

Phone vs. Web

How do personal characteristics associate with survey format preferences in people aging with long-term physical disabilities?

We explored how survey format options (phone or web-based survey) may affect studies of people aging with long-term physical disabilities. Specifically, we wanted to find out if there was an association between participant characteristics and their choice to take a survey over the phone or via the web.



OR



Age | **Sex/Gender** | **Physical Health** | **Race & Ethnicity** | **Marital Status** |
Financial Situation | **Living Arrangement**

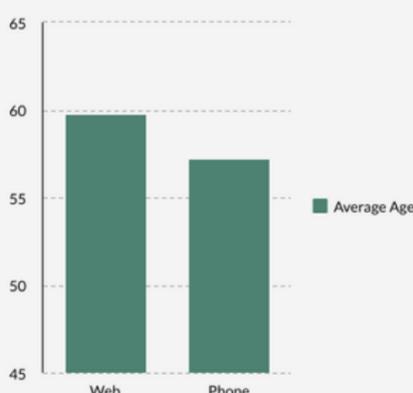
About the Study

We looked at survey data from Year 2 of a long-term study of the health and participation of people aged 45–65 who have a physical disability. Participants could choose to take the survey over the phone or via web link.

Survey Format and...

Age

Participants who took the web survey were younger than those who chose the phone survey.



Physical Health

Self-rated physical health was better in the web survey group than in the phone survey group.



Education

Education was higher in the web survey group than in the phone survey group.



Characteristics and Format Choice

More Likely to Choose Web Survey:

- In long-term relationship
- White race
- Education: bachelor degree or higher
- Annual income above state poverty line
- Employed
- Lives with others
- Good physical health

More Likely to Choose Phone Survey:

- Single, divorced, widowed
- Race other than White
- High-school education or below
- Annual income below state poverty line
- On disability leave
- Lives alone
- Poor physical health

In conclusion

Education, income, marital status, living arrangement and physical health were all associated with survey format choice in people aging with long-term physical disabilities. We also found differences in age and race between groups.

Because of these differences, researchers should consider providing multiple survey formats to increase participation rates and to test for differences in outcome variables by survey format.