

# Toward a Research Agenda for Best Practices

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# MPR / StatsRRTC Goals

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- To be methodologically prepared for a future national disability survey
- Contribute to development of best practices for making surveys more accessible
- Develop a research agenda to inform disability data collection

# Three-Stage Approach

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- **Disability and survey research experts identify key research needs via Delphi process**
- **Compile and assess available resources**
- **Outline research strategy for basic methodological work**

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# Delphi Process

# Delphi Tasks

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- **Identify research gaps**
- **Discuss ways to overcome barriers to survey participation**
- **Recommend tools that MPR could develop & disseminate**

# Delphi Members

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**Barbara Altman**

**Paul Beatty**

**Marj Goldstein**

**Gerry Hendershot**

**Corinne Kirchner**

**Thilo Kroll**

**Doug Kruse**

**Charlie Lakin**

**Jennifer Madans**

# Delphi Methodology

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## Delphi members:

- Completed two questionnaires
- Participated in two 2-hour conference calls

# Key Research Needs

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- **Participatory Action Research (PAR)**
- **Sampling**
- **Proxies**
- **Adaptive Data Collection Techniques**
- **Interviewer Training**



# PAR

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**Persons with disabilities need to be included in:**

- **Defining research goals**
- **Developing instruments**
- **Planning / executing recruitment**
- **Administering surveys**
- **Interpreting findings**

# Sampling

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- **More research on whether the frames used are representative**
- **Increasing sample sizes for sub-analysis**
- **Screening for disability**
- **Guidelines on how to develop sample designs**

# Proxies

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- **Effects of assisted interviews on data quality**
- **Issues that affect / do not affect reliability and validity of self and proxy responses**
- **Experimental studies**

# Proxies (con't)

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- **Interviewer decision-making about using proxies**
- **Guidelines on when to use proxies / how to document proxy use**

# **Adaptive Data Collection Techniques**

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- **Understanding how mode affects participation and response**
- **Flexible designs and procedures to fully include:**
  - **Persons with cognitive disabilities**
  - **Persons with communication and visual impairments**

# Interviewer Training

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- Interviewer training guides
- Using persons with disabilities as interviewers

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# Source Guide

# Source Guide Overview

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- **Up-to-date and easily accessible source of research related to surveying persons with disabilities**
- **150 abstracts/summaries pertaining to 16 topic areas**
- **Living document**



# For More Information

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Send us your articles!:

- JWatterworth@mathematica-mpr.com

To download Source Guide:

- <http://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/edicollect/1222>

# Where Are We in the Three Stage Process?

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- **Identify key research needs**
- **Compile and assess available resources**
- **Outline a strategy for basic methodological research**

# What Are Major Challenges?

- **Recognizing complexity**
- **Identifying priorities**
- **Having a systematic plan**

# What Are the Opportunities?

- **Building on prior efforts**
- **StatsRRTC centralized information**
- **ISDS breakout groups**
- **October 2006 StatsRRTC conference**
- **Others?**

# Establishing Guidelines for Best Practices

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- **What are best practices?**
- **Why do we need them?**

# Establishing Guidelines for Best Practices

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- **Secondary analysis**
- **Experimental research**

# Suggested Priorities for Best Practices Research

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- **Proxies: self-report compared to proxy respondent**
- **Sampling: crafting screening questions**

# Suggested Priorities for Best Practices Research

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- Adaptive data collection: mode of interview
- Adaptive data collection: standard versus non-standard methods



# Proxies

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**Research Question:** Is there a significant difference between a self-report and a proxy report?

# Sampling

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**Research Question:** What questions are the most inclusive to identify people with disabilities?

# Type A: Mark One or More

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**C10. Are you a person with a disability?**

**1 Yes → GO TO C11**

**2 No → SKIP TO C12**

**C11. (IF YES) Which of the following categories describes your disability(ies)?**

***Mark (X) one or more***

- a.  Blind/Visually Impaired**
- b.  Deaf/Hard of Hearing**
- c.  Physical/Orthopedic Disability**
- d.  Learning/Cognitive Disability**
- e.  Vocal/Speech Disability**
- f.  Other - Specify**

# Type B: Closed-Ended/Respond to Each Item

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E18. What is the USUAL degree of difficulty you have with . . .

Mark (X) one answer for each item.

	None	Slight	Moderate	Severe	Unable to Do
1. SEEING words or letters in ordinary newsprint (with glasses/contact lenses if you usually wear them) .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. HEARING what is normally said in conversation with another person (with hearing aid, if you usually wear one)..	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. WALKING without human or mechanical assistance or using stairs.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. LIFTING or carrying something as heavy as 10 pounds, such as a bag of groceries.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Adaptive Data Collection: Interview Mode

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**Research Question:** What are the data quality outcomes related to different data collection methods?

# **Adaptive Data Collection: Standard Versus Non-Standard Methods**

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**Research Question:** Are there significant response differences related to the techniques used for data collection?

# Next Steps

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- **Identify the process to establish best practices**
  - **Partnerships**
  - **Systematic approach to experimental research**
  - **Centralized information sources**

# Next Steps

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- **Improve reporting of current information**
  - **Disclosure of methods used for inclusion**
  - **Numbers from nowhere**



# Next Steps

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- Others???