

**PATH Through Life Project – 60+ - Wave 2**  
**Response rates and notes on presentation of data**  
**(June 2006)**

| Status                     | N    | %    |
|----------------------------|------|------|
| Interviews                 | 2222 | 87.1 |
| Refusals                   | 234  | 9.2  |
| Death prior to wave 2      | 70   | 2.7  |
| Not found                  | 25   | 1.0  |
| Total (interviewed Wave 1) | 2551 | 100  |

Method of interview (variable = 'intmethod'):

Face-to-face interview: 2188

Posted questionnaire: 26

Emailed questionnaire: 9

Total distance completion=35 (Three of these have physical & cognitive data)

Overseas variable to indicate living in northern hemisphere = 'nhemis'.

Missing data

The file, 'PATH\_60+\_w2\_variable names+missing values.xls' lists all the variables names and labels in the data file, the number of valid cases and the number of missing cases for each variable. This is based on the number of interviews at Wave2 (2222) not Wave 1.

For 'multiple choice' questions missing data will appear in 2 forms:

- a) Where questions are skipped based on answers to previous questions, the cell will be empty ie. 'sysmis'. Also, where part or all of an interview was lost or refused to continue with interview or where data was not able to be collected (physical and cognitive data from mailed or emailed interviews) missing data will appear as 'sysmis'.
- b) Where a respondent has chosen not to answer, a numerical value will appear. This will be labelled as 'Refused'. The numerical value for 'refused' will be the next number after the number of answer categories available.
- c) For questions where a numerical value had to be entered,
  - a. 'don't know' = 88 (or 888...)
  - b. 'Refused' = 99 (or 999...)
  - c. malfunction of equipment (eg blood pressure monitor) =777

32 of the 35 who completed interviews by mail or email have no cognitive or physical testing data. Spot-the-word was also excluded from these interview schedules as it was considered likely that a participant may use a dictionary or other person for help. (There is one postal interview with test data where the participant came back to Canberra after completing questionnaire)

### Spot-the-word

Apart from the above reasons, some other Spot-the-word results are missing e.g when an interview had to be read to a participant.

### Lost interviews and consequent missing data

Only one interview was lost and this was not repeated.

For a further 29 interviews, participants refused to complete the interview at various stages (variable= '*lostbits*').

### Blood pressure measurements

In the 60s age group, 2 more blood pressure measurements were included. In these the participant was required to stand. The second seated blood pressure assessment was done later in the interview, after the pegboard. In merging the 3 age groups of Wave 2, this final, seated blood pressure results were placed directly after the second standing blood pressure results.