Assessing interviewer effects on nonresponse bias

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A common characteristic in almost all sample surveys is the presence of nonresponse. Nonresponse can negatively affect the quality of the sample estimates, because of the possibility of selection bias. One potential factor that can influence nonresponse is the survey interviewer. In this study, we employ multilevel modelling techniques to investigate interviewer effects on nonresponse bias in survey estimates of interest. We describe an application for the method using data from the 2001 UK Labour Force Survey (LFS). Information at individual level on both respondents and nonrespondents was acquired by linking each household member in the LFS dataset to the 2001 UK census individual records. The results show that there is evidence of nonresponse bias driven by interviewers.

Keywords: Multilevel models; sample surveys; linked data; missing data.