Ensuring High Quality Anthropometric Measures and Physical Performance Assessments in a National In-Home Survey: Interviewer Training and Quality Control in the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study

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Challenges

- Collection of anthropometrics and physical assessments by field interviewers increasing
- Challenges of producing and maintaining high quality physical data
 - How to train effectively?
 - How to maintain standardization and reliability of measurements over time?
 - What tools do we provide field supervisors to monitor performance?





Overview

- Training on anthropometrics for the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study
- Tools used for monitoring and refresher training
- Lessons learned



Background of the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study

- Wisconsin Longitudinal Study (WLS) is a panel study of 10,317 men and women who graduated from Wisconsin high schools in 1957
- Data collection by telephone and mail in
 - 1975-1977
 - 1992-1993
 - 2003-2004



- In-person interview in respondents' homes
- Study participants mostly in Wisconsin or the Midwest (75%) but otherwise scattered around US
- Field interviewers also located around US
- Interviews audio recorded
- Average completion time: 2.5 hours
- Response rate: 80%



WLS Wave 2010-2012

- Anthropometric measurements
 - Height
 - Weight
 - Hip circumference
 - Waist circumference
- Physical performance assessments
 - Peak air flow of lungs
 - Hand grip strength
 - Sit-to-stand test (a.k.a. chair rise)
 - Walking speed



WLS interviewer field interviewer training

- 60 interviewers trained in Madison, Wisconsin
- Training on anthropometrics consisted of
 - Lecture-style overviews
 - Several opportunities to practice
 - "Stations": first try, protocols and equipment
 - Practice in interviewer pairs
 - Practice with senior center volunteers
 - Certification



WLS anthropometrics documentation

- Three sources of documentation on WLS anthropometrics that interviewers had access to throughout the field period
 - Training manual
 - Training video
 - Summarized instructions in the instrument



WLS interviewing instrument

- CASES used to program the instrument, including the anthropometrics module
- Interviewers used laptops to record measurement results
- A separate paper booklet was considered
 - Pro: Booklet more mobile than laptop
 - Cons: Keeping booklets associated with cases; data entry once the booklets sent back to HQ; skip logic
- We decided on laptop entry over a paper booklet





Monitoring

- Interviewer performance was monitored using audio recordings
- Supervisors also monitored cooperation rates (CR) and refusal rates (RR) on all measurements
 - Rates displayed with in-house case management program (Monocle)



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Two months ending: October, 2010 💌 Generate Report

Anthro Rates for September-October

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106	35	97%	0%	3%	69%	9%	3%	97%	3%	97%	3%	97%	3%	94%	3%	97%	3%	97%	3%	97%	3%
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116	18	100%	0%	0%	69.%	6%	6%	94%	6%	94%	6%	100%	0%	100%	0%	94%	6%	100%	0%	94%	6%
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106	35	97%	0%	3%	89%	9%	3%	97%	3%
107	21	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%
110	26	100%	0%	0%	92%	4%	4%	96%	4%
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Anthro Rates for September-October

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107	21	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%
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Anthro Rates for September-October

intid	mc	Hgt (tape) CR	Hgt (self) CR	Hgt RR	Wgt (scale) CR	Wgt (self) CR	Wgt RR	₩st CR	Wst RR
101	17	100%	0%	0%	94%	6%	0%	100%	0%
102	5	80%	20%	0%	100%	0%	0%	80%	0%
103	20	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%
105	21	100%	0%	0%	95%	5%	0%	100%	0%
106	35	97%	0%	3%	89%	9%	3%	97%	3%
107	21	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%
110	26	100%	0%	0%	92%	4%	4%	96%	4%
111	14	93%	7%	0%	86%	14%	0%	93%	7%
112	28	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%
114	16	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%
116	18	100%	0%	0%	89%	6%	6%	94%	6%
117	17	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%
118	33	94%	6%	0%	85%	12%	3%	94%	6%

- Refresher trainings on anthropometric protocols took the form of exams
 - Main virtue of an exam: could be administered remotely, interviewers not required to fly back to headquarters
- Goals of the anthropometric refresher training exam
 - Force interviewers to reimmerse themselves in the documented protocols (manual, video)
 - Identify measurements where interviewers needed more individual attention and review

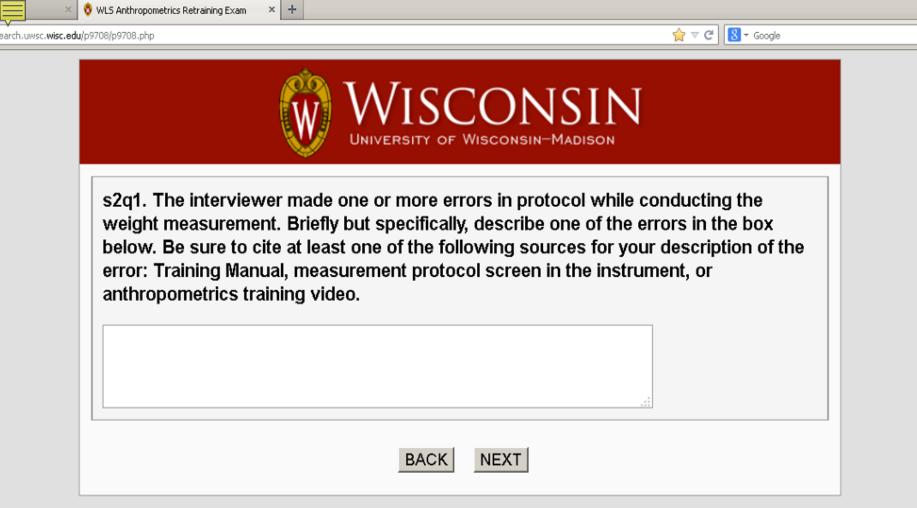


- The exam was administered online using the UW Survey Center's standard web survey platform
- Online exam consisted of
 - Videos of all 8 measurements, each containing intentional errors
 - Questions to identify the protocol errors in videos
- Demo one exam video (weight)
 - Intentional error: Improvised instructions









If you have any questions about the exam, please contact your team leader.

Click below to close the survey and save your answers.

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- Supervisors evaluated exam answers in the online survey instrument
- Any interviewer with a single incorrect answer took exam again (only questions missed)
- Interviewers who answered incorrectly a second time met with supervisors for in-depth reviews



Conclusions and lessons learned

- Anthropometric module in CASES worked well overall
 - Better than a paper booklet would have
- The online refresher exam served as a good diagnostic
 - The gold standard is in-person refresher training, but online exam was a feasible substitute
 - Would implement the exam sooner in the field period and more often



- A daily or weekly e-mail containing an anthropometrics protocol tip
- WebEx or GoToMeeting video conferencing to provide ongoing training boosters



- Brendan Day for programming the online exam
- Chris Huard for camera work and video production
- Marilyn Gannon for playing the respondent in the exam videos



Thank you!

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