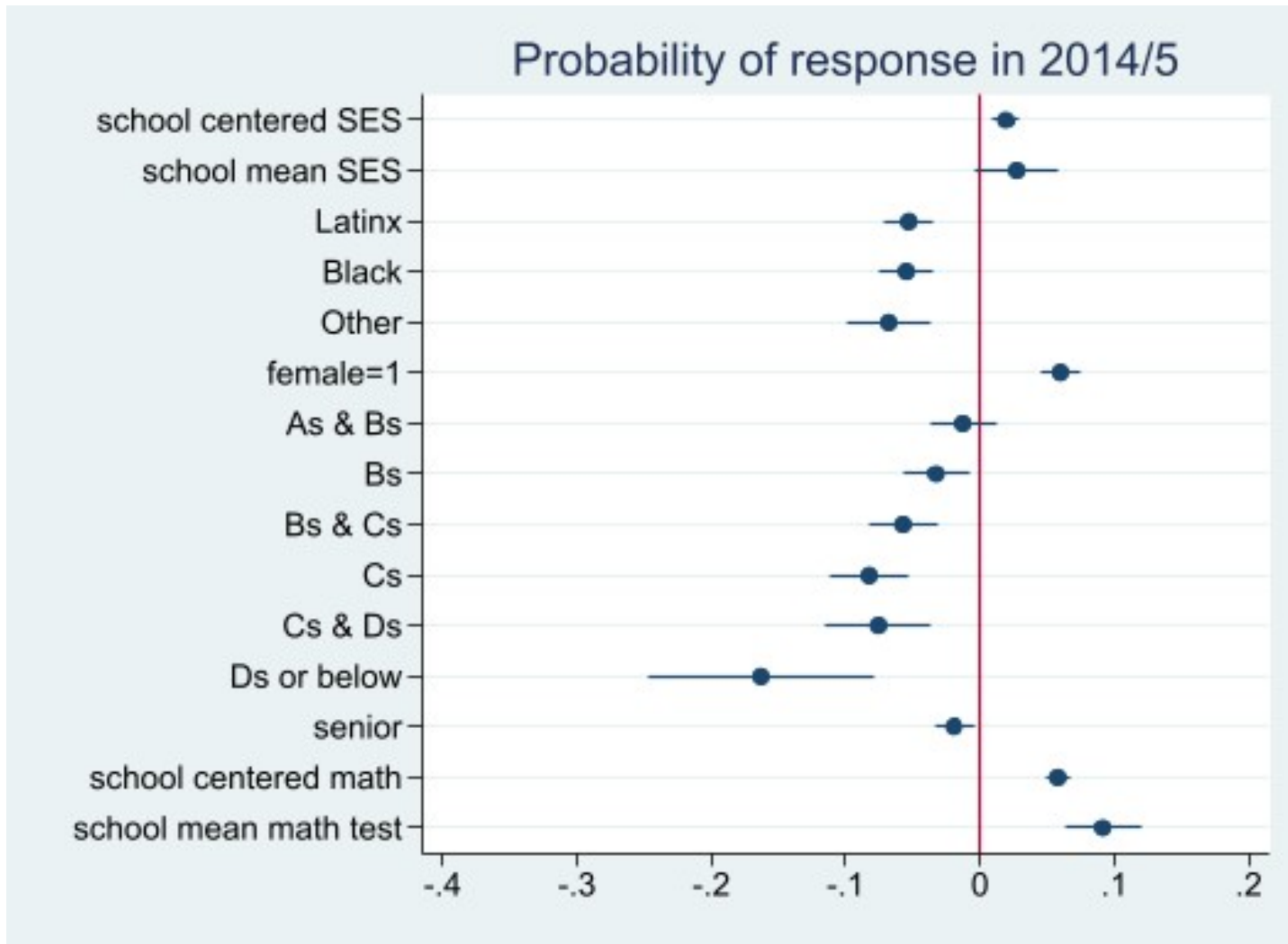
Who responded in 2014/5?

- Based on NORC disposition codes
 - Removed those out of sample due to death, illness or institutionalization
 - Estimate probability of response for remaining sample
 - Did not distinguish among active refusal, passive refusal and locating problems

Who responded in 2014/5?

- Social background
 - Race/ethnicity (White, Black, Latinx, other)
 - Socioeconomic status (index; school mean and within-school deviation)
 - Sex
- Academic achievement
 - Math test scores (school mean and within-school deviation)
 - Self-reported grades senior year

Who responded in 2014/5?



Who responded in 2014/5?

- Respondents were:
 - More White
 - More advantaged as children
 - More academically accomplished in high school
- HS&B can (and does) adjust weights to reflect this
 - Assuming conditional ignorability
 - Not a strategy available to most surveys

What are we doing to improve our results?

- 2021 data collection features:
 - Pre-field locating
 - Email, letters, calls to alert sample members of upcoming study
 - Multiple modes of response (CATI/web and a mail last chance)
 - Mix of pre- and post-incentives
 - Incentives for both survey and biomarker components
 - Adaptive design– about to launch increased incentive packages

What are we doing to improve our results?

- 2021 locating features:
 - Increased level of effort to hand search for cases
 - Seeking IRB permission to reach out to sample members via social media and high school alumni organizations

2021 also includes biomarker collection for the first time

- Change appeal for 'blood draw' to 'health visit' following the pilot
- Web video of PI Jennifer Manly talking about the importance of the health visit
- Refusal conversion efforts have contributed to increases in consent rates



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For more information on the project, see our website at: <http://sites.utexas.edu/hsb/>