# Using Cell Phone for Student Surveys 

Eun-Hee Choi<br>Sun-Woong Kim

Survey \& Health Policy Research Center<br>Dongguk University

## Outline

- Background
- Disadvandages of Web Surveys
- Description of Dongguk University Time Use Survey
- Results
- Conclusions


## Background

- Web surveys or traditional mail surveys have been widely used to survey a college population.
- They generally report fairly low response rates that may lead to nonresponse bias.
- For several years we have successfully conducted cell phone surveys for college students in Korea.
- We show that cell phone surveys may have high response rates.


## Disadvandage of Web Surveys

- Web surveys do not appear to offer an antidote for the declining response rates affecting all modes of survey data collection.
- Web surveys appear to be at a disadvantage relative to other modes in a recent meta-analysis (Lozar Manfreda et al. 2008)
- Web respondents returned their questionnaire more quickly, but response rate of web survey is lower than mail survey (Kwak et al. 2002)


## Dongguk University Time Use Survey

- Sponsor: Dongguk University, South Korea
- Collector: Survey \& Health Policy Research Center, Dongguk University
- Purpose: To guide policy by investigating students' time use at home or school, and how this relates to their curriculum and classes
- Year Started: 2005
- Frequency: Conducted annually
- Target Population: Undergraduate students registered in the second semester
- Sampling Frame: A list of registered students


## Survey Schedule

| Year | Survey Period |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2009 | $2009.11 .02 \sim 11.15$ (14 days) |
| 2010 | $2010.11 .09 \sim 11.26$ (18 days) |
| 2011 | $2011.11 .02 \sim 11.18$ (17days) |

## Survey Questions

- Total number of questions: 48(2009), 49(2010), 52(2011)
- Categories
- Student Information: Gender, grade, and age
- School Life: Double major or minor, GPA, average hours for study per day, average hours of homework per day, secondary school certification program and graduate school
- Personal Life: Type of residence, travel time to school, hours of sleep per night, average reading per month, expenditures, part-time jobs and club activities
- Foreign Language: Attending private institutes for learning foreign languages, language studies abroad, foreign languages studied abroad
- Satisfaction: Satisfaction with school, major, offered courses, consultation and courses taught in English
- Others: Smoking, tuition, height and weight etc.


## Sampling and Contact Procedures

- Response Rate (RR), Cooperation Rate (COOP) and Refusal Rate (REF)

|  | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Complete Interview (I) | 290 | 403 | 223 |
| Refusal and break off (R) | 31 | 56 | 31 |
| Noncontact (NC) | 45 | 16 | 36 |
| Partial Interview (P) | 44 | 25 | 101 |
| RR5 | 0.67 | 0.81 | 0.56 |
| RR6 | 0.78 | 0.86 | 0.82 |
| COOP3 | 0.79 | 0.83 | 0.63 |
| COOP4 | 0.92 | 0.88 | 0.91 |
| REF3 | 0.07 | 0.11 | 0.08 |

Complete Interview: Interview without item nonresponse
Refusal: Refusal in cell phone or no answer in emails
Noncontact: Cell phone number not in service or not picking up the cell phone or dormant emails or email addresses with fatal errors
Partial Interview: Interview with at least one item nonresponse

## Completed Interviews and Margin of Error

|  | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number of Completed <br> Interviews | 334 | 428 | 324 |
| Margin of Error <br> (Satisfied with Major) | 0.1 | 0.09 | 0.09 |
| Margin of Error <br> (Part-Time Jobs) | 0.05 | 0.04 | 0.05 |

## Population and Sample Distributions

- Gender

|  | 2009 |  | 2010 |  | 2011 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Population | Sample | Population | Sample | Population | Sample |
| Male | 54.7 | 54.8 | 55.1 | 51.6 | 55.1 | 56.8 |
| Female | 45.3 | 45.2 | 44.9 | 48.4 | 44.9 | 43.2 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

## Population and Sample Distributions (Cont.)

- Grade

|  | 2009 |  | 2010 |  | 2011 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Population | Sample | Population | Sample | Population | Sample |
| Freshman | 24.5 | 23.1 | 22.5 | 20.7 | 22.8 | 22.8 |
| Sophomore | 24.6 | 25.4 | 23.2 | 27.2 | 22.4 | 21.9 |
| Junior | 25.7 | 26.9 | 26.1 | 25.0 | 24.7 | 21.0 |
| Senior | 25.2 | 24.6 | 28.2 | 27.1 | 30.1 | 34.3 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

## Selected Examples

- Double major of minor

|  | 2009 |  | 2010 |  | 2011 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Frequency | $\%($ True value | Frequency | $\%$ (True value) | Frequency | $\%$ (True value) |
| YES | 66 | $19.3(20.8)$ | 85 | $20.1(20.8)$ | 52 | $16.6(19.5)$ |
| NO | 268 | 80.7 | 343 | 79.9 | 272 | $\mathbf{8 3 . 4}$ |
| Total | 334 | 100 | 428 | 100 | 324 | 100 |

- Secondary school certification program

|  | 2009 |  | 2010 |  | 2011 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Frequency | $\%($ True value $)$ | Frequency | $\%$ (True value) | Frequency | $\%$ (True value) |
| YES | 39 | $11(11.5)$ | 42 | $11.1(10.7)$ | 27 | $10.8(9.7)$ |
| NO | 295 | 89 | 386 | $\mathbf{8 8 . 9}$ | 297 | $\mathbf{8 9 . 2}$ |
| Total | 334 | 100 | 428 | 100 | 324 | 100 |

## Selected Examples (cont.)

- Average study hour per day

|  | 2009 |  | 2010 |  | 2011 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Frequency | $\%$ | Frequency | $\%$ | Frequency | $\%$ |
| Almost do <br> not study | 24 | 7.3 | 34 | 8.2 | 39 | 12.2 |
| 1 | 77 | 23 | 105 | 24.9 | 72 | 22.7 |
| 2 | 107 | 31.8 | 119 | 27.5 | 105 | 32.2 |
| 3 | 63 | 19 | 82 | 19 | 51 | 15.5 |
| 4 | 40 | 12 | 35 | 8.4 | 23 | 7.1 |
| 5 | 11 | 3.3 | 22 | 4.8 | 17 | 5.3 |
| 6 or more | 12 | 3.6 | 31 | 7.2 | 17 | 5 |
| Total | 334 | 100 | 428 | 100 | 324 | 100 |

## Selected Examples (cont.)

- Average reading per month (not for academic study)

|  | 2009 |  | 2010 |  | 2011 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Frequency | $\%$ | Frequency | $\%$ | Frequency | $\%$ |
| Almost do <br> not study | 85 | 25.4 | 90 | 20.6 | 83 | 25.9 |
| 1 | 103 | 30.6 | 112 | 26 | 102 | 31.2 |
| 2 | 62 | 18.8 | 110 | 26.3 | 72 | 22.1 |
| 3 | 38 | 11.4 | 45 | 10.1 | 25 | 7.7 |
| 4 | 17 | 5.1 | 26 | 6.1 | 18 | 5.5 |
| 5 | 8 | 2.4 | 20 | 4.9 | 15 | 4.6 |
| 6 or more | 21 | 6.3 | 25 | 6 | 9 | 3 |
| Total | 334 | 100 | 428 | 100 | 324 | 100 |

## Selected Examples (cont.)

- Part-time jobs

|  | 2009 |  | 2010 |  | 2011 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Frequency | $\%$ | Frequency | $\%$ | Frequency | $\%$ |
| YES | $\mathbf{8 7}$ | 26 | 131 | 30.9 | 92 | 28.6 |
| NO | 247 | 74 | 297 | $\mathbf{6 9 . 1}$ | 232 | 71.4 |
| Total | 334 | 100 | 428 | $\mathbf{1 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{3 2 4}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0}$ |

- Smoking

|  | 2009 |  | 2010 |  | 2011 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Frequency | $\%$ | Frequency | $\%$ | Frequency | $\%$ |
| YES | 73 | 22.2 | 87 | 20.4 | 59 | 18.6 |
| NO | 260 | 77.8 | 341 | 79.6 | 265 | 81.4 |
| Total | 333 | 100 | 428 | 100 | 324 | 100 |

## Selected Examples (cont.)

- Height

|  | 2009 <br> Average | 2010 <br> Average | Average |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| MALE | 175.4 | 176.7 | 176.3 |
| FEMALE | 162.7 | 162.7 | 162.6 |

- Weight

|  | 2009 <br> Average | 2010 <br> Average | 2011 <br> Average |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| MALE | 67.4 | 69.8 | 68.6 |
| FEMALE | 51.7 | 51.7 | 50.9 |

## Measurement Error

- Secondary school certification program

|  | 2009 |  | 2010 |  | 2011 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Frequency | $\%$ | Frequency | $\%$ | Frequency | $\%$ |
| TRUE | 328 | 98.2 | 424 | 99.1 | 324 | 100 |
| FALSE | 6 | 1.8 | 4 | 0.9 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 334 | 100 | 428 | 100 | 324 | 100 |

## Measurement Error (Cont.)

- Double major or minor

|  | 2009 |  | 2010 |  | 2011 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Frequency | $\%$ | Frequency | $\%$ | Frequency | $\%$ |
| TRUE | 323 | 96.7 | 408 | 95.3 | 324 | 100 |
| FALSE | 11 | 3.3 | 20 | 4.7 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 334 | 100 | 428 | 100 | 324 | 100 |

## Measurement Error (Cont.)

- GPA (to 2 decimal places)

|  | 2009 |  | 2010 |  | 2011 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Frequency | $\%$ | Frequency | $\%$ | Frequency | $\%$ |
| TRUE | 97 | 29.22 | 75 | 18.2 | 75 | 23.15 |
| FALSE | 235 | 70.78 | 337 | 81.8 | 249 | 76.85 |
| Total | 332 | 100 | 412 | 100 | 324 | 100 |

## Measurement Error (Cont.)

- GPA (to 1 decimal places)

|  | 2009 |  | 2010 |  | 2011 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Frequency | $\%$ | Frequency | $\%$ | Frequency | $\%$ |
| TRUE | 147 | 44.28 | 187 | 45.4 | 131 | 40.43 |
| FALSE | 185 | 55.72 | 225 | 54.6 | 193 | 59.57 |
| Total | 332 | 100 | 412 | 100 | 324 | 100 |

## Measurement Error (Cont.)

- GPA (without decimal)

|  | 2009 |  | 2010 |  | 2011 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Frequency | $\%$ | Frequency | $\%$ | Frequency | $\%$ |
| TRUE | 260 | 78.31 | 346 | 84 | 242 | 74.69 |
| FALSE | 72 | 21.69 | 66 | 16 | 82 | 25.31 |
| Total | 332 | 100 | 412 | 100 | 324 | 100 |

## Item Nonresponse

- Open-Ended Questions

|  | No. of Item Nonresponse |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2009 |  | 2010 |  | 2011 |  |
| GPA |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |
| Height |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Weight |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total | 334 | 100 | 428 | 100 | 324 | 100 |

- Closed-Ended Questions

There were very few missing data in the 2009 and 2010, but there were 10 items missed in the 2011 survey.

## Conclusions

- We confirmed that cell phone surveys for students may have high response rates.
- The distributions between population and sample for some variables are very similar during the three years.
- We showed that they have some advantages in terms of coverage of domains and measurement error.
- Cell phone surveys would be one of the most efficient data collection modes.


## THANK YOU!

Contact at: skyangel5240@dongguk.edu

