Gaining Cooperation for the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP)

Linda J. Waite, Ph.D., Principal Investigator

Session: Opportunities and Challenges with Response and Consent in Longitudinal Surveys on Aging

NSHAP Investigators

Linda J. Waite, Ph.D. (PI)

Kathleen A. Cagney, Ph.D.

William Dale, M.D., Ph.D.

Louise Hawkley, Ph.D.

Elbert Huang, M.D.

Megan Huisingh-Scheetz, M.D.

Ashwin Kotwal, M.D.

Diane Lauderdale, Ph.D.

Edward Laumann, Ph.D.

Martha McClintock, Ph.D.

Colm O'Muircheartaigh, Ph.D.
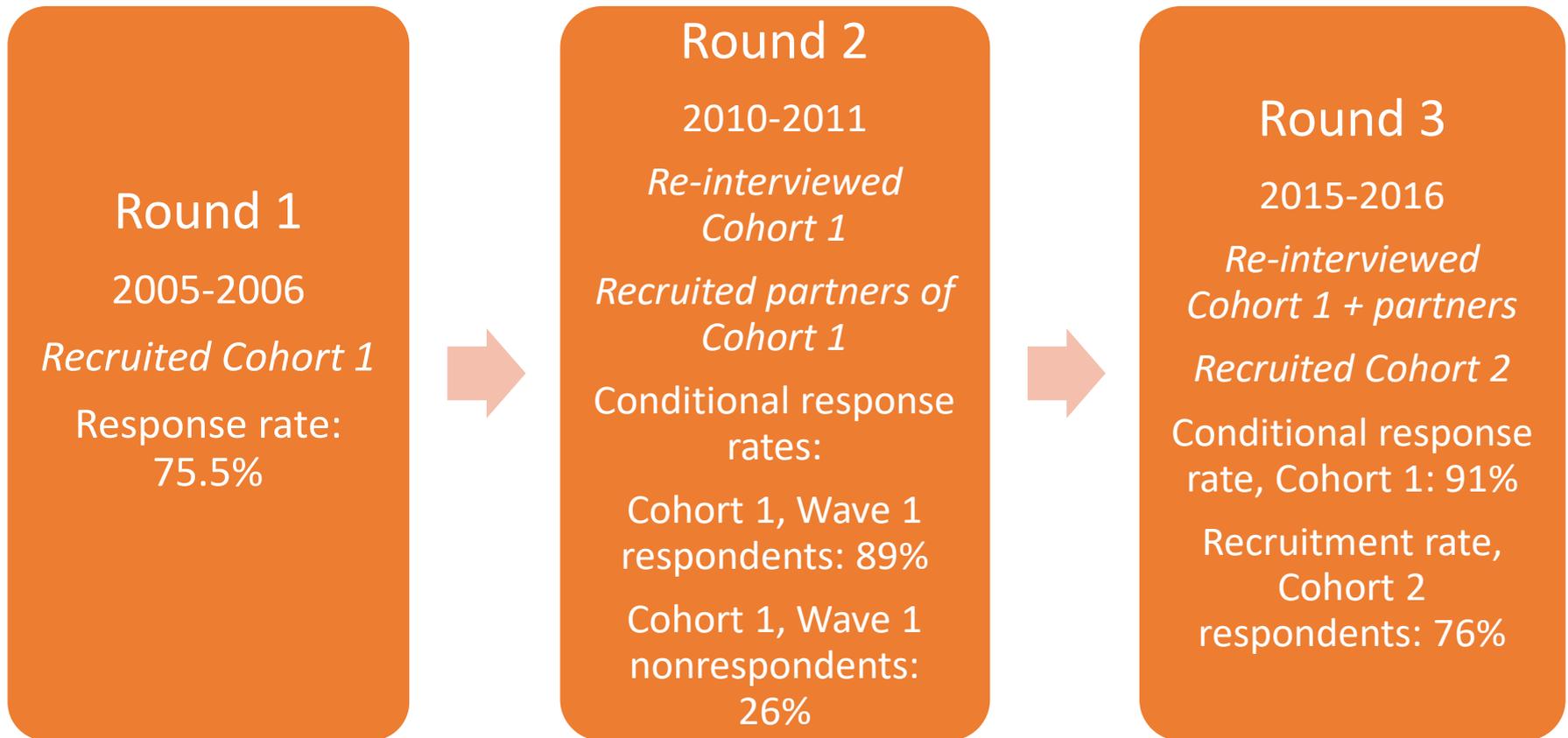
Jayant Pinto, M.D.

L. Philip Schumm, M.A.

THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

NORC
at the UNIVERSITY of CHICAGO

Background

🌿 NSHAP is a longitudinal, population-based study of health and social factors, aiming to understand the well-being of older, community-dwelling Americans.

🌿 For the first three rounds of NSHAP, all data collection was done in-person.

🌿 We are now expanding our protocol to include remote data collection.

Rounds 1-3, In Person

Round 1

2005-2006

Recruited Cohort 1

Response rate: 75.5%

Round 2

2010-2011

Re-interviewed Cohort 1

Recruited partners of Cohort 1

Conditional response rates:

Cohort 1, Wave 1 respondents: 89%

Cohort 1, Wave 1 nonrespondents: 26%

Round 3

2015-2016

Re-interviewed Cohort 1 + partners

Recruited Cohort 2

Conditional response rate, Cohort 1: 91%

Recruitment rate, Cohort 2 respondents: 76%

All response rates shown are weighted.

In-Person Gaining Cooperation Approach

- All **advance materials are very high-level**. We rely on the interviewer to provide additional details and information as appropriate for the respondent.

- Interviewers are provided with a **suite of materials describing the project and its importance**. They can use these materials as needed to address the unique questions or concerns of each respondent.

- **Almost all contact is in-person**; phone is used only rarely. Respondents are given a **$100 incentive**; this incentive may be increased at the end of the field period.

- **Tailored refusal conversion letters** are available to send resistant respondents; these letters may be sent by **FedEx** if needed.

Round 4 (R4) Planning

🌿 While Rounds 1-3 were all in-person, in Round 4 we have developed the capacity for remote data collection for NSHAP.

🌿 Remote data collection for NSHAP:
- May be less expensive
- May be more appropriate for some respondents who prefer remote modes
- Provides the opportunity to consider a hybrid remote/in-person approach for future work
- Allows for data collection during the Covid-19 pandemic

🌿 Work began on the remote protocol prior to the pandemic and we pretested our remote protocol in late 2019.

Round 4 Protocol
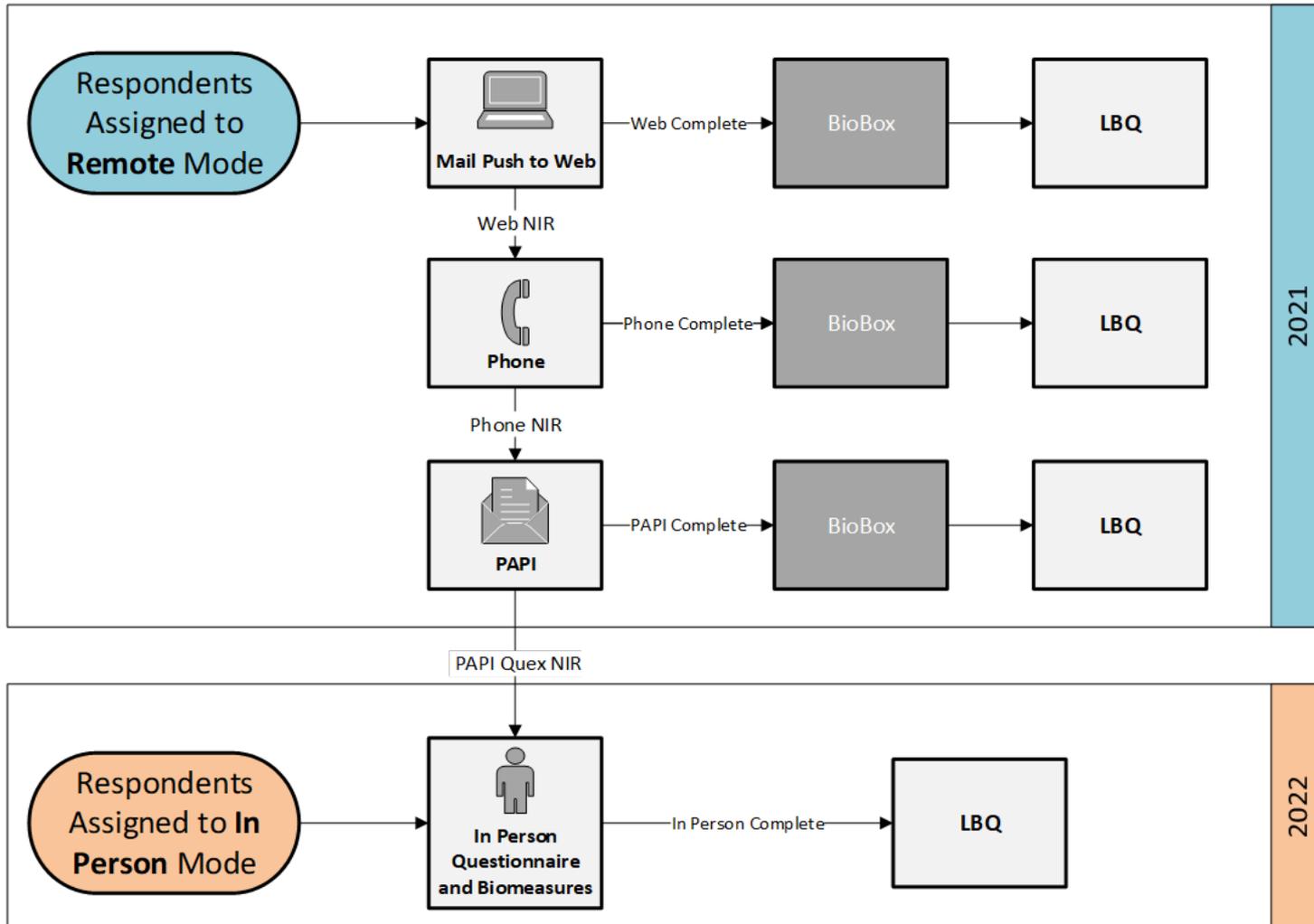
Round 4 Sample

- To limit costs and maximize the response rate, we categorized all cases by their likelihood to participate remotely.

- By categorizing cases like this, we could avoid overburdening respondents with a low propensity to participate remotely, as well as avoid the cost of remote outreach to these respondents.

- To assess the impact of migrating cases to remote, a randomized subset of cases that would otherwise be approached remotely will be fielded in person.

Round 4 Sample

Assigned to remote

- Completed all eligible rounds
- Completed early in previous field periods
- Did not receive an increased incentive
- ~2,500 respondents initially assigned

Assigned to in-person

- Participated in only one round
- Received a higher incentive
- Cohort 2 NIRs
- ~2,700 respondents initially assigned

COVID-19 Substudy, 2020

🌿 **NSHAP's first remote data collection**

🌿 **Goals**:

- Learn how the Covid-19 pandemic was affecting NSHAP respondents
- Learn how our population would respond in a remote study

🌿 **Design**:

- Web → Paper-and-pencil (PAPI) → Phone

🌿 **Completes**: 2,681

🌿 **Weighted response rate among Round 3 respondents:**

- 58%

🌿 **Early glimpse of response performance for remote**

Logistic regression predicting COVID response

	Odds ratio	95% CI
Gender (vs. male)		
Female	1.25	(1.09, 1.44)
Race/ethnicity (vs. White)		
Black/AA	0.74	(0.54, 1.02)
Hispanic	0.84	(0.56, 1.27)
Other	0.57	(0.37, 0.88)
Education (vs. < HS)		
HS	1.57	(1.11, 2.22)
Vocational/some college/associates	1.69	(1.24, 2.30)
Bachelors or more	2.81	(2.00, 3.95)
Marital status (vs. married)		
Living with partner	0.47	(0.28, 0.80)
Separated	0.82	(0.47, 1.41)
Divorced	0.56	(0.44, 0.73)
Widowed	0.54	(0.42, 0.71)
Never married	0.50	(0.34, 0.73)
Self-rated physical health	1.16	(1.05, 1.28)
Self-rated mental health	1.01	(0.90, 1.14)

COVID response by age

Probability of responding to COVID-19 substudy by age
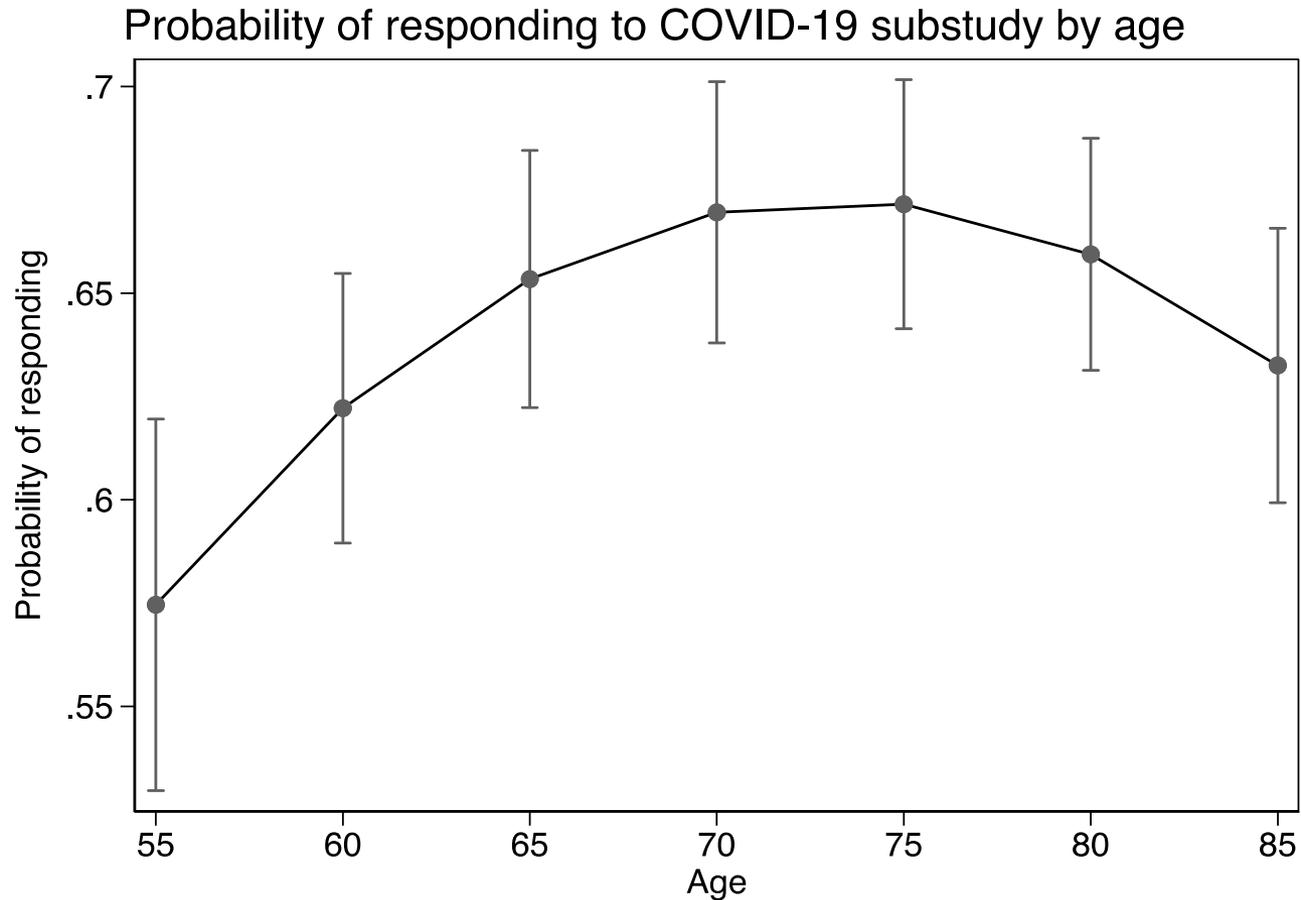
Conclusions from COVID response

- Response to remote associated with demographics and physical health

- NSHAP Round 4 approach will mitigate effects of older age, widowhood and poor health

- Other measures to avoid lower response rates among men, minorities, those with lower education and those not married may be necessary

Acknowledgements

- NSHAP Respondents!

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

NORC at the UNIVERSITY of CHICAGO