



Weighting Procedures VA Prescription Medication Study

After the survey was completed, appropriate sample design weights were calculated based on specific design parameters for sources of deviation from an equal probability sample (e.g., RDD sampling rates proportional to the number of phone lines in the household). Then nonresponse and poststratification weighting adjustments are applied to the final survey data for consented survey respondents to reduce the effects of nonsampling error (variance and bias). All consented survey respondents (i.e., cases initially deemed eligible based on their self reports in the previously collected health profile data) were weighted to the benchmarks, which were created by weighting the KN health profile data to the latest CPS benchmarks. Then the post-stratification weights were scaled for all eligible respondents (n=4079).

The following variables for poststratification weighting:

- Gender: male and female;
- Age: 18-29, 30-44, 45-59, 60+;
- race/ethnicity: white (nonhispanic), black (nonhispanic), other (nonhispanic), hispanic;
- region: northeast, midwest, south, and west;
- metro: in or outside metro;
- education - highest level achieved: less than high school, high school, some college, college degree or more.

To calculate final weights, KN derived weighted sample distributions along various combinations of the above variables. Similar distributions were calculated using the most recent U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (December 2002). Cell-by-cell adjustments over the various univariate and bivariate distributions were calculated to make the weighted sample cells match those of the U.S. Census and the Knowledge Networks Panel. This process, known as raking, is repeated iteratively until there is convergence between the weighted sample and benchmark CPS distributions. Occasionally, collapsing of post-stratification cells is necessary. This is dependent on the size of the sample and topology of the sample universe.