A Comparison of Conventional Weighted Estimates of Vaccination Coverage with Estimates from Imputed Data Using Available Software

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National Immunization Survey (NIS)

- Began in 1994, sponsored by CDC

- Collects vaccination data on children 19 – 35 months old for coverage estimates

- NIS 2008, 67 estimation areas (strata) covering all 50 states and DC

- Two-stages of data collection:
  1. RDD telephone survey to screen and interview households with age-eligible children
  2. After initial telephone interview (and consent), nominated providers are sent immunization history questionnaire
Missing Data Details

• Ultimately, vaccination data unascertained for about 30% of children identified from the household interview:

  – Parent/guardian explicitly refuses to supply provider contact information
  
  – Parent/guardian does not know provider contact information
  
  – Providers do not provide adequate vaccination data
## Overall Missing Data Pattern

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Age (mos.)</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>RDD Stage Data</th>
<th>Provider Stage Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>VA</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>4 3 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>4 4 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>DC</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>4 4 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>4 3 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes
- The table shows the missing data pattern for various children across different states and data stages.
- The RDD Stage Data includes Age (mos.), Sex, and other variables.
- The Provider Stage Data includes DTP, Polio, and MCV, with some values indicated as missing (e.g., `...`).
Missing Data Details (2)

• Brick and Kalton (1996) refer to this scenario as “partial nonresponse”

  – Unit nonresponse? → Weight

  – Item nonresponse? → Impute

  – Partial nonresponse? → Weight or Impute??
Missing Data Details (3)

• Public-use file contains data for 25,948 children and two sets of weights:
  1. RDDWT – weights the RDD stage household-level responses to the population
  2. PROVWT – adjusts RDDWT to account for 7,433 cases with missing provider data (7,433/25,948 = 28.6% item missing rate)

• Thus, current compensation methods involve multi-step weighting process, but would imputation provide substantively different results?
Key Outcome Variable

• Focus is a composite indicator of five specific vaccinations:
  – 4+ doses of diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis (DTaP)
  – 3+ doses of poliovirus vaccine (polio)
  – 1+ doses of measles-containing vaccine (MCV)
  – 3+ doses of *Haemophilus Influenza* type b (Hib)
  – 3+ doses of hepatitis B (HepB)

• Referred to as the 4:3:1:3:3 series – being up-to-date (UTD) means meeting all five dose criteria

• **NOTE:** in the 2008 data, all five 4:3:1:3:3 doses are either all known or all unknown
# Provider Missing Data Pattern

## Vaccination - Number of Doses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child</th>
<th>DTP</th>
<th>Polio</th>
<th>MCV</th>
<th>Hib</th>
<th>HepB</th>
<th>Composite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>?</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,948</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Predictor Variables

• Available covariates which best described the missingness and 4:3:1:3:3 UTD pattern:
  – Age of the child
  – Mother’s age
  – Race/ethnicity of the child
  – Indicator of first born
  – Total number of children in the household
  – Indicator of a shot card
  – Sex of the child
  – Mother’s education level
  – Mother’s marital status
  – Indicator of household poverty status
  – Region indicators – geographically collapsed strata into 10 regions

• Some degree of missingness in these covariates, which were singly imputed (generally < 3%); this uncertainty not accounted for in present analysis
Imputation Methods

1. Single imputation hot-deck (SOLAS) ($M = 1$)

2. UMich Survey Research Center’s IVEware ($M = 5$)
   - model the outcome via logistic regression
   - separate model for each region

3. Propensity Score Method (SOLAS) ($M = 5$)
   - model missingness indicator and group into 5 propensity classes
   - one model (e.g., region maintained as an independent variable)

4. Propensity Score Method (programmed in SAS) with a modified approximate Bayesian Bootstrap (ABB) ($M = 5$)
   - first stage of ABB routine (Rubin and Schenker, 1986) maintained as normal
   - second stage modification: sample donors PPS with RDDWT as the measure of size

NOTE: Taylor series linearization was used for approximating variances
## Results

**Table 1.** Unweighted Proportions of Observed and Imputed Up-to Date 4:3:1:3:3 Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Imputation Method</th>
<th>Observed</th>
<th>Imputed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M1. Hot-Deck</td>
<td>0.785</td>
<td>0.771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M2: IVEware</td>
<td>0.785</td>
<td>0.763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M3: Propensity</td>
<td>0.785</td>
<td>0.766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M4: Propensity with PPS ABB</td>
<td>0.785</td>
<td>0.769</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results (2)

**Figure 1a.** Stratum-Level Standard Error Differences between NIS Weighted and Method 1 for 4:3:1:3:3 Status within Income/Poverty Status Domains.
Results (3)

Figure 1b. Stratum-Level Standard Error Differences between Method 2 and Method 3 for 4:3:1:3:3 Status within Income/Poverty Status Domains.

*Though not shown, the plot of standard error differences between weighted estimates and any multiply imputed estimate looks the same.
Results (4)
Results (5)

Figure 2b. Stratum-Level 4:3:1:3:3 Status Estimate Differences between Method 3 and Method 4 for Child Race/Ethnicity Domains.
Summary of Findings

- Given the available covariates, we examined four distinct imputation methods to fill in missing 4:3:1:3:3 UTD status and found:
  - Single imputation leads to the smallest standard errors
  - All imputation methods tend to yield a slightly smaller point estimate (agrees with previous findings from Khare and Yucel, 2003)
  - The current weighting method yields comparable standard errors against all three *multiple* imputation methods
  - Modification of incorporating RDDWT into the ABB did very little → recent work by Andridge and Little (2009, 2010) suggest proper way to incorporate the weights in a hot-deck would be to use them during cell construction ONLY
  - All things considered, the multiple imputation methods do not appear to offer any advantages
Limitations

- Treat weights as known

- Estimates are highly correlated: about 70% of the (observed) data are the same for each imputation method $\rightarrow$ correlation needs to be accounted for in assessing significance (Schenker and Gentleman, 2001)

- Only have access to variables on PUF

- Differences attributable to method or covariates?
Possible Future Research

• Re-evaluate methods if there is evidence response patterns change or new auxiliary variable become available → few variables in current analysis demonstrate strong relationship with missingness indicator or outcome

• Paradata?

• State immunization registries?
Thanks!

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