Handling Incomplete Data in Surveys

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A perfect survey is a myth and it is quickly becoming the standard practice of researchers to use state of the art techniques to deal with the problem of incomplete data in surveys. The problem of incomplete data was simply ignored a few years ago, but this led to survey estimates being inaccurately produced. Procedures were developed (and some are still being investigated) for dealing with the problem of incomplete data. This project is a review of some of the main techniques that are available to the researcher to deal with this problem of incomplete data in surveys. Emphasis is placed on methods for handling item and unit non-response because of the great deal of work that had been done in these areas.

Finally, some possible avenues for future research in the area of incomplete data in surveys are suggested.