Certification Tests as an Indicator of Interviewer Productivity in the 2010 SIPP-EHC

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Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America Washington, DC March 31 to April 2, 2011

Objectives

- Assess certification exam effectiveness in predicting interviewer outcomes as follows:
- Non-response rates
- Interview length (time required to complete interview)
- Form recommendations with respect to revising the certification test
- Current certification test is given after completion of training, prior to entering the field to administer the survey
- Test includes:
- Measures of subject matter comprehension
- Probing scenarios
- Locating and persuasion techniques

- 2010 Survey of Income and Program Participation—Event History Calendar (SIPP-EHC)
- Re-engineered SIPP
- Mode: Computer Assisted Personal Interview
- low income stratum
- Regionally restricted 7,982 households
- 14,701 individuals
- 307 interviewers All data is aggregated at the INTERVIEWER
- Total # possible respondents = total # of individuals
- entered on all household rosters for each interviewer Only households where at least one interview was obtained remained in the sample (N=5,156 households

and 14,071 individuals, of which 11,053 are adults)

Analytical Variables

Descriptive Statistics

FR—field representative (interviewer) SFR—supervisory field representative All

Certification Test

Scores by Region

- Outcomes of Interest at the Interviewer Level: Average Length of Adult Interview (total length of all interviews/total # adults interviewed)
- 85% of sampled households contained more adults than children
- Person Non-Response (total # non-respondents/total # possible
- Test Score (ranged from 36% to 98%)
- Region (entered as control)
- Household Size (average per interviewer)

Sample Urbanicity & Program

Participation by Region

- Central City (dichotomous; 1 indicates > 95% of cases were in central
- Program Participation (dichotomous; 1 indicates >15% of cases participated in at least one social welfare program)

- Interviewer Tenure
 - Length of Census experience (<1year, 1 to 5 years, >5years)
- Supervisory interviewer status (dichotomous)
- Interviewer Productivity
- Caseload (# of assigned households)

SIPP experience (dichotomous)

- Non-response rate (total # non-respondents/total # possible respondents)
- Proxy rate (total # proxy interviews/total # possible respondents)

SIPP Experience

Learning Curve by

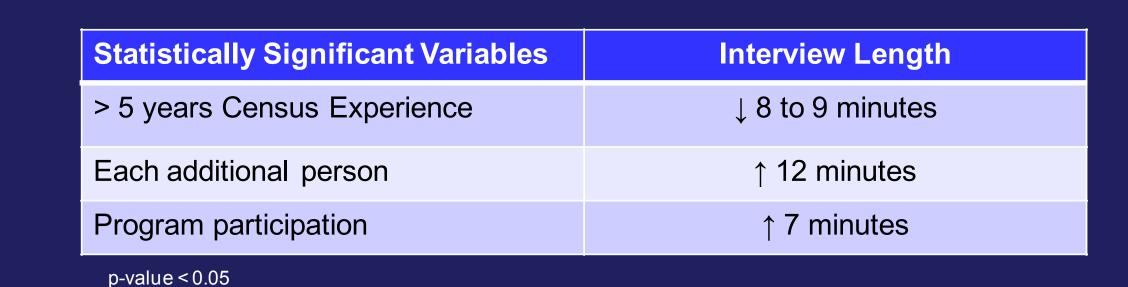
Level of Experience

Note: Interview period began in January 2010

and ended in March 2010

- Sufficient partial rate (total # respondents completing the EHC/total # possible respondents)
- All variables are aggregated at the interviewer level at least one)

Regression Outcomes: Adult Interview Length

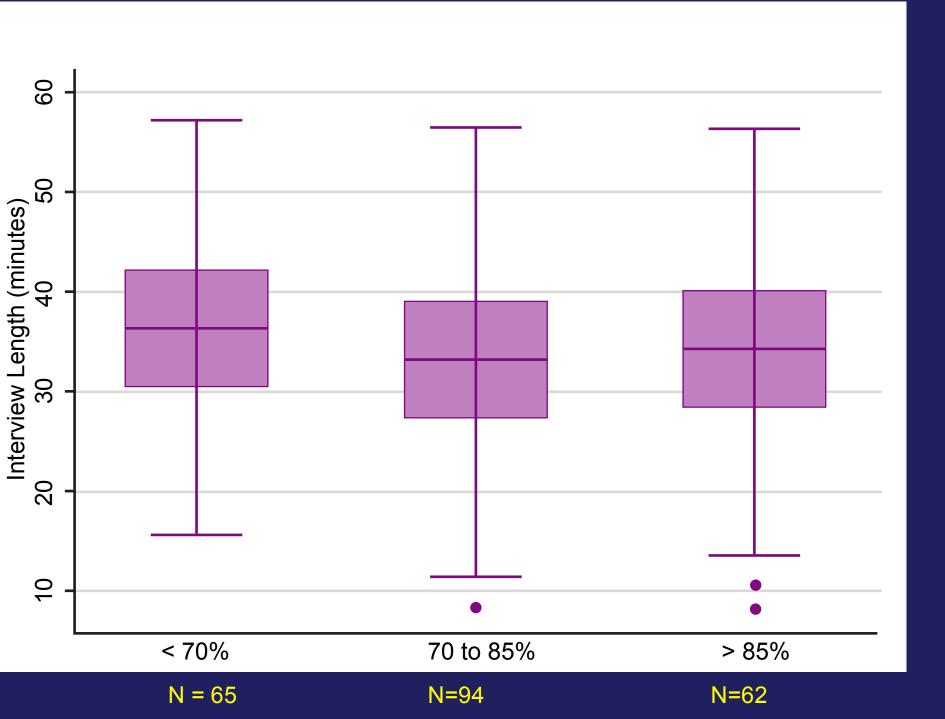


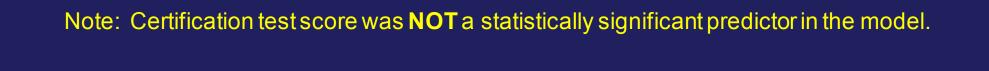
- Exam Scores:
- In presence of scores, program participation becomes significant Mediates for effect of proxy and sufficient partial rates
- Explains additional 3.7% of variability

No Effect:

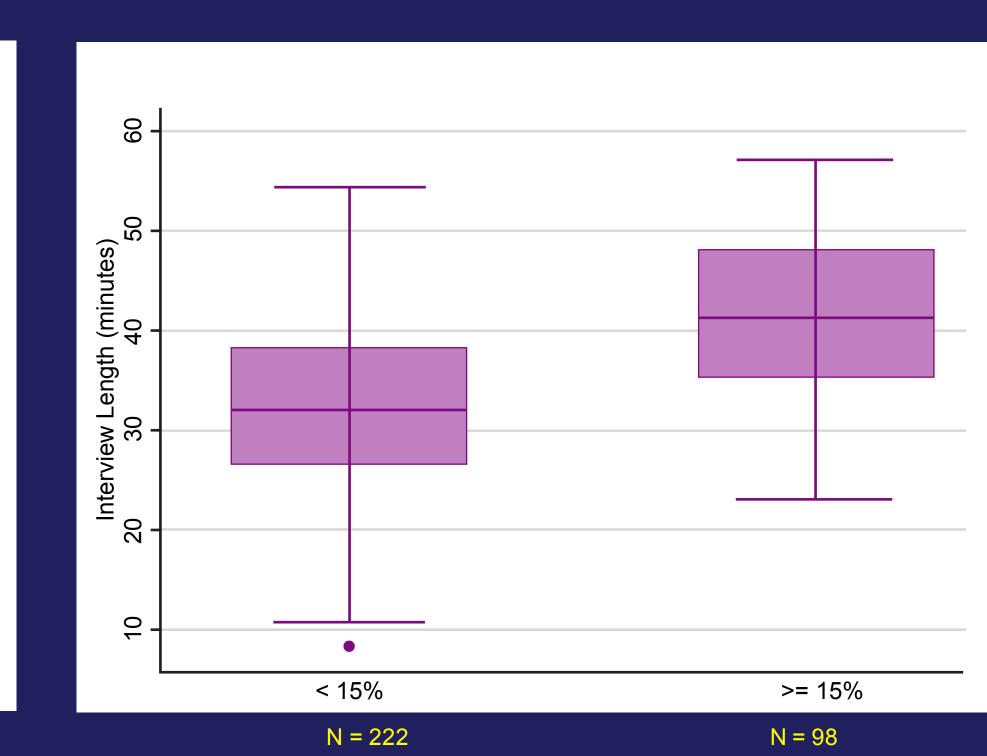
- SIPP experience -Supervisory status
- Interviewer Productivity Central city (1 Region had significantly longer interviews)
- Model explains 35% of variability in interview length

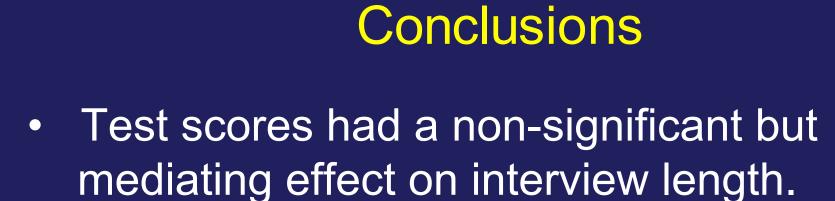
Predicted Interview Length by Certification Test Score





Predicted Interview Length by Program Participation Rate





- Test scores have a significant effect on nonresponse rates, explaining 7.5% of an interviewer's overall non-response rate.
- In combined model, test scores can explain 13.7% of variability in interviewer productivity.
- Further research is needed to analyze the underlying mechanisms of how certification test scores influence interviewer productivity.

Regression Outcome: Non-Response Rate

Statistically Significant Variables	Non-Response Rate
Proxy Interviews	↓ 0.477
Sufficient Partial Interviews	↑ 0.988
Each additional person	↑ 0.057
Each additional point on exam	↑ 0.003
n value < 0.05	

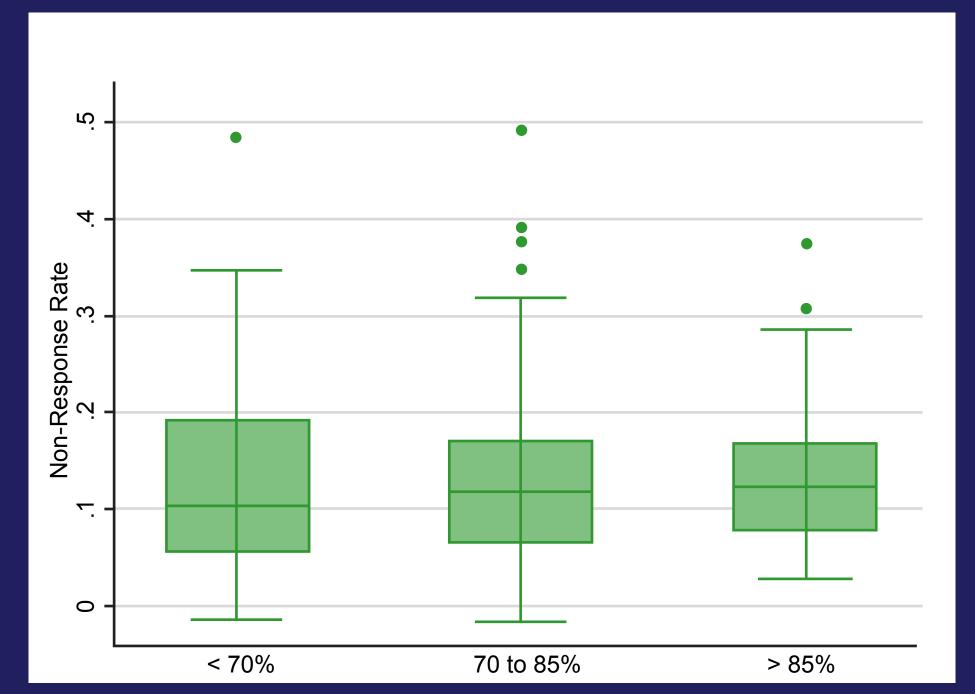
- Exam score:
- In the presence of exam scores, household size is significant mediates for effect of supervisory interviewer status
- explains an additional 10% of variability

No Effect:

SIPP Experience	Caseload	Interview Length
Census Experience	- Region	 Program Participatio



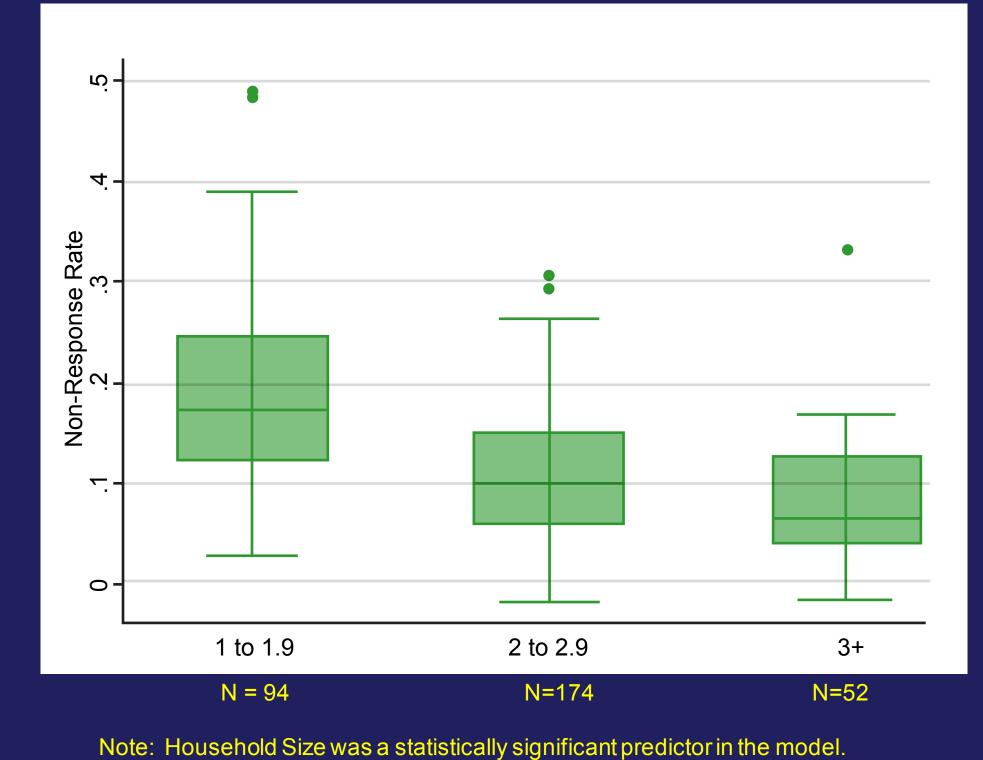
Predicted Non-Responce Rate by Certification Test Score



Note: Certification test score was a statistically significant predictor in the model.

Predicted Non-Response Rate by Average Household Size

Note: Program Participation was a statistically significant predictor in the model.



Directions for Future Research

- Duplication with 2011 Certification Test
- Addition of interviewer demographic characteristics
- Incorporate components of training
- HLM analysis assessing interviewer effect Individuals nested within households nested within interviewers
- Data not yet available



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