

## Design Exercise - Longitudinal & Cross-Sectional Designs

For each of the following research questions, explain how you would set up both a longitudinal and a cross-sectional design.

### Problem 1

You want to examine changes in marital satisfaction over time among couples who married early in life, before either partner was 21 years of age. Some of the variables that you think may affect marital satisfaction for these couples include time after marriage when first child was born, socio-economic status, educational achievement, and ethnicity.

### Problem 2

You want to examine how the development and growth of eco-tourism affects the economy of small rural communities in Costa Rica. You are especially interested in changes in total local revenue, employment status, and socio-economic well-being of the residents of these small communities.

### Problem 3

You want to examine how parental abuse during the early teens, both psychological and physical, affects the ability of the abused individual to maintain stable, long term partnerships over the life span.

### Problem 4

You want to understand the relationship between family networks and psychological quality of life for older adults. Some of the factors that you think may be important include number of siblings, number of children, socio-economic status, rural versus urban residence, distance of residence from that of siblings, and distance of residence from that of children.

### Problem 5

While the intergenerational transmission of violence among male spousal abusers has been relatively well studied, you are interested in the intergenerational transmission of submissiveness among female victims. Besides the occurrence of victimization, some of the other factors that you think may be important include ethnicity, number of siblings, and educational achievement.

### Problem 6

You want to examine the impact of incarceration of the father on the frequency of criminal behavior in male offspring. E.g., are the sons of men who are incarcerated more likely to engage in criminal behavior themselves than the sons of men who are never incarcerated. Other factors that you think may be important include socio-economic status, ethnicity, and educational achievement.

### Problem 7

You are studying the effects of parental career choices on the career choices of children. You want to know both whether parental profession in general affects the choices of offspring and whether there are differences between professions. For example, are the children of actors, doctors and soldiers more likely to follow in their parents' careers than say, professors, government officials or business managers?