

Data Collection Method Briefs

Collecting Data from Children Ages 9-13

METHOD SUMMARY TABLE

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Excerpted From: *Summary Report: Collecting Data from Children Ages 9-13.*
<http://www.lpfch.org/informed/facts/etr.html>

Table 2: Method Summary Table

Method	Use Within 9-13 Age Group	Burden on Participants (Assuming equal administration time and content)	Key Resource Requirements	Commonly Used...	Key Advantages	Key Drawbacks
Diaries	Ages 9-11 good ability to report Ages 12-13 excellent ability to report	Medium/High (depends on frequency)	*Participant training	... to gather in-depth descriptive data (e.g., food intake, exercise, physical symptoms, narratives). ... to document the experience of every day life. ... to collect data from smaller samples (<100 persons).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Can yield detailed data on daily life experiences. ☺ Relatively low cost and easy for children to fill out. ☺ Data are recorded closer in time to when an event actually happens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☹ Children may find filling out multiple diary entries boring and tedious. ☹ Children may forget to record data. ☹ Data analysis can be time consuming.
In-Person Interviews	Ages 9-13 (ages 9-10 years may need visual cues)	Medium	*Interviewer training *Space for interviews *Personnel time	... to conduct clinical assessments. ... to gather descriptive data (e.g., quantitative and/or qualitative). ... to measure program effects. ... to collect data from small to larger samples (<100 to 500 persons).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Interviewers can explore answers to get more details. ☺ Ideal for children with lower literacy levels. ☺ Private. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☹ Costly to implement. ☹ Children tend to be compliant and to say what they think adults want to hear.

Method	Use Within 9-13 Age Group	Burden on Participants (Assuming equal administration time and content)	Key Resource Requirements	Commonly Used...	Key Advantages	Key Drawbacks
Focus Group Interviews	Ages 9-13 (ages 9-10 years may need visual cues)	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Training for interviewer and note-taker *Space for focus groups *Refreshments *Personnel time *Person and/or equipment to record discussion 	<p>... to gather data on children's views and opinions on a range of topics.</p> <p>... with small groups of 6-10 similar participants (e.g., children in fifth grade).</p> <p>... to collect data from smaller samples (<100 persons).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Can yield rich, descriptive data. ☺ Fun and easy for children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☹ Logistics can be challenging. ☹ Group dynamics can hinder expression of diverse opinions. ☹ Not a good format for collecting data on sensitive subjects. ☹ Data analysis can be time consuming.
Telephone Interviews	Ages 11-13	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Training for interviewers *Equipment *Personnel time 	<p>... to gather population-level data.</p> <p>... to measure program effects.</p> <p>... to collect data from medium to larger-sized samples (>100 persons).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Can reach large numbers of respondents. ☺ Computer-assisted versions facilitate surveying. ☺ Perceived to be more private than in-home surveying. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☹ Can require many call attempts to complete an interview. ☹ Children may worry about privacy, which can affect data quality. ☹ Sample size capacity linked to available equipment and staff.

Method	Use Within 9-13 Age Group	Burden on Participants (Assuming equal administration time and content)	Key Resource Requirements	Commonly Used...	Key Advantages	Key Drawbacks
Direct Observation	Ages 9-13	Low	*Training for observers *Personnel time	<p>... to document the occurrence of events, behaviors and/or interactions.</p> <p>... with individuals, dyads, and families.</p> <p>... to collect data on smaller samples (<25 persons or groups).</p>	<p>☺ Provides independent observation of an event or set of behaviors.</p> <p>☺ Typically easy for children to be involved.</p>	<p>☹ Training essential to consistent measurement.</p> <p>☹ Setting of observation may affect results.</p> <p>☹ Labor intensive.</p>
Computer-Based Surveys	Ages 9-13	Medium	*Training for data collectors *Equipment *Personnel time	<p>... to collect health information and/or measure program effects.</p> <p>... as an alternative to written-surveys.</p> <p>... to collect data from medium to larger-sized samples (>100 persons).</p>	<p>☺ Can reach large numbers of respondents.</p> <p>☺ Preferred by many youth over written surveys.</p> <p>☺ Can increase participants' sense of privacy.</p> <p>☺ Compared with written surveys, youth can answer more questions in a given period of time.</p> <p>☺ Reduces data entry costs and can improve data quality.</p>	<p>☹ Requires technical proficiency to develop or resources to outsource development.</p> <p>☹ Requires equipment or access to it.</p> <p>☹ Potential for technical problems.</p> <p>☹ Computer screen privacy needs to be addressed.</p>

Method	Use Within 9-13 Age Group	Burden on Participants (Assuming equal administration time and content)	Key Resource Requirements	Commonly Used...	Key Advantages	Key Drawbacks
Handhelds (PDAs)	Ages 9-13	Medium	*Training for data collectors *Equipment *Personnel time	<p>... to collect health information and/or measure program effects.</p> <p>... as an alternative to written surveys.</p> <p>... to collect data from medium to larger-sized samples (>100 persons).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Youth-friendly. ☺ More portable than laptops. ☺ Can increase participants' sense of privacy. ☺ Compared with written surveys, youth can answer more questions in a given period of time. ☺ Reduces data entry costs and can improve data quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☹ Requires technical proficiency to develop, or resources to outsource development. ☹ Requires equipment or access to it. ☹ Potential for technical problems. ☹ Small screen.
Written Surveys	Ages 9-13 (ages 9-10 may need visual cues)	Medium/High (depending on length)	*Training for data collectors *Personnel time	<p>... to gather descriptive data (e.g., quantitative and/or qualitative).</p> <p>... to measure program effects.</p> <p>... in community-based program evaluation.</p> <p>... to collect data from small, medium, or larger samples.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Easy to use. ☺ Familiar to youth. ☺ Relatively inexpensive to implement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☹ Can be less engaging than other more visually stimulating methods. ☹ Youth may equate it with testing. ☹ No control over respondent progression through survey. ☹ Requires data cleaning and entry.