

Nonresponse Bias Publications

The Office of People Analytics (OPA) conducts surveys to support the personnel information needs of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD[P&R]). These surveys assess the attitudes and opinions of the entire Department of Defense (DoD) community on a wide range of personnel issues.

Response rates for OPA surveys have been declining for the past 15 years, and currently range between 10 and 35 percent¹ depending on the survey. Because of these low response rates, OPA statisticians have asserted that nonresponse bias (NRB) is likely the largest source of error in OPA estimates. However, the levels of NRB on OPA surveys are likely much lower than surveys with similar response rates due to the large volume of administrative data known for both survey respondents and survey nonrespondents. OPA typically makes weighting adjustments using about 30 characteristics (e.g., Service, paygrade, age).

In response to a GAO suggestion, OPA started conducting NRB studies in 2010. Table 1 shows the NRB studies that OPA has conducted, and most reports are available on the OPA web site. Please contact OPA to obtain a report that is not on the web site.

Table 1.
List of Published NRB Studies for OPA Surveys

Survey ID	Survey Short Title	Survey Topic	Name of Report ²
PEV11101	2010 PEV1	Post-Election Voting (Local Election Officials)	2010 Post-Election Voting Survey of Local Election Officials: Nonresponse Bias Study
PEV51001	2010 PEV5	Post-Election Voting (Uniformed Service Members)	2010 Post-Election Voting Survey of Uniformed Service Members: Mode and Nonresponse Bias Studies
PEV51201	2012 PEV5	Post-Election Voting (Uniformed Service Members)	2012 Post-Election Voting Survey of Active Duty Military Nonresponse Bias Analysis
WGRA1201	2012 WGRA	Workplace and Gender Relations	2012 Workplace and Gender Relations Survey of Active Duty Members: Nonresponse Bias Analysis Report
WEOA1301	2013 WEOA	Workplace and Equal Opportunity	2013 Workplace and Equal Opportunity Survey of Active Duty Members: Nonresponse Bias Analysis Report
SAGR1401	2014 SAGR	Service Academy Students	2014 Service Academy Gender Relations Survey: Nonresponse Bias Analysis Report
SAGR1401	2014 SAGR	Service Academy Students	2014 Service Academy Gender Relations Survey: U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Nonresponse Bias Analysis Report

¹ Surveys of DoD Civilians and the Defense Organizational Climate Survey (DEOCS) have higher response rates than OPA’s other surveys of active duty and Reservists.

² Some NRB analyses are published as a separate report and some are within the statistical methodology report.

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Survey ID	Survey Short Title	Survey Topic	Name of Report ²
QCMC1401	2014 QCMC	Active Duty and Reserve Chaplains	2014 QuickCompass of Military Chaplains: Nonresponse Bias Analysis Report
PEV51401	2014 PEV5	Post-Election Voting (Uniformed Service Members)	2014 Post-Election Voting Survey of Active Duty Military: Nonresponse Bias Analysis
SOFA1401	2014 SOFS-A	Active Duty Members	2014 Status of Forces Survey of Active Duty Members: Nonresponse Bias Analysis Report
WGRR1501	2015 WGRR	Workplace and Gender Relations	2015 Workplace and Gender Relations Survey of Reserve Component Members: Statistical Methodology Report
WEOR1501	2015 WEOR	Workplace and Equal Opportunity	2015 Workplace and Equal Opportunity Survey of Active Duty Members: Nonresponse Bias Analysis Report
SAGR1601	2016 SAGR	Service Academy Students	2016 Service Academy Gender Relations Survey: Statistical Methodology Report
SAGR1601	2016 SAGR	Service Academy Students	2016 Service Academy Merchant Marines Gender Relations Survey: Statistical Methodology Report
WGRA1601	2016 WGRA	Workplace and Gender Relations	2016 Workplace and Gender Relations Survey of Active Duty Members: Nonresponse Bias Analysis Report
WGRC1601	2016 WGRC	Workplace and Gender Relations	2016 Department of Defense Civilian Employee Workplace and Gender Relations Survey: Nonresponse Bias Analysis Report
SOFR1601	2016 SOFS-R	Reserve Component Members	2016 Status of Forces Survey of Reserve Component Members: Statistical Methodology Report
ADSS1701	2017 ADSS	Active Duty Spouses	2017 Survey of Active Duty Spouses: Nonresponse Bias Analysis Report
WGRR1701	2017 WGRR	Workplace and Gender Relations	2017 Workplace and Gender Relations Survey of Reserve Component Members: Statistical Methodology Report
SAGR2018	2018 SAGR	Service Academy Students	2018 Service Academy Gender Relations Survey: Statistical Methodology Report
WGRC2018	2018 WGRC	Workplace and Gender Relations	2018 Department of Defense Civilian Employee Workplace and Gender Relations Survey: Statistical Methodology Report
RCSS2019	2019 RCSS	Reserve Component Spouses	2019 Survey of Reserve Component Spouses: Statistical Methodology Report
SOFA1901	2019 SOFS-A	Active Duty Members	2019 Status of Forces Survey of Active Duty Members: Statistical Methodology Report
SOFR1901	2019 SOFS-R	Reserve Component Members	2019 Status of Forces Survey of Reserve Component Members: Statistical Methodology Report
WEOR1901	2019 WEOR	Workplace and Equal Opportunity	2019 Workplace and Equal Opportunity Survey of Reserve Component Members: Statistical Methodology Report
WGRR1901	2019 WGRR	Workplace and Gender Relations	2019 Workplace and Gender Relations Survey of Reserve Component Members: Statistical Methodology Report