

CURRICULUM VITA

# ADAM SAFIR

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## Addresses

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## Summary of Professional Experience

Adam Safir has more than 15 years of experience in survey management, data collection, analysis, and reporting for behavioral and attitudinal research studies. His areas of specialization include survey design, methodology, and management. Safir has had responsibility for all aspects of projects, including proposal development; defining research issues; coordination of technical staff; instrument development; budget preparation; training project staff; monitoring of all task schedules, costs, and production; and supervision of data collection, data analysis, quality control, and report writing. He is an experienced programmer with technical proficiency in SAS, SPSS, Stata, and WesVar.

## Education

M.B.A., Marketing Research, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, 2001  
B.A., Sociology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, 1995

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## Professional Experience

- 2007 to date U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, DC.
- Senior Statistician. Manages and conducts methodological research for the U.S. Consumer Expenditure Survey Program, focusing on the evaluation of alternative survey designs, reduction of measurement error, minimization of mode effects, development of questionnaire improvements, and the overall assessment of data quality.
- 2004 to 2007 RTI International, Washington, DC.
- Survey Methodologist. Provided methodological expertise and management oversight for ongoing survey research projects, including sample design, questionnaire design, survey estimation and weighting, data development (including adjustments for missing data and data editing), assessment of bias due to various sources of error, analysis of survey data, and reporting. Leads efforts to identify and resolve methodological, measurement, and data collection issues.
- 1999 to 2004 The Urban Institute, Washington, DC.
- Research Associate. Managed disclosure risk review and production of public use micro data files for the 1999 and 2002 National Survey of America's Families, including the preparation of supporting technical documentation for changes in imputation and weighting adjustments. Technical writing for methodological reports covering sample design, questionnaire changes, and data use issues. Provided statistical, technical, and methods support to internal staff and external data users. Developed statistical programming tools for automated iterative processing, output, and formatting of state-level data books with design-adjusted standard errors for survey estimates.
- Survey Associate. Managed data development for the 1999 and 2002 National Survey of America's Families, including general data editing, data consistency checks, data imputation for item nonresponse, analytic variable construction, and benchmarking. Provided training, support, and technical advice for data users. Conducted workshops for internal staff and external audiences on issues related to working with hierarchical micro data files and replicate weights for variance estimation with complex sample survey data. Assisted with the evaluation of alternative methods of imputation, nonresponse adjustment, and post-stratification and raking of survey weights.
- 1996 to 1999 Arbitron Inc, Columbia, MD.
- Contract Interviewing Supervisor. Responsible for the oversight of three data collection suppliers with combined staff of over 300 telephone interviewers. Monitored contact, cooperation, and production rates; assessed adherence to methodological standards and practices; developed site-specific initiatives to improve survey performance. Oversaw the implementation and evaluation of new interviewer training modules.
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Research Analyst. Conducted extensive testing of alternative survey treatments, incentive structures, and time-use diary designs to increase survey participation, maximize response rates, and improve data quality. Contributed to new methods development and evaluation. Assisted in the design of survey questionnaires on a wide range of topics for business development, including audience measurement, market research, and customer satisfaction. Analyzed diary data, wrote executive reports summarizing results, and presented findings to internal and external audiences.

1993 to 1996

University of Maryland Survey Research Center, College Park, MD.

Project Coordinator. Responsible for the design and implementation of national, state and local telephone and mail surveys for government, academic, business, and non-profit organizations. Duties involved overall survey management, including initial client consultation, questionnaire development, instrument testing, CATI-programming, data collection oversight, data analysis, and report writing.

Call Center Supervisor. Supervised evening operations of 30-station call center. Responsible for managing interviewer assignments, meeting sample production goals, and maintaining cooperation rates. Prepared daily project reports and study-specific debriefing agendas. Assisted in interviewer recruitment, training, and the preparation of interviewing manuals.

Telephone Interviewer. Interviewed respondents for national, state, and local telephone surveys. Specialized in refusal conversion and sensitive-topic surveys.

## Professional Associations & Service

American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)

Heritage Committee Chair, 2010-date

Membership Committee (Chair: Kelly Foster), 2010-date

Session Chair, Identifying and Correcting Nonresponse Bias, 2010

Conference Subcommittee, 2010

Membership & Chapter Relations Chair, 2008-09

Membership & Chapter Relations Associate Chair, 2007-08

Session Chair, Response I: Predicting Non-Response, 2008

Session Chair, Methodological Briefs: Assessing the Impact of Incentives, 2007

Reviewer, Seymour Sudman Student Paper Competition, 2007

Committee on Push Polls (Chair: Nancy Belden), 2005

Heritage Committee (Chair: Janet Streicher), 2004-05

Member, 1997-date

Washington-Baltimore Chapter of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (DC-AAPOR)

President, 2007

Associate Editor, Report from the Workshop on Nonresponse Bias in Household Surveys, 2007

Seminar Chair, New Experiments on the Design of Complex Survey Questions, 2007

Student Paper Competition Chair, 2004-06

Program Committee, 2003-04

Website Administrator, 2002-date  
Treasurer, 2002-03  
Member, 1999-date

American Statistical Association (ASA), Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS)  
Member, 2000-05

Washington Statistical Society  
Membership Committee, 2005-date  
Member, 2002-date

Member, Interagency Response Error Group (IREG), 2007-date

Editorial Board, *Survey Practice*, 2007-2009

Reviewer  
*Journal of Official Statistics*, 2004, 2009-10  
*Public Opinion Quarterly*, 2009-10

## Honors

RTI President's Award, 2006  
RTI Annual Award, 2005

## Special Courses

### Survey Methods & Statistics

Focus Groups for Surveys, DC-AAPOR Short Course, Washington, DC, December 2007  
Survey Sampling, DC-AAPOR Short Course, Washington, DC, November 2006  
Introduction to Conducting Surveys of Organizations, AAPOR, Montreal, Quebec, May 2006  
Survey Weighting, DC-AAPOR Short Course, Washington, DC, October 2005  
Survey Research Seminar Series: An Overview to Conducting Survey Research, RTI International, Research Triangle Park, NC, March 2005  
Questionnaire Design, Odum Institute Short Course, Chapel Hill, NC, February 2005  
Statistical Disclosure and Disclosure Limitation, JPSM Short Course, College Park, MD, January 2003  
U.S. Federal Statistics as a System, JPSM Short Course, College Park, MD, September 2001  
Applied Sampling (SURV 625), JPSM Graduate Course, College Park, MD, Spring 2001  
Data Collection Methods in Survey Research (SURV 623), JPSM Graduate Course, College Park, MD, Fall 1999  
Questions for Standardized Measurement in Surveys, JPSM Short Course, College Park, MD, May 1998

### Project Management & Proposal Writing

Developing User Requirements: The Key to Project Success (Course 315), Learning Tree International, Reston, VA, May 2010  
Tools for Conducting Effective Meetings, BLS University, Washington, DC, July, 2009

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Preparing for the Project Management Professional (PMP®) Exam (Course 276), Learning Tree International, Rockville, MD, July 2009  
Project Quality Management: Delivering Project and Stakeholder Success (Course 349), Learning Tree International, Rockville, MD, August 2008  
Project Management: Skills for Success (Course 296), Learning Tree International, Rockville, MD, April 2008  
Microsoft Project, Project Masters, Inc., Washington, DC, August 2007  
Writing and Managing Winning Proposals, Shipley Associates, Washington, DC, December 2006  
Writing for Professional Publication, RTI International, Washington, DC, May 2006

#### Statistical Programming

An Introduction to the SAS Macro Language, Sierra Information Services, Vienna, VA, February 2004

## Computer Skills

#### Statistical Analysis

EViews, Minitab, SAS, SPSS, Stata, WesVar

#### Database & Web Scripting

Cold Fusion, CSS, HTML, Microsoft Access, MySQL, PHP

## Publications

Safir, A. (2009). "Check All That Apply." In P.J. Lavrakas (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Survey Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Safir, A. (2009). "Radio Buttons." In P.J. Lavrakas (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Survey Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Safir, A. (2009). "Unlisted Households." In P.J. Lavrakas (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Survey Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Kovach, K., R. Krishnan, B. Platter, A. Safir, and J. Wilder (Autumn 1998). "U.S. Employers and Health Care Coverage: A Present and Future Perspective." *Employment Relations Today*.

## Conference Proceedings

Safir, A., and L. Tan (2009). "Using Contact Attempt History Data to Determine the Optimal Number of Contact Attempts." *Proceedings of the Section on Survey Research Methods*, American Statistical Association, pp. 5970-5984.

Safir, A., and K. Goldenberg (2008). "Mode Effects in a Survey of Consumer Expenditures." *Proceedings of the Section on Survey Research Methods*, American Statistical Association, pp. 4336-4343.

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- Triplett, T., A. Safir, K. Wang, R. Steinbach, and S. Pratt (2002). "Using a Short Follow-Up Survey to Compare Respondents and Nonrespondents." *Proceedings of the Section on Survey Research Methods*, American Statistical Association, pp. 3496-3501.
- Safir, A., R. Steinbach, T. Triplett, and K. Wang (2002). "The Effects on Survey Estimates from Reducing Nonresponse Bias." *Proceedings of the Section on Survey Research Methods*, American Statistical Association, pp. 3024-3029.
- Safir, A., T. Black, and R. Steinbach (2001). "Using Paradata to Examine the Effects of Interviewer Characteristics on Survey Response and Data Quality." *Proceedings of the Section on Survey Research Methods*, American Statistical Association.
- Safir, A., and T. Black (2000). "Assessing Nonresponse Bias in the National Survey of America's Families." *Proceedings of the Section on Survey Research Methods*, American Statistical Association, pp. 816-821.
- Wang, K., D. Cantor, and A. Safir (2000). "Panel Conditioning in an RDD Survey." *Proceedings of the Section on Survey Research Methods*, American Statistical Association, pp. 822-827.

## **Presentations & Conference Papers**

- Safir, A. (September 2009). Discussion of Frauke Kreuter paper "The Effects of Asking Filter Questions in Interleaved versus Grouped Format." Discussion presented at BLS Statistical Seminar Series, Washington, DC.
- Edgar, J., and A. Safir (September 2009). "An Overview of the Consumer Expenditure Survey." Presentation at the BLS-Statistics Canada Joint Interchange, Ottawa, Canada.
- Safir, A., and L. Tan (May 2009). "Using Contact Attempt History Data to Determine an Optimal Number of Contact Attempts." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, Hollywood, FL
- Whelchel, A., and A. Safir (December 2008). "Introduction to the American Association for Public Opinion Research". Presentation at the Annual Conference of the Pacific Association for Public Opinion Research, San Francisco, CA.
- Safir, A., and N. Whelchel (October 2008). "Introduction to the American Association for Public Opinion Research". Presentation at the Annual Conference of the Southern Association for Public Opinion Research, Raleigh, NC.
- Safir, A., and K. Goldenberg (May 2008). "Mode Effects in the U.S. Consumer Expenditure Quarterly Interview Survey." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, New Orleans, LA.
- Safir, A., C. Ramirez, and D. Roe (May 2008). "Report on the Survey of AAPOR's Current and Former Members." Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, New Orleans, LA.
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- Safir, A., and C. Ramirez (October 2007). "Introduction to the American Association for Public Opinion Research". Presentation at the Annual Conference of the Southern Association for Public Opinion Research, Raleigh, NC.
- Safir, A., J. Murphy, H. Park, K. Wang, and D. Painter (May 2007). "A Multi-Level Modeling Approach to Explaining State-Level Variation in Response Rates." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, Anaheim, CA.
- Murphy, J., A. Safir, and S. Myers (May 2007). "A Tool for Monitoring Field Interviewer Work Patterns in the National Survey on Drug Use and Health." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, Anaheim, CA.
- El-Mohandes, A., R. Windsor, A. Safir, J. Thornberry, P. Katta, A. Schwartz, and M. Kiely (February 2007). "Transdermal Nicotine Replacement Therapy for Pregnant Smokers." Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco, Austin TX.
- Murphy J., A. Safir, S. Myers, and C. Hottinger (October 2006). "Using SAS to Create a Flexible Survey Interviewer Tracking Chart." Paper presented at the Annual MidWest SAS Users Group (MWSUG) Conference, Detroit, MI.
- Abi-Habib, N., A Safir, and T. Triplett (May 2005). "The National Survey of America's Families, 1997-2002: A Project Summary of Response Rate Initiatives, Implementation, and Results." Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, Miami Beach, FL.
- Abi-Habib, N., A. Safir, and T. Triplett (August 2004). "Assessing the Impact of Welfare Reform Using the National Survey of America's Families Public Use Files and Online Statistical Analysis System." Paper presented at the Annual Workshop of the National Association of Welfare Research and Statistics, Oklahoma City, OK.
- Abi-Habib, N., A. Safir, and T. Triplett (May 2004). "Using an E-Mail Invitation to Screen Web Survey Respondents." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, Phoenix, AZ.
- Abi-Habib, N., A. Safir, T. Triplett, and K. Wang (August 2003). "Sampling Nonrespondents: Why, When, and How Much?" Paper presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings of the American Statistical Association, San Francisco, CA.
- Wang, K., N. Abi-Habib, A. Safir, and T. Triplett (August 2003). "Exploratory Analysis of the Effects of Data Quality on Nonresponse Adjustments in RDD Surveys." Paper presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings, San Francisco, CA.
- Safir, A. (September 2002). "Using Replicate Weights in the Analysis of Social Science Survey Data." Workshop conducted at The Urban Institute, Washington, DC.
- Safir, A., R. Steinbach, T. Triplett, and K. Wang (May 2002). "The Effects on Survey Estimates from Reducing Nonresponse Bias." Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, St. Pete Beach, FL.
- Safir, A., and K. Wang (November 2001). "Introduction to the National Survey of America's Families." Workshop conducted at the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, Washington, DC.
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Safir, A., and K. Wang (November 2001). "Introduction to the National Survey of America's Families." Workshop conducted at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference, Washington, DC.

Giannarelli, L., G. Rowe, and A. Safir (August 2001). "Urban Institute Research Resources: Welfare Rules, State Database, and NSAF CrosstabMaker." Paper presented at the Annual Workshop of the National Association of Welfare Research and Statistics, Baltimore, MD.

Safir, A. (August 2001). "The Role of Interviewers in Survey Response and Data Quality." Paper presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings, Atlanta, GA.

Safir, A. (May 2001). "The Effects of Interviewer Characteristics on Survey Response and Data Quality." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, Montreal, Canada.

Safir, A., and J.G. McNutt (March 2001). "Using Web-based Database Technology to Teach Social Policy Research." Workshop conducted at the Annual Program Meeting of the Council of Social Work Education, Dallas, TX.

Safir, A., and T. Black (August 2000). "Assessing Nonresponse Bias in the National Survey of America's Families." Paper presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings, Indianapolis, IN.

Wang, K., D. Cantor, and A. Safir (August 2000). "Panel Conditioning in an RDD Survey." Paper presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings, Indianapolis, IN.

Safir, A. (May 1999). "Surveying a Population with Multiple Languages and Nationalities." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, St. Pete Beach, FL.

Safir, A. (May 1998). "The Arbitron At-Work Listening Study." Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, St. Louis, MO.

## **Project & Technical Reports**

Safir, A., and M. Sha (February 2007). *State-Owned Enterprises Governance and Performance Management Survey: Final Report*. Internal project report prepared for the World Bank.

Safir, A., J. Murphy, H. Park, and K. Wang (December 2006). *National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Field Interviewer Behavior and Response Rate Analysis*. Internal project report prepared for the Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2006). *National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary of Methodological Studies, 1971–2005* (Office of Applied Studies, Methodology Series M-6, DHHS Publication No. SMA 06-4146). Rockville, MD.

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- Murphy, J., M. Schwerin, D. Hewitt, and A. Safir (June 2005). *National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Nonresponse among Respondents Aged 50 and Older: Potential Respondents Focus Group Report*. Internal project report prepared for the Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
- Abi-Habib, N., Black, T., Pratt, S., Safir, A., et al (February 2005). "2002 Collection of Papers." Report No. 6 in the 2002 National Survey of America's Families Methodology Series, Urban Institute: Washington, DC. [<http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=900785>]
- Abi-Habib, N., A. Safir, and T. Triplett (November 2004). "NSAF Public Use File User's Guide." Report No. 11 in the 2002 National Survey of America's Families Methodology Series, Urban Institute: Washington, DC. [<http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=900760>]
- Safir, A. (November 2004). "State Profile of California: Data from the 2002 National Survey of America's Families." Prepared for The California Endowment. [<http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=900753>]
- Abi-Habib, N., A. Safir, and T. Triplett (September 2004). "NSAF Survey Methods and Data Reliability." Report No. 1 in the 2002 National Survey of America's Families Methodology Series, Urban Institute: Washington, DC. [<http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=900733>]
- Safir, A., and H. Leibovitz (June 2004). "State Profile of New York: Data from the 2002 National Survey of America's Families." Prepared for The United Hospital Fund. [<http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=900724>]
- Abi-Habib, N., A. Safir, T. Triplett, and P. Cunningham (April 2004). "2002 NSAF Questionnaire." Report No. 12 in the 2002 National Survey of America's Families Methodology Series, Urban Institute: Washington, DC. [<http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=900699>]
- Converse, N., A. Safir, F. Scheuren, R. Steinbach, and K. Wang (July 2001). "1999 Public Use File User's Guide." Report No. 11 in the 1999 National Survey of America's Families Methodology Series, Urban Institute: Washington, DC. [[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/1999\\_Methodology\\_11.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/1999_Methodology_11.pdf)]
- Black, T., K. Finegold, A.B. Garrett, A. Safir, et al. (January 2001). "1999 NSAF Collection of Papers." Report No. 7 in the National Survey of America's Families Methodology Series, Urban Institute: Washington, DC. [[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/1999\\_Methodology\\_7.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/1999_Methodology_7.pdf)]
- Safir, A., F. Scheuren, K. Wang (November 2000). "Survey Methods and Data Reliability, 1997 and 1999." Prepared for The Urban Institute. [<http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=310567>]
- Converse, N., R. McCullough-Harlin, A. Safir, F. Scheuren, J. Yang, D. Nooter, and H. Zhang (November 2000). "1997 NSAF CPS Family Public Use File Documentation and Codebook with Undercount Adjusted Weights." Report No. 22 in the National Survey of America's Families Methodology Series, Urban Institute: Washington, DC. [[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/Methodology\\_22.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/Methodology_22.pdf)]
- Converse, N., R. McCullough-Harlin, A. Safir, F. Scheuren, J. Yang, D. Nooter, and H. Zhang (November 2000). "1997 NSAF Social Family Public Use File Documentation and Codebook with Undercount Adjusted Weights." Report No. 21 in the National Survey of America's Families Methodology Series, Urban Institute: Washington, DC.
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[[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/Methodology\\_21.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/Methodology_21.pdf)]

McCullough-Harlin, R., B. Russell, A. Safir, F. Scheuren, A. Wigton, H. Zhang, D. Nooter, E. Walter, and W. Smith (June 2000). "1997 NSAF Non-MKA (Other Adult) Public Use File Documentation and Codebook with Undercount Adjusted Weights." Report No. 20 in the National Survey of America's Families Methodology Series, Urban Institute: Washington, DC.

[[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/Methodology\\_20.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/Methodology_20.pdf)]

McCullough-Harlin, R., B. Russell, A. Safir, F. Scheuren, A. Wigton, H. Zhang, D. Nooter, E. Walter, and W. Smith (June 2000). "1997 NSAF MKA Public Use File Documentation and Codebook with Undercount Adjusted Weights," Report No. 19 in the National Survey of America's Families Methodology Series, Urban Institute: Washington, DC.

[[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/Methodology\\_19.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/Methodology_19.pdf)]

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