

# **NATIONAL SURVEY OF COLLEGE GRADUATES FOLLOW-UP RESULTS FROM THE EMIGRANTS STUDY**

**Genny Burns**

## **I. Executive Summary**

The Emigrants Study was one of five subsamples of 1993 National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) followed-up during the 1995 NSCG interviewing. The purpose was to learn more about this group's contribution to undercoverage in the 1995 NSCG.

The frame for the 1993 NSCG was the set of persons in the 1990 decennial census sample edited detail file who reported a bachelor's degree or higher and would be under age 76 in April 1993. About 2,100 sample persons, .7 percent of the sample, were reported as being out of the country at the time of the 1993 NSCG and were classified as out-of-scope for 1993. We could have made this group eligible for the 1995 sample. Anyone who returned by April 1995 and met other eligibility requirement of the survey would have contributed to the 1995 estimate of scientists and engineers. Because of the expected poor prospects and high costs for completing interviews with this group, we decided to make them permanently out-of-scope. Excluding this segment of the population is a source of undercoverage in the NSCG.

We selected 100 of the cases who were reported as out of the country in 1993 for the 1995 NSCG follow-up study to determine their status in 1995. Out of these 100 cases, we interviewed 69 sample persons or collected information about them from another person. Of the 69 persons, a maximum of 34 could have been included in the 1995 NSCG because they were in the U.S. and were not out-of-scope for other reasons. We did not determine whether they were scientists or engineers. Based on these results, the maximum 1995 NSCG undercoverage caused by excluding this group would be about .34 percent ( $.7\% \times 34/69$ ).

## **II. Overview**

About 2,100 sample persons were reported as being out of the country at the time of the 1993 NSCG. This is 1 percent of the original sample or 0.7 percent using weighted numbers. Some would probably remain out of the country; others would return. Some of those who returned could be U.S. scientists and engineers in 1995. Failing to include them in the 1995 survey is a source of undercoverage.

The time and resources associated with including the temporarily out-of-scope emigrant population in the 1995 survey were prohibitive. It was likely that much of the contact information was sketchy, making it difficult to locate the sample persons and obtain an interview. We thought a more productive approach would be to learn more about this population outside of the 1995 survey.

To get an idea of how many would have been eligible for the 1995 NSCG, we selected a simple random sample of 100 1993 emigrants for a 1995 follow-up interview. Those persons who were back in the country and would have been classified as scientist or engineer in 1995 were a source of undercoverage in the 1995 survey. From these 100 selected follow-up cases, we hoped to get an estimate of this undercoverage.

The emigrants sample interviewing was conducted from telephone centers using paper and pencil rather than CATI. There was no mail or CAPI involved. Attachment A shows the questions asked during the interview.

### III. Results

#### A. Interviewed Cases

As shown in Table 1, out of the 100 emigrants in sample, 69 cases were resolved. Respondents for 31 cases could not be located. The 69 resolved cases include the 32 completed interviews, 35 out-of-scopes, and 2 refusals. The 32 completed interviews were persons back in the country and had bachelor's degrees. We cannot determine whether they are scientists or engineers since their job titles were not asked during the follow-up study. These 32 persons are representative of those who contributed to undercoverage in the 1995 NSCG since they were not eligible for the 1995 sample and could have been scientists or engineers.

Out of the 69 resolved cases, 25 (36.2 percent) confirmed the 1993 information that they were out of the country in 1993, but 7 (10.1 percent) said they were not out of the country in 1993. Of the 7 cases who said they were not out of the country in 1993, one was on vacation in Mexico, two had no idea why they were reported as out of the country in 1993, and four said they were not out of the country but the persons responding for them falsified their location to avoid an interview for the respondent.

**Table 1. Emigrants Status**

Status	Number	Percentage
Emigrants in sample	100	100.0
Completed interviews	32	32.0
Out of country in 1993	25	78.1
Not out of country in 1993	7	21.9
Out-of-scopes	35	35.0
In foreign country	30	85.7
No bachelor s degree	3	8.6
Deceased	2	5.7
Nonresponses	33	33.0
Refusals	2	6.1
Unable to locate & all others	31	93.9

#### B. Nonresponses

For the Nonresponses, we combined two unable to locates with 29 all others in Table 1. The difference in the definition between these two categories was slight. For the two unable to locate cases, the FRs did not find a trace of the respondent. Under all others, it appears that the FRs may have traced the respondent but never made contact with that person for various reasons. For example, in some cases the phone was disconnected,

busy, or out of order while in other cases the FRs left a message on the answering machine but never received a reply.

### III. What Did We Learn?

- Out of the 100 emigrants in sample, we collected information for 69 persons directly from them or from another person. Out of the 69 persons, 34 (32 completed interviews and 2 refusals) could have been included in the 1995 NSCG. This is the maximum number that could have been included since we know they are back in the country but could not be excluded for other reasons. The maximum undercoverage can be computed as 0.7 percent (rate of emigrants from 1993 NSCG)  $\times 34/69$  (in 1995)  $= 0.7 \times .49 = .34\%$  in 1995.
- Out of the 69 resolved cases, seven said they were not out of the country in 1993. This indicates a respondent classification error rate of  $.7\% \times 7/69 = .07\%$  in 1993.

CASEID:\_\_\_\_\_

INTERVIEWER CODE:\_\_\_\_\_

National Survey of College Graduates Special Follow-up Operation  
Emigrant Status

**Hello, my name is (                      ) from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. We are doing a special followup study to a survey we conducted a few years ago.**

NOTE TO INTERVIEWER: *Verify that you have the right sample person using the information contained in Section I of the 1995 NSCG Locating Sheet for this sample person. If you do, continue with the interview, and if not, thank the person for their time, end the interview, and then notify your supervisor.*

**The Census Bureau is conducting this voluntary survey to help the National Science Foundation update information related to the Nation's college educated persons. We expect the average interview to take about 5 minutes, but actual time may vary. All information is confidential as required by Title 13, United States Code. We will use it only for statistical summaries. There are no penalties for not answering questions in this survey, authorized by the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended.**

**Can you take a few minutes to answer these questions?**

NOTE TO INTERVIEWER: *If the sample person requests a contact person, please provide him or her with the following name and address:*

Herman Fleming  
Division of Contract, Policy and Oversight  
National Science Foundation  
4291 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington VA 22230

CASEID:\_\_\_\_\_

INTERVIEWER CODE:\_\_\_\_\_

**Continued - Emigrant Status**

1. **We were not able to contact you for the 1993 Survey of College Graduates because we were told that you were living outside the United States at the time of the survey. For our study, could you please tell us what country you were living in during the week of April 15th, 1993?**

\_\_\_\_\_

*If living in the United States during April 1993, skip to question 5*

*If living outside the United States during April 1993 begin with question 2.*

*If Don't Know or Refused, PROBE: "This is mainly for our quality control procedures so that we don't exclude persons by mistake in the future." If still Don't Know or Refused, end interview.*

2. **What was the general reason for your living in (FILL country name from question 1 above)?**  
*[If necessary, prompt, "for example, job, going to school, vacation?"]*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. **During what time period did you live in (FILL country name)?**

*PROBE: Approximate time period is fine.*

*from* \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ *(month/year)*

*to* \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ *(month/year)*

4. **When did you return to the U.S. to live?**

\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ *(month/year) (skip to question 6)*

5. **In 1993, we may have mistakenly recorded that you were living outside the U.S. To help us improve our procedures, can you think of any reason why we might have this incorrect information? For example, you were traveling or visiting a friend.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CASEID:\_\_\_\_\_

INTERVIEWER CODE:\_\_\_\_\_

**Continued - Emigrant Status**

6. **As of April 1993, did you have a bachelor's or higher degree from either a foreign or U.S. university?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes (*ask question 7a*)

\_\_\_\_\_ No (*skip to question 10 and end interview*)

- 7a. **Now I'd like to ask you some questions about the degrees you have received at the bachelor's level or higher starting with the most recent degree.**

**Thinking about your most recent degree:**

**From which school did you receive this degree?**

Enter school name====>\_\_\_\_\_

Enter city/town====> \_\_\_\_\_

Enter state/foreign country====> \_\_\_\_\_

- 7b. **In what month and year did you receive this degree?**

\_\_ \_\_ / \_\_ \_\_ (*month/year*)

- 7c. **What type of degree did you receive?**

*Mark one*

\_\_\_\_\_ Bachelor's

\_\_\_\_\_ Master's (includes MBA)

\_\_\_\_\_ Doctorate

\_\_\_\_\_ Other Professional Degree (for example JD, LLB, ThD, MD, DDS, etc.)  
(*please specify*) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (*please specify*) \_\_\_\_\_

- 7d. **What was your major field of study for this degree? Obtain as much description as possible.**

\_\_\_\_\_

CASEID:\_\_\_\_\_

INTERVIEWER CODE:\_\_\_\_\_

**Continued - Emigrant Status**

7e. **As of April 1993, did you have another university degree?**

\_\_\_ Yes (*ask question 8a*)

\_\_\_ No (*skip to question 10 and end interview*)

8a. **For your second degree, please provide the following information:**

**Thinking about your second degree as of April 1993:**

**From which school did you receive this degree?**

Enter school name==> \_\_\_\_\_

Enter city/town===> \_\_\_\_\_

Enter state/foreign country====> \_\_\_\_\_

8b. **In what month and year did you receive this degree?**

\_\_\_ / \_\_\_ (*month/year*)

8c. **What type of degree did you receive?**

*Mark one*

\_\_\_ Bachelor's

\_\_\_ Master's (includes MBA)

\_\_\_ Doctorate

\_\_\_ Other Professional Degree (for example JD, LLB, ThD, MD, DDS, etc.)  
(*please specify*)

\_\_\_ Other (*please specify*) \_\_\_\_\_

8d. **What was your major field of study for this degree?**

\_\_\_\_\_

CASEID:\_\_\_\_\_

INTERVIEWER CODE:\_\_\_\_\_

**Continued - Emigrant Status**

8e. **As of April 1993, did you have another university degree?**

\_\_\_ Yes (*ask question 9a*)

\_\_\_ No (*skip to question 10 and end interview*)

9a. **For your third degree, please provide the following information:**

**Thinking about your third degree in April 1993:**

**From which school did you receive this degree?**

Enter school name ===> \_\_\_\_\_

Enter city/town====> \_\_\_\_\_

Enter state/foreign country====> \_\_\_\_\_

9b. **In what month and year did you receive this degree?**

\_\_\_ / \_\_\_ (*month/year*)

9c. **What type of degree did you receive?**

*Mark one*

\_\_\_ Bachelor's

\_\_\_ Master's (includes MBA)

\_\_\_ Doctorate

\_\_\_ Other Professional Degree (for example JD, LLB, ThD, MD, DDS, etc.)  
(*please specify*)

\_\_\_ Other (*please specify*) \_\_\_\_\_

9d. **What was your major field of study for this degree?**

\_\_\_\_\_

10. **These are all the questions I have. Thank you for your time.**