

Data Analysis and Dissemination

RTI offers its clients a team of methodologists, researchers, and substantive experts dedicated to ensuring delivery and dissemination of the highest quality education survey research for diverse audiences. Our experts develop high-quality, policy-relevant reports based on issues important to our clients. Our capabilities include data analysis using complex survey techniques, descriptive analysis, multivariate methods, and graphical and tabular presentations of findings.



RTI provides the U.S. Department of Education and other clients with detailed information about important national education issues.



RTI International (www.rti.org) is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to conducting research and development that improves the human

condition. With a staff of more than 2,500 people, RTI offers innovative research and technical solutions to governments and businesses worldwide in the areas of health and pharmaceuticals, advanced technology, surveys and statistics, education and training, economic and social development, and the environment. RTI maintains nine offices in the United States, five international offices, one international subsidiary, and one affiliated nonprofit, as well as project offices around the world.



For additional information about education surveys at RTI, visit www.rti.org/education or contact:

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RTI International is a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.

Education Surveys



At RTI, our work in education surveys focuses on the salient issues affecting elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education in the United States today.

RTI offers over 30 years of experience and state-of-the-art capabilities for conducting large-scale, national cross-sectional and longitudinal education surveys for the U.S. Department of Education and other clients. RTI staff direct all aspects of education survey operations, including sample design, sample recruitment and tracing, instrument design, data collection, database design and management, and analysis and reporting in all areas at the elementary, secondary, and postsecondary levels.



Survey Topic Areas

- Reading and math achievement
- Science literacy
- Learning strategies
- Student attitudes and experiences
- High school completion
- Teacher training and retention
- Transition to college, graduate school, career
- Postsecondary school access, persistence, and attainment
- Student financial aid
- Education financing
- Academic and social integration
- Faculty characteristics and attitudes
- Faculty recruitment, retention, and tenure
- Postsecondary institution characteristics; enrollment and completion statistics; finances and salaries
- Transcript and other school record abstraction

Sample Design, Recruitment, and Tracing

RTI constructs probability and purposive samples drawn from a variety of sources, designed to minimize sampling error while maximizing participation rates. RTI's specially trained institution contactors have extensive experience recruiting elementary, secondary, and postsecondary institutions to participate in surveys. These dedicated staff members successfully develop and maintain relationships with administrators and other institution personnel throughout the course of each study. RTI's tracing service draws from an extensive portfolio of locating databases and other resources, enabling us to locate sample members.

Instrument Design in Multiple Modes

RTI offers innovative methods for developing self-administered, telephone (CATI), in-person (CAPI), and mail surveys, including web-based methodologies using multiple modes simultaneously. We design and test our computer-controlled surveys and data entry systems to ensure the quality and security of data across modes while minimizing respondent burden. Our surveys can be customized to accommodate the unique characteristics of a survey population. Specially designed web sites provide password-protected access to data collection instruments while allowing sample members ready access to information about the study.

Data Collection

RTI has substantial experience conducting both longitudinal and cross-sectional, high-yield surveys with key elementary, secondary, and postsecondary populations, including state and local education agencies; state-level systems for higher education; schools and other institutions; current and former students; teachers, faculty, and administrators; and parents. RTI draws on its



expertise in sample design and survey methodology and its state-of-the-art computer capabilities to customize data collection systems and procedures to meet the specific research needs of each study. RTI operates its own call center, offering specially trained interviewers, tracing services, institution contacting, a help desk for sample members, and bilingual interviewing.

Database Design and Management

RTI has extensive experience processing and delivering data files for its education studies, including weighted restricted and public use data, linked data collected from multiple sources, and data merged with extant databases. RTI's data processing systems support the construction and variable-by-variable documentation of survey data on a flow basis throughout data collection. Our built-in quality control procedures, which include daily status updates, routine data inspections, and ongoing data editing, ensure timely delivery of high-quality data files.