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Abstract

A problem has been identified in the random assignment of treatments in an experimental question module of the 1997 NES Pilot survey instrument. The randomization problem has been linked to unexpected correlation in sequences of random number calls made within the Surveycraft computer-assisted interviewing system. The problem does produce an unbalanced distribution of sample cases to the cells of the factorial experimental design but does not lead to a bias in the interpretation of the experimental results. Details are provided below. A report that analyzes these items is the 1997 pilot study report, "Black Threat and Christian Fundamentalist Threat: A National Election Study 1997 Pilot Study Report" by J. Bowers.