

Title

An Electronic Life History Calendar with Web Survey

Abstract

In surveys that collect data of experiences over multiple years of their lives, respondents benefit from visual guides. A life history calendar is one such tool which many organizations have used over time, including the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG). Using the existing paper Life History Calendar as a starting point, RTI developed an electronic life history calendar and integrated it with a Blaise 5 instrument so that web respondents have the option to view significant events in a timeline format. When subsequently asked to place other events in time, they may refer to the calendar for context. The calendar can be displayed on demand at any time - or in specific sections if so configured - either in full screen mode or along with the Blaise question. Its responsive design displays on any screen in portrait or landscape orientation. In iterative collaboration with our clients at the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), we heavily customized an off-the-shelf chart and automatically populated the calendar with responses in real time. Events are put into temporal context with year, month, respondent age, and previously entered responses to help orient the user. The Blaise instrument was designed to easily collect information for effortless processing by the calendar application. In this presentation we will describe the architecture of the calendar and its implementation with Blaise 5 Web instrument.

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