Using audit trails to monitor respondent behaviour in an Audio-CASI questionnaire

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From November 2005 to January 2006, Insee has conducted the Événements de Vie et Santé (EVS) survey under CAPI. After a face-to-face interview dealing with relationships between tragic events of life (death or suicides of close relations, violence…) and health, respondents had to answer a brief ACASI questionnaire gathering the most sensitive questions: sexual activity, alcohol and drug use.

We have collected adt information for around 9000 complete surveys, which enabled us to consider a statistical study on this data. As it was the first time we had this information available on an ACASI questionnaire, we chose to focus on the ACASI part to monitor respondent behaviour facing this tool, and try to improve data collection methodology.

This paper will explain how we processed the adt files and present the main results we obtained on the following issues:

- What is the average time spent by the respondent before giving an answer?
- Do respondents replay questions? Do they reread or correct their answers?
- Who are the people who give up the ACASI questionnaire before the end?

All aspects will be discussed from the respondent’s point of view (age, sex, nationality, academic level) and from the questionnaire’s point of view (open/closed questions, questions about dates/facts/feelings …).