

# Data Collection Mode and Nonresponse: Practical Experiences

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## Abstract

Missing data appears in almost all survey research. There are two types of nonresponse in surveys: unit nonresponse and item nonresponse. Unit nonresponse is the failure to obtain any information from a sample unit. Item nonresponse refers to the failure to obtain information for one or more questions in a survey, given that the other questions are completed. (de Leeuw et al. 2008; Laaksonen 2018.)

In surveys data collection can be carried out using several methods. When the data collection is implemented using more than one mode, then it is a multi-mode or mixed-mode survey. A good mixed-mode strategy could lead to higher response rates and lower nonresponse bias (Laaksonen and Heiskanen 2014).

Our survey includes three different modes of data collection: face-to-face ( $n = 995$ ), web survey ( $n = 2400$ ), and online survey panel ( $n = 681$ ). The survey is part of the Tackling the Biases and Bubbles in Participation (BIBU, <https://bibu.fi/en/>, project number 312710) project funded by the Academy of Finland's Strategic Research Council. The survey data is supplemented with register data taken from the administrative registers of Statistics Finland for respondent that gave their permission to combine survey and register data. We will treat permissions as response indicators. This provides us an opportunity to assess the effect of data collection mode on nonresponse and also other characteristics of the respondents. For the future studies, it may be beneficial to know in advance, who are willing to give permission to combine different data sources.

**Keywords:** Survey mode, mixed-mode, nonresponse, register data

## References

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