

## Survey Question Assignment

There are a few important survey design practices that must be followed to ensure effective data collection. These practices include the following: choosing question and answer formats that are appropriate for the questions being asked, including an appropriate proportion of close-ended and open-ended questions, making items as clear as possible through concise and intentional word choice, and avoiding double-barreled questions. It's also important to ensure that respondents are competent to answer the questions being asked, ensure that respondents are willing to answer questions (and employ strategies like brackets to make sensitive questions easier to answer), to ask only relevant questions, to keep questions short, to avoid the use of negative items when phrasing questions, and avoiding the inclusion of biased items and terms in questions.

The research question for the current study is "How is family involvement in HeadStart Family Fun Time Activities related to race?" The survey question that will operationalize the dependent variable is "How much did this activity encourage your family to engage with one another?" to which caretakers will respond on a scale of zero to ten, zero being not at all and ten being a great amount. The survey question that will operationalize the independent variable is "What is your self-identified race?" to which the caretaker will check one of a variety of boxes associated with different racial categories. These are examples of well-written survey questions because they are clear and concise, they do not ask more than one question at a time, they are formatted appropriately (using scales to measure a wide range of participant responses,) participants will have the knowledge needed to be able to answer the questions, no negative phrasing is used, and neither the questions nor the answer options are biased.

