

Overview of the Objectives of the Four In-Person Meetings

Meeting #1: January 20-21, 2016

The main purpose of the first in-person meeting was to obtain an overview from the Principal Investigators (PIs) of each survey to better understand the objectives, evolution, and contents of the three surveys. Prior to the meeting, PIs submitted detailed edits to the survey descriptions prepared by committee staff and provided additional information about their surveys, supplementing materials prepared by committee staff. (See Appendix C for all meeting materials.) At the meeting, PIs provided descriptions of their studies, with some attending in person and others participating via video conference. Prior to the meeting, committee members identified topics to focus on at the meeting, which included:

1. Balancing innovation with continuity in survey content and measurement
2. Applicability of recent advances in survey technologies
3. Comparability issues within and across surveys
4. Costs and funding sources
5. Data dissemination
6. Potential for using data from administrative records and other sources
7. Potential gains and losses from consolidated infrastructure and operations

Meeting #2: May 11-12, 2016

The second in-person meeting focused on the potential benefits for the three surveys from recent technological advances in the field of survey research, as well as cautions against innovating new approaches without adequate testing. Experts presented examples of the successful use of mobile devices, social media, administrative records, and commercial data sources in supplementing information gathered from survey participants. One presenter described a research program for evaluating potential new techniques such as web-based data collection on a specially designed testing sample. Several presenters supplied book chapters, articles, or notes on their presentations.

Meeting #3: October 6-7, 2016

At the third in-person meeting, committee members discussed the possibility of implementing ideas for improving the three surveys presented during the first two meetings, including:

1. Advantages and disadvantages of an innovation panel
2. Feasibility of consolidating data archiving and dissemination
3. Possibilities for a combined ANES and GSS
 - a. Feasibility, practicality, and potential for cost savings of combining samples
 - b. Overlapping questions and topics across the surveys
4. Potential for a more consolidated approach to governance and oversight

Invited speakers described the issues and presented possible alternatives for consideration on each of the four topics. For two of the topics, speakers submitted written remarks or

supplementary materials in addition to their presentations. A commissioned paper was prepared on the potential for combining the samples for ANES and GSS. Following the presentations, committee members raised questions for the speakers and facilitated discussions.

Meeting #4: December 1-2, 2016

At the final meeting on December 1-2, 2016, committee members presented their thoughts and observations regarding the future of the three NSF-supported social science surveys, based on presentations and discussions from the previous three in-person meetings.