

Response to NASS comments

ERS thanks NASS for the careful and useful review. We agree with the general thrust of the comments. Convenience samples should not be used to produce results that are meant to be representative. As the first step of a research process, however, convenience samples can be useful.

We eliminated a statement that we agree was unclear (thanks to the reviewers for pointing it out). We also agree that in some circumstances – most likely those in which sampling is to be done outside a university setting – that the use of stratification, cluster analysis, and multistage sampling will be useful. We now state this in our document.