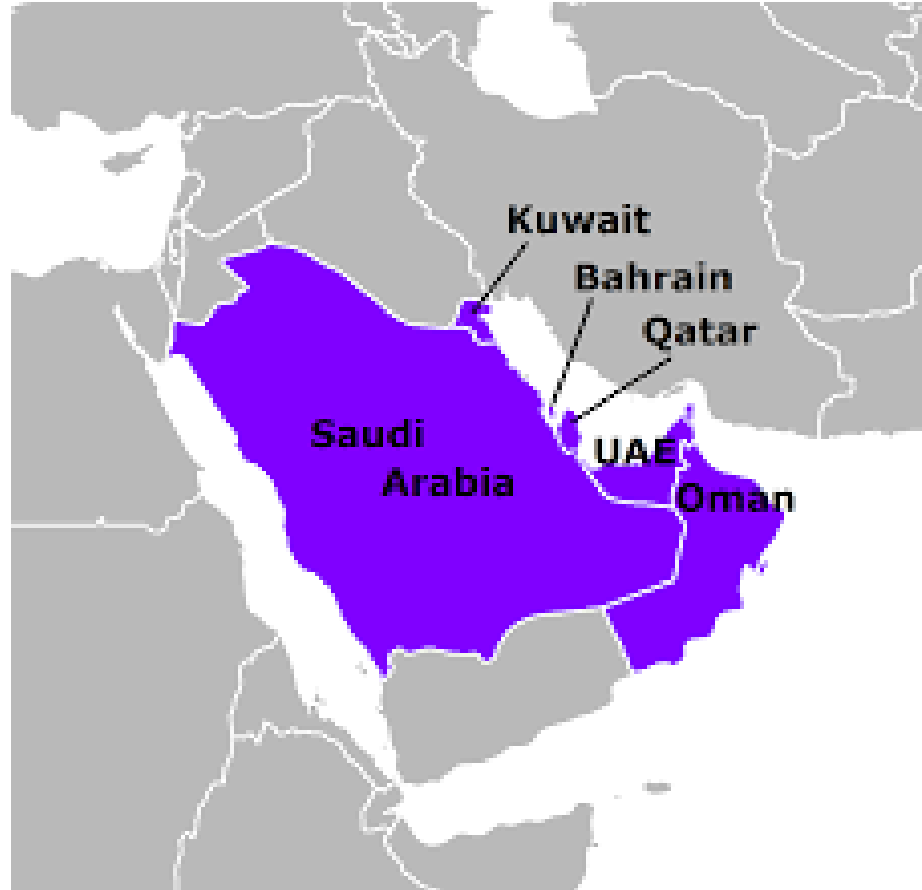


Doing Surveys in Countries with Unorthodox Population Pyramid

LCSR Moscow NOV. 2015

Darwish Al-Emadi

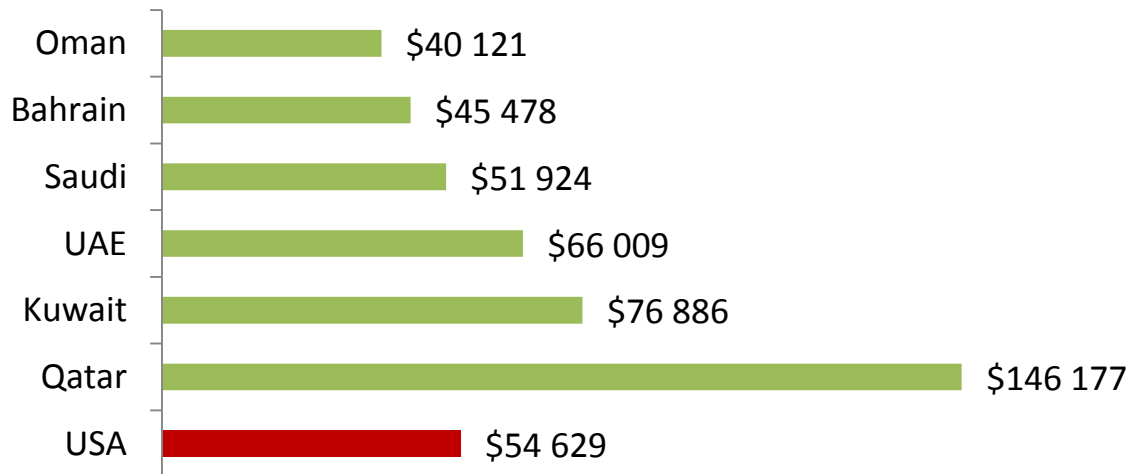
GCC Countries



Features of GCC Countries

- Oil rich countries with high GDP per capita

GDP per capita in 2014
(adjusted for purchasing power)



Source: The World Bank

Features of GCC Countries

- Relatively conservative Islamic countries
- Fast growing economies in the past decades attracting a huge number of foreign labors

Themes

- Population structure in GCC countries
- Challenges for conducting surveys in GCC countries
- How we tackle these challenges



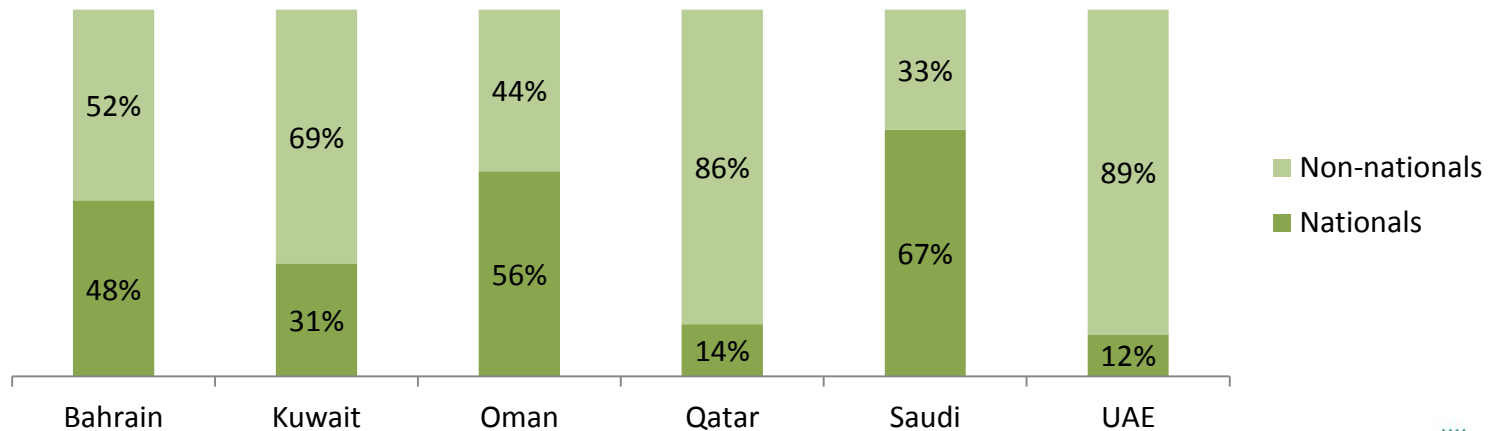
Population Structure in GCC Countries

Note: The numbers in this section are author's estimates based on the latest Census and the Labor Force Surveys in GCC countries

Population: National vs. Non-nationals

- Non-national group is a significant share of the population
- Nationals are minority in several GCC countries

Population in GCC: Nationals vs. Non-nationals

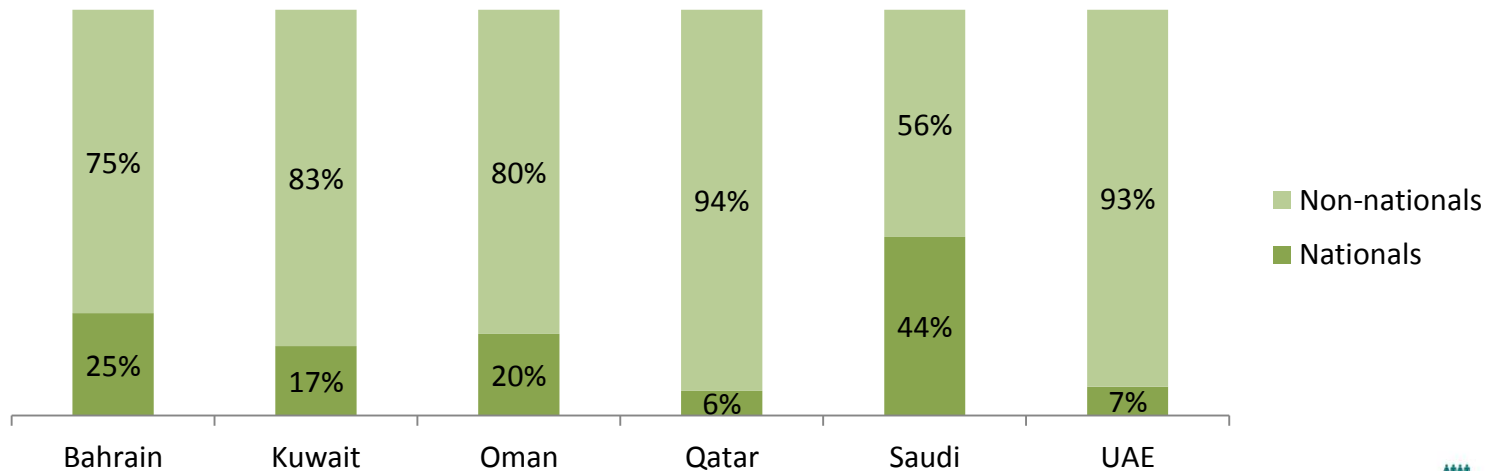


Labor Forces: Nationals vs. Non-National

Non-nationals dominate in the employed population

- Majority of non-nationals are blue-collar workers in construction and service sectors

Employed Population: Nationals vs. Non-nationals

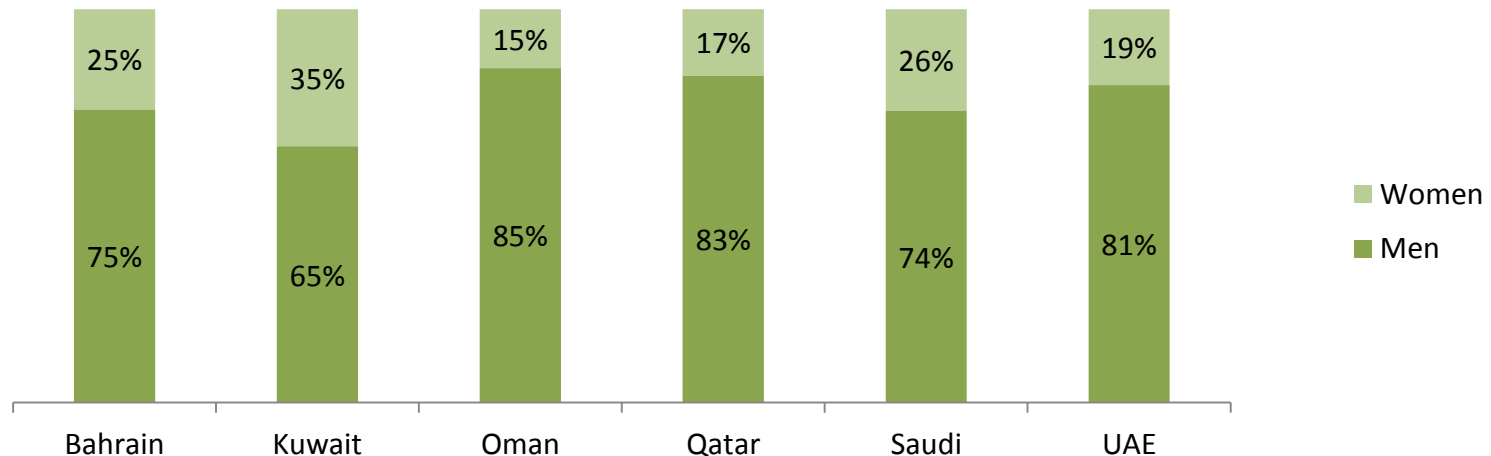


Non-national Population: Sex Ratio

Significant gender imbalance among Non-nationals

- Blue-collar workers (mostly men) cannot bring families for financial and legal reasons

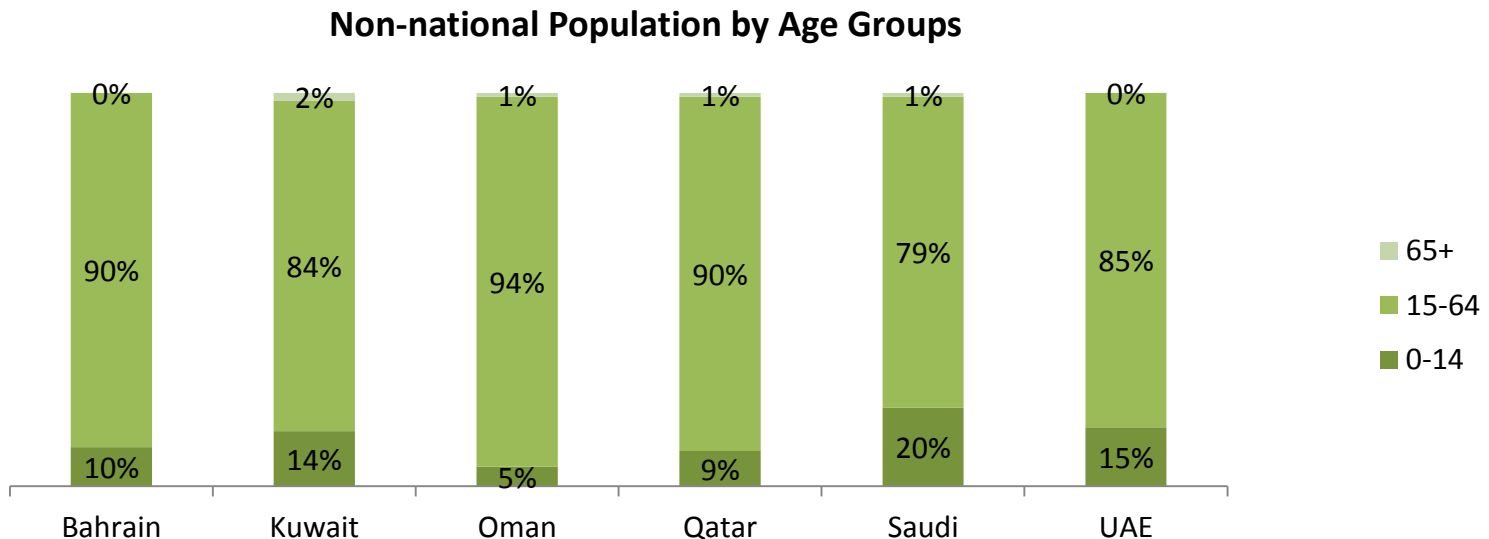
Non-national Population: Men vs. Women



Non-national Population: Age Groups

Most Non-nationals are in working ages

- Foreign labors are under 3 to 5 year contracts. They cannot stay forever.





Challenges for Doing Surveys in GCC Countries

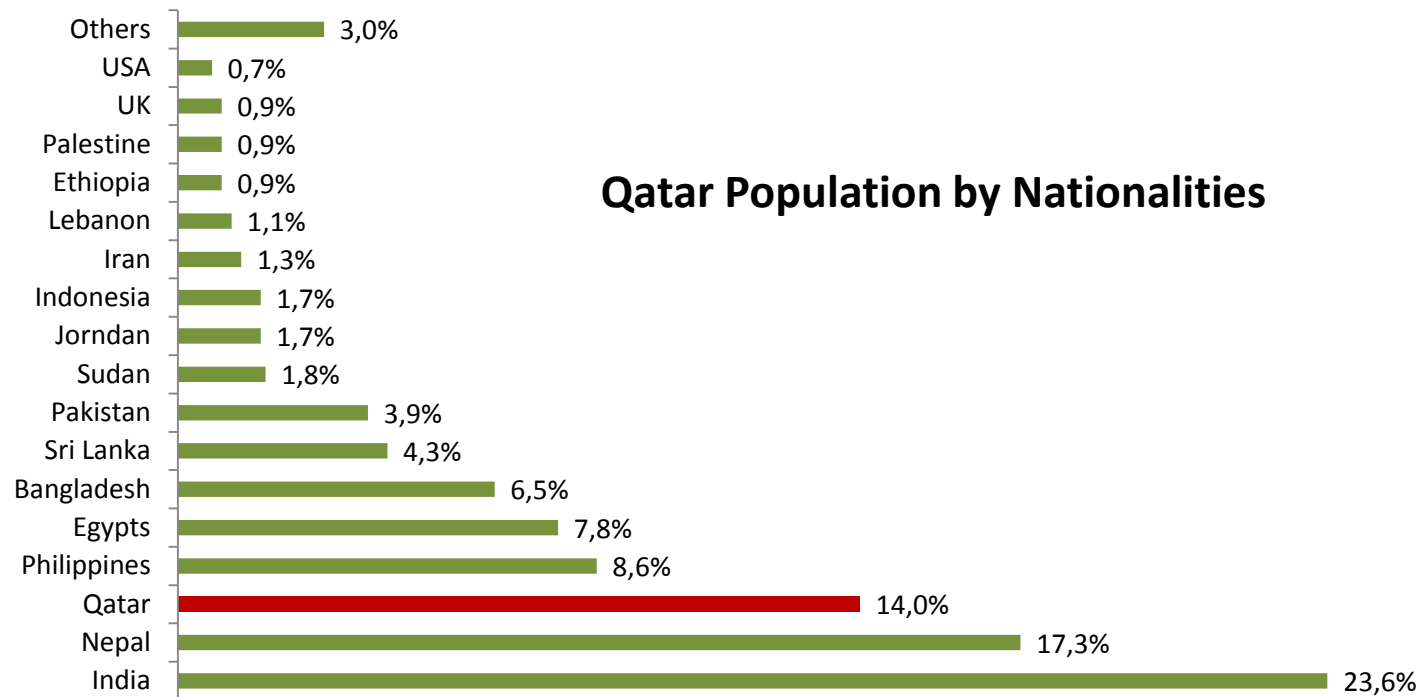
Survey Practice

Surveys are relatively new in GCC

- Little research on surveys local to the GCC
 - Most survey methods used in the West are not locally tested
 - More local methodological research is needed
- Public assumption that surveys are only about politics
 - Permits are needed from the government
- Sensitive topics
 - Some questions, deemed normal in the West, are considered sensitive in GCC countries

Interview Languages

Diverse population in Qatar and in other GCC countries



Interview Languages

- Many languages are in use in GCC countries (Arabic, English, Hindi, Filipino, Urdu, and others)
 - ... need to maintain diverse interviewer pool
 - ... interviewer-respondent language matching
- Translation and concept equivalence
 - ... need staff who know not only the language, but are familiar with the content
 - ... need detailed pretesting of each translation

Within Household Sampling

- Last birthday method:
 - Interviewers select the person with the last birthday
 - Problem:
 - People cannot recall who has the last birthday
 - Large household size
(Households with more than 4 persons: 10% in the US, 62% in Qatar)
 - Birthday celebration is not common
- Kish method:
 - Interviewers ask for the name of ALL persons
 - Problems:
 - Time consuming due to large household size
 - Female name issue due to local culture

Within Household Sampling

We propose a new way to sample person in the household

- Interviewers ask for the number of persons in the household
- Depending on this answer, one household member can be selected for the interview

Within Household Sampling

- Ask for the number of adults (1st question)
 - If there is 1 person



interviewer



respondent

Within Household Sampling

- If there are 2 persons



interviewer



Informant
(50%)



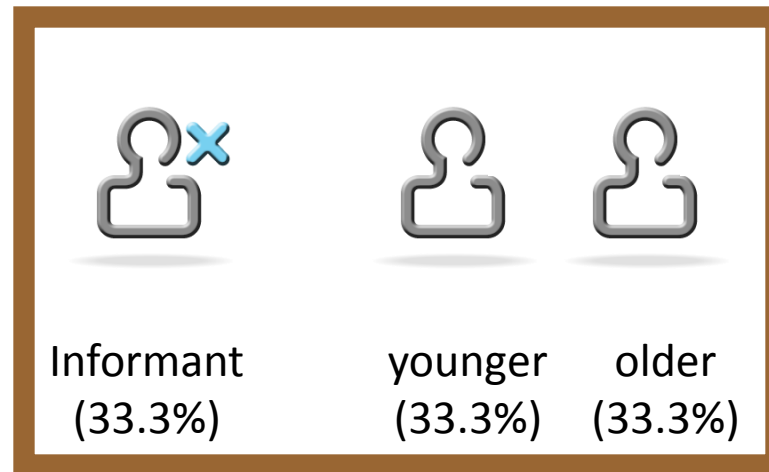
the other
(50%)

Within Household Sampling

- If there are 3 persons



interviewer



Within Household Sampling

- If there are 4 persons



interviewer



Informant
(25%)



Youngest
(25%)



2nd oldest
(25%)



Oldest
(25%)

Within Household Sampling

- If there are 5 persons or more ask for the number of males (2nd question) then

Step 1: Randomly select the gender

Step 2: Randomly select the person inside the gender

- Further details can be found in our paper:

“Within-Household Sampling Conditioning on Household Size.” 2013. *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*. Volume 25(1): Page 108-118

Gender Issue

- Problem:
 - Male interviewers cannot talk to female respondents due to Islamic/local culture
- Different solutions:
 1. Only female interviewers in the field
 - Not feasible
 2. Groups of interviewers
 - 1 male for driving, 2 or 3 females for interviewing

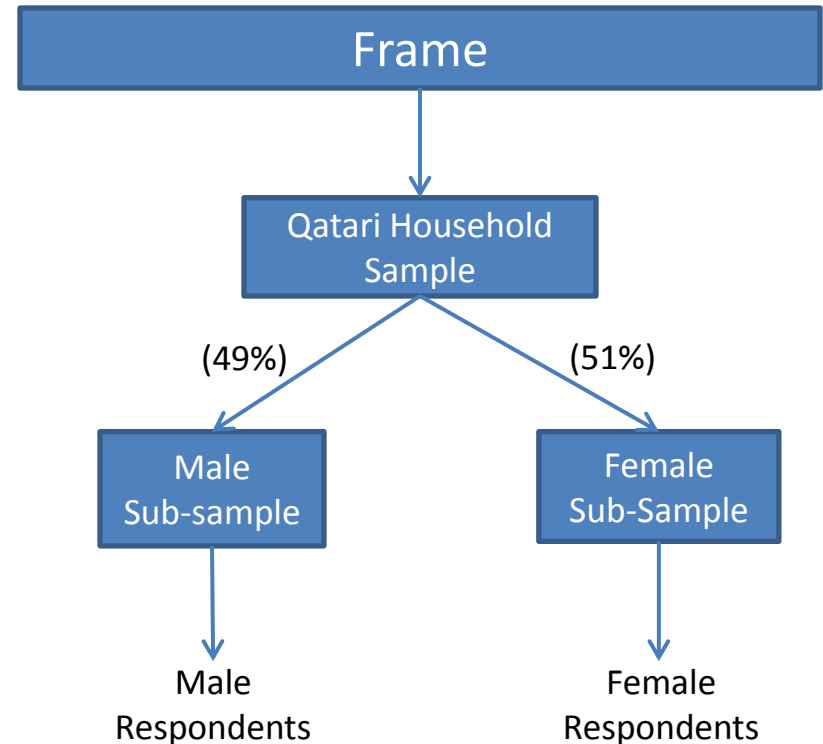


- High field cost. Problems in gender-sensitive questionnaire.

Gender Issue

We propose three step sampling method

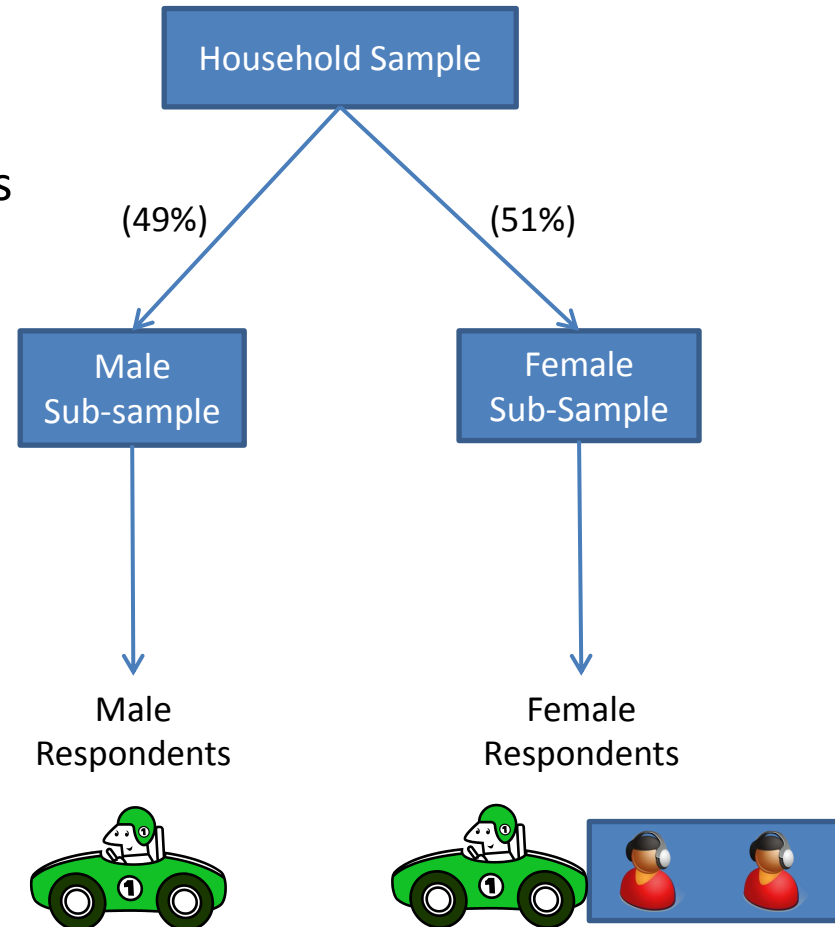
1. Household sampling
2. Pre-specify respondent gender
3. Within household sampling



Gender Issue

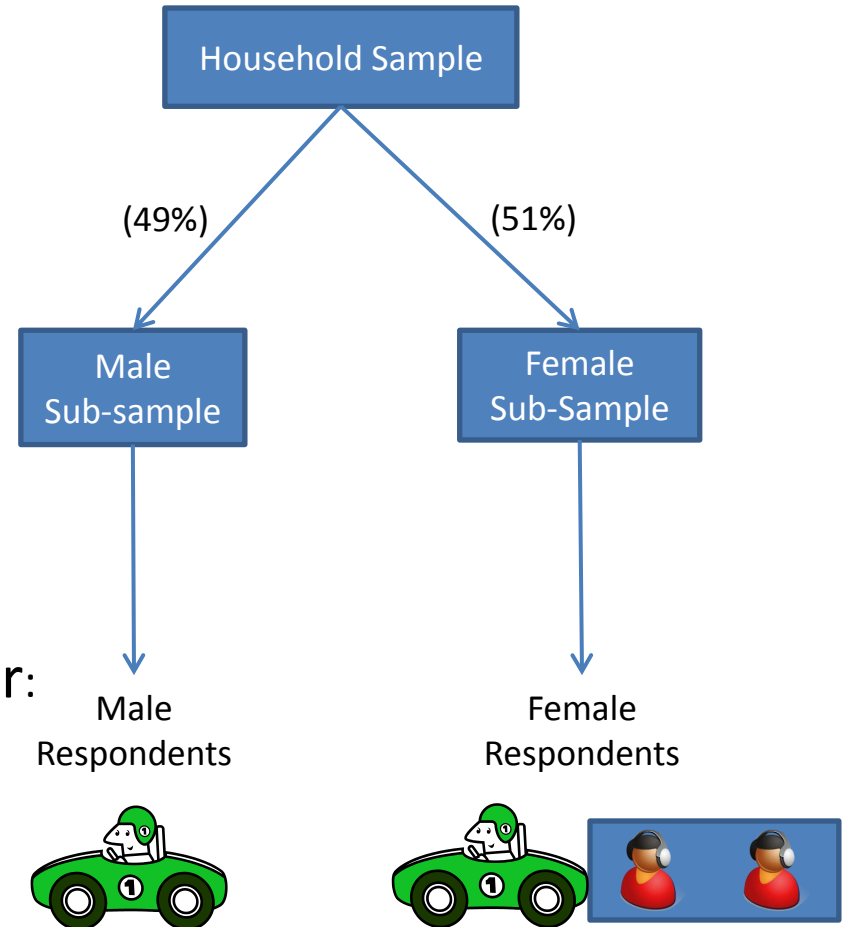
In the field

- Female sub-sample
 - 1 male for driving, 2 or 3 females for interviewing
 - No difference in the field
- Male sub-sample
 - 1 male for both driving and interviewing
 - Significant saving in the field



Gender Issue

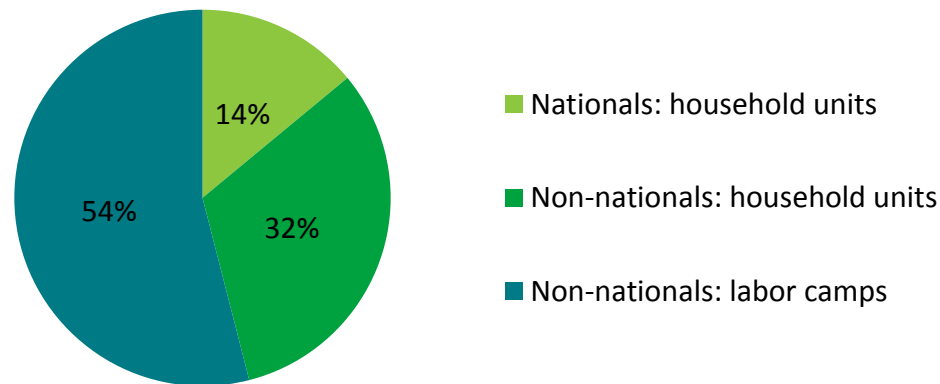
- Benefits
 - Reduce cost in the male subsample
22% reduction in the field cost
 - Gender stratification
- Issues
 - Unknown gender ratio (white-collars expats)
 - Households with 1 gender only
 - Weighting
- Details can be found in our paper:
“Gender Pre-specified Sampling for Cost Control.”
2014. *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*.
Volume 26(4): Page 441-452



Labor Camps

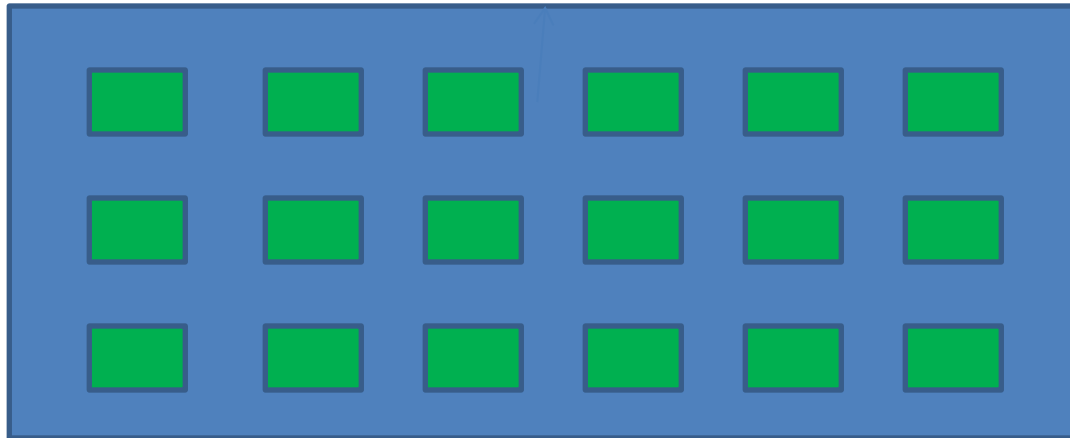
- A large non-national population (mostly blue-collar workers) live in group-quarters or “labor camps”

Qatar Population by Residential Types



Labor Camps

A typical camp



- There are many rooms in a camp with several people in each room
- There are gate keepers in most camps
- People are from many countries and speak different languages
- People from the same country or same company tend to live together

Labor Camps

We use two visits for labor camp surveys:

First visit: Supervisor visits the camp

- Make arrangement with gate keepers
- Select rooms with systematic sampling
 - Help increase variation in respondents
- Randomly select 1 person in each room
 - Ask for the language used by the person

Second visit: Interviewer matching respondent's language visits the camp

Further details can be found in our paper: *“Labor Camp Surveys in GCC countries: Group Quarter Sub-sampling”*. Under review at Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology

Other Challenges

- How to channel findings to policy makers
 - Advocate/pressure groups
 - Influential people
 - Members of the cabinet etc.
- Authorization
- Funding
- Monitoring Change for the whole population

THANK YOU

This report was presented at the 5th LCSR International Annual Conference “Cultural and Economic Changes under Cross-national Perspective”.

November 16 – 20, 2015 – Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia.

<http://lcsr.hse.ru/en/conf2015>

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16-20 ноября 2015 года – НИУ ВШЭ, Москва, Россия.

<http://lcsr.hse.ru/en/conf2015>