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Honors Mathematics for Liberal Arts

### Survey Recommendations for Mental Well Being in Newport

Our class has selected the preferred questions from the survey question papers, and now the matter of compiling them into a survey is in the process. After considering the differences between the many types of surveys there are, and how they fit our case study and the type of questions we are trying to ask, it would seem the most beneficial to conduct a cross-sectional survey, which can allow us to utilize questionnaires to identify the relationship between our two variables, **mental health** and **community** (West Side and East Side of Newport).

The survey can be through the use of a questionnaire, which can easily compile the class' questions into a neat, orderly paper-and-pencil structure, or even online, which can allow us to ask the closed-ended questions we organized. (Typically with interviews, the questions are more open ended and a series of follow up questions can be asked, which does not fit the design of the compiled inquiries.) Group administered questionnaires might be the best way to collect the information, as a sample of respondents can complete their papers individually and the administrators can clarify any unclear questions. Mail surveys generally receive very low response rates. Also, along with group administered surveys, household drop offs can achieve the same effect and might be more efficient, although it would be hard to tell when the results would be turned back into the class, as the respondent is able to complete it on his/her/their time, and those who are homeless wouldn't be considered within the survey.

Though, group administered surveys would have to be set up in a nontraditional way, like in a wide, public outing, as gathering a proper location might be difficult and counterproductive. Those who wish to participate in the survey can fill out the survey and hand it back in immediately afterward. Setting up a stand in areas where the community often visits, can allow a wide range of people, if eligible to participate, and can achieve immediate results. Combining this with handouts might receive the best, and widest, of results.

However, it is very possible to not receive a huge sample at all. In this case, accounting for demographics could be difficult. Designing the survey again towards a specific demographic would then need to be possible. (For example, putting the survey into a different language might give different results, as this is a multilingual/multicultural country.)

Some things to consider: A.) A cross-sectional study allows a certain variable to be studied within a population, but only at a specific time. It is unlike a longitudinal study, where time is the main factor, and allows research to be conducted on how an aspect changes and fluctuates over time. A cross-sectional study is often preliminary to other studies along the same topic, so it might be possible to need to do a mix of both for further research. B.) Time is a big factor, as one day, or even one week, might not be enough time to gather a big enough sample group to use the survey as proper research material. C.) Mental health is a very personal topic, and closed-ended questions might not be enough to analyze a population thoroughly. Open-ended questions might need to be created in the future, and if so, interviews might serve useful in that case. It is important to note to consider only viewing this as the foundation for further research, and on what *level/s* the East and West sides of Newport are different. It could be very possible that the type of survey we are creating is not enough to understand the *sense* of difference in mental well being between the East and West sides.

