These guidelines are intended to advise data collection decision-makers as they consider the issues and requirements relevant to different data collection modes (i.e., methods of data collection) and provide extensive recommendations for the practical implementation of data collection in different modes. Because the guidelines and lessons learned vary greatly depending on the specific mode of data collection, we have divided the material into four sets of guidelines. We recommend that all readers review the information in Data Collection: General Considerations, and then review the three subsequent sets of guidelines according to the data collection mode(s) relevant to the survey project.

Data Collection: General Considerations

Data Collection: Face-to-Face Surveys

Data Collection: Telephone Surveys

Data Collection: Self-Administered Surveys