

## SAQ METHODOLOGY AND COMMENTS

In an effort to learn more about the opinions and activities of the Portraits of American Life Study participants, interviewers left behind the Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ), a paper-and-pencil instrument, for the PALS respondents to complete. The instrument covered questions about schools and education, time use, donations to charity, wealth, and involvement in organizations. A \$15 incentive check was mailed to PALS respondents who returned a completed SAQ.

The PALS population included oversamples of African-Americans, Asians, and Hispanics. Using the appropriate weights, the PALS sample was shown to be representative of the national population in comparison to the 2005-2007 American Community Survey<sup>1</sup>.

Of the 2,610 PALS respondents, almost half completed the SAQ (49.0% or 1,279). This subsample was older, had a higher household income, was more likely to be white, and obtained a higher level of education than the PALS main study sample.

### OVERVIEW OF DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISON, unweighted 2006 data

	Main Study	SAQ
Sample size	2,610	1,279
Age, mean in years	43.6	47.9
Household Income > \$40K	46.9%	53.5%
Female	59.2%	61.8%
White	49.5%	62.2%
Black	20.8%	14.9%
Hispanic	21.3%	14.9%
Asian	7.7%	7.4%
High School or less	54.6%	45.6%
Bachelors degree	16.6%	20.9%

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<sup>1</sup> Emerson, Michael O., David Sikkink, and Adele D. James. 2010. "The Panel Study on American Religion and Ethnicity: Background, Methods, and Selected Results." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 49(1):162-171.