

Survey Research and Methodology



RTI International has more than 50 years of experience designing, conducting, and reporting on surveys. Our work secures RTI's solid reputation as a leading independent research institute specializing in services that deliver high-quality data, products, and guidance. Our experience, personnel, and resources enable us to undertake surveys of any size or population while controlling cost and maintaining data quality. RTI's survey research services include study design, instrument development and evaluation, pretests and pilot studies, mail surveys, telephone surveys, in-person field surveys, Web surveys, records abstraction, biological specimen collection, mixed-mode surveys, subject tracing, focus groups, and health registries.

Research Areas

Children and Families

RTI's work includes studies of child and adolescent development, children's mental health and mental health services, child care, early childhood development and intervention, intimate partner violence, child maltreatment and the child welfare system, marriage, family formation, and family support. Our work directly informs policy and practice.

Public Health and Clinical Research

RTI supports public health and clinical research studies for commercial and federal clients. Staff provide various services: protocol development; site, patient, and participant recruitment; case report form or questionnaire development; materials development; data capture systems; site and staff training; enrollment and data collection monitoring; and biospecimen and health measures collection.

Health Security

We conduct applied and theoretical research into the causes and consequences of natural and man-made disasters and attacks to analyze and advise government policy and practice for preparedness and response. Research areas include terrorism and conflict, food safety and security, biological and agricultural security, human rights, criminal justice, elections and political systems, and border security.

Security and Defense

We serve public and private sector clients, conducting and supporting behavioral sciences research to improve personnel and organizational effectiveness. RTI has provided services in areas such as intelligence analysis; political violence; citizenship and immigration; cyber security; border security; military manpower, personnel, and training; active duty and reserve forces; military retirees; and military families.

Occupational Safety and Health

RTI conducts a broad range of applied research and evaluation to inform public and private efforts aimed at reducing work-related injury and illness. The goal is to study the effectiveness of workplace safety practices, support the design and implementation of large-scale survey and surveillance efforts, and assess certification procedures for personal protective equipment.

Mental Health and Substance Use Surveys

RTI conducts data collection projects that support research on the epidemiology, etiology, and prevention and treatment of mental health and substance abuse problems among youth, young adults, and adults; military personnel; homeless, runaway, and minority youth; and workers.

Health Surveys and Registries

RTI employs experts in the design, implementation, and evaluation of public health registries and surveillance programs, as well as in methods and techniques for collecting information on the provision and use of health services. Staff design and implement large-scale data collection projects targeting both providers and users of health services in the areas of environmental health and exposure registries, health surveys, aging research, and patient satisfaction surveys.

Digital Technology and Society

RTI develops and applies innovative methods for survey and social research that reflect the changing nature of personal communications and the ways individuals interact with technology and each other. We specialize in integrating traditional data capture methodologies with new modes and data sources such as mobile technologies, social media, and other digital media to generate accurate measures of social behavior.

Survey Methodology

Our survey experts strive to understand and improve the survey research process—from development of the research design to final analyses and reporting. RTI staff develop methodological enhancements and new technologies that can reduce the cost or time needed to conduct a study while

sustaining overall data quality. Our language methodologists apply principles of survey methodology to ensure that all translated survey documents are linguistically and culturally appropriate.

Survey Services

Comprehensive Survey Support

RTI's survey researchers benefit from the expert support of our service, data entry, and fulfillment staff. These support personnel manage the details of survey implementation, including coding and data entry, document control and storage, handling of cash or cash-equivalent incentives, and mailings and supplies.

Call Center Capabilities

The RTI Call Center offers computer-assisted telephone interviewing, help desks and hotlines, and sophisticated respondent tracing and locating using a proprietary system. The center is located in a state-of-the-art data collection facility with 225 production stations and 28 supervisor stations.

Field Services

Our field managers are full-time, salaried employees with extensive experience in all areas of field operations management. RTI employs a field force of more than 100 supervisors and 7,000 interviewers who are geographically distributed throughout the United States and recruited from numerous sources.

More information

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RTI International is one of the world's leading research institutes, dedicated to improving the human condition by turning knowledge into practice. Our staff of more than 2,800 provides research and technical services to governments and businesses in more than 40 countries in the areas of health and pharmaceuticals, education and training, surveys and statistics, advanced technology, international development, economic and social policy, energy and the environment, and laboratory testing and chemical analysis. For more information, visit www.rti.org.

RTI International is a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.

